The Ultimate Rescue Mission

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 8th, 2020

Text: Galatians 1:3-5

### Intro

1. We all love a good rescue story, especially when the mission is successful!
   1. April 8-12, 2009: U.S. Navy SEAL snipers ended the five-day ordeal of Captain Richard Phillips, a merchant ship captain of the Maersk Alabama, who was taken hostage by pirates on April 8, 2009. Capt. Phillips was rescued uninjured while the 3 pirates who held him on a lifeboat were all killed. (<https://www.wired.com/2012/10/navy-seals-pirates/>)
   2. April 10, 2009: Five people held hostage on their sailboat by pirates were rescued by French military resulting in one of the hostages dying but the pirates subdued with some killed. (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/apr/10/hostage-killed-as-french-storm-pirate-yacht>)
   3. Many rescue attempts end in failure or end in the loss of the lives of the hostages.
   4. In these events, the ones needing saved welcomed their deliverers.
2. Biblical examples of “Great Rescues”: *What was the Ultimate Rescue Mission?*
   1. Abraham rescued Lot from the king of Elam – *Gen. 14*
   2. God rescued Israel from Egyptian slavery through the leadership of Moses – *Ex. 3:7-9*
   3. David rescued his family and families of all his men from Amalekites – *I Sam. 30*
   4. God rescued Daniel from the Lions in the lion’s den – *Dan. 6:16, 20-22*
   5. Christ rescued the world from sin and darkness – *Col. 1:13; I Thess. 1:10*
3. While most welcome a physical deliverer, many reject the most important: *Spiritual!*
4. The world was, and is, in need of saving because it is corrupt and set for destruction!
   1. *I Jn. 2:15-17:* The world with all its temptations & lusts is “passing away.”
   2. *II Pet. 3:10-12:* The world will be destroyed by fire!
   3. *Rom. 6:17-20; II Tim. 2:26:* Men are slaves to sin, held captive by Satan.
5. God sent His Son on the “Ultimate Rescue Mission” to save man from the slavery of sin!
   1. Galatians 1:3-5: Jesus Christ is the “Rescuer”
   2. Many reject Him and His salvation: cannot save those who do not wish to be saved!
6. God sent the world a Rescuer and demonstrated His love for mankind for all time!

#### The Confusion Of The World

* 1. Eph. 4:17-19: The world is morally confused.
     1. People want to live according to their lusts. “With greediness.”
     2. *Gal. 6:7-8:* Warned of what we sow because of what we will reap!
     3. *Eph. 4:17-19:* Some people have their “understanding darkened.”
     4. *I Tim. 4:2:* Some are “past feeling.” Consciences are seared.
     5. Eph. 2:1-3: Sinful people are “alienated from the life of God.” Therefore, they are “dead.”
     6. The state of the world: “according to the course of this world.”
  2. Eph. 4:14: The world is doctrinally confused.
     1. Carried by *every wind of doctrine, trickery, craftiness, deceitful scheming*
     2. One contends for “salvation by faith only.”
     3. One argues, “one church is as good as another.”
     4. One asserts that what one believes is really not important.
  3. The Lord Jesus Christ is the hope for a confused world.
     1. Eph. 4:20-24: The truth of Christ sets one free from confusion! (John 8:32)
  4. One can know the truth and be free from the confusion of the world’s teachings!

#### The Corruption Of The World

* 1. The world (age) is morally corrupt.
     1. Acts 2:40: It was and still is a “perverse generation” *(Phil. 2:14-16)*
     2. I Jn. 5:19: The world lies in wickedness. (Jesus is truth – I Jn. 5:20)
     3. *Eph. 4:22:* Paul described a sinner as an “old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit.”
  2. The Lord Jesus Christ can save men from the corruption of the world.

1. Rev. 1:5: He “released us from our sins by His blood.”
2. Heb. 9:13-14: He can cleanse the conscience of the guilt of sin.
3. Heb. 1:1-3: He died to purge men from sin. He “made purification of sins.”
4. I Pet. 1:22-23: This cleansing comes when men obey the truth of the gospel.
   1. The blood of Christ cleanses our sins, purifies our lives, and rescues us from the corruption of the world!

#### The Condemnation Of The World

* 1. Jn. 3:17: The world is in need of saving, of rescuing.
  2. Eph. 5:6: God’s wrath is coming on the “children of disobedience.”
     1. Heb. 10:26-31: To willfully participate in the deeds of the world is to expect judgment!
     2. *Gal. 6:7-8:* Men cannot “sow to the flesh” and ***not*** reap corruption!
  3. There are those who need to be rescued but don’t want to be!
     1. Domestic violence cases: often the victim has the resources for help but chooses not to use them, or not to even leave the abusive spouse.
     2. Stockholm Syndrome: Captive becomes attached to captor (6-day bank robbery in Stockholm, Sweden Aug. 23-28, 1973: Captives defended captors)
     3. Can’t rescue those who don’t want it!
     4. *Eph. 4:17-19:* There are those who don’t want delivered from the world.
  4. The Lord Jesus Christ offers deliverance from the punishment reserved for worldly people, & there are those who do not want to be delivered! *They reject the Rescuer!*
     1. Rom. 8:1: In Christ men escape the condemnation of sin!
     2. Rom. 3:24: In His death by the grace of God we are justified!
     3. Rom. 5:9: Through the blood of Christ we are justified and saved from the wrath of God!
  5. Only in Christ is salvation found, no other name by which we are saved! *(Acts 4:10-12)*

## Conclusion

1. The answer to the world’s need is not found in government or political parties, but in Jesus Christ, who is the Rescuer, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! *(Jn. 1:29)*
   1. He died to accomplish the ultimate rescue mission, once for all time! *(Heb. 10:10-14)*
   2. He died to rescue you from darkness and bring you into His kingdom! *(Col. 1:13)*
   3. He died to rescue you from the wrath of God! *(I Thess. 1:10)*
   4. He died to save you from confusion, corruption, and from condemnation! *(Gal. 1:4)*
2. Do you welcome your Rescuer?
   1. To get “into Christ,” one is baptized into Christ and then is clothed with Him (Gal. 3:27).
3. Live your life for Him so you can live eternally with Him!
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized!
5. If a Christian in sin, don’t wait till it’s too late! Repent and return to God!