

## Shipwreck

February 12, 2012

By Dr. John Hogan

This is the message I was going to preach last Sunday but I felt that we should have a memorial service for **John and Wanda Casias** the missionaries that were killed on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> in Mexico.

If you have your Bibles please turn with me to **1 Timothy 1:18-20**:

**18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;**

**19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:**

**20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.**

Beloved, in reading these verses today let me remind you of the **Casias**', they fought a good warfare.

How did they do this?

By holding onto their faith and having a good conscience even though they were surrounded by evil.

Notice what Paul told Timothy in **verse 19, "..... which some having put away concerning the faith have made shipwreck."**

They were unlike some Christians today who have fallen in this fight and become **"shipwrecked"** because they lost their **"faith"** and their **"good conscience" has become scorched.**

Why do I say this?

Just look around you. I have never seen so many Christians who don't act like Christians. They act, they dress, and they follow after the things of the world. Serving Christ, for them, is attending church services once a week and then living like the rest of the world the rest of the time.

Somewhere along the way they forgot these words recorded for us in **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**:

**14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?**

**15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?**

**16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

**17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,**

**18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

**Verse 14** is normally a verse that I use when talking to couples who are considering marriage but in studying for this message today I realize that it is talking to believers who yoke themselves together with unbelievers in this world.

**Beloved, the question is this, “What communion does light have with darkness?”**

And then Paul states passionately, **“come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”**

For instant, I know that in one church in Waco they were going to have a **“Super Bowl Fellowship”** at 5:00 pm last Sunday.

Can I ask one teensy little bitty question?

**Where in the Word of God does it state that God’s House is to be a House of Super Bowl Fellowship Parties?**

**Where in the Word of God does it say that we are to bring the world into the House of God?**

But, my friends, I can assure you that theirs wasn’t the only church in America that was hosting a **Super Bowl Party**.

**If it looks like the world, acts like the world, talks like the world then it must be worldly!**

As far as I am concern it is a **“shipwrecked”** church.

Beloved, when are the **Shepherd’s of the Churches** going to say, **“It’s enough were returning to the infallible, inerrant Word of the Living God?”**

So what does someone look like who has been **“shipwrecked?”**

If you have been watching the news lately you saw the beautiful luxury cruise ship the Costa Concordia run ashore in Italy.

Look at these three pictures I downloaded for you.

That my friend is what a shipwreck life looks like.

This cruise ship cost about \$570 million dollars to build and in a moment of time, for whatever reason, it ran ashore...destroyed.

Listen to the words of Paul recorded for us in **1Co 9:27**, **“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”**

So what was Paul’s answer to keep from becoming a castaway, a ship wrecked upon the shores of life?

Look at **1 Co. 9:26** **“I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:”**

Let me read this to you from the **Living Bible**:

**1 Co. 9:26 So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I’m not just shadow-boxing or playing around.**

Paul told Timothy to **“Fight a good warfare.”** And then he told him how to fight this fight **“Fight to win!”**

And we do this by **“Clinging to our faith in Christ and always keep our conscience clear, doing what we know is right.”**

Next Paul gives us two examples of men who became “shipwrecked” and what happen to them.

Look at **verse 20**:

**20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.**

These two men became **shipwreck** because they turned from the faith and started teaching **“false doctrine.”**

Paul removed them from the Church and delivered them unto Satan so that they would learn not to blaspheme.

(It appears that someone can be returned to the Faith by being delivered to Satan.)

What exactly does it mean when someone is delivered unto Satan?

I found the following explanation in the Bible Knowledge Commentary:

**1:20.** Two in Ephesus who illustrate this principle are **Hymenaeus** (cf. **2 Tim. 2:17**) and **Alexander**. Whether this is the same Alexander mentioned in **Acts 19:33** and **2 Timothy 4:14** is not clear. Probably it is not. Paul's prescription for these two blasphemers was that they be **handed over to Satan**, a phrase which perhaps refers to excommunication from the congregation (cf. **1 Cor. 5:1-5**) and abandonment to realms controlled by Satan (**2 Cor. 4:4**). Paul viewed the congregation as a haven and protection for believers without which they would suffer painful disadvantage. Thus excommunication was designed to chasten the two apostates. Yet Paul's motive was remedial, not punitive (cf. **2 Cor. 2:5-8; 2 Thes. 3:14-15**).<sup>1</sup>

So it appears that when a person is turned over to Satan it serves several purposes:

- 1) It teaches them not to blaspheme. (A blasphemer is one that speaks evil of and slanders God.)
- 2) They are excommunicated from the Church.
- 3) It keeps purity in the Church.

Paul put both men out of the church, thus ending their influence and removing them from the protection and insulation of God's people. They were no longer in the environment of God's blessing but under Satan's control.

Did they ever come back to the Church? I don't know the Bible doesn't say.

But the Grace of God would have allowed it if they had learn not to blaspheme.

Beloved anyone who comes humbly before the Righteous God can be forgiven and restored.

That is God's Love. That is why some are delivered unto Satan so that they can be restored not forsaken.

Beloved, remember this if you haven't heard anything else I have said today, **“God is a God of Mercy and He stands ready to forgive us of all our sins and to welcome us back with open arms into the Family. All you have to do is ask Him to forgive you and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness and He will.”**

**1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

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cf. *confer*, compare

<sup>1</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983-c1985. *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Victor Books: Wheaton, IL

You don't have to remain a **“shipwreck”** a **“castaway”** any longer, you can return to God knowing He will accept you and forgive you.