

The Christian Fleet

by

Ellis P. Forsman

The Christian Fleet

by

Ellis P. Forsman

October 14, 2011

The Christian Fleet

Psalms 107:23-32

Psalms 107:23-32. *“They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit’s end. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.”*

What ships are in it?

Discipleship, signs of (follower):

Bearing fruit.

John 15:8, *“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”*

The fruit of the branch will also identify the vine. One will not gather grapes from watermelon vines. A true Christian is one who grows on the vine of Christ, and not on a vine of human invention, or denomination. Being on the vine of Christ, we must be fruitful for Him.

Love one another.

John 13:35, *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

Love and unforgiveness are not compatible. Love and hate do not both occupy the heart of a child of God at the same time. For example, no man can love God and hate his brother. There is no room for both.

1 John 4:20, *“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”*

If one expects forgiveness, he must himself forgive others. Eph. 4:32, *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”*

Would you like for God to forgive you, like you have forgiven someone else? Remember Jesus said, *“But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”* (Matt. 6:15).

Abiding in Christ’s word. John 8:31, *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;”*

Citizenship, obtained by:

Birth.

John 3:5, *“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”*

A sinner cannot inherit heaven, but one who has had his sins remitted can enter heaven. Unless a person has been baptized, he remains in a sinful state.

Matt. 26:28, *“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*

It is true that Jesus shed His blood to remit our sins, but how is it applied?

Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

Maintained by loyalty.

2 John 1:9-11, *“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”*

Fellowship, with:

Not sin.

- Eph. 5:11, *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”*
- Rev. 18:4, *“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”*

Christ.

1 Cor. 1:9, “*God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

One another.

- 1 John 1:3, “*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*”
- Heb. 10:25-26, “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*”

Workmanship, that it:

Brings no shame.

2 Tim. 2:15, “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

Christians need to be working, and they need to study to make sure the work they perform is pleasing to God.

- 2 Tim. 2:5, “*And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.*”
- Matt. 7:22-23, “*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*”

Is profitable.

Titus 3:8, “*This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.*”

Stewardship, what kind?

Good.

1 Peter 4:10-11, “*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that*

God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Faithful.

1 Cor. 4:1-2, *"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*

Friendship, with whom?

Not the world.

James 4:4, *"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."*

God and Christ.

John 15:14, *"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."*

Christians.

- 3 John 1:14, *"But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name."*
- Rom. 12:10, *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"*

Hardship, suffer.

With the gospel.

2 Tim. 1:8, *"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God,"*

As good soldiers.

2 Tim. 2:3, *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."*

As Paul.

- 2 Tim. 2:9, *"Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound."*
- 2 Tim. 4:5, *"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."*

