

WHO WILL BAIL US OUT?

2 Timothy 1:12

September 28, 2008 Sunday A.M.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Apparently a Congressional agreement on the 700 Billion Dollar Government bailout of Wall Street has been reached.
 - 1. Last Wednesday night, President Bush during a nationally televised speech said, **“Without immediate action by Congress, America could slip into a financial panic....”** He went on to say, **“Ultimately, our country could experience a long and painful recession”** (9-24-08).
 - 2. The President’s use of “panic” was a strong choice of words.
- B. The trickle down effect of this economic panic makes us wonder “who will bail us out?”
 - 1. Who will bail us out of high priced gasoline, food, and virtually all other goods and services?
 - 2. For years we’ve heard that Social Security might not be there when we retire.
 - 3. Now we wonder if our 401k’s will be there at retirement.
 - 4. The hot topic in presidential politics used to be the war on terror, but now “it’s the economy stupid!”
- C. Does the Bible offer any words that calm our financial fears?
 - 1. It does indeed.
 - 2. One place is 1 Timothy 1:12.
 - 3. What is God’s bailout plan for us?

I. FIRST, GOD’S BAILOUT PLAN DOES NOT INVOLVE FEAR.

- A. Paul declared this earlier—1:7 KJV.
 - 1. This means that fear and worry is sin.
 - 2. Why? Because fear and worry is a failure to trust God.
 - 3. Its okay to be concerned about the economy and the future. But there is a big difference between concern and panic or anxiety.
- B. Paul had good reason to panic and be worried.
 - 1. He was in a Roman prison.
 - 2. He knew he would be executed soon.
 - 3. These are the last words Paul recorded, yet he was not afraid.
 - 4. Why?”because I know whom I have believed....”
 - 5. Do you know?

II. SECOND, GOD’S BAILOUT PLAN DOES INVOLVE FAITH.

- A. Faith, though, does not exempt us from difficulty.
 - 1. Some preachers think it does.
 - 2. They preach that God wants us “healthy, wealthy, and wise.
 - 3. They say the richer you are the more blessed by God you are.
- B. By their criteria Paul was a failure because he was broke and in prison.
 - 1. What would they say to him?
 - a. Paul, all you need to do is pray.
 - b. Paul, you must have sin in your life.
 - c. Paul, all you need is more faith.
 - 2. But can you think of anyone outside of Christ himself who prayed more or had more faith than Paul?
 - 3. Why did God have Paul out of prison in Philippi in hours but in a Roman prison for 2 ½ years?
 - 4. I think God released him in Philippi to continue to spread the gospel.
 - 5. I think God kept him in his Roman prison to write much of the gospel or scripture.

6. Maybe God keeps us where we are because he has a plan for us too.

III. THIRD, GOD'S BAILOUT PLAN INVOLVES CONFIDENCE.

- A. Regardless of his circumstances, Paul had confidence in God.
 - 1. Paul's testimony is that "God is able".
 - 2. Do you believe God is able?
- B. Able to do what?
 - 1. Able to guard or keep (KJV) what Paul committed to him.
 - 2. Notice Paul didn't say God is able to keep what we haven't committed to God.
 - 3. Is there anything you haven't committed or entrusted God with. (i.e. finances, marriage, family, business).

CONCLUSION

- A. Let's hope the government bailout works.
- B. God wants to bail us out too. He has a plan.
 - 1. Fear isn't part of it.
 - 2. Faith and confidence in God, however, are part of God's bailout plan for us.