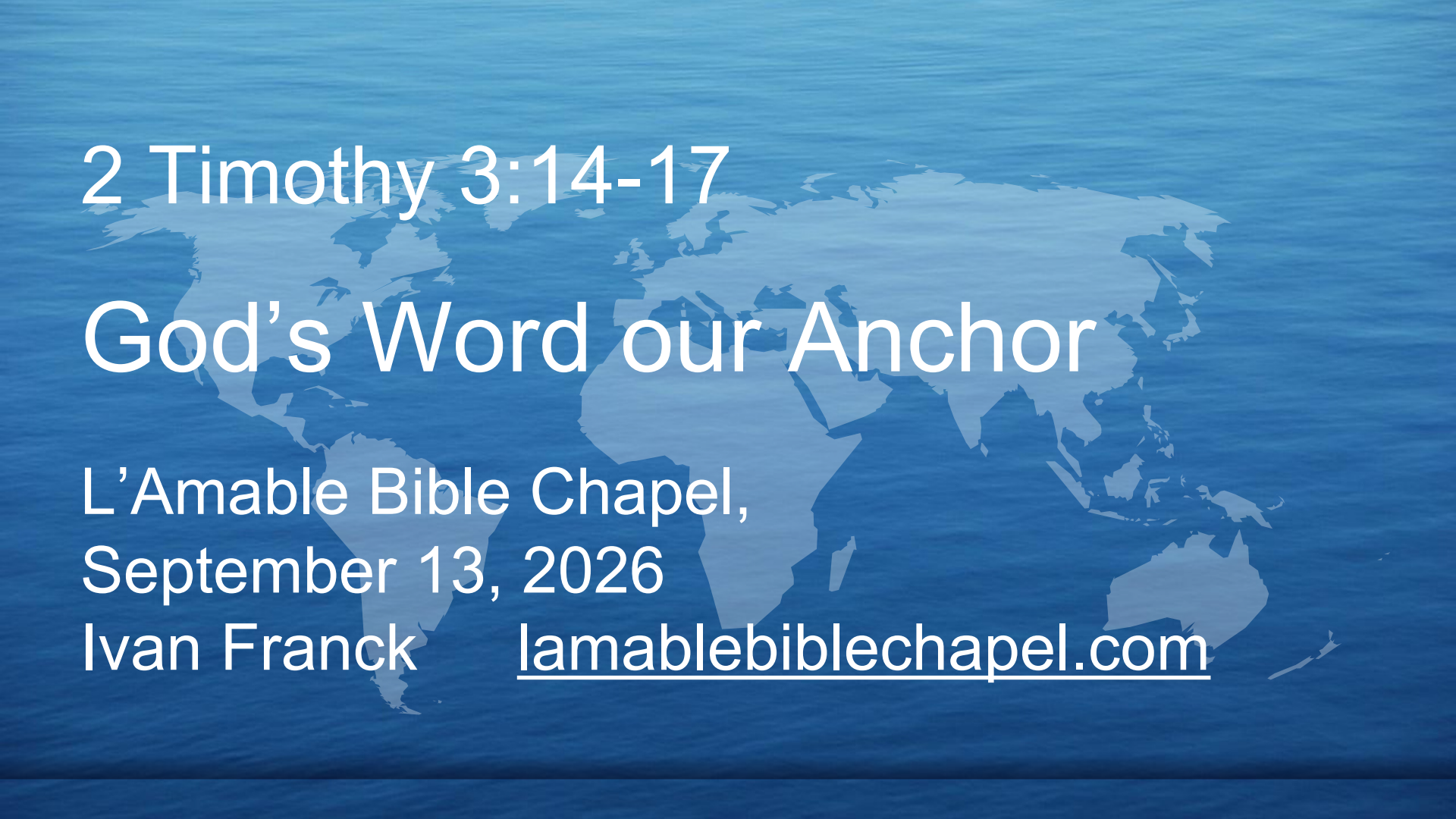






2 Timothy 3:14-17

God's Word our Anchor

L'Amable Bible Chapel,
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Ivan Franck lamablebiblechapel.com

**Back to
School...**

**Back to the
Word...**



Is the world
adrift?

Is there an
anchor?

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD



A.D.62...Paul writes to Timothy from prison



¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

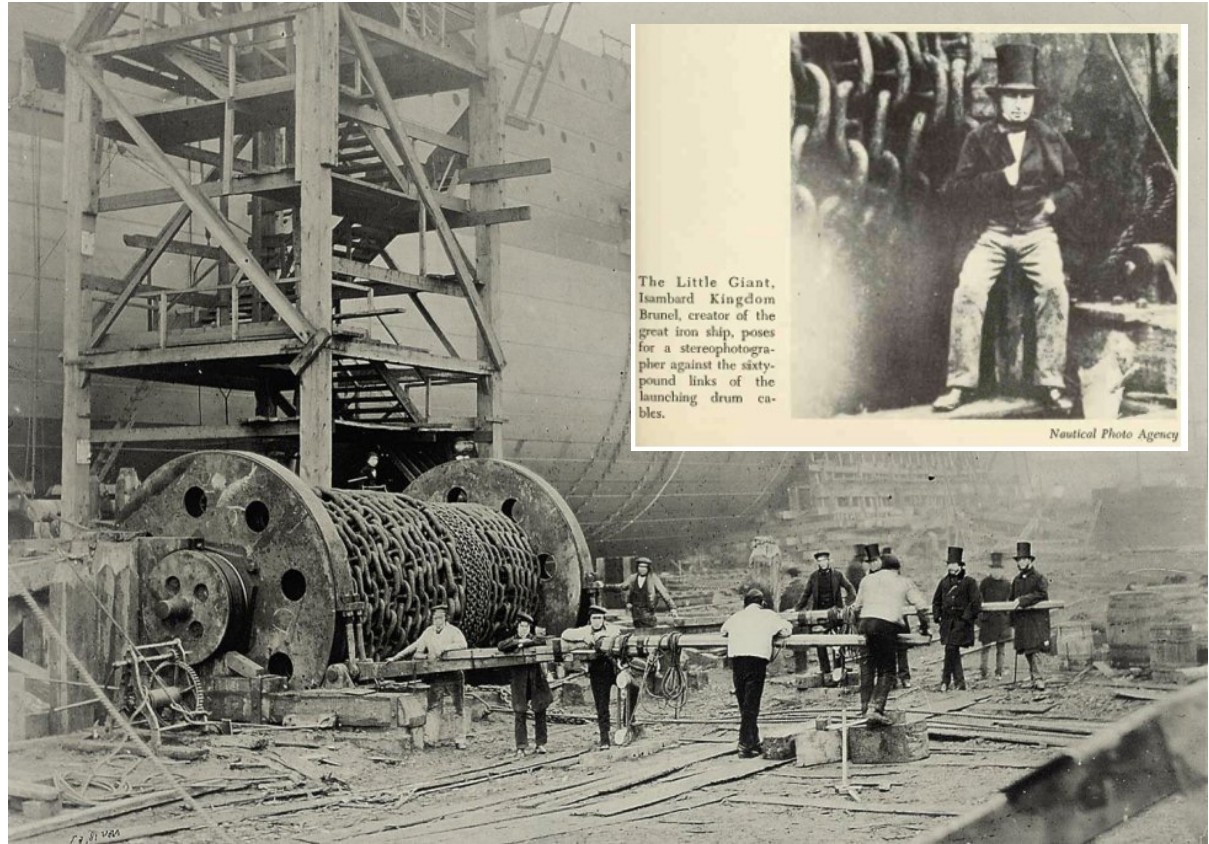


¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3)

- A complex passage
- Several “persons” involved
- In a broader context of Chap. 3
- *But first...an illustration!*

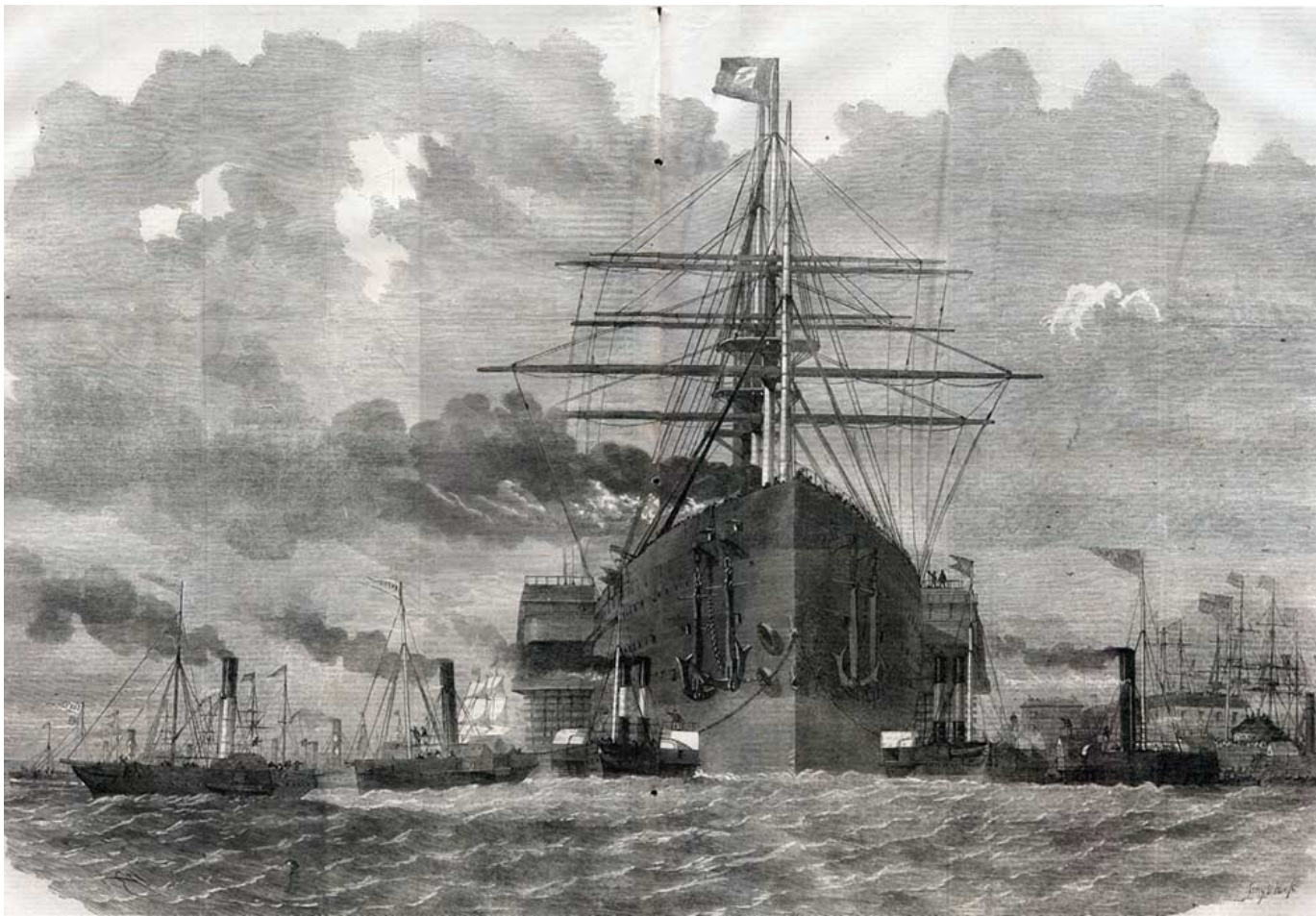


- *The Great Eastern*
- The biggest and the best
- First ship larger than Noah's Ark



The Little Giant, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, creator of the great iron ship, poses for a stereophotographer against the sixty-pound links of the launching drum cables.

Nautical Photo Agency



A floating marvel...

*Forwood
noted
“feelings of
immense
superiority”
among the
passengers.*



- The storm of September 13, 1861
- Both paddle-wheels gone
- A broken rudder...

Context...

A different storm in 2nd Timothy 3



¹But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—



⁵ ...having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

⁶ They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷ always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.



A. Human Depravity

- “End times” people
- Self-promotion, pleasure, treachery, loving things, rebellion
- A ‘form’ of spirituality, but not power
- *But there is more...*

⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. ⁹ But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.



Public Domain

B. Corrupt Leaders

- Oppose the truth
- Depraved minds
- Rejected in the faith
- Obviously false
- **So, it's a major storm!**
- *Is this all Timothy can look forward to?*





¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS



¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

C. Paul's Example

- Not pleasure, but suffering!
- Self-sacrifice
- In prison...
- *Paul now points Timothy to God*



¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

D. God's Solution

Three Realities...

1. **A Transcendent Word**
2. **A Transforming Word**
3. **A Triumphant Word**



Transcendence

- Can be learned...
- Begins in infancy
- Wisdom beyond knowledge
- Linked to faith and salvation in Jesus
- God-breathed...

¹⁴ ...continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed...

Transformation

- Useful, purposeful
- *A scale of engagement*
- Teaching
- Rebuking
- Correcting and training in righteousness...

¹⁶ ...and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

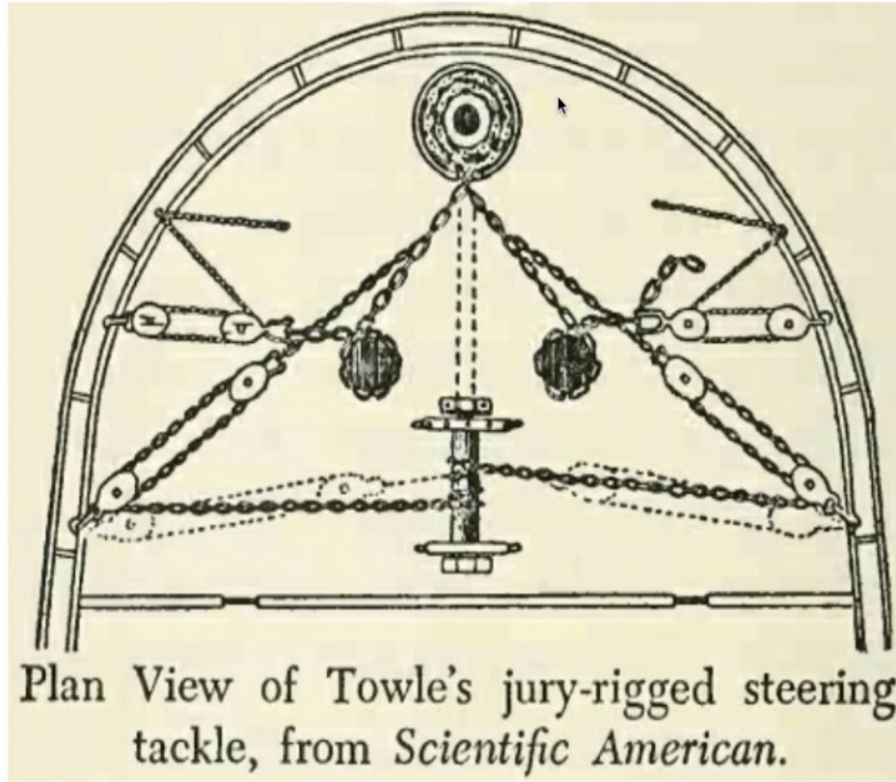
**Could our solution
be better than
God's?**

Triumphant

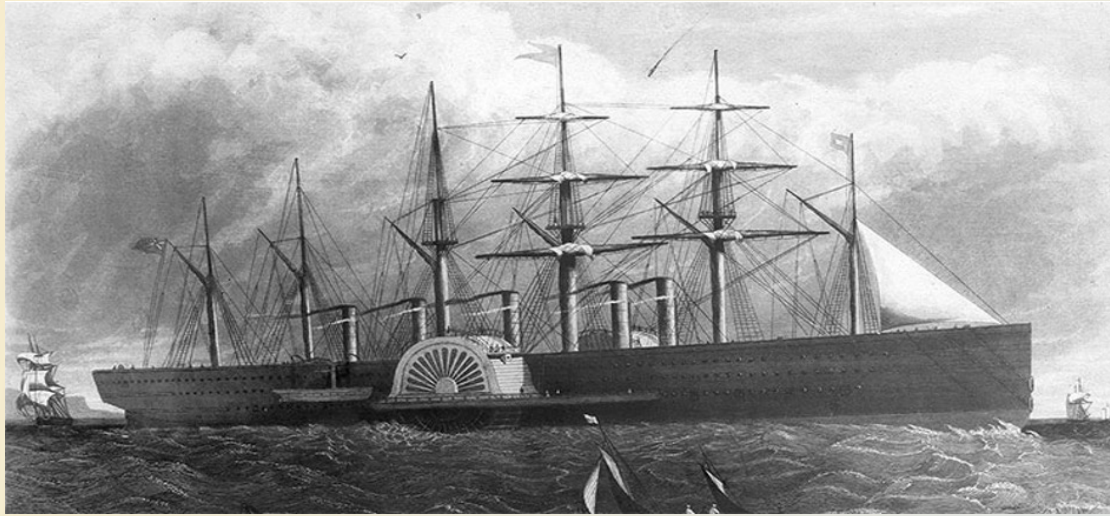
- Servanthood is key
- “*thoroughly equipped*”
(Exertismenos—
complete, not lacking)
- For every good work

*¹⁷ so that the servant of God
may be thoroughly
equipped for every good
work.*

*So, how did the Great
Eastern survive?*



- A committee
- Honest appraisal
- Action plan and working together
- Overcome resistance
- Determination that ended in success



- Five days later in an Irish port
- Only one death in all

The screw engine turned at five P.M. Sunday, after seventy-five hours of helplessness. The helmsmen tried the wheel. The rudder responded and did not shift. The position was 280 miles west of Cape Clear, Ireland. The screw pushed her up to eight knots and the great ship set a course for Ireland. Nobody seemed disappointed at not continuing to New York. The emergency steering system worked beautifully.

[After more than a week] The passengers went ashore at last, with unanimous resolutions thanking God, Captain Walker, Hamilton E. Towle...; denouncing the directors, and demanding a full investigation by the Board of Trade. They were going to sue for personal injuries and their lost baggage, which was delivered ashore in buckets. Several spare dental plates were found in the pulp.

- **Honesty had replaced arrogance and assumptions**
- **A focus on the danger, and the solution**

- Are the storms over today?
- What is the solution?
- Paul tells Timothy...
- Not us, but God
- His word is
Transcendent,
Transforming,
Triumphant



Conclusion

- When are those 'end times'?
- *Paul outlines some of the issues*
- We will be steering others back from disaster
- God's word—the key and anchor
- Courage and determination!
- God's people know...



*...if my people, who are called
by my name, will humble
themselves and pray and seek
my face and turn from their
wicked ways, then I will hear
from heaven, and I will forgive
their sin and will heal their
land.*

2nd Chronicles 7:14



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