

As we enter 2013—there's no pit too deep!

Pastor Russ Gaar

Evangelical Free Church, Grant

This Christmas I opened up a gift from my daughter that really caught my attention. It was a plaque with a famous quote by Corrie Ten Boom: "There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still." What a reminder of what the Christian Faith is all about! Our faith is of a rescuing God, Who has reached out to sinners in love, grace and mercy!

David praises God for this very thing in Psalm 103:2-4—"Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion..."

Everyone begins life in the pit of sin and as we grow up we become more entrenched in our pit of sin. Often we do everything we can to be happy down in our little pit and we can't figure out why life is so unsatisfying. Life in the pit is dark and lonely and horrible!

God has given us His Word to expose our great need. God's Word exposes life without God as a slimy pit with no escape. We can't get out of this pit with a how-to manual. We can't get out of this pit with a set of rules. We can't get out on our own; we are stuck in the pit unless God redeems our life from the pit!

God's Word exposes us as living in a slimy pit from which we need to be rescued.

God's Word, however, doesn't just expose life without God as a slimy pit and then leave us there. God's Word introduces us to a Rescuer, God's Son! John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

God holds out His Son to us as our Rescuer from sin! Jesus is the rope dropped down into the pit. Jesus is the winch to pull us out. Jesus is the guide to keep us from ever falling into the pit again.

Jesus said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) If you find yourself in a pit of self and sin, Jesus is the one and only way out!

You are in a deep pit of sin; you can't get out on your own, and no one can help you! But, God has thrown you a rope—it is Jesus! And Jesus is the winch to pull you out! And He is the guide to make sure that someday you stand before God the Father as His child, perfect and holy, forever!

Those of us who believe that Jesus came to this earth to live a perfect life and pay the penalty for sin by bearing our sin and guilt...those of us who believe Jesus has risen from the dead as Savior and Lord, we echo the words of David in Psalm 40:1-2—"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm lace to stand." This is the work of Jesus for sinners!

I love the plaque my daughter gave me for Christmas! If you come to my office, you will see it

hanging where I can read it often. “There is no pit so deep, that God’s love is not deeper still.” My soul needs the constant reminder that Jesus has pulled me out of the pit; therefore, my life is not my own, I’ve been bought with a price by my Great Rescuer!

My prayer is that you embrace Jesus as the One Who will rescue your soul from the pit!