

# The Perfect Port

(A seaman's guide to finding it)



*by:*

**Lighthouse Seamen's Centre  
Vancouver, Canada**

# The Perfect Port

**A study course for seafarers**



## Where am I going?

As a seafarer, travel is a necessary part of your occupation. Your job requires you to work aboard a ship that transports cargo across the oceans of the world. Together, you and your crew are responsible for the proper maintenance of the ship and for making sure that the cargo reaches the next port safely and on time.

You would probably agree that it would be in very bad judgement for a seafarer to sign a contract to work aboard a ship where no one knew or cared where the ship was going. In the same way, it would be very unwise for you to live your whole life without thinking about where you are going when your time on earth is complete. Consider this question: what would happen to you if your life ended today? Where would you go?

Every person born on this earth will, at some point, stop living on it. It is a fact that cannot be changed. Even if you try to deny this fact, it will not change the reality that sooner or later you will not be alive on this earth. If you have never seriously thought about this, perhaps now is a good time to do so.

When you look out the porthole of your cabin you may see many amazing and wonderful sights. For example, you can see the great oceans of the world which are full of many different kinds of sea life. In addition, when you visit ports you might see people, animals, plants, trees and other living things. All of these are the handiwork of God. God is creative and He is greater than anyone or anything that He has created. So, if you want to know the answer to the question of where you will go after you die, you need to turn to the God who has made everything, including you.



## Explanation of this study booklet

The booklet you are now reading is actually a study course designed by Lighthouse Seafarer's Centre. The course will help you to know who God is and what He has promised about your future. It is like a compass which can help guide you to *The Perfect Port* (heaven).

There are 4 chapters for you to read:

1. What does God say about my future?
2. I am not perfect so how can I go to heaven?
3. How can I be sure of where I will go after I die?
4. What has happened to me if I have trusted in Jesus and what should I do next?

After you have read a chapter, please turn to the middle of the booklet and complete the short test for that chapter. The tests are included to help you be certain that you understand what you have read in the chapters. You may want to read a chapter more than once before completing the test for that chapter.

The tests are *multiple choice*. After reading a question simply choose the correct answer from one of the four choices (a, b, c or d) provided. Put the letter of the correct answer in the space next to the question. At the end of each test there is also a question which requires you to give a short answer in your own words. Please also try to answer each of these.

After you have finished all 4 chapters and tests, please either print off the test pages from this booklet and post them to the Lighthouse Seafarer's Centre or send your answers by email. The postal and email addresses are shown at the end of this booklet. After we receive the tests, we will grade them and return them to you with any corrections. This will help you to know how well you understood the topics covered by this study. We will also send you a certificate indicating that you have completed the course.



One further note to help you get the greatest benefit from working on this study book:

When you read the chapters you will notice that there are many *Bible addresses* included which, for example, look like this: **[Mark 1:1-3]**. These addresses tell you where to look in the Bible to find certain verses. For example, to find Mark 1:1-3 you would open a Bible to the first few pages to locate the *Contents* or sometimes called *Table of Contents*. The Contents show you what page number to turn to in order to find a *book* in the Bible. So, for our example, you would look for the book called “Mark” and note the page number.

After finding Mark, you would look for the first chapter. This is usually shown with a large number. In our case you would look for a large “1”. Next, you need to look for *verse* 1. A verse is a grouping of words which are marked by small numbers<sup>1</sup> ← such as this, for example. Then, you need to read from verse 1 to verse 3 [Mark 1:1-3]. These verses say:

**The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” - <sup>3</sup>“a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”**

All addresses in the Bible can be found using the above method.

If you wanted to locate all of the books in the Bible, you would need a complete Bible which has 66 books in it. However, if you have the New Testament (the second part of the Bible) you have a very good part of the Bible to read. It records much about Jesus’ life and words while He was on earth and also gives good direction about how to live properly to please God. One day, you will probably want to read the entire Bible in order to learn more about God’s love and direction for your life. At this point, however, you don’t need to have a complete Bible in order to do this study booklet.

Finally, may God guide you as you work on *The Perfect Port*.

Please proceed!



## Chapter 1

### What does God say about my future?

God loves His creation and one of the most wonderful ways He shows this is through His communication with it. At various times throughout history and in various ways God has revealed Himself to His people and much of this has been recorded and preserved for you in a book called the *Bible*. The Bible is often called “God’s Word” and it can be trusted because its message came from God to the people who wrote it. The Bible is an amazing book that you can read to find the answers to the deep questions of your heart. Just as a seafarer needs to read maps and charts and uses satellites to help find the proper course for travel, you can look in the Bible to find God’s answer to the question about where you are going after you die.

The Bible teaches that mankind (every person) was created by God, in His image, to enjoy God’s creation [Genesis 1:26-31]. God gave the first man, Adam, a great gift: the ability to make choices (sometimes called *free will*). Adam was given the freedom to obey God and receive God’s blessing or to disobey God (to sin) and become separated from God’s love. Sadly, Adam chose to sin. The result was that all people lost fellowship/friendship with God [Genesis 3]. All people experience God’s curse because of Adam’s sin and this is the reason for the terrible suffering and pain that exists in the world. Murder, abuse, war, disease, famine, loneliness etc. are the result of the broken relationship that we have with God. All of us are born with a sinful nature and we continue to sin against God. As a result, it is not God’s fault that the world is in a terrible mess, it is *our* fault for disobeying Him.

The Bible also teaches that in addition to a broken relationship with God, there is a specific and serious punishment (negative result) for sin. A letter written to Roman Christians in the first century A.D. by Paul, a follower of Jesus, tells us what this punishment is: “For the wages of sin is death.” [Romans 6:23] This means that just as wages (payment) are received for the work of a seafarer, eternal spiritual death (hell) is the payment that should be received for sins. A prophet



(messenger of God) named Nahum indicated that “The LORD (God) will not leave the guilty unpunished.” [Nahum 1:3] From this we know that because we are guilty of breaking God’s law (we have all sinned), we all deserve punishment.

God has called His children to holiness (perfection). In his letter to Christians which he wrote during the time of Jesus, the Apostle (one of Jesus’ 12 followers) Peter indicated, “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; For it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy’ ” [1 Peter 1:15-16]. However, sin has prevented all people from reaching this standard. You might think that you have not committed any *serious* (or mortal) sins or that you have basically been a good person (never murdering anyone, for example). However, the Bible teaches that this is not good enough. In fact, even if you have lived your whole life without sinning and at some point commit one sin, however small or insignificant it may seem, you have failed to be holy [see James 2:10] and deserve God’s punishment. If you say that “I am only human” this does not excuse you. Any sin is wrong and deserving of God’s punishment. So, you might ask: “Well, if this is God’s standard then how can anyone ever get to heaven?” This is a very good question. Please read on.

Please turn to Chapter 1 test now.



## *Chapter 2*


### I am not perfect so how can I go to heaven?

The separation between God and mankind that resulted from sin was not what God wanted. Further, even though mankind has turned from God, in His loving mercy, God made a way for people to be freed from the punishment of spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God.

The Bible teaches us that although “the wages of sin is death” “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [Romans 6:23] This verse explains that God has given people the gift of living forever in heaven because of His Son. How did this gift happen?

A prophet who lived many years before Jesus was born gives the answer to the question of how God gave the world the gift of eternal life: “He (Jesus) was pierced for our transgressions (bad things), he was crushed for our iniquities (bad things); the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” [Isaiah 53:5-6] Isaiah is saying that God’s own Son, Jesus, received the punishment that all people deserve. That is, God loved us so much that He was willing to send all of His anger and wrath for our sins onto His own Son. All people deserve to be sent to hell (a place of eternal punishment) because of sin. But in His love for us, God provided a way for us to be forgiven (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Here is the problem: God who is absolutely holy cannot allow us who sin into His holy presence. So, He planned a way for mankind to be made holy and set free from sin’s penalty of death. Jesus was punished for our sins. So, even though we deserve God’s punishment for disobeying Him, He punished His Son instead of us. Jesus was degraded, spit on, beaten, and eventually nailed to a cross as a result of our sin. The cross was where God poured out His anger for our sins on Jesus even though Jesus had done nothing wrong. The perfect justice





of God required a perfect sacrifice and only Jesus (because He is God) could be that sacrifice.

God loves you very much. In fact, He actually exchanged His sinless Son's life for yours. The Bible says Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us [2 Corinthians 5:21] so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God. His life was exchanged for yours; He died so that you could live. Even though you are not perfect, God has given you Jesus' perfection as a gift so that you would be able to enter God's presence in heaven.

Please turn to Chapter 2 test now.



# *Chapter Tests*

## **Seafarer's Information:**

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|             |                  |   |
|-------------|------------------|---|
| <b>Name</b> | <b>Ship Name</b> | <b>Contract completion (Month/Year)</b><br><b>(approximate date when signing off)</b> |
|-------------|------------------|---|

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**Home Address**

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**Ship Address**

## Chapter 1 test

*Please choose the correct answer and write the letter in the blank space:*

- 1) Where is the best place for you to find answers to the deep questions of your heart?
  - a. Any religious book.
  - b. On the internet.
  - c. God's Word in the Bible.
  - d. Talk to friends. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What was the great gift God gave the first man, Adam?
  - a. A gold coin.
  - b. The ability to make choices.
  - c. A wonderful family.
  - d. The ability to run very very fast. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Because Adam sinned (disobeyed God), what happened?
  - a. Adam and all people lost friendship with God and became separated from His love.
  - b. God quickly forgave Adam and everything was fine.
  - c. God told Adam to do his best and not to disobey again.
  - d. Adam was killed. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Why is the world in such a terrible mess (war, disease, hunger etc.)?
  - a. It is God's fault for not helping us.
  - b. No one knows why.
  - c. God really doesn't love people and wants to hurt them
  - d. Adam and all people have sinned and as a result are separated from God's love. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What does the Bible teach about mankind's punishment for sins?
  - a. People have to go to purgatory.
  - b. Death (hell) is the result.
  - c. All people will become animals.
  - d. People will suffer depending on how bad their sins were. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) How good does God want you to be in order to go to heaven?
  - a. The best that I can.
  - b. Just do more good than bad.
  - c. Absolutely holy (perfect).
  - d. God doesn't expect much. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) If you have lived your life without doing any really big sins, what does the Bible say will happen?
  - a. I will go to heaven because I am basically good.
  - b. Only God knows.
  - c. I will suffer for a while but God will eventually forgive me.
  - d. All people deserve to be punished because we are not holy. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) What do you think about this statement: Sin is bad but I'm excused - I'm only human?
  - a. True. I cannot do any better.
  - b. False. All sin is wrong and must be punished.
  - c. True. Adam only made a mistake.
  - d. True. No one can resist sin. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know where you will go when you die?

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## Chapter 2 test

- 1) Because all people have turned away from God, what will happen?
- a. God will never forgive us.
  - b. God says that sin is acceptable as long as we haven't killed anyone.
  - c. We have been separated from God but He has given us a way to be set free from the punishment that we deserve.
  - d. God will send us to hell. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The Bible teaches that when you sin you should receive death, but:
- a. God gives us the gift of eternal life in heaven because of what Jesus has done for us.
  - b. God will not love you anymore.
  - c. Just say "sorry" and all will be well.
  - d. You can escape death by going to Church. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) A prophet (messenger of God) called Isaiah told people how God gave us eternal life:
- a. Because God doesn't really care about sin.
  - b. Sin isn't really a big problem so everyone can go to heaven.
  - c. By doing great works for God.
  - d. Because Jesus was punished for all people. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) God has shown His love for you because:
- a. Actually, God doesn't really love me.
  - b. Even though I deserve to be punished because of sin, Jesus has received this instead of me.
  - c. Sin deserves to be rewarded.
  - d. Hell doesn't really exist. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What happened to Jesus so that your sin would be forgiven?
- a. Jesus was given money to buy my forgiveness.
  - b. God sent Jesus to tell a few people to be good.
  - c. Jesus became an angel who told people to repent of their sins.
  - d. Jesus was nailed to a cross and died for me. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Why did Jesus have to die?
- a. Because He did something wrong.
  - b. Because He was sick and God decided not to heal Him.
  - c. Because my sin required a perfect sacrifice to be given for forgiveness.
  - d. Because He wasn't perfect. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) The Bible says Jesus became sin for us. Why?
- a. So I could be good by trying my best.
  - b. Because Jesus was only human and He did only a few very small bad deeds.
  - c. So that Jesus could feel sorry for me.
  - d. So that I could become the righteousness of God. \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not perfect, how can you get to heaven to be with God when you die?

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## Chapter 3 test

- 1) If you want to live forever in heaven, what must you accept?
- a. The traditions of all religions.
  - b. The teaching of any religious leader who teaches people to love peace.
  - c. That I am a sinner, Jesus was punished for me and that I must put my faith in Him alone.
  - d. Nothing can get me to heaven. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) How can you earn your way to heaven?
- a. By going to church or a temple every week.
  - b. By giving all of my money to the poor.
  - c. By being kind to everyone.
  - d. I cannot earn my way to heaven. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The Bible tells us that going to heaven is only possible:
- a. By faith in Jesus.
  - b. For a few thousand people.
  - c. If you are very intelligent.
  - d. By reading the Bible every day. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) The Bible verse that says "Not by works" (Ephesians 2:9) means...?
- a. Doing my best will save me from hell.
  - b. Good works are not the way we are saved from hell.
  - c. Happy people are what God wants.
  - d. Doing mostly good is enough to get me to heaven. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Jesus died because...?
- a. I am not perfect and need to receive God's goodness in Jesus.
  - b. God was angry with His Son.
  - c. I need Jesus and good deeds to be forgiven by God.
  - d. Only then could He go to God to tell Him that people need help. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) What can you do so that you will know where you are going after you die?
- a. Just pray to any god
  - b. Study in a good school.
  - c. Ask a fortune teller
  - d. Put my faith in Jesus alone as God's gift for eternal life. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) If you have not trusted in Jesus for eternal life, what will happen to you after you die?
- a. It is okay, God will give me many lives.
  - b. If I love others that is enough to get me to heaven.
  - c. I will not go to heaven because I am still dead in my sins.
  - d. God will allow me into heaven if I pray hard and read the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_

How can you be sure of where you will be after you die? Do you know this for yourself?

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## Chapter 4 test

- 1) What did the Apostle John write about how we become a child of God?
  - a. By having good Christian parents.
  - b. Through much meditation and prayer.
  - c. By dying near a church.
  - d. By receiving Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2) If you have repented (turned away) from sin and received Jesus as your Lord, what more do you still need to do to receive God's forgiveness?
  - a. I still need to confess my sins in a temple.
  - b. Nothing. I have been completely forgiven for all of my sins through Jesus.
  - c. I still need to pray after every sin to be forgiven.
  - d. I need to do many good things and then God will forgive me. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3) What is the promise God gives in 1 John 5:11-12 to those who have Jesus?
  - a. They will live forever (have eternal life).
  - b. They will be rich.
  - c. They will always be happy.
  - d. Every one will like them. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4) As a Christian (you have received Jesus as Lord) what will your life be like?
  - a. I will begin a journey of growing toward becoming more and more like Jesus.
  - b. I will be a perfect person.
  - c. All my problems will be solved.
  - d. I will never have any trouble. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 5) After you become a Christian, what should you do?
  - a. Nothing.
  - b. Live far from any big city in order to avoid all evil things.
  - c. Tell another Christian or somehow share it with someone who is trustworthy.
  - d. Wear black clothes. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 6) Which of the following is helpful to do every day as a Christian?
  - a. Read the newspaper.
  - b. Only have Christian friends.
  - c. Stay alone.
  - d. Read the Bible and talk with God in prayer. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 7) What else should you do to help you grow as a follower of Jesus?
  - a. Move to a Christian country.
  - b. Eat only cooked vegetables.
  - c. Join a Church or fellowship group which teaches about Jesus from the Bible.
  - d. Purchase a world map in order to know where to go next. \_\_\_\_\_

What have you learned about God from this study booklet?

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*End of Tests*

## Chapter 3

### How can I be sure of where I will go after I die?

From Chapter 2, we know that Jesus received our punishment and that God's gift in Jesus is eternal life. At this point, you might ask: "How then can I receive God's amazing gift of eternal life?" The Bible teaches that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish (die and go to hell) but have eternal life." [John 3:16] If you want God's gift of eternal life you must accept that:

1. you are a sinner (you have rebelled against God).
2. you need to repent (turn away) from your sin.
3. although God will punish all sin, He loved you so much that He punished His own Son, Jesus, so that you could be forgiven (allowed to go free) for your sin.
4. the only way for you to be set free from God's anger is to fully trust that Jesus died for you.

The Bible also says that it is not what you do that will earn you a place in heaven. It is not by trying to be a good person or by helping people or by going to Church every Sunday or by giving all of your money away etc. that will take you to heaven, but only by your faith in Jesus. In the Bible it is written: "For it is by grace you have been saved **through faith** - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - **not by works**, so that no one can boast." [Ephesians 2:8-9] Your faith in God's work for you is what is necessary. If being a good person was enough to earn people God's forgiveness, Jesus didn't need to die on the cross and God could have spared Himself the tremendous pain of His only Son's death. But the truth is that God knows that you can never be good enough to get to Him on your own because by doing good deeds you are still not perfect. While God does want you to follow His ways and do good things, if you have committed even one sin you have failed to be perfect and your good deeds cannot erase this. That is why Jesus had to die in your place. What you need to be made right with God and given access to heaven is provided as a gift when you trust in Jesus.





If you want to know where you are going when you die; if you want to have peace with God you must put your faith in Jesus who died for you. Have you done this? If not, the Bible teaches that you are still dead in your sins: “you were dead in your transgressions and sins.” [Ephesians 2:1] You will not enter God’s kingdom when you die nor will you ever know God’s peace. However, if you open your heart and accept God’s loving gift of His forgiveness in Jesus, you will enter God’s kingdom and know the joy of His love. What is keeping you from receiving Jesus right now? You can become a child of God at this very moment, wherever you are. One way to do this would be to pray the following words and mean them in your heart:

*Dear God,*

*I have disobeyed you and broken your commandments. I have not loved you with my whole heart, mind, soul and strength and accept that I deserve to be punished. I am sorry for what I have done against you and turn away from it now. I accept and believe that Jesus your Son, who was and is God with you, received my punishment when He died on the cross and that through His death my punishment has been paid in full. I receive Jesus now as my Lord and Saviour and accept the new life that He died to give me. Please help me to follow Jesus for the rest of my life.*

*In Jesus Name I pray. Amen*

Please turn to Chapter 3 Test now.



## *Chapter 4*

### What has happened to me if I have trusted in Jesus and what should I do next?

If you have honestly prayed the prayer in Chapter 3 , then Hallelujah (praise God), you are now part of the family of God! You have become a child of God. The Apostle John wrote: “to all who received him (Jesus), to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” [John 1:12]

After receiving Jesus, you may or may not feel different from before. However, the way you feel is not the most important thing. What is important is that you know that by putting your complete faith in Jesus you have now been forgiven for all of your sins; nothing else is necessary to give you God’s forgiveness! You now have God’s sure promise that you will live forever with Him in heaven: “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” [1 John 5:11-12] If you have accepted Jesus, you now have eternal life.

#### *What should I do next?*

It can be helpful to think of your new life in Jesus in a similar way to that of a human baby. Just as a new born child requires care and attention to grow into an adult, so you also will begin a journey of growth toward becoming the Christian that God wants you to be. You are beginning a journey toward becoming more and more like Jesus.

Several steps can and should be taken by you in order to help you to grow and develop:

1. Tell someone that you have become a Christian as soon as possible. You need to clearly reveal that your life is new in Jesus. He has become your Lord (master) and Saviour (the one who has saved you from hell).
2. Spend time every day reading God’s Word in the Bible. A good



place to begin is with the Book of John in the New Testament. Try to read at least one chapter each day. Daily reading of God's Word is like the food and water that a human being requires for growth. It is the Christian's spiritual Daily Bread/Daily Rice.

3. Every day spend time talking with God in prayer. Prayer is the way we communicate with God. Just as it is important for a child to reveal his feelings and needs to his parents, as a Christian it is very important to share our lives with our heavenly Father in prayer. It is not necessary to pray a particular prayer, you can simply talk to God from your heart.

4. Join a Church at home which teaches from the Bible and also a fellowship group on your ship (if there is one) as soon as possible. It is important to grow together with other Christians who also know and love Jesus. Try to become a regular, active member of a Christian Church or fellowship group and ask God to lead you to the right one. If you don't know of any Christians aboard your ship, pray that God will guide you to one either on your ship or on shore.

If you wish to know which ports in the world have Christian seafarer's missions so you can meet with other Christians, please write to us or try our web site at [www.sealight.org](http://www.sealight.org) for a listing.

Please turn to Chapter 4 Test now.

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Finally, we would be happy to hear from you if you have become a new Christian or if you have not yet committed your life to Jesus but are still interested in further information regarding what the Bible teaches.

To help you grow in the Christian Faith we have Bible study material which we would be pleased to provide to you. We can be contacted at the following address:

**Lighthouse Seafarer's Centre**  
**#1 260 East Esplanade**  
**North Vancouver, B.C.**  
**Canada V7L 1A3**  
**Phone: 1 604 988 5084**  
**email: [info@sealight.org](mailto:info@sealight.org)**

May the Lord guide you to His wonderful truth in Jesus, who is the gateway to *The Perfect Port*, as you sail the oceans of the world.

*“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

*Colossians 1:13-14*



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*Lighthouse Seamen's Centre is part of Lighthouse Harbour Ministries, a Christian mission to seamen who visit the Port of Vancouver. Established in 1981, the Lighthouse ministry has reached out to thousands of seafarers from all over the world with the love of Christ.*