

# mercEmail

*"He delights in mercy" (Micah 7:18)*

## Captain Of My Own Soul?

by Steve Higginbotham

Monday morning, June 11, at 7:14 a.m., a little more than six years after the senseless and tragic bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, Timothy McVeigh, convicted terrorist, was executed for taking the lives of 168 men, women, and children.

Just prior to his execution in Terre Haute, Indiana, McVeigh gave the prison warden a handwritten copy of a poem entitled, "Invictus," which was written by the British poet William Ernest Henley in 1875. The last two lines of the poem said:

"I am the master of my fate;  
I am the captain of my soul."

As I listened to that poem being read, those two lines jumped out at me. At first, my reaction was, "Yeah, that's what you think." But with further thought and reflection, those words were very much the truth. McVeigh, and others like him, are indeed masters of their fate and captains of their own soul. And look where it gets them!

Long ago, the Lord stated that "...the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). And whenever man attempts to be his own "captain" and "master" to direct his own steps, it results in selfish, thoughtless, immoral living.

I am saddened for the families of the 168 people who lost their lives six years ago. I am also saddened for Timothy McVeigh, who according to all reports, went to meet his Lord refusing to express any repentance or remorse for what he had done. On the other hand, I feel a sense of justice was served. Not vengeance, but justice. Actions have their consequences. What happened to Timothy McVeigh was not about what the government did to him, but what fate Timothy McVeigh chose for himself six years ago.

Our hope for a better outcome in life is to allow the **Lord** to be the **Master** of our fate and the **Captain** of our soul.