

September 13, 2020

## Forgiven, Rescued, Restored

**Romans 1:15-17; 5:6-11**

Around 1:00 AM on Thursday, August 27, Hurricane Laura walloped the Louisiana coast as a Category 4 storm. Hundreds of thousands of residents lost power and took shelter as the storm surged inland. Leonard Harrison spent that night in his truck, eager to help with recovery efforts as soon as the storm passed.

“That was the fastest-moving storm I’ve seen, and it had to be the most destructive,”<sup>1</sup> Harrison told *The Washington Post*. Harrison is a member of the Cajun Navy, an informal group of volunteers in and around Louisiana who assist in search-and-rescue efforts after natural disasters, such as hurricanes. The members are private boat owners and volunteers who are called to help others in their times of need. The Cajun Navy is comprised of rescuers who jump in at the earliest possible moment to help people they do not know and will most likely never see again.

The student book author writes of God’s salvation: “The term ‘salvation’ carries the sense of a rescue. . . . Whether the context comes as a battle, a natural disaster, or an illness, the term for ‘save’ implies a rescue.”<sup>2</sup> In our times of need, God’s salvation rescues us. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, *rescue* remains a present-tense verb. Our salvation is ongoing; our rescue is constant. There is no disaster too great, no catastrophe too big that God cannot rescue us.

Once the cleanup and search-and-rescue efforts are over, the members of the Cajun Navy return to their homes and their daily lives, waiting for their next opportunity to help. They are a reliable presence in the aftermaths of hurricanes along the Gulf Coast as God is a presence in the aftermath of our disasters. And, like the Cajun Navy, there is nothing expected in return, other than faith. “The gospel . . . is God’s own power for salvation to all who have faith in God” (Romans 1:16).

1. Would you like to be part of the Cajun Navy? Why or why not?
2. In what ways can you assist in the rescue of others after natural disasters?
3. How has God rescued you from disaster, natural or personal?

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<sup>1</sup>From [washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/08/27/cajun-navy-volunteer-reaches-louisiana-families-whose-homes-were-damaged-destroyed/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/08/27/cajun-navy-volunteer-reaches-louisiana-families-whose-homes-were-damaged-destroyed/).

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Fall 2020, by Chuck Aaron (Cokesbury, 2020); page 21.