

Sermon Questions: Rescue

1. Pastor Mark talks about “The Rules of the River” used in whitewater rafting. One of those rules is that if you fall out of the raft, you must be an active participant in your own rescue. What do you think that means for our lives outside of whitewater rafting?
2. If we are dependent upon God’s grace for our salvation, in what ways are we still responsible for our current spiritual condition?
3. Read Matthew 26:60-27:5. In what ways are the stories of Peter and Judas related? How did the life of Peter and Judas end differently?
4. What do you think Peter did in order to avoid the outcome Judas experienced?
5. What “small habits” sometimes cause you to drift away from greater faithfulness and devotion to the Lord?
6. Pastor Mark talks about the importance of Spiritual Self-Examination and Evaluation, an ancient discipline used by many Christians, but often neglected in our modern times. Why is this discipline important for modern day Christians?
7. How might the use of “diagnostic questions” help someone identify habits, attitudes and misplaced priorities that cause spiritual drift away from the Lord?
8. How do the spiritual practices of self-examination and Bible reading assist us in experiencing Godly guilt?
9. Do you have difficulty making regular time for personal reflection on the Bible? What typically gets in the way and makes that practice difficult?
10. Pastor Mark suggests that when it comes to reading the Bible, we need application as well as inspiration. What do you think that means?
11. One of the diagnostic questions used in self-examination is this one: “Am I satisfied with pious feelings rather than pushing myself toward sacrificial obedience to Jesus Christ?” What do you think that question is addressing?