

God's Delivery Service

Introduction:

- I. One of the signs that we live in a country with too many luxuries is Papa John's Pizza. Almost wherever you live, you can call Papa John's and they will deliver you a pizza made nice and fresh and to your exact specifications. You don't have to get in your car and drive to the pizza place. You don't have to waste any gas. All you have to do is make a call and in about forty minutes or so a warm, aromatic pizza will be delivered to you.

This business of home delivery is a luxury that we probably take for granted. And pizza isn't the only thing you can have delivered anymore. For a relatively low price, you can have a newspaper delivered right on your front porch everyday of the week. You can order something from a state on the other side of the country and within a few days it will be delivered right to you. There is even an online company called Peapod where you can use your computer to grocery shop and they will bring your groceries right to your house. The delivery business is a lucrative enterprise in today's society because we like to have things delivered.

- II. But did you know that God is in the delivery business too? Now His delivery service is different from the kind that I've been referring to. You see, God doesn't only deliver stuff to us, He delivers us from stuff.

Ps 34:19

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

I want to talk to you for a while about "God's Delivery Service." If you have your Bible, turn it to 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 and that will be our text this morning (read).

Paul clearly had confidence in God's delivery service and so should we. Why? Because God has delivered us in the past. God is delivering us right now. And God will deliver us in the future. Let's take a closer look at God's delivery service, especially as it relates to sin.

Lesson:

I. God Has Delivered Us in the Past.

God's delivery service isn't a new business. He's been delivering people for a long time.

- God delivered the Israelites from the burden of bondage.
- God delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego from a fiery furnace.
- God delivered Daniel from the dreadful den of lion's.
- God delivered Peter from an inescapable incarceration and Paul and Silas from a dark and dusty dungeon.

And the fact of the matter is God has delivered us too. No we weren't sitting in a jailhouse when God delivered us, nor were we under the burden of physical bondage. Instead we were being held hostage by the hostility of Satan and were confined by the captivity of sin. But God busted us out and by His Son He set us free. Listen to me: we were locked up and the devil threw away the key. But God made a new key and delivered us from the rule of Satan and the reign of sin. Paul put it like this:

Col 1:13

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Please don't underestimate the significance of what Paul says here. The power of darkness is no joke. Do you not know that the power of darkness is behind every violation of God's divine will. The power of darkness is behind every crime and every crook. The power of darkness is behind every murder and every misdeed. The power of darkness is behind every wrong and every wrong-doer. The power of darkness is behind every sin that has ever been committed and listen to me, we used to be knee deep in it. We used to be under the rule of Satan and the reign of sin. We used to be under the power of darkness.

Eph 2:1-2

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

But we have been delivered. We were dead, but were not dead anymore because God has delivered us from all of our trespasses and sins. We don't have to worry about past indiscretions or previous transgressions because through Jesus we have become new creations in Christ. You see, ladies and gentlemen, God has a great delivery service and those of us who are Christians have been recipients of that service. Aren't you glad about that? I know I am. I'm glad that God's truck came to my neighborhood and stopped at my house. I'm glad that God, by means of the gospel of Christ, knocked on the door of my life and I was persuaded to let Him in because now I have been delivered from the power of

darkness and if you have obeyed the gospel, you have been delivered too. Let's not take this for granted. Instead, let's thank God every day.

Now, if you have not yet taken advantage of God's delivery service, here's the good news, God's delivery service has no limitations. Wherever you are in life, regardless of your situation or circumstances, God will deliver you. Listen: some people can't get pizza delivered to their house because they live in a bad location. But God's service goes everywhere. God delivers to the inner-city and to the outer edge of every town. God delivers to the sub-divisions of the rich and to the back alleys of the poor. God delivers to the offices of white-collar workers and to the factories of blue-collar workers. God delivers to everyone and God wants to make a delivery to you too. And please be advised that what God is delivering is far better than Papa John's pizza. God is delivering grace and mercy that saves the soul. God is delivering second chances and new beginnings. God is delivering hope and happiness and spiritual freedom. And all you have to do if you want God to deliver to you is obey the gospel of Christ **(Rom. 1:16; Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16)**.

Won't you surrender yourself to Jesus Christ today and be saved. This is what obeying the gospel demands, a surrendering of one's self, and a commitment to Christ. Notice something Paul said in Col. 1:13. God translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. The Greek word for translated in Col. 1:13 is μεθίστημι (mē-theé-stay-mee) and means "to transfer or carry away" (Strong's Greek Dictionary). It describes what happened in Biblical times to a people after being defeated. The conquerors would carry the nation that they defeated into captivity and place them under new rule. Now listen to me: there could be no carrying away without a people first surrendering. If the people kept fighting or if they resisted in any way, they would simply be killed. In order for there to be a translation, there must first be a surrendering. If you want to be translated by God into the kingdom, you must surrender to Christ. Paul knew something about this **(Phil. 3:3-8)**. Won't you follow in the steps of Paul? You might have to walk away from the religion of your youth. You might have to give up the denominational church that you have attached yourself to and be added to the Lord's church, but listen to me, it's worth it.

Ps 127:1

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman wakes but in vain.

I urge you to walk away from denominationalism. I urge you to leave behind any church that you can't read about on the pages of inspiration. Just do one simple thing! Open your New Testament and see if you can read of the church to which you belong. You can read of the church of Christ in the New Testament **(Rom. 16:16)**. But you can't read of any

denominational church in the Bible, nor will you find the majority of their practices there either. Do like Paul and surrender that old religion and come to Christ.

II. God Continues to Deliver Us in the Present.

In 2 Cor. 1:10, Paul said that God does (present tense) deliver. When Paul was in a bad situation he didn't give up hope because he knew that God hadn't gone anywhere. Paul didn't quit because he knew that God's delivery service had not gone out of business. God had delivered him from precarious places in the past and so Paul was convinced that God would deliver him from problematic positions in the present.

Gal 1:4

Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

And so in this nefarious world in which we live where the influence of Satan is a clear and present danger, Paul knew that God would continue to deliver us. You see, God never sleeps. God never takes His eyes off us. God can't be distracted, diverted or disconnected from His people because He is a 24/7 God.

Ps 121:4

Behold, he that keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

We can put confidence in this truth, ladies and gentlemen. Listen to me: when God's servant Joseph was unjustly thrown into prison in Egypt, God raised him up from the shackles of a dirty dungeon and put him in a place and position of power. You see, God wasn't sleeping!

When Gideon and a small band of 300 fought against of the massive Midianite army of 135,000 they defeated them, not with swords and spears, but with trumpets, pitchers and torches. Think with me about this, ladies and gentlemen. The Israelites were outnumbered 450 to 1 but still they defeated the Midianites. Why? Because God wasn't sleeping.

When Peter was incarcerated in Jerusalem by Herod and was chained up and guarded by four quaternions of soldiers, waiting to be executed, he wasn't worried. The Bible says that Peter slept. Why is it that Peter could sleep in such a precarious situation? I'll tell you why! He knew that God wasn't sleeping.

When Paul was stoned at Lystra and dragged out of the city and left for dead, he rose up by the power of God and then walked right back into the city. You see God wasn't sleeping.

Listen to me: we serve a God that neither slumbers nor sleeps and Who is always ready to give His people a helping hand. This is what Paul knew. This is what gave Paul confidence and it should give us confidence too.

Listen to me: God is always ready to give His people a helping hand. This is what Paul knew. This is what gave Paul confidence and it should give us confidence too.

Ps 50:15

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shall glorify me.

We all know that days of trouble come, don't we? They just do. I don't care who you are and how you live, days of trouble come upon us all. Job said, "*Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble.*" Some experience financial trouble when the bills are too high and the money is too low. Some experience marital trouble when love has turned to loneliness and friendship has turned to frustration. Some experience health trouble that causes restless nights and painful days. Some experience job trouble where co-workers irritate and bosses infuriates. Some experience family trouble when children disobey or parents disappoint. There are days of trouble for all of us. But we don't have to worry because God said, you can "*call on me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee.*"

Let me ask you, do you trust God enough to call on Him in days of trouble?

Heb 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

III. God Will Deliver Us in the Future.

We have seen that God has delivered us from our past sins. We have seen that God will deliver us from our present sins if we are willing to receive His help and accept His solution to our problem. Now may I say to you that God will deliver us from sin in the future.

A. God will deliver us from the temptation of sin by His word (2 Peter 2:9).

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

1 Cor 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

B. God will deliver us when we sin if we repent (1 Jn. 1:5-2:2).

You see, through Jesus God will deliver us from every miserable mistake we make. God will deliver us from every corrupt consideration that crosses our minds. God will deliver us from every rude remark that might escape our lips and every horrible habit that might invade our lives. In other words, God will deliver us from every sin that we ever commit if we will only repent of it and ask Him for forgiveness.

C. God will deliver us from the presence of sin in heaven (1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 21:27).

Conclusion:

Yes, God is still in the delivery service business. Let's have confidence in God's willingness to deliver us for He has delivered us in the past, He continues to deliver us today, and He will, no doubt, deliver us in the future.