



## A FINE SHIP . . . . . IT ONLY SANK ONCE

### THE WAR IS GOING WELL

The war is going well; at the moment of writing, the Germans have almost collapsed, and the Japanese are caving in faster than anyone expected; the war is going well. But is it going well for those whose sons or husbands swell the casualty lists? Already the casualties are more numerous than in 1918. Can the bereaved and can the wounded say that the war has gone well?

At the beginning of the war, thoughtless well-wishers may have told us that our son or our husband could not get hit. It was false comfort. Others said that the chances

were four to five that our boy would come home safe. That might have been true, but it is no comfort for the one-fifth who do not come home safe. Yet such a calculation of probabilities is the best that a non-Christian can offer. If God does not rule in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, what can be said except "Take your chances and make the best of it"?

The Christian, on the other hand, will search the Scriptures and there he will find true comfort. In II Chronicles 18 we read how Jehoshaphat and Ahab went together into battle. Because the prophet of the Lord had said that Ahab would be killed, Ahab dressed as a common soldier as a disguise. But "a certain man

When men and women are asked to put their trust in Christ and His shed blood, they often say or think that after all they are not so bad. In fact they believe that they are essentially good and perhaps above the average. Of course they have no complaint against Christ — He was truly remarkable; but they hope to get to Heaven because after all they have lived pretty decent lives.

Most people, they believe, live fairly good lives. Even the hardened criminal does not commit murder every day; he kills a gangster friend only on Saturday nights! And most of us do very little wrong at all. If you ask the person who argues in this manner whether or not he attends church, he will reply that one can lead a good life without attending church regularly. If you ask him whether or not he reads the Bible, he will reply that the Bible is undoubtedly good literature but it is not to be taken as God's infallible command to men.

There is, however, one command in the Bible which the non-Christian, if he is serious, will admit is God's command to men. It is, "THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART AND WITH ALL THY SOUL AND WITH ALL THY

MIND." Obviously, if there is a God at all, He could require no less than this. Now let each person ask himself whether he obeys this commandment all the time, or even any of the time.

But perhaps the man who trusts his own goodness to get him to Heaven will say that disobedience to this commandment, like his other mistakes and shortcomings, is not a serious matter. After all, he does many more good deeds than evil deeds.

Suppose such a man felt the need of a vacation and decided on a sea voyage. The ship was comfortable, the weather clear, and the sailing fine. For ten days the cruise was perfect. But on the eleventh day the poor welding loosened, the seams opened, and the ship sank. And as the man gurgled his last, the waves heard him say, "WHAT A FINE SHIP; IT WAS ESSENTIALLY GOOD; IT SAILED PERFECTLY FOR TEN DAYS; IT ONLY SANK ONCE."

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God. He that offendeth in one point is guilty of all. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from ALL sin. Let us trust Him as Saviour and out of loving gratitude to Him obey His commands.

G.H.C.

drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness, . . . and he died."

Ahab's disguise did not save him. The enemy failed in its conscious attempt to kill the king; but a random shot, aimed at nothing in particular, killed him. Today some soldiers say the shell with your number on it will get you, and until that shell is fired nothing can hurt you. There is a great difference between this G. I. philosophy and the teaching of the Scripture. The one is a fatalistic, purposeless view of things, whereas the Scriptures teach that God sees the end from the beginning and does all things for a purpose. The Syrian enemy had shot his arrow without a purpose, but God had a purpose in ordaining that he should

do so. And thus the wicked Ahab was punished by death.

This does not mean that only the wicked are killed in battle. Many good Christians have died violent deaths in wars and in persecutions. But in these cases the principle in Christ's words to Pilate still applies: "thou couldst have no power against me, except it were given thee from above."

The bereaved Christians today still sorrow, as did Christ's mother and disciples, but they do not sorrow as others who have no hope, for they know that God has seen the end from the beginning, that He acts with a purpose, and that He doeth all things well. AND BECAUSE CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD, WE TOO SHALL RISE.

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