

You need a pilot!

In the realm of ocean shipping, a harbour pilot comes aboard as the ship approaches its destination. As this local pilot has superior local knowledge of winds, tidal currents, lane markers and hazards, the ship's Captain gives him full control. In Psalm 107, there is an account of a storm at sea, so severe the Captain and crew despaired for their safety. Verses 28-30 say: *Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. He makes the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so He brings them into their desired haven.*

The analogy is clear. We have no trouble picturing this scene as describing the stormy life we now experience every day. But if we want to get safely into our *desired haven*, that is, heaven, we need help. God is in full control of every situation and He has decreed that we must have a pilot if we are going to get into His home and live there forever. The one and only pilot He has available to bring us in is His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. *There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved* (Acts 4:12).

Many of us think we are in control of things (like the Captain in command of his ship), and have accumulated all the resources necessary to get us through life, but also for what comes after death. But in God's eyes: *All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags* (Isaiah 64:6). So you, as the Captain of your ship, need to turn over full control to God's assigned Pilot. The Lord Jesus is fully prepared and the only One able to take command of your destiny, because he died on the cross of Calvary to pay the penalty your sins deserved. *The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin* (1 John 1:7). Surrender your will and set the concerns of life and your thoughts of self-worth aside; these have not a shred of eternal value.

Your credentials for entry can only be your life handed over to God and your full trust in the designated Pilot. This will bring a great calm into your life. Instead of fondly hoping for heaven, you will be given the full assurance, based on the Word of God, that you will arrive safely at that desired haven, and be securely there for ever after. 1 John 5:13 offers us such assurance *that ye may know that ye have eternal life, as we trust in the pilot of God's provision; and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (our Lord Jesus Christ.* As you near the final destination, make sure you have surrendered all to Him who loved you and gave Himself for you.

Lorne for Vision 2020 in 2022

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