

## GETTING ON THE SHIP JESUS

Imagine yourself living on an Island in the middle of an ocean. But the Island is slowly sinking. It will one day sink beneath the ocean and all on it perish. You cannot wade out to safety, it is too deep. You cannot swim to safety, it is too far. There is no hope for you. You know all is safe and happiness in a far away land but it is too far for you to reach. Your situation looks helpless until a ship comes to the Island. The name of the ship is "Jesus" This ship offers to you and all on the Island a safe passage to the land far away. The Captain of the ship is also called Jesus. He calls out with a loudspeaker to all on the Island. "Come to the ship, come to the ship Jesus. It's your only way to escape. Leave your Island of sin and selfishness, it is going to sink into the sea and all on it will perish. Don't delay, come, come now, come while you can."

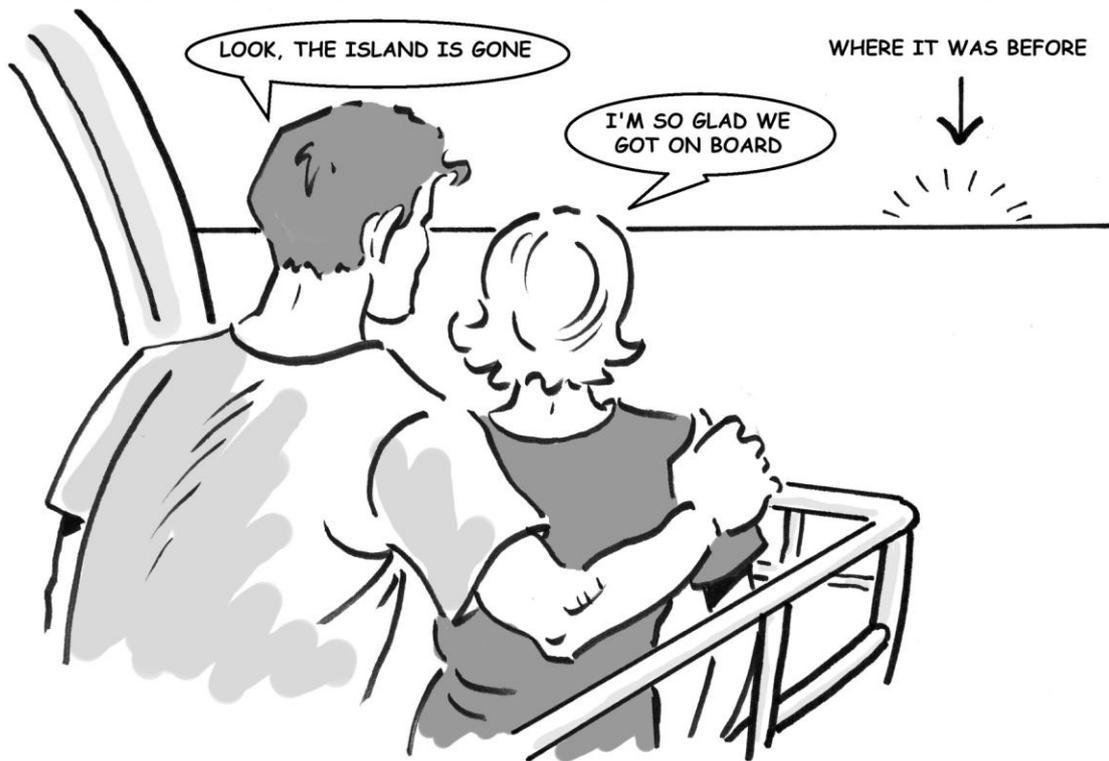
Now you and all the people on the Island have to make a decision. You love your Island of sin and selfishness. It's an Island where you can do what you please. You can lie, steal, use bad language, commit sex sins, hate, be jealous, gratify your desires, live for yourself and do whatever you like. The only problem is that it is going to sink beneath the sea and you will perish. It's a big decision to make because the Captain of the ship, Jesus, has different rules, the country where he is going has different rules. The rules are to love God with all your heart and love other people and only do good to them. To get on the ship means to give up living for yourself, give up the Island and all it stands for. So you have a big decision to make, either stay with your sin and perish or get on the ship and change your way of living. Everyone would make their own choice, many would allow others to influence them in their choice. Some people would say, "There must be some other way, the ship Jesus can't be the only way, lets try being religious, lets do religious things, lots of religious things and keep on the Island and do our sins as well. Maybe that will stop the Island from sinking." Others said, "We don't believe the Island is sinking, it's all lies, we are told all this just to stop us having our fun." Still others said, "We believe the Island is sinking, we believe the ship Jesus is the only way of escape, we believe we should get on the ship." But they still didn't get on the ship, they didn't commit themselves to the ship. Some wanted to get on the ship but they listened to their friends who said, "Don't get on the ship, life is boring on the ship, you are not allowed to do so many things like you do on the Island, it will be no fun on the ship." But some would think much about it and decide it would be better on the ship than to stay on the Island and perish. That to love God with all your heart and do good to all other people would be the right way to live, that all their living for self on the Island had not really brought them happiness. They would go to the ship, get on the ship, put their trust in the ship, commit themselves to the ship and be saved.

The Captain gives the last call, someone who has been putting it off suddenly realizes this is their last chance, they run and run and get there just in time. The ship leaves with those who have made the choice. The people on the ship leave trusting in the ship and Captain to take them to the safe happy land far away. Life on the ship is happy because everyone is doing good to one another and loving God. But some people think of the Island and lean over the side to try and get a last look of the Island but they lean too far and fall off into the cold waters. They cry for help and are quickly taken back onboard again. Others decide this is not the life for them, they want to get back to the Island where you can live to please

yourself. They jump over and try to swim back to the Island but they get exhausted and drown in the cold waters others are attacked by sharks and die. But most find living to please God doesn't make you miserable but rather gives you a wonderful joy. After many days they come to the far away land and what a wonderful place it was. "I nearly didn't come," says one, "I nearly listened to my friend who said don't go, I'm glad I didn't listen." So all the people who were saved went to live in the far away land of peace and joy forever while those who chose to stay on the Island perished as it sank beneath the sea.



ENJOYING BEING ON THE ISLAND OF SELF GRATIFICATION



SAFE ON BOARD THE SALVATION SHIP,  
JESUS.

FRANK HUTCHINSON