

THE HOPE THAT IS TO COME

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9 NIV).

Going on a cruise is a marvellous experience. Apart from being waited on hand and foot and having delicious food prepared for you, one sees the majestic oceans, fabulous palaces, beautiful countries and amazing monuments. Perhaps more than any other form of travel, such sightseeing is painless. You get up out of your stateroom (they don't call them cabins any longer), stroll down the gangplank and into another world.

It's easy to go overboard (excuse the pun) and forget that this world at its best is far, far short of what heaven is going to be. I hope I never lose sight of that. With all the joy we find in this world as Christians, the world is still a place of darkness and suffering, and we live, as we have seen, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

While some of us are so blessed to be cruising and feasting, others are homeless and starving. This sobering thought was often in my mind during my trip. Although I was delighted in my vacation and much restored, realities still intruded. The news was, as ever depressing. Of the huge number of passengers on the ship, few believed in or followed Jesus. How long is He supposed to endure the hostility and hatred of this world? How long must He put up with the demeaning by those who think they are wise and with their constant blaspheming of His name. These things bother me on land or on sea. "We ask the question the martyrs ask in Revelation 6:10, "How long, O Lord, until you judge?" How long will You endure these indignities? How long will You allow Satan to run rampant over this planet, hindering your work, and grieving and quenching your holy Spirit? How long will your church be persecuted?"

I long for Christ to come and set things right. I long to see Jesus appear in glory as our great God and Saviour. I hope I never become so attached to this world that heaven does not interest me any more. What God has prepared for us is infinitely beyond the best this life can offer.

With text from "The heart of the Bible", by John MacArthur



My cruise ship Celebrity Constellation

Torre del Mar Church is part of

the Spanish Evangelical Church and is in partnership with Presbyterian Church Ireland



TORRE DEL MAR CHURCH GRAPEVINE SUNDAY AUGUST 30 2009



Hymns for Today's Service

- 859 I WILL WORSHIP
- 633 YOU LAID ASIDE YOUR MAJESTY
- 13 ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL
- 44 BLESSED ASSURANCE
- 549 THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD
- 261 I WANT TO WALK WITH JESUS CHRIST
- OHP BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE



Scriptures: Mark 7:1-23; James 1:22-27
Psalm 84:1-4



Sermon Rev. J. Hartsmith Foy
"The Word In Action"

Music: Mair Martínez /
Jane Silber

