

“So Others May Live”

There are the well-known lifesavers we encounter every day—firefighters, policemen and doctors, and then there are those who work mainly in the shadows, who will risk anything and everything to save total strangers under the most extreme and rare of circumstances. In this category are the Coast Guard's extraordinary but little-known Rescue Swimmers. These brave men and women are an elite few possessing the uncommon physical and mental fortitude to free-fall from helicopters directly into raging seas and massive storm-floods to rescue those in harm's way, no matter the costs.

The teeth-gritting training program of the Rescue Swimmers is considered the toughest in all of the military, with nearly 50% of those who enter dropping out. And for those remarkable few who actually make it, what lies ahead are perilous missions in the darkest, coldest, roughest waters known to humankind, where they must battle disorientation, exhaustion, hypothermia and lack of oxygen while trying to help the stranded, the panicked and those who have given up all hope.

After seeing a movie with my wife about these rescue swimmers called “The Guardian,” we found ourselves inspired by its heroes. It got me thinking, is there a parallel between these unsung heroes and the calling of the Christian life?

God calls us as Christians to live a life worthy of our Savior, a life that embodies passion, purpose, commitment, determination, and perseverance for Christ.

Colossians 1:10-14 says, And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

We have been rescued by Christ from the dominion of darkness, we have been qualified to share in the kingdom of light, we have been strengthened by His might to persevere and endure in order that we might please Him, bear fruit, and grow in Him. We are called by the Fisher of Men to be fishers of men, to rescue the perishing.

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men...For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again....And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

(2 Corinthians 5:11, 14-15, 19b-20)

It is not an optional calling—Christ's love compels. It compels because we are convinced that He is the Way the Truth and The Life. He is the only way to freedom, fullness of life, and salvation! He is the only deliverer from the storms that rage and the perils that threaten to swallow us. It is our duty to live in response to such a great salvation and to jump into the tempests of life to rescue the storm weary—to offer a “life ring” to those who may not even realize they are drowning without Christ.

Proverbs 24:10-12 reminds and reprimands us, *If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength! Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?*

Let's live our lives as brave, unashamed ambassadors of Christ—rescue swimmers in the darkest, coldest, roughest waters known to humankind, where we must battle the squalls of life while trying to help the stranded, the panicked and those who have given up all hope.

Let's live and give, echoing the swimmer's motto... **"So Others May Live!"**

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

*Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.*

*Though they are slighting Him, still He is waiting,
Waiting the penitent child to receive;
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;
He will forgive if they only believe.*

*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, duty demands it;
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;
Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.*

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



*"Rescue the Perishing" Words by Fanny Crosby
Music by W. Howard Doane 1869*

***P.S. Don't try swimming in these waters
unprepared and out of shape!
"Get in the Game" on Sundays @ 9am
as you begin your training where God will sharpen
your skills and mold your character
to be a Rescue Swimmer for Christ!***
