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Substance of Sermon preached by our Pastor
on Sunday Evening, July 18. 1982.

Lesson. Revelation 22.

They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;
These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.

Psalm 107. 23 & 24.

We have mentioned in the discourses of the day, or the continual discourse, that we see what is remarkable, beautiful, encouraging to the faith of God's elect in the paragraph; namely, the embarkation of all who are loved with an everlasting love, washed from their sins in the blood of Christ so they are passing to the other side, the happy, blissful shore of Heaven itself. I will draw your thoughts in this direction. Since the building of this Sanctuary by Mr Cowper in 1837, contemplate how many precious souls have embarked in the precious ship of Christ, and by His grace have disembarked on the happy shore of eternal Glory from these sacred walls, worshipping in this dear House of God. Contemplate the number who, under the spiritual, vital, powerful, efficacious, Holy Ghost ministry have seen by faith a glimpse of the Lord Jesus and the blissful, and are safely landed, and Christ has abundantly received them, and as the good man said, all the trumpets sounded for them on the other side. Now decades and generations since we still have a people ^{who} by the efficacious, invincible operations, work, virtues and graces of the Holy Ghost have embarked in the blessed ship of grace by faith. I will name to you Scriptures that will define embarkation. "By faith — in Christ — Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." That Scripture defines the spiritual embarkation of a living soul on the precious voyage, yet the voyage knows both calm, tranquility, holy peace, zephyr breezes caught by the sails of faith to waft them to Heaven, and contrary winds, disturbance of the elements, the convulsion of waters so high and great that they appear to be about to engulf and submerge the ship so you will

never reach the blissful port of Heaven. Many of you are on this spiritual voyage now: what is it like just now? Could you give a definition of it? I purposely pause to make a pertinent, loving inquiry. What is the voyage like now? Is there much sunshine, favourable breezes, the vision clear, and you well on course according to the compass of God's Word, and you have the joy of seeing your Pilot at the helm? Are you feeling the breezes, the south wind blowing softly? Can you rest on your couch and feel you are wafted toward Heaven? Blissful feeling! Or does it seem that the ~~power~~ powers of the pit are active and the winds are blowing against you, and the convolution of waters as though they will dash you on the rocks of despair? What is it like now? Is it as though you will be drawn down into sinking sands and never reach the harbour? I hope none feel they are in the eye of a hurricane. This is an aside observation for the spiritually intelligent to discern ^{where} they are and what it is like.

We have in our Hymnal several beautiful Hymns on the subject, that speak of seeing the shore and sudden clouds obscuring it, so they hardly believe they have seen the shore. What is it like now? It does not take long to discern the soft, sacred, Holy Ghost zephyr breezes, and you spread your sails to catch them to waft you to Heaven. It is wonderful to get to the end of the Lord's Day and feel nearer Home. O the perils of the deep! O the storms and anxieties a child of God passes through! I like what we named of Kent in the afternoon.

"Sin-burdened soul, with tempest tossed,
Thy bark shall every storm outride."

That is one of the best of Kent's. It has cheered me a few times. "Thy bark — thy tiny bark, tossed up and down — shall every storm outride." The beauty of the narrative is that we see the other end. We see the safe arrival, the happiness of disembarkation: not landing and coming back to the shores of earth, but Heaven. That is the wonder of it, Heaven! Never more to come back to the turbulence of the ocean wave, or where you left fifty, sixty, seventy years ago. That is the beauty of it, to see the issue, the glory, the grand finale of it if you like, triumphant, beautiful, wonderful. "Then are they glad because they be quiet." They are well in the harbour, approaching the strand. Think of it! to enter quiet rest that will never be disturbed. "Then are they glad because they

be quiet; so." This is one of the largest words in the paragraph. "So he bringeth them unto their desired haven." In this manner, and it includes God, the Trinity, the Covenant of Grace and the method of salvation, the whole of the victory of Christ, the everlasting love of God and the infallible work of the Holy Ghost. So, according to His love, character, faithfulness, immutability, wisdom. So, magnifying His Name, perfections, character, Being. So, not a flaw, no miscarriage. "So he bringeth them unto their desired haven." Have you a desired haven? "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" As we follow others and you follow us to the tomb it will be like this; "So he bringeth them unto their desired haven." We shall be Home, landed, embraced, welcomed, holy, happy, satisfied, awaking in His likeness. What a prospect!

I anticipated this morning that I should read the last verse this evening. I am still on these two. I can see so much more in them and it is only right for me to the glory of God and for your solid good to enunciate it. There are two things stand out with me now. "That do business in great waters." It is a great word, a tremendous word. It is easily read. I want to expatiate on, "that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep." I will ask you a question because I hope we shall work it out together by the Spirit. I ask you first who you see primarily in the word, "That do business in great waters," who do you see? I shall not hear what you say. Notice the qualifying term, great waters, and remember what was antecedent to it; "They that go down to the sea in ships" and who we saw, and we saw His glory as the Holy Ghost prepared for Him a sacred body, so the Son of God, co-equal and eternal with the Father and the Holy Ghost in majesty, honour, glory, power and might should go down to the sea of His Passion and suffering Suretyship, to accomplish the work of our redemption. "That do business in great waters." This includes every child of God.

I said who primarily do you see? It is clear to all who prayerfully read the Scriptures and are favoured with meditation by the Holy Ghost, that many of the Psalms are Messianic. It was so last Lord's Day at West Street. I saw in the twinkling of an eye. "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his

ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." and then we read, "The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow." It is Jesus first. It is a word of the Messiah. Who knew the sorrows of death compassing Him like the Messiah in His suffering humanity? It is Jesus. His people have a taste of it, but there is no curse in it. "I love the Lord," why? "Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee." It is His resurrection and ascension on high and enthronement. The work of redemption is accomplished. You see it in all the Psalms. It is an amazing foundation, and on that we may in the ministry by the Holy Ghost build. We can only build on Christ. "That do business" — transactions. Who did business in great waters like the Son of God incarnate? Great waters, immeasurable and unfathomed, and in the great waters of His suffering, vicarious Passion, His Suretyship, the great waters we shall never know. They are only known to God. We know the fruits of them. He did for us as our Representative, business with God, and God with Him. You see the lustre, glory, beauty of it. O the amazing nature of the word I felt dissatisfied as to my flimsy acquaintance with it. I see more now.

Let us try to evaluate something of the business Jesus did. The business His Father did in justice was to present Him with the debts of all the Church of God. It is solemn, sacred, holy business, and I hope my debt was there: do you? When the Father in justice presented the account to His Son, what happened in divine business in great waters? By His Passion and agony, especially the shedding of His vital blood and the giving of His life sacrificially there was a business transaction. He paid the debt. It is enough to break your heart. He paid it in agony, smart, blood; paid it with His life — business in great waters. When you read it again you will think more about it. What a transaction! The Father brought to Him the complete nakedness and exposure, demerit, loss of all merit of the election of grace. It was a transaction. How was this part transacted? From His birth to His death in the holy perfection of His obedience to the moral law. He wrought a glorious righteousness, not for Himself, but for His bride. What a transaction! Presented to Him was her nakedness. Wrought for her in business was His holy, glorious righteousness, so neither law nor justice could find a flaw, and this is

imputed to her. What divine business! Presented to Him was her demerit, and the merit of His Person and of His pure body and priestly work was put to her account. I hope you will remember these things; they will be of untold worth to you in days to come. In this transaction presented to Him was her uncleanness, and He shed His vital blood and washed her and made her whiter than snow. Also granted to her was the blessing of standing in the merit of His pure body. What a transaction! Business in great waters. Can you think of anything more wonderful? Are you on the stretch after it? Presented to Him was her lack of spirituality, her carnality and pride, and in this transaction He gave her the filling of the Holy Ghost and His own nature and Spirit. What a transaction! I hope you can remember all these truths because they are so cardinal and glorious. It is wonderful. Presented to Him was her ugliness in the fall to the image of Satan. God's image was defaced. In this transaction the Lord gave to her His image. "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." There is a body of divinity in itself that would cover Eternity in meditation. Think of this business. I know I stand on holy ground, and I feel the sacredness — the intensity of the sacredness in my spirit. All this Jesus did. Presented to Him was her death, and in the business transaction He gave her eternal life, immortality. Presented to Him was her shame, and He gave a crown and renown. That is business. She deserved hell and Christ suffered what was tantamount to that hell and gave her Heaven. It was presented to Him that she had lost the earthly paradise, and He gave her the Paradise of Heaven. "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste!" That is business in great waters. It was presented to Him that she was wretched, loathsome in her self and undone and fallen, and by His precious Person and priestly work this is what He gave her. "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." That is business. It is too glorious to speak; too wonderful to think on. "That do business in great waters." You never thought I should say that, did you?

You will see the second verse continues, "These see the works of the

Lord, and his wonders in the deep." His works, all He has done you will see. Let us turn to your business. As there was a transaction between the Trinity, there will be business between the Lord and you, you and the Lord. What have you to qualify you for business with God? Many of you are business men: can you do business with a holy God? Have you anything to qualify you for it? I will tell you the greatest thing that will qualify you for business with God. There are several Scriptures that have reference to it, The greatest thing is living faith. God comes before you to do business with you and you with Him. That is soul exercise. And the law may speak to you, that there should be no abatement of sanctions. O this living faith! You will do business with God. He will invite, draw you. He says, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord." There is business to do with God. We can reason with Him at the mercy seat, the Throne of Grace. I cannot express the wonder of the word to a poor sinner, that He should say to us, "Come now, and let us reason together, — do business — though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Faith will use that in her business; she will go before God with it. When you feel defiled, guilty, penitent, and confess your sin you will say, "Dear Lord, humbly, reverently do I name the Scripture before Thee. 'Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool!'" Faith will do business with Him. And He says, "Come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." That is the way to do business with the Lord; no money, no merit after the flesh. "He that hath no money." These are the Lord's terms in business, that those who come without money should have sweet authority to buy wine and milk without money and without price. Let me give a word. In your business, and it goes through life, you find yourself a poor, guilty, undone sinner, and you go before God and plead His, Christ's glorious merit, the merit of His Passion and priestly work. You plead His victory, His precious, rich, atoning blood, justifying righteousness and the sanctification of His pure body to sanctify you. You will say in business, "Lord, Thou hast said, "If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with

thee, that thou mayest be feared." That is business. And I close with
this in the Hymn, "Nothing but sin I Thee can give;
Nothing but love shall I receive."

Hallelujah.