

SLOW BURN TO NATIONAL CATASTROPHE by Stephen Perks

One hundred years ago the Titanic, the ship that some people had said not even God himself could sink, struck an iceberg on its way to America and sank with a very great loss of life. Little did the people who set sail on the Titanic know what was about to befall them. They were oblivious to the catastrophe facing them until it was too late.

Today our society, and probably Western society as a whole, is on a slow burn to catastrophe. This catastrophe is spiritual, moral, social, political and now economic. The present exponential deterioration of our moral, social, political and economic life is the judgement of God against the spiritual apostasy of the nation. We are living on a social and cultural Titanic that has *already* struck the iceberg. And just as the people who set out on the Titanic in 1912 did not believe that the ship on which they were sailing could sink, so too the people of our nation do not believe that the collapse of our civilisation is possible. But it is, and it is *already* happening. This social catastrophe is the righteous judgement of God against our godless society.

Once the Titanic had struck the iceberg there was nothing that could be done to save her. The sinking of the Titanic was inevitable at this point. Here the analogy ends, because God is slow to anger and gracious and merciful. If the nation repents and turns back to God we may be spared the worst of what is otherwise to come. Unfortunately, there appears to be little appetite for such repentance in Britain. When the hammer finally strikes for the last time the wrath of God will be revealed against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, and the ruination of our culture and our way of life will be complete.

In this situation the mission and the role of the Church is of the very greatest importance. It is only through the mission of the Church that our society can be delivered from the judgement that will inevitably overtake our nation unless there is national repentance.

What is that mission and role? Simply this: the Church must function as an alternative *social order* to the dying social order of secular humanism that surrounds us; in other words the Church must become a true *society* that functions across the whole spectrum of social life in Britain. But for this to happen the Church must wake up to the situation we face and prepare herself for what is coming. She must act decisively *now*, therefore, with vision and commitment, in creating the alternative *social order* without which our nation must face utter ruin.