

1/9/19

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A desperate situation demands desperate actions. Skiers are overcome by an avalanche. Rescuers frantically dig with their hands to save the smothered skiers. Earthquakes crumble buildings and rescuers frantically dig with their hands to find possible survivors.

A desperate situation demands desperate actions. All of mankind was in a desperate situation and desperate actions were needed. Because of our sinful nature and because our sins of thought, word, and deed, we were buried under the avalanche of eternal death in hell. We couldn't save ourselves. We needed someone to rescue us. That someone is Jesus. Before Jesus was born, we are told that His mission was to save His people from their sins. Jesus, Himself, tells us that He came to seek and to save that which was lost. We are the lost. We are buried under the guilt of sin. We desperately needed to be saved. Jesus is our only Savior.

Some years ago, there was a fierce manhunt in California. A thief had stolen a VW Bug. The authorities were so determined to get him that they unleashed all kinds of resources to find that one car and the thief who was driving it. They even resorted to broadcasting their message over local radio stations in order to find the thief and stop him.

Why such hot pursuit over this VW Bug? Here's why. On the front seat of the stolen car was a box of crackers. But, unknown to the thief, the crackers were laced with poison. The car owner had intended to use the crackers to kill rats. The authorities, therefore, were in hot pursuit of this thief because they wanted to save his life.

Jesus has been in pursuit of your soul. Many times, in our sinful, confused thinking, we assume he's after us because he wants us to pull over and behave better, to give up our freedom, to give up our fun.

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. Acts 16:31

When you and I think that way, we've got it all wrong. Jesus pursues us because he wants to save us. He pursues us because, if he doesn't, the poison of our sin will consume us. He pursues us because he wants to give us life, peace, joy, and forgiveness. He died to purchase that forgiveness. And now he lives to pursue us through his gospel.

Believe in the One who has pursued you. Trust his promises. Savor his rescue of your soul. And let him continue his pursuit of others through you.

Prayer: *Dearest Jesus, thank you for pursuing my soul through your gospel. In you I have life. Use me to pursue others by sharing your message of salvation. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, Adapted)

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

Phone: 630-947-4317 - revagumm@hotmail.com