



**Volume XXXIV**  
**August 14, 2018**

**“...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind.” Matthew 13:47**

**Number 4**

**THREE SHEETS IN THE WIND**—Have you ever wondered about the origin of such a phrase? The committee to ascribe a nautical origin to everything says, after some research, “three sheets in the wind” is, indeed, a seafaring expression.

To understand this phrase, we need to enter into the arcane (mysterious) world of nautical terminology. Don’t be taken aback to hear that sheets aren’t sails, as landlubbers might expect, but are ropes (or occasionally chains). These are fixed to the lower corners of the sails to hold them in place. Now if the sheets are loose and blowing about in the wind, then the sails will flap back and forth and the boat will move around like a drunken sailor.

Sailors of long ago had a sliding scale of drunkenness. One sheet...a bit tipsy; two sheets...the straight walk is hard; three sheets...the falling overboard stage. R.L. Stephenson used the term “tipsy” in **Treasure Island** in 1883. Where are we going here with some present day application? If three sheets in the wind gives the idea of drunkenness, a biblical view of the world in general surely shows a similar condition. Most nations are drunken with war with only a few exceptions, with those, even at peace, a bit tipsy. In Psalm 107:27, David illustrates the nation of Israel of long ago as they reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man.

The world is “three sheets in the wind”. Oh, yes, in many ways. Immorally drunk tops the list. Not just a bit tipsy, but intoxicated all the way to the heart and soul. John prophesied of this in Revelation 18:3, *“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.”* This drunkenness can be seen in many areas that the laws of God prohibit, even in the realm of pleasure. Carried to the extreme, mankind becomes lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

This age ends as pictured in Genesis 6:5 (days of Noah). *“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”* Satan is rocking the world as a vessel in a storm. The sheets (ropes) have loosened the sails of life that are just flopping in the Satanic breeze as the tides of time are moving most into shipwreck and loss. What a condition! Thank God there is some help—salvation through Jesus Christ frees us from this destructive event and brings a soberness. 1 Peter 5:8, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”*. The strength that I need to keep this ship (my vessel) intact comes from the one whom David

spoke of in Psalm 107 that even though they are at their wit’s end, He continues. Psalm 107:28-30, *“Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.”* When our Lord returns, thank God, we don’t have to be caught three sheets in the wind (not even a bit tipsy). Sail on!

-----

**GOALS**—It was a fog-shrouded morning, July 4, 1952, when a young woman named Florence Chadwick waded into the water off Catalina Island. She intended to swim the channel from the island to the California coast. Long-distance swimming was not new to her; she had been the first woman to swim the English Channel in both directions.

The water was numbing cold that day. The fog was so thick she could hardly see the boats in her party. Several times sharks had to be driven away with rifle fire. She swam more than fifteen hours before she asked to be taken out of the water. Her trainer tried to encourage her to swim on since they were so close to land, but when Florence looked, all she saw was fog. So she quit...only one-half mile from her goal.

Later she said, “I’m not excusing myself, but if I could have seen the land, I might have made it.” It wasn’t the cold or fear or exhaustion that caused Florence Chadwick to fail. It was the fog.

Many times we too fail, not because we’re afraid, or because of the peer pressure, or because of anything other than the fact that we lose sight of the goal. Two months after her failure, Florence Chadwick walked off the same beach into the same channel and swam the distance, setting a new speed record, because she could see the land. Maybe that is why Paul said, *“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14).

Let’s run the race, looking unto Jesus (Heb 12:1,2).

-----

**WRATH OF GOD**—The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present. They increase more and more, and rise higher and higher, till an outlet is given; and the higher the stream is stopped, the more rapid and mighty will be its course, when once it is let loose. If God should only withdraw His hand from the flood-gate, it would immediately fly open, and the fiery floods of the fierceness and wrath of God would rush forth with inconceivable fury, and would come upon you with omnipotent power. If your strength were ten thousand times greater than it is, yea, ten thousand times greater than the strength of the stoutest, sturdiest devil in Hell, it would be nothing to withstand or endure it. John 3:36, *“He that believeth on the Son hath ever-*

*lasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*" Because of the work of Christ and our trust in Him as our Saviour, I now can have the promise of 1 Thessalonians 1:10, "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which **delivered us from the wrath to come.**" No one gets away with any sin! --Jonathan Edwards

-----

**SQUASHED SQUIRRELS**—Pulling out of my drive, I noticed something in the street ahead...a dead squirrel. Squirrels have a high "squashed" rate. Perhaps they are excited by the load of nuts they are carrying, or anxious about getting more, but their indecisions when crossing a road often get them killed by cars whizzing down the road the little rodents attempt to cross.

Actually it is not the car's fault in most cases. It is usually the squirrel's. They quickly dart across the road, but when they see a vehicle approaching, their decision process gets them killed. Often they dart to the middle of the road, then change their mind and dart back to where they came from. "Wait, I'll go to the other side of the road." They again change their mind and then "squash"! Their every-changing mind gets them run over, because they got in the way of a car that did not deviate from its course.

So many people are often of the same double-minded mindset. They decide on one goal in their lives; then, "No, wait, I change my mind." They go in another direction in their lives. "Whoops," before that direction is reached they again change their mind, just as do the direction-changing squirrels. They never meet their goals, because they are always changing. Too often they also get "squashed" and do not accomplish much in their lives.

Christians often are also indecisive. They decide to obey the Lord. They go to church, start reading their Bibles and have a prayer life. The Lord begins to change their lives. They are happier, and then some gleaming, glittering temptation makes them change their course, and "squash", they too end up never accomplishing anything for themselves or for the Lord.

Are your plans often like the "squirrel-crossing-the-road", confusing and unsure? Many times, we do not have a clue as to what we should do in certain circumstances, or even with our life. Be sure you do what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be one more squashed "squirrel" on life's road. James 1:8, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."

--B. Brinkworth

-----

### **BE OF GOOD CHEER**

"Be of good cheer," the apostle Paul cried,  
"This ship will crest the rushing tide.  
Just believe God and stay with the ship,  
Bring on the storm and let her rip!"

The devil attacks our ship without,  
Steals our cheer and leaves us doubt.  
Don't believe him, brother, for he is a lie,  
For God sees your tears and hears your sigh.

And when future prospects look dim indeed,  
The master of our sea knows our need.  
Just remember what He's already done,  
Loved us so much He sent His Son.

Recall He's walking right by our side,  
He controls our ocean, deep and wide,  
Our refuge and our resources too,  
Hang on, brother, He's watching over you!

-----

**WHICH WAY FLOWS THE MISSISSIPPI?**—Most all will say from North to South, and they are correct, but there are times and places where the river flows North, then West, but ultimately flows South. So it is with the purpose of God in Christ that seems to get frustrated, turned, twisted, but God's purpose of the ages is that His Son rule and reign over the kingdoms of this world. Read the last chapter.

-----

### **FISHY HUMOR**

--A bookseller, conducting a market survey, asked a waterman's wife, "Which book has helped you most in your life?" The woman replied, "My husband's checkbook!"

--Someone asked an old fisherman, "Even after 70 years, you still call your wife darling, honey, and luv. What's the secret?" The old man replied, "Sometimes I forget her name and I'm scared to ask her."

-----

--A man docked his cruiser at a restaurant pier, desiring to eat lunch. The manager said, "I'm sorry, sir, but I cannot let you in to dine. The restaurant has a necktie policy and you are not wearing one." The man replied, "Of course I don't have a tie; I am on a boat!" "Well, go below and get something that looks close to a tie." After some time the boat owner came out with a small pair of jumper cables around his neck. "This is all I could find," he said. The manager said, "OK, I'll let you in, but don't start anything!"

-----

--An old salt walked into an upscale steak house and ordered a prime rib with all the trimmings. When brought to the table, he ate it all in record time. The waiter came by and said, "Wow, I've never seen anyone eat that fast!" The old salt said, "You'd eat fast too if you knew what I have." "Oh, no," said the waiter, "what do you have?" The old salt replied, "Fifty cents!"

-----

1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a fish alive.  
6,7,8,9,10 Then I threw him back again.  
(Pawpaw's version for Jaz & Sam)  
1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a fish alive.  
6,7,8,9,10 Into the frying pan again!

-----

Separation of Church and State—The Rapture

-----

**FISHY QUESTION**—Thanks to all who responded with last edition's answer of "Leviathan" as the name of the beast mentioned by Job who can't be hooked or speared. For this edition answer the riddle, "Why do Chinese men eat more fish than American men?" Let us hear from you!