



Wayne's Weekly Words

HAVE YOU EVER FELT ALL ALONE?

I think I had the feeling of loneliness the strongest when I was in

the Coast Guard on the lightship below.

It was called the "RELIEF" as it was used to replace the "SAN FRANCISCO" and "BLUNTS"(reef) lightships when they were in port for annual servicing.



We were anchored about 12-14 miles off of the coast of San Francisco (part of the time).

When a huge storm would begin to brew, the "Captain of the Port" would come on Maritime Radio and announce that the port would be closed at a certain time. No ships would be allowed in or out of the Golden Gate. Soon the ocean was completely devoid of ships - all except for one. As an "Aid to Navigation" a lightship had to remain at all costs (sometimes the costs were high). The feeling of being alone increased when the sky became gray and was reflected in the sea. Looking out the window¹ you could not see where the sky meet the sea. You were surrounded in a gray ball. Not only that, life could get quite miserable as the ship rode out the storm. The **LOUD** foghorns didn't help either!

What is the best thing to do when you feel all alone? I would often go down to my stateroom, climb into my bunk, take my Bible and read for quite some time. That is what worked for me.

When you read,

And the LORD, He is the one who goes before

¹above deck they are windows, not portholes

*you. He will be with you, **He will not leave you nor forsake you;** do not fear nor be dismayed."*

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NKJV)

you realize that you may not see God, but He is there to watch over you. I really needed that verse the time we had to lower our motor lifeboat (to left of the smoke stack) and go out in a very angry sea. The swells were running 20 feet high and at about five knots. The wind was gusting to 60 knots. The boat was underpowered and, on two other occasion, the engine had quit out in the middle of nowhere (I, as boat engineer, always brought our boat tools for this reason).

Jesus found Himself in a similar situation.

And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Mark 4:37-40 (KJV)

It was promises like this that gave one courage in the face of such peril. I can't relate to you all the times our family, or a member of it, was in great peril. But, as you see, Gail and I are both still here and our two boys are alive and well. As a side note, our younger son, Rick, commands the Bomb Squad that services Southern Colorado. He faces peril in the course of this. He has received the Medal of Valor twice but, the important thing is that God has watched over him and he is still alive and taking care of his family.

Saint Peter will not open the "pearly gates" for you until God decides it is your time. In the meantime

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Joshua 1:9 (KJV)

