

The QBC Daily Nugget March 9, 2010

“The Rules of the Lord are true and righteous. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold” (Psalm 19:9b-10a)

2 CORINTHIANS 7:5-6 - For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn--fighting without and fear within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: **RESCUE THE PERISHING**. Some of us may be humming along the hymn associated with the title of today's nugget. It reminds us of the task and privilege of sharing the Gospel or “rescuing lost sinners who will perish” without the Lord Jesus. It is a hymn calling us to the work Jesus left His disciples, all of them, including each of us - “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” (**MARK 16:15**).

Now think with me for a moment the application of rescuing the perishing when it comes to believers. I am not referring to their eternal perishing. I am referring to the tired warrior of the cross, the spiritually drained Christian who is downcast, the believer feeling the flood of remaining sin overwhelming them. Maybe like David felt – “There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart” (**PSALM 38:3-8**). Don't they, too, need a rescue mission sent their way?

Many years ago a disaster occurred on the Thames River. The vessel *Princess Alice* collided with another boat. The vessels were loaded with people and loss of human life great with about 600 perishing in the dark waters. It appears that when the crash happened, two ferrymen were mooring their boats. One heard the crash and cries of the perishing people and said, “I am tired and I am going home. No one will see me in the fog.” At the coroner's inquest, both ferrymen had to appear. The first was asked, “Did you hear the cries?” “Yes, sir.” “What did you do?” “Nothing, sir.” “Aren't you ashamed?” “Sir, the shame will never leave me till I die.” The second ferryman was also asked, “What did you do?” “I jumped into my boat and rowed to the wreck with all my might; I crammed my boat with women and children, and when it was too dangerous to take even one more, I rowed away with the cry, ‘O God, for a bigger boat!’”

In today's reference, the Apostle Paul needed a rescue mission. He was apprehensive about the Corinthians in their response to his letter. Would they alienate him? Would they respond to his call to discipline and put the church in order? He had fears and felt great uncertainty and apprehension. And God sent His servant a rescuer to offer comfort and encouragement in a dark time – “But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus” (**2 CORINTHIANS 7:6**). Titus was a messenger of hope to a brother who needed to be pulled out of a downcast spirit. As we seek to be proclaimers of the Gospel to perishing souls, are we seeking to be rescuers of believers who might be in need of a life preserver of encouragement or support? God's means of comfort for one another may vary, but one means, which is clear from today's reference, is He uses His people in the lives of His people. The number one thing which will limit us in our ability to be like Titus is simply this – restricted availability. Fill our lives with stuff that is all about us and we won't be able to be a Titus with great effectiveness. The opportunities to rescue the perishing are endless both for the unbeliever and believers. Which type of ferryman are we going to be? One who stays at home or prays for a bigger boat?

PRAYER: “Lord, help me to be a comforter today to a hurting member of Your family.”

QUOTE: “God's means of comfort include His people to His people.”