

# Building an Unsinkable Ship, Pt 5

## A TALE OF TWO SHIPS

January 31/2011  
Pastor Pete Bertolero

**Genesis 6:9-22** *“This is the account of Noah and his family.*

*Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.*

*11 Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 13 So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. 14 So make yourself an ark of cypress [gopher] wood; make rooms in it and **coat it with pitch** inside and out. 15 The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.” (a cubit was the distance a man’s forearm and tip of his index finger)*

*16 Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. 17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that **has the breath of life in it**. Everything **on** earth will perish. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. 19 You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that **moves along the ground** will come to you to be kept alive. 21 You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.” 22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.”*

**A.** THE CHURCH IS NOT A MAN MADE \_\_\_\_\_!

IT IS A GOD-ORDAINED \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 12:27** says each of us who follow Jesus and are members of His church “*are the body of Christ.*” We are told that the members of a church body are a *part of* Christ’s body. **Ephesians 4:11 -13** tells us the purpose Christ Himself appointed Bishops, Pastors, elders and teachers in the church is “*to equip his people for ministry or works of service, so that **the body of Christ** may be built up.*” **Ephesians 5:30** says “*we are of His body; of His flesh and of His bones.*”

Great care should go into the forming, building and governing of every church, for the church is the body of Christ. It is not merely a building or a ministry, but a body.

- Titanic's example
- Grande Church

**1 Timothy 1:9** admonishes us to ***"...wage the good warfare, 19 holding on to the Christian faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck..."***

Instead of building the church like the Brits built the Titanic, we believe here at LEGACY that the church should be built in the same way that Noah built the ark.

Legacy's Goal:

Seek the lost

Save the lost

School the saved

Releases the people to serve –

members are in control of ministry; pastors are in control of membership

Stable and endurable enough organism in the Lord to get its people home safely.

## **B.** THE FOUR "F" S OF ARK BUILDING FAITH

**Genesis 6:8** tells us

***"But Noah found \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the LORD."***

**Grace is defined in Christian theology as the free and unmerited (unearned) favor of God.**

And **Hebrews 11:7** tells us that this same Noah "by faith" and "moved" to obedient action" in the fear of God, ***"prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."***

# 1 NOW THE FIRST “F” I WANT YOU TO NOTICE IS THE \_\_\_\_\_ of Noah.

- **FIRST OF ALL, HIS FAITH WAS A \_\_\_\_\_ FAITH**, in that it moved him.
- **SECONDLY HIS FAITH WAS A \_\_\_\_\_ FAITH** – based on the infallibility of the **WORD** of God. ***This is how faith comes. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God*** (Romans 10:17). ***This is how faith comes.*** His faith was rooted in God’s word, and so his faith got involved in the work of God. (Andy on membership)
- **THIRDLY, HIS WAS A \_\_\_\_\_ FAITH**  
For a hundred and twenty years Noah prepared the ark and waited because a faith founded on the word, is proved by its patience and a faith that waits while it works.
- **FOURTHLY, NOAH’S FAITH WAS A \_\_\_\_\_ FAITH**  
that didn’t trust the culture around him, that was willing to stand alone without compromising with the worldliness and corruption that surrounded him and his family and threatened to encroach it.

Every church should be a wary, countercultural Christian community.

# 2 THE SECOND “F” I WANT YOU TO SEE IS NOAH’S \_\_\_\_\_.

In the Old Testament, more than one word is translated fear and these words **mean reverent fear, terror, or dread, and are normally translated simply fear.**

**There's no contradiction between fearing God and loving God. As a matter of fact, the one who fears God the most loves him the best and all the fear of God is – is love on it's knees.** Noah was moved with faith and with fear. He believed that God meant what he said and so he prepared an ark.

***Matthew 28:4***

***1 Peter 2:17***

***Revelation 1:17***

***Jeremiah 5:22***

***Philippians 2:12-13***

**3 THE THIRD “F” I WANT YOU TO SEE IS NOAH’S \_\_\_\_\_.**  
The bible says he was moved with fear and therefore he **prepared** an ark. And our Lord said **“as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the son of man. They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day the flood came.”** But Noah made preparation.

**Have you – moved by faith and fear and foresight, made preparations for yourself and your family?** Have you labored to build the very ark that will be your saving refuge in the days to come – the Christian church?

**4 AND NOAH BACKED UP HIS FAITH FOURTHLY, BY INVESTING HIS FORTUNE IN THE ENTERPRISE**

**C. THE ARK PREFIGURED \_\_\_\_\_ AND THE \_\_\_\_\_.**

The ark was a foreshadowing of Christ and the church. The building of the Universal and local church is supposed to be as critical to us as the ark was to Noah and his family.

The apostolic fathers often drew parallels between the flood waters, Noah and his family, and the ark, to God’s judgment, the church, baptism and Christ. They taught that **the flood waters prefigured baptism** through which Noah’s family was saved. If the flood waters prefigure baptism then naturally **the ark prefigured Christ.**

Furthermore, God told Noah in verse 14 to **“coat it with pitch inside and out.”** Pitch is a sticky, gooey, tarry substance. Now, that word **pitch** is translated over seventy times in the bible \_\_\_\_\_.

The date when the ark came to rest on Mount Ararat, is the same month and day when Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. It was in the month of April, three days after Passover; the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan.

The bible tells us that Noah was commanded to make a

\_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_. God handles the spiritual door of the church, but we who make up the church must pray, and seek God’s face and turn from our wicked ways. God handles the door, we handle the window.

God shuts the waters of judgment out of the church and God shuts all who have been baptized, into the church.