

## Titanic Grace

I'm afraid that I am kind of a Titanic devotee and am always interested in stories and trivia about the great ship and the sinking disaster in 1912.

There was a scene from some of the older Titanic movies where a volunteer slid down the lifeboat ropes to assist the lone crewman in handling a life boat filled with women and children. This scene was cut from the James Cameron Titanic film because the film had become too long.

That scene is actually based in fact and 53 year old military man and amateur sailor Major Arthur Peuchan of Canada slid down the ropes into lifeboat #6. Now the only casualty for this brave act of sliding down the ropes that night was Peuchan's wallet, which was dislodged from his pocket and fell, missed the lifeboat was lost in the freezing water below.

2 hours and 40 minutes after striking the iceberg, the Titanic broken into pieces and descended to its watery grave 2.5 miles down at approximately 12,500 feet. At the depth of 12,500 feet everything is crushed by the incredible pressure of 6000 pounds per square inch. You may have seen the photos of Styrofoam cups that were taken to that depth and how they were crushed down to be just a fraction of their former size.

Major Peuchan died in 1929 and in 1987 the first of the robotic submarines descended to the ocean floor to recover Titanic artifacts. In that first year one of the more interesting items recovered was a man's small leather wallet. When the wallet was carefully opened it was discovered that this was indeed Peuchan's wallet that had been lost on that fateful night 75 years earlier. It contained his business card, streetcar pass and a traveler's check.

Now when I think about that tiny wallet resting on the ocean floor it reminds me of our sin in relationship to the ocean of God's love and forgiveness. In Psalms 103:10-12 it says "He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." And in Micah 7:19 "Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!"

Now we can't minimize our sin and say it is small in God's eyes. We know that one sin cast Adam and Eve out of the garden. One sin kept the Israelites from entering the Promised Land. And Jesus had to die on the cross to pay the price for our sins. So we can't minimize sin but we can't underestimate God's Love and forgiveness which flows over our sin like a great ocean.

God has cast our sin the bottom of the deepest sea and that sin has been crushed by the weight of God's Love. Now I sometimes try to put on my fins and diving mask and try to go retrieve those sins and relive them again or feel guilty for them again but the reality is God has put them there at the bottom of the deepest sea and He does not plan to bring them up again. As Holocaust survivor Corrie Tenboom but it so well – "he has cast our sins to the bottom of the sea and put out a sign NO FISHING ALLOWED"

Oh what a wonderful heavenly father, Oh what a Savior...

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