

GOD'S BAILOUT PLAN

JOHN 3:16

REV. FRED LUTER¹

Rev. Luter is the Pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA.

For the past several months our nation has been in a crisis.
For the past several months our nation has been in an economic crisis.
For the past several months our nation has been in a financial crisis.

We are in this financial crisis because of greed.
We are in this financial crisis because of bad decisions.
We are in this financial crisis because of bad choices.
We are in this financial crisis because of bad mortgage debt.
We are in this financial crisis because of the pride of many CEO's.

Consequently, because of the financial crisis Wall Street was in trouble. Now brothers and sisters whenever Wall Street is in trouble, it will eventually get to Main Street. And once it gets to Main Street you can rest assured it will not take much longer to get to "your street" and then "my street"! Our nation was facing the worst financial crisis since 1929 which led to the Great Depression.

Major insurance companies like AIG were in trouble!
Major investment banks like Lehman Brothers were in trouble!
Major mortgage lenders like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were in trouble! As a matter of fact they got divorced over this financial crisis (smile)!

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted!

Wall Street cried out for HELP!
AIG cried out for HELP!
Lehman Brothers cried out for HELP!
Fannie Mae cried out for HELP!
Freddie Mac cried out for HELP!
The BIG THREE – Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors cried out for HELP!
Our former president George Bush warned Congress that our nation was on the brink of disaster.
Something had to be done.
We need a bill to be passed.
We need to be rescued from this disaster.

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The alarm was sounding! Hearts were pounding! And after a week long debate Congress eventually passed a \$700 billion dollar bailout package to rescue, to redeem, to save our battered financial industry, thereby rescuing Wall Street, Main Street, Your Street, and My Street from a crisis.

Well, in like manner my brothers and my sisters, a little over 2,000 years ago our world was in another crisis. Our society was in another crisis.

Not necessarily an economic crisis, it was worse than that!

Not necessarily a financial crisis, it was worse than that!

Not necessarily a Wall Street crisis, it was worse than that!

IT WAS A SPIRITUAL CRISIS!

Man had sinned against God. Man had rebelled against God. Man had transgressed against God.

Therefore mankind was in spiritual debt because of greed.

Mankind was in spiritual debt because of bad choices.

Mankind was in spiritual debt because of bad decisions.

Mankind was in spiritual debt because of pride.

God's righteousness demanded that the debt had to be paid.

God's holiness demanded that the debt had to be paid.

God's standard demanded that the debt had to be paid.

God's Word demanded that the debt had to be paid.

Mankind needed a BAILOUT PLAN!!

Fannie Mae was not acceptable. Freddie Mac was not acceptable. Lehman Brother's was not acceptable. AIG was not acceptable. The Senate was not adequate. The House of Representatives was not adequate. Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors could not help.

Mankind was about to die eternally. Mankind was about to perish eternally.

Mankind was about to spend eternity in hell. The sins of man had plummeted to an all time low! Mankind needed to be rescued. Mankind needed to be redeemed. Mankind needed to be saved. Mankind needed to be delivered. Something had to be done!

Therefore, because of Jehovah God's love for you and me, He developed His Bailout Plan for mankind! And His bailout starts out by stating. . . . For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Our rescue bill was signed with God's Word. It was sealed with Jesus blood. And it was delivered at the Cross!!

So what's all included in this rescue bill? What's all included in this bailout?

**I. THE PLAN OF GOD.
JOHN 3:16A
“For God so loved the world.”**

Oh brothers and sisters salvation was not just a haphazard event. God's salvation plan was not just a secondary scheme. Salvation was not just something that God thought of at the last moment. Salvation was not just an afterthought with God. No, the fact of the matter is long before Adam and Eve sinned in Genesis chapter three. Before Adam and Eve listened to Satan instead of the Savior. Before Adam and Eve listened to Lucifer instead of the Lord. Before Adam and Eve listened to the Devil instead of the Divine. God already had a Bailout Plan!!!

As a matter of fact:

Before you ever told your first lie, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever smoked your first joint, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever drank your first bottle of beer, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever gambled away your first dollar, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever cheated on your first exam, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever ran your first red light, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever got your first speeding ticket, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever disobeyed your parents, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever got high on drugs, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever said your first cuss words, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever committed fornication, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever committed adultery, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever saw your first R-rated movie, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever got hooked on pornography, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever ate 6 Krispy Kreme donuts by yourself, God had a Bailout Plan!

Before you ever ate ½ gallon of Blue Bell Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream by yourself, God had a Bailout Plan!

Before you ever struggled with low self-esteem, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever thought about attempting suicide, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever felt like nobody loved you, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever went to your first church business meeting, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before your in-laws became out-laws, God had a Bailout Plan!
Before you ever took your first Hebrew or Greek exam, God had a Bailout Plan!

All I am saying my friend is that before you or I ever messed up in life, God already had a Bailout Plan in mind!

And God's plan was to redeem mankind. Man had rebelled, man had transgressed, man had fallen short, had sinned against God. Therefore there was a debt that had to be paid. That's why Romans 3:10 says, "For there is none who are righteous, no not one." Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death". In other words, we deserved to go to hell. We

deserved to die. We deserved to burn. We deserved eternal damnation. BUT, because of God's love!

BUT, because of God's mercy!

BUT, because of God's grace!

BUT, because of God's forgiveness!

God had a Bailout Plan!! And His plan is that He gave us something that we did not deserve, and that is God gave us another chance! Notice, I did not say a second chance, because I blew my second chance a long time ago, but God gave us another chance. Oh my friend, I don't know about you but I thank God for another chance. I thank God for another opportunity.

Listen, because of some bad choices and mistakes in my past. In my BC days, my Before Christ days, I should not even be alive, but God gave me another chance! I should have lost my mind a long time ago, but God gave me another chance. I should have gotten aids over 30 years ago, but God gave me another chance. I should be living outdoors, but God gave me another chance. I should be sleeping in my grave, but God gave me another chance. I should not be a pastor. I should not be a preacher. I should not be standing in this pulpit, but God gave me another chance! Listen, my testimony is: "I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore. Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more. But the master of the sea, heard my despairing cry, and from the waters lifted me, now save am I. Love lifted me, love lifted me, when nothing else would help, love lifted me!! Oh yes, because of God's love, I have another chance.

Another chance to be a better man,
Another chance to be a better husband,
Another chance to be a better father,
Another chance to be a better son,
Another chance to be a better Christian.

But not only me ladies and gentlemen, because of the plan of God, "that He so loved the world", you also have another chance. Another chance to get it right. Another chance to make it right. Another chance to repent. Another chance to say I'm sorry. Another chance to ask God for forgiveness. Another chance to turn my mess into a miracle. Another chance to turn my test into a testimony. Another chance to turn my bitterness into a blessing. And it is all because God had a Bailout Plan, that He so loved the world that He gave us another chance! But not only do I want you see the Plan of God:

II. THE PROVISION OF GOD. JOHN 3:16B "That He gave His only begotten Son"

How many of you have at least one child? Would you give your only child to die for people who did not care anything about you? Well my friend that's what God did for you and me. When man sinned against God there was a debt that needed to be paid. There was a ransom that needed to be paid. And according to the Bible it had to be paid in blood.

Hebrews 9:22 says, “without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. There is no pardon of sin. There is no forgiveness of sin. So the provision of God was that mankind could be redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ. Now that word “redeemed” means to “buy back”. It means to “recover”.

Do you remember S & H green stamps? When I was a kid growing up in the Lower ninth ward my mom would collect S & H green stamps. The way it worked was that whenever you went to buy something at the gas station or at the grocery store, depending on how much you buy, you would get so many pages of S & H green stamps. Me and my brothers and sisters would lick the back of the stamps (by the way this had to be the nastiest glue in the world) and put them in a book. The more books you collected, the more stuff you could get from the catalog that included drinking glasses, a toaster, a blender, etc. The more expensive the item, the more books of stamps you needed. Now once you filled out all your books of S & H green stamps you would bring your books to a place called “the redemption center” to “redeem” your books of stamps for your drinking glasses, toaster, blender, etc.

In like manner my brothers and my sisters, because of sin you and I were in the Devil’s catalog of death. In order to be freed from this death the price was pretty high. As a matter of fact someone’s blood was required. The blood of goats could not redeem us. The blood of cows could not redeem us. The blood of birds could not redeem us. But not only animals blood, Moses blood was not sufficient. David’s blood was not sufficient. Elijah’s blood was not sufficient. Joseph’s blood was not sufficient. Even Isaiah’s blood was not sufficient. The price was too high! The debt was too large! Oh, but because of the Plan of God, His love for you and I. And because of the Provision of God, that He gave His only begotten Son to shed His blood for the remission of sin. God took Jesus Christ and brought Him down to the “redemption center” at Calvary, where Jesus was nailed to the cross and paid the price for you and me!

Therefore mankind was redeemed, because of God’s Love!
Redeemed, because of Jesus Blood! No strings attached. No hidden charges. Oh, let the redeemed of the Lord say so! Guilty, but redeemed. Lost, but redeemed. Caught, but redeemed. Redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ! Oh yes, there is a fountain filled with Blood drawn from Emmanuel’s veins. Sinners plunge beneath that flood, lose all his guilt and stain. I know it was the blood, I know it was the blood, I know it was the blood for me, one day when I was lost, He died upon the cross, I know it was the blood for me! Oh I thank God for His provision that He gave His only Son Jesus Christ who shed His blood for our sins.

But then God had another part of HIS Provision. Because of His love for you and me. And because of His desire that you and I would live a victorious life He added another part to His provision. And that is God included in His Provision, a “Stimulus Package”! This stimulus package is the Holy Spirit that will dwell inside you, that will live inside you. This stimuli will give you power to pull off the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. This stimulus will empower you to walk right, to talk right, to live right, to preach right, to teach right, to sing right, to witness right, and to let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1. The Plan of God.
2. The Provision of God.

3. THE PROMISE OF GOD.

JOHN 3:16C

“That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”.

Oh my friend whoever you are, you can receive the Promise of God. No matter how dark your past, or how dim you think your future is, you can receive the Promise of God. And His promise is that whosoever can receive the Promise of God.

Black, white, red, or brown, you can receive the Promise of God!
Short, tall, skinny, or pleasingly plumb, you can receive the Promise of God!
Rich, poor, yuppie, or buppie, you can receive the Promise of God!
Bald head, afro, fade, comb over, weave, or wig, you can receive the Promise of God!
Cell phone, email, face book, match book, or twitter, you can receive the Promise of God!
Father, mother, sister, or brother, you can receive the Promise of God!
Democrat, Republican, or Independent, you can receive the Promise of God!
Oh my friend, no matter who you are, no matter what you have done, the Promise of God is yours for the asking!
God's Bailout Plan is available to you! If you believe, you can receive the Promises of God!

You see my friend, that's the difference between Man's Plan vs. God's Plan. For example, President Obama's plan is different from President Bush's plan. And that's the problem:

Man's plan can change from President to President.
Man's plan can change from administration to administration.
Man's plan can change from congress to congress.
Man's plan can change from democrats to republicans.
Man's plan can change from who's riding a donkey to who's riding an elephant.

However the great thing about God's plan is that it is eternal! It is everlasting! It does not change! If it was good enough for Paul and Silas. If it was good enough for the early church. If it was good enough for our forefathers. If it was good enough for our grandparents. It is good enough for you and me! God's Bailout Plan is eternal!
Because it's signed with God's Word.
Because it's sealed with Jesus Blood.
Because it was delivered at the Cross!
It's all a part of The Promise of God. He promised us everlasting life in a better place!

One of these days you will not have to worry about AIG.
One of these days you will not have to worry about Wells Fargo.
One of these days you will not have to worry about Lehmann Brothers.
One of these days you will not have to worry about Fannie Mae.
One of these days you will not have to worry about Freddie Mac.
One of these days you will not have to worry about Wall Street.
One of these days you will not have to worry about Chrysler.

One of these days you will not have to worry about Ford.

One of these days you will not have to worry about General Motors.

One of these days you will not have to worry about cash for clunkers!

Because one of these days “the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thess 4:16-17).

Yes, God will activate another part of Bailout Plan, and that’s the part where He is coming back for you and me!

We’re going from Wall Street, we’re going from Main Street, we’re going from your street, we’re going from my street, and we’re going to another street, to a street that’s paved with gold! No pot holes on this street! No speed bumps on this street! No traffic jams on this street! No speed traps on this street! It is all a part of God’s Bailout Plan!

Oh did I tell you we’re going to a gated community! Some of you have always wanted to live in a gated community. Well one of these days you will eventually live in a gated community! For the Bible says, there will be three gates to the East, three gates to the West, three gates to the North, and three gates to the South! (Rev 21:13). And finally, it will be a place of no more! No more sickness, no more suffering, no more pain, no more cancer, no more inflation, no more recession, no more depression, no more racism, no more murders, no more robbers, no more liars, no more hurricanes, no more flooding, no more tornados, no more earthquakes, it is all a part of God’s Bailout Plan! Oh, some glad morning when this life is over, I’ll fly away. To a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away. Oh, I’ll fly away, oh glory I’ll fly away, when I die hallelujah by and by I’ll fly away!!

Yes it is all a part of God’s Bailout Plan!