

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### “RESCUE THE PERISHING”

#### SCRIPTURE READING:

- “<sup>7</sup> But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted. <sup>8</sup> Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. <sup>9</sup> As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house” (Eze 3:7-9).
- “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9).
- “<sup>22</sup> And of some have compassion, making a difference: <sup>23</sup> And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh” (Jude 22-23).

#### INTRODUCTION:

**A. The Hymn “Rescue the Perishing” was written by Frances “Fanny” Cosby and is used as the title for this Bible Study.**

**B. The Story Behind “Rescue the Perishing”**

Fanny Crosby loved sharing the Gospel with anyone who would listen. In 1869 she penned the words to “Rescue the Perishing.” When asked about the song, she explained, “It was written following a personal experience at the New York City Bowery Mission.” She went on to explain that she would go one night a week to talk to “her boys.”

One night while speaking to them, she kept having the thought that there was a boy present who had wandered away from his mother and must be rescued that night, or he would be eternally lost. She made a plea to each boy that was there that night. At the end of the service, one of the young men came forward and said, “Did you mean me, Miss Crosby? I promised my mother to meet her in Heaven, but as I am now living that will be impossible.” She prayed with him and led him to Christ. As they finished, he said, “Now I am ready to meet my mother in Heaven, for I have found God.”

**C. As we embark on New Year 2023, as Believers, lets heighten our duty as soul winners – warning the unsaved that “The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom 6:23).**

**D. Jesus Christ Himself used the word Perish to describe those who are spiritually separated from God:**

- “Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish” (Matt 18:14).
- “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).
- “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5).

**In this study, we will study three characteristics of the Believers as it relates to “Rescue the Perishing.”**

**I. The Believer’s Compassion (Jude 22)**

“And on some having compassion, making a difference” (Jude 22)

- **Compassion** – means to have pity or mercy on, to show mercy; to help the afflicted, to bring help to the wretched.

**A. Mature Believers are to have compassion toward others.**

1. We must show compassion towards the saved who are doubtful, weak in the faith, or listening to false teachers and leaders.
2. We must show a compassionate interest in them and seek to guide them out of doubts and false doctrines (teachings) into to a firm conviction of divine truth based on the Word of God.

**B. Mature Believers are to have compassion toward the unsaved.**

We must warn the unsaved of God’s judgment and the danger of eternal doom if they reject and deny Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

- “<sup>22</sup> Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also (1 John 2:22-23).
- “<sup>2</sup> Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: <sup>3</sup> And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world” (1 John 4:2-3).

**C. Mature Believers are to deal with weak and doubting Christians as well as the unsaved with Love, Patience and Mercy – the same way in which the Lord dealt with us.**

- “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (Jude 21).
  1. Mature Christians should never criticize, ridicule, mock or show harshness toward them.
  2. Mature Christians are to build them up, not tear them down.

**D. Mature Believers are to have the compassion of Christ toward the weak Christians and the unsaved.**

- “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd” (Matt 9:36).

Jesus “saw the multitude” and had compassion on them. They were fainting, religious, burdened down with sin and “as sheep having no shepherd.”

Mature Christians are to pattern after Christ - **showing compassion** – in their dealings with weak Christians and the unsaved.

## II. **The Believer's Compulsion** (Jude 23a)

“And others saved with fear, pulling them out of the fire”

- **Compulsion** – means a strong, usually irresistible impulse to perform an act.

**Rescue the Perishing, care for the dying, Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.**

### A. **The fire in this verse is symbolic of the flames of Hell and separation from God.**

Our fear of a person's eternal damnation should motivate us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

### B. **Believer's should care for those dying in sin – the Unsaved** (2 Thess 1:8-10; Heb 10:27)

1. Warning them about that awful place called Hell.

2. Jesus talked about Hell and so should we talk about Hell.

- “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt 10:28).
- “<sup>41</sup> The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; <sup>42</sup> And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matt 13:41-42).
- “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt 25:41).
- “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matt 25:46).

### C. **Believers should compel the unsaved to come to Jesus for salvation and eternal life.**

- **Compel** – this does not mean by force but rather by convincing arguments – they would be constrained to come in (to Jesus).
- “And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled” (Luke 14:23).
- “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” (John 5:40).
- “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36).

A person's soul is of supreme value. If a person gains all the world's wealth during his lifetime – what good would it do him? A person's life is worth more than all the world has to offer. An unsaved person cannot give anything in exchange for His soul.

❖ **See the story about the Rich Man and Lazarus** (Luke 16:19-31).

### III. The Believer's Caution (Jude 23b)

“Having even the garment spotted by the flesh”

- **Caution** – means a warning against danger or evil; care taken to avoid danger or mistakes.

**A. As mature Christians, as we are dealing with unsaved people that we are “pulling out of the fire,” we must use caution, lest we become contaminated by sin ourselves.**

**B. As mature Christians, we must guard ourselves when reaching out to others to share the Gospel.**

We do not want to be contaminated by false teaching, cults, worldly lifestyle, and immoralities.

- Jesus Christ reached out with the message of forgiveness to the most sinful members of society (Mark 2:15-17), but He did not participate in their sin (Heb 4:15), nor did He approve of it (John 8:11).

#### Quotations on Soul-Winning:

- “Every man here, every woman here, every child here whose heart is right with God, may be a soul-winner.” – Charles Spurgeon
- “The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed” (Hudson Taylor). The Great Commission is the Supreme Command of the church (Matt 26:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 1:8).
- Put your ear down to the Bible and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin.” – William Booth
- “When preaching and private talk are not available, you need to have a tract ready. Get good striking tracts or none at all. But a touching Gospel Tract may be the seed of Eternal Life. Therefore, do not go out without your tracts.” – Charles Spurgeon

#### MEMORY VERSES:

- “**The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise**” (Prov 11:30).
- “**For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost**” (Luke 19:10).

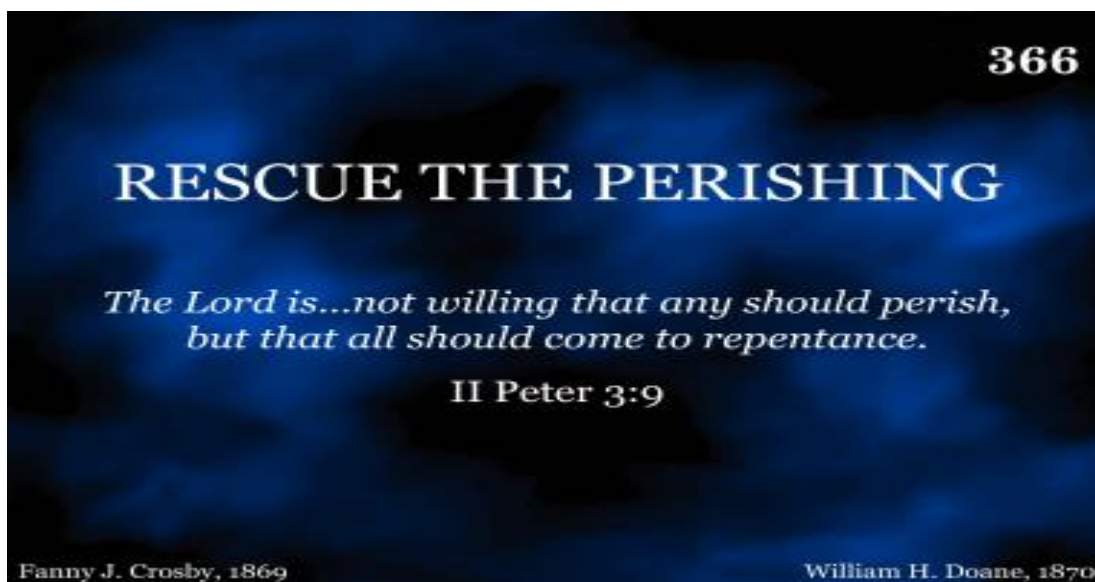
#### CONCLUSION:

**A. A man in Sussex, England, gives this testimony:** "I believe I can attribute my conversion, through the grace of God, to one verse of that precious hymn, 'Rescue the perishing.' I was far away from my Saviour and living without a hope in Jesus. I was very fond of singing hymns, and one day I came across this beautiful piece, and when I had sung the words, 'Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness, Chords that were broken will vibrate once more,' I fell upon my knees and gave my heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. From that hour I have followed him who, through this verse, touched my heart and made it vibrate with his praises ever since." -(Breadsite.org)

**B. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> stanza and refrain of the hymn “Rescue the Perishing:**

Down in the human heart, Crushed by the tempter,  
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;  
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,  
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more.  
Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

**C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**



**From the Teaching Ministry of:  
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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**