

Rescued To Serve
Luke 1:73-75 (67-79); Heb.9:14
11-28-2010

When John's name was confirmed by his father Zechariah he opened his mouth by the Holy Spirit and prophesied concerning who John would serve. The one whom John the Baptist would serve was Jesus and this same Jesus according to prophecy would "rescue us from the hand of our enemies and to enable us to serve Him without fear in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days." (Lk.1:74-75 NIV)

What we know from God's Holy Word is that the words of Zechariah's prophesy are true; Jesus rescues with purpose. All who are rescued by His hand have been rescued for God's holy purposes. What we also see in verse 74 is an enabling (NIV) to serve. (The indication of God's reason)

Even though mankind is uniquely made in the image of our creator we are a poor example of His glory in our fallen state. (dirty, defiled, contaminated and unfit for service) The Hebrew writer suggests this same concept as having been accomplished in Jesus' success at the cross of Calvary. (Heb.9:14) Jesus' blood sacrifice brings a cleansing to our conscience. The truth is Jesus is the fixer of our sin problems.

When asked to teach His disciples to pray, Jesus gave the instructions on prayer which is recorded for us in Mathew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. In both examples is found these words: "and deliver (rescue) us from evil (the evil one)" The need for rescue, even if not understood, is absolute. No person ever since Adam and Eve has been without the need for deliverance from the evil one. (satan)

What does that mean exactly; deliverance or rescue from the evil one? The devil is the evil one, he hates God and he hates mankind because we are made in God's image. The devil in his hatred has lead the whole world astray from righteousness into sinfulness and wickedness which equals rebellion against God's will. (Rev.12:10)

As rebels against God's rule or dominion, which all of humanity has freely participated in, we stand condemned to death. From that reality Paul cries out: "who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Rom.7:24) "Praise be to Jesus." What Jesus has accomplished for us is an escape from the destruction due each of us because of our participation in rebellion against God. (1Thes.1:10)

My most comforting picture of my own rescue and yours is painted for me by Paul. (Col.1:12-14) "***...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.***"

Clearly portrayed for us in Scripture is the truth that all are needs of deliverance from the bondage to sin and death and satan are found in Jesus. All have the same opportunity to escape too. The only rescue available, the only avenue of escape is Jesus Christ, crucified, resurrected, and glorified. (Acts 4:12; 1Pet.1:21) You too have your qualifier in Jesus for He yet rescues with purpose; to set those who are rescued before His father in holiness and righteousness so they may serve Him.