



COLLINSVILLE – TROY
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Focus. Find. Follow.

The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

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(618) 667-6708



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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The Shepherd's Pen: Unsinkable!!

The Titanic was thought to be unsinkable, yet it sunk. The captain ignored every warning and took little precaution. Many today think they are unsinkable spiritually, and they fail to heed the warnings.

One of the greatest problems in the church today is the lack of knowledge of God's word. Hosea warned Israel, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*" (Hosea 4:6).

We have not learned from the mistakes of those before us. There are many who have been Christians for years, yet have very little beyond the basic knowledge of God's word. The Hebrew writer wrote, "*For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that someone teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food. For every one that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But solid food is for fullgrown men, (even) those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil*" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Many fail to heed the warning. They see no need to study and meditate on the Bible at home. They see no need be present for or stream Bible classes on Sunday morning and/or Wednesday night. Others do so, yet they make no preparation beforehand. They prefer to be spoon-fed rather than make an effort to learn and grow in the knowledge of God. Some just feel as though they are unsinkable. They fail to heed the warning to study God's word (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15).



Another warning that many fail to heed is that of Paul, who wrote, "*Pray without ceasing*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). I have seen the saying posted in front of church buildings, "A week without prayer makes one weak." How true that is. Too many use prayer as they would a pain reliever, "Use when needed." It is seen more of an emergency tool than anything else. Prayer should become a daily part of the Christian life. Communicate with your Father on a regular basis. Some, however, feel as though they are unsinkable. They fail to heed the warning to make prayer an integral part of their lives (Colossians 4:2).

Forsaking the assembly is another way that some just think they are unsinkable. Assembling for worship is both commanded and beneficial. Of course, due to our present circumstances, many are concerned about the risk. That is a valid concern. However, technology today makes it possible for us to worship together, in a sense, though we may not be at the assembly. In addition, a family could worship alone at home. God knows the heart and knows when one would obey Him and assemble for worship but cannot due to the circumstances. However, there are those who think they do not need to honor God with worship. There are those who put recreation, ball games, meetings, job, or just reading and relaxation before God. They have no need for God except on their terms and when they are ready. Some feel as though they are unsinkable. They fail to heed the warning to faithfully worship God (Hebrews 10:25-29).

Paul gave some excellent advice when he wrote to the saints at Corinth. "*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall*" (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Terry Mabery