

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE



### “What To Do When You’re Sunk”

By Larry Lyles, Senior Minister, Norton Christian Church

Let me ask you a few questions. Have you ever failed in life? Have you ever been cut from a team? Have you ever not gotten the job or promotion? Have you ever been involved in a business that didn't go the way you had hoped? Have you ever been impatient with a 3 year old? Have you ever slept during a sermon at church, when you should have stayed awake? Have you ever experienced moral, athletic, social, relational, financial or marital failure at all? Here is my point. No matter how good we look on Easter Sunday, every one of us is wrestling to a degree with failure in our life. There is a plaque that says, “Nothing are perfect.” And the closest that many will get to perfection is when they fill out a job application. I think the failures that are the hardest to get over are the failures that take us by surprise.

The Titanic is one of the most famous failures in history. The designers and builders of this ship were certain this was the one ship that would never sink. On its maiden voyage a passenger named Mrs. Albert Caldwell asked a deck hand, “Is this ship really unsinkable?” And the deck hand said, “Yes, lady, God Himself could not sink this ship.” But the unsinkable ship ended up on the bottom of the North Atlantic at 2:20 a.m. on April 15, 1912 taking over 1,500 passengers and crew to their death.

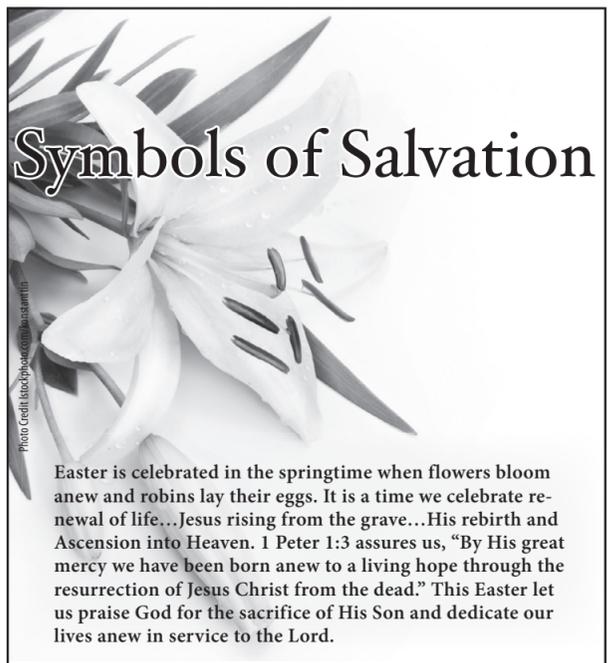
The apostle Peter finds him-

self sunk in John 21. The man he had put his hope in had been crucified. He didn't know what to do so, he went back to the things he knew. He went back to his fishing. He had bragged to Jesus, “Lord, I will never fall away from you. I mean if everybody else does, I will never fall away. I will even die for you.” And Jesus warned him that on that very night he would betray him three times. And Peter does

what he says he will never do, and the rooster crows.

What can you do when you're sunk? Learn from your flops. Admit that you have failed. Peter admitted that he failed. Proverbs 28:13 says, “A man that refuses to admit his mistakes, can never be successful.” One of the reasons the Titanic is such a tragedy is that even after the boat was hit, many were convinced there was

no way this huge boat could go down. The Bible says, “all have sinned and fallen short.” Walt Disney approached 301 banks before one would loan him the money to start Disney Land. Jim Denny of the Grand Old Opry fired a young singer after one set and said, “You ain't going nowhere.” It was a kid named Elvis. We all make blunders, so admit it, when you failed and learn from your flops. Proverbs 28:20 says, “Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways.” What can you do when your sunk? Look to the future. Peter in John 21 has admitted his failure to himself and now had gone back to fishing. That is when a man called out from the bank and ask had he caught anything. When Peter said, “No,” the man told him to cast the net on the other side of the boat. Peter did so, and caught so many fish that he did a double take and realized it was the resurrected Jesus. And he jumped out of the boat and headed straight to see Jesus. He realized how much he needed Jesus' grace and forgiveness. You, too, are sunk without Jesus. As we approach Easter Sunday my hope is that you will realize this truth. There is no pit so deep that you have fallen into that the grace of Jesus can't reach down and forgive you and give you a second chance. You may feel like you are sunk, but the resurrection of Jesus Christ means you can resurface!



### Symbols of Salvation

Easter is celebrated in the springtime when flowers bloom anew and robins lay their eggs. It is a time we celebrate renewal of life... Jesus rising from the grave... His rebirth and Ascension into Heaven. 1 Peter 1:3 assures us, “By His great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” This Easter let us praise God for the sacrifice of His Son and dedicate our lives anew in service to the Lord.

| Weekly Scripture Reading |               |              |               |               |              |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Luke 22:1-38             | Luke 22:39-71 | Luke 23:1-25 | Luke 23:26-49 | Luke 23:50-56 | Luke 24:1-12 | Luke 24:13-35 |

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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