

# Deliverance From the Lions

by Merle Flory

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of deliverance from the lions of contemporary culture and the power of God's deliverance in our personal lives.*

**Duration:** 47:40

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 6:7, Psalm 127:3, Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs 29:17, Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14, Ephesians 6:4

**Topics:** "Deliverance"

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## Description

In this video, the speaker addresses the question of when a child cannot continue. The local community has been discussing this topic for a long time, with about 90% of the time being dedicated to it. The speaker expresses the importance of discussing this issue and wants to engage in a conversation about it. The video also highlights the speaker's desire to show what it's like to be part of a community and emphasizes the significance of community in the context of families.

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## Transcript

I greet you this morning with one word that contains everything that our hearts delight in. That word is Jesus. And I greet you this morning with one word that contains everything that God's heart delights in.

The same word. Jesus. I would invite your attention to the 17th verse of 2 Timothy chapter 4. Reread two verses and we'll go back to Daniel chapter 6. Notwithstanding, verse 17, 2 Timothy chapter 4. The Lord stood with me and strengthened me, that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear.

And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion, and the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Turn with me back to Daniel chapter 6. This morning we would like to preach a message on deliverance.

And I want to take my text from the words of a heathen king. A question was asked in chapter 6 of Daniel, the 20th verse, after this heathen king had spent a miserable night. And he's crying with a lamentable voice unto Daniel.

And he says, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Our question this morning is the same question. Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from the lions? Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from the lions?

We'd like to look at three specific lions. Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from the lions? Now, Brother Danny asked a question, how is our heart? Well, by the grace of God, we're going to find out.

I am of the firm conviction that if something doesn't change, if something doesn't move, if I don't go out of this auditorium with something, a new resolve in my heart, that we've wasted a precious opportunity. Okay? I'm going to tell you, over the past several months, I have been developing a deep concern. And here it is.

I intend to be plain. I didn't realize this was developing until I began to, kind of an alarm going off. It started back in probably November, Thanksgiving time.

At the Pymont Church of the Brethren, when the lights was low and I asked a question to that congregation. I don't know, two or three hundred people there probably. I said, I would like to see a list of things that you have been delivered from.

Well, I wasn't really sure what to expect. Whether to expect a lot, or just a few, or whether it's like a lot of other questions that we ask in preaching. They're just kind of generic.

To the best of my recollection, I got one list. I can see her face right down there. Came right up to the podium, and there it was.

One list out of two or three hundred people. Why do we hesitate to be open with our hearts about what we've been delivered from? And that list went below the waterline. It wasn't just some little safe things.

And I give the list back. Thank you, sister. Well, in another state, I asked a similar question.

And even got a less response. And in another setting, we were with a group of Brethren, and the question came up around the table. Maybe we would share things that we've been delivered from.

I'll tell you what, if you want a conversation to kind of get pretty quiet. I mean, we've got a lot of hype here, and we can talk about how good we feel, and we can talk about what a nice facility this is. But can we go to our hearts and say, there it is! Is the God I serve continually able to deliver me from the lions? And this congregation would probably stand up and say, Amen! But can you get a piece of paper out? Right now! I see everybody just sitting there stiff.

I'm serious. Well, we don't do that. Well, I know we don't.

But we can, and we should. You say, well, how am I going to listen if I'm writing a list? I'm going to continue my story. I'm not done with this list yet.

Probably in February the end of this year, Judy and I got on a Southwest Airlines flight. And those are those flights where you pick your seat. You just get on and pick your seat.

We were in Denver, headed to Seattle, and saw several options. I'm always kind of wondering where I'm going to end up. And clear almost to the back of the plane, sat a huge black man by the window.

And beside him was two seats. And something just triggered in me, you sat by that man. And I did.

And I'm going to call him Bill for various reasons. And I said, Hi Bill, my name is Merle. I mean, I said, Hi, what's your name? My name is Merle.

And he told me his name. I said, Bill, do you know Jesus? And he looked at me and he said, I sure do, but how about you? And I knew at that point, this is going to be good. And I thanked him.

And you know, oftentimes we don't think about asking religious looking people if they know Jesus. And I thanked him for that. Going to that place in my heart.

And as we traveled along, I said, Bill, I am getting ready to share a message with my home congregation on deliverance. And one question I'm going to ask them is, what are the things that they have been delivered from? And can they tell me? I said, could you share with me as a Christian the things that you've been delivered from? And I'm telling you what, I started to write. And I said, are you sure it's okay I write all this down? And he says, you can write it down and you can share it anywhere with anybody.

And that big man began to tell, he says, I've been delivered from drugs. I've been delivered from lust. I've been delivered from racial issues.

I've been delivered from cussing. I've been delivered from thievery. 25 counts of armed robbery.

17 years in prison. And from heckling. And the list goes on.

Praise God for Bill. And it only took him as long as it took me to read that list to you. He didn't sit there and scratch and, oh well, you know.

So why do we hesitate so much to really get down and say, well, this is what I've been delivered from. Why do we hesitate? I don't know. I didn't know for sure I was going to preach.

But I would like to ask you over at the information booth. Why don't they put up a, I see signs up there that some of the sermon topics and some of the bullets. Would they take a challenge to take one of those blank pieces of paper about five feet long and four feet tall.

And as we walk past to the food line, would you be so bold as to get out of the food line and go over there and take your pen and write just one thing you've been delivered from? I said, well, that's kind of stretching. That's kind of what I think we need. I think Daniel was in kind of a stretching situation.

But he was willing and he wasn't afraid when the king came to him the next morning and said, Oh Daniel, is the God you serve continually able to deliver you from the mouth of the lion? He said, Oh king, live forever. My God has sent his angel and shut the lion's mouth. Hallelujah.

He was not ashamed to tell the king he had been delivered. And we can talk about brotherhood. We can talk about bonding.

We can talk. But I'll tell you, brothers and sisters, it's been preached throughout this meeting. I heard it yesterday afternoon.

I've heard it almost every... We need to know that our hearts were black and they've been changed and we've been delivered. That's why we want to be brothers and sisters. That's why we cannot afford to fall out.

Because God has done so much for us and delivered us from so much. I don't know how your list is coming. What does it mean to be delivered? Drawn out.

It means to be rescued. I saw this spring over in Bible school. Some of you young people remember this.

Probably about 30 some students get up one night and take a list of things they have been delivered from and put it into the fire. That's pretty touching. It's pretty touching.

I don't know how your list is coming. Maybe where you're sitting, you're just a little too proud to get out this list. Maybe that's something I really don't need to do.

I don't know why we hesitate. And it's okay if you do hesitate. But when I asked this to our home congregation, the first list I got was from my head elder.

Maybe it was the second one, I'm not sure. But the other one came from the brother beside me. Came off the preacher's bench.

Preachers have lists too. It's like Danny said, we tremble just like everybody else. But all of a sudden we develop... Maybe we should just turn to Scripture for a little bit of reference.

Why I feel strongly about this. 1 Samuel chapter 17, verse 37. What did David do when he faced big decisions? You know what David did? Verse 37, 1 Samuel 17.

David said, Moreover, the Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of the Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee. If David knew that if he would count his past deliverances, that it would give him hope and courage for the big things that he faced, both in the immediate and in the future.

We can do the same thing today. We may be facing big things. But is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from the lions? Samson.

I won't have time to get into this, but such a blessed story. When he went after his girlfriend slash wife down to Temna, the Bible says a big lion roared out. A young lion roared out.

And he took that lion and he tore him apart as if it would have been a kid. And later, this is just kind of beside the point, later as he was going back down there again, notice the Bible says that he kind of pulled off of the path to see that carcass. And I think it was just something in his mind like, I just want to see that carcass again, that deliverance, that sweet spot.

And it became a sweet spot because the Bible says there was honey in it. Could you say that the thing that threatens you even right now, those places in your heart that Danny talked about, that we're afraid to go to, would you be willing to say they could be just like Samson, that by the grace of God, that hard place could become a sweet spot? Amen. I know there are people sitting in this auditorium today that could go back to some of their hard places and say, by the grace of God and the anointing of the Spirit, that has become a sweet spot.

Because God was there. And I found victory there, deliverance there. Now, that's kind of a 2 Corinthians 1, verse 10, the classic, Paul saying, And may I suggest you may want to have three lists? You thought one looked complicated? How about three? Perhaps we could have a list of things that I have been delivered from.

Maybe it would be good to have a second list of the things that I am currently now being delivered of. And maybe a third list of things that I hope to be delivered from. Things like my body.

I don't want to be in this bag of bones for eternity. You make your list. One brother came to me, and I want to say this, my congregation has faithfully done this.

We got people come forward with notes. Mailbox had them. The car had them.

People dropped by the house with them. I found it to be a tremendous response, even if you do nothing with that list, but just share it with somebody in your household. There's too many of you to give the list.

They wouldn't fit under our dorm door over there in Murphy Hall. Maybe you could drop your list off at the information center. They're not expecting that, but it might bless them.

You don't have to sign them. I think it's about being real with our heart, that we heard in the opening. How is my heart? And I wonder sometimes, if I can't go to my heart and find the things I've been delivered from, have I been delivered? Am I even born again? Maybe I'm a member of the new conference, but am I born again? Where's the list? What's the proof? A brother asked a while back, so what's the evidences of your new birth? Good question.

Well, I want to say this morning, not all the lions in this world are down in the Cincinnati Zoo. Not all the lions in this world was over in Daniel's lion's den. Not all the lions in this world are nicely contained behind some picture in the Bible storybook.

There are real lions that we face every single day, and I want to talk to you about three of them. A lion can weigh three to four hundred pounds. A lion can be about nine feet long, three and a half feet tall.

They run in packs, maybe thirty-five or forty in a pack. They have night vision. They smell.

They hear. They sense. They eat seventy-five pounds of food a day.

They devour. They kill to live. They are merciless, and I am told that unless a lion is sleeping, he's only thinking about his next meal.

Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from the lions? The first lion I'd like to talk about is the lion of contemporary culture. Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from the lion of contemporary culture? 1 Peter 5, verse 8 says, Beware, for our adversary goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from contemporary culture that surrounds us today? I'm going to try to bounce some of these remarks out of the book of Daniel that we read this morning in chapter 6. I find out that contemporary culture, the lion of contemporary culture, roared against Daniel and said, Oh, Daniel, it's illegal to pray.

Sound like anything else you've ever heard? We've had an eventful trip getting here. You might hear more of it later. You may not.

Probably have affected my attitude, but it's been a sweet spot. We stopped in Knoxville looking for an item, and the lady said, Oh, you need to get out on the street, and you go out there to that street, and you turn right, and you go two blocks, and you can't miss it. It's so easy.

And I said, Thank you, ma'am, but I have a question for you. And we were in a camera store, all the modern technologies, staff standing around. I said, If I would have asked you how to get from heaven from this spot, could you have told me just as quickly? And she said, Yes, but I can't at work.

The lion of contemporary culture roars out and says, No, you can't. You're at work. There's co-workers.

Staff. Maybe it's a bylaw. Maybe policy.

The lion of contemporary culture roared out at Daniel as he went to his prayer chamber. Daniel, it's illegal to pray. Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from the lions? Amen.

I see heads nodding. Daniel, what's your options? Let's take a look in verse 7. What is your options, Daniel? Daniel, what's your options? The lion of contemporary culture is roaring at Daniel and saying, Daniel, look at your options. Whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for 30 days, save of thee, O King.

Daniel, what's your options? He shall be cast into the den of lions. Daniel's options are pretty narrow and they're pretty few. If he's going to be tranquilized and traumatized by the lion of contemporary culture, Daniel's going to freeze.

O King, is the God whom you serve continually able to deliver you from the lions? Oh yes, King. My God, my God. It's in His angel.

It's the oldest drama in history. You've got good against evil and evil against good. And the evil is trying to put out the good and the dark is trying to put out the light.

It's the oldest drama. And it's going to go on until the lion of the tribe of Judah meets up with a force with the kingdoms of men like they have never faced before. And books are opened that couldn't be opened before.

And power is unleashed that was never unleashed before. O Daniel, O sister, O brother, young man, is the God whom you serve continually able to deliver you from the lions? The lion of contemporary culture roared at Daniel. Daniel! Everybody else is doing it.

Daniel, everybody else is going to obey this decree. Daniel, everybody's doing it. The lion of contemporary culture roared out at him.

Daniel, you'll change. You won't make it. Daniel, you're radical.

Daniel, you may be making too big of a scene about this. Daniel, the lion of contemporary culture roars at him and says, You've got quite a reputation in this kingdom, Daniel. You know, Daniel, you are actually the top man.

You've got 120 people underneath of you and then there's three on top of that and you are the top one of the three. Daniel, your reputation. Daniel, what is the contemporary culture roaring at you this morning personally? Think about it on your list.

What is contemporary culture roaring at this fellowship with this morning? My God, whom I serve continually, is able to deliver us from the lions. Contemporary culture. That lion roared at him.

I believe and said, Daniel, if you fake it, you can make it. You know, I was down in Tennessee or I don't know what state we're going through, but we listened to Norm preach on our way up here from Atlanta or Kentucky or somewhere. Norm says, if people are going to go out with me to eat, they're going to hear me pray.

Oh, that sounded good. You've heard of that old napkin trick? Like, I want to pray, but I'm not sure what the folks will think about it, so I drop my napkin on the way down. Oh, Lord Jesus, bless this food.

And on the way back, don't laugh. You may have done it. Maybe we've been there ourselves and said, well, I'm just not sure how this is going to go over.

How's that list coming, by the way? Have I been delivered from that? Do I pray when I take a contemporary colleague out for lunch? It's a good thought. Contemporary culture. You know, not everybody, I would say this.

Kind of made a run on the same question there. We finally got to the shopping mall that we were looking for. And, boy, the lights were out.

They said most of the malls shut down. It was the middle of the day. They said, you can go on in, but most of the stores have shut down.

It was dark in there. Here came a police lady out there. She had one of those flat caps.

Bill come down and kind of looked down at you. She said, this is going to be good. We asked her for some directions to where we wanted to go.

So we got done. I said to her, I said, ma'am, could I ask you a question? And she said, sure, go ahead. I said, if I were to ask you how to get to heaven from this place, could you have told me how to get there as fast as you told me how to get to Radio Shack? She said, you bet I could.

And she says, I'm not ashamed to do it. She says, I go up and down these halls every day. I pray this place.

I pray this place. She says, I'll share with anybody, anywhere, anytime the gospel of Jesus Christ. Though not everybody lets the contemporary culture control their lives.

So what about us? In the United States of America, 21st century. What about Babylon? Daniel. Daniel.

Daniel. Is it worth saving your relationship with all these people? Or are you more impacted about the relationship with God? Daniel, are you going to go to the window or not? Daniel, are you going to duck? Are you going to fake it? Are you going to try to make it? And I'm going to say this. We see all these things of the contemporary culture.

It's way out there. I'm going to give you some more opportunity to do business with your heart. I will ask you, what is it that keeps you from the window? Contemporary culture doesn't bother you? What is it that keeps you from the window? I'm going to ask for a show of hands in this auditorium.

How many people in this auditorium use Facebook? Okay, look at the hands. Good things. Good things.

Daniel could have said, you know, there's good things. I'm not here to condemn Facebook. But I'm saying if I spend 20 minutes, one hour, two hours, and I thought about asking, does anybody here spend two hours a day on Facebook? And then I thought about asking, do you spend two hours a day at the window? And God forbid, whether it's Facebook, whether it's our entrepreneuring, whatever it is, if it keeps me from going to the window and communing with God, it becomes an abomination.

Whatever it is, we've got to look at it. Thank you for your honesty. I think that will do good on your list.

Face the lions? Which would it be? Would I rather face the lion of contemporary culture in compromise, or would I rather face God? I mean, I think Daniel had to make a choice. He made the same choice we've got to make. He made the same choice the young man had to make that Danny talked about.

We're going to have to make a choice. I'm either going to compromise with the lion of my contemporary culture and face that and no compromise, or face God and try to explain the compromise. I don't know where you're at today.

I will say that at the end of Daniel's reign, it would have been a pretty cheap sellout to compromise. The world is sinking. We are developing a God-free humanistic society.

I heard there's 1,200 mosques even now. I read about in Spain and Germany and the United Kingdom in the past few months, there's as many as 30 to 800 buses that have this sign on the side of them that says, there's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.

Now I think the lion's den would have been kind of a sleazy place to be. I can imagine skulls and femurs and maggots and everything else down in that rotten hole called the lion's den. But I want to tell you there's nothing so rotten, there's nothing so sleazy as getting in bed with the contemporary world and making compromises with that.

It will not come out the same outside of a miraculous deliverance by the Lord Jesus Christ. And we believe that today. That God will do what it takes to deliver us.

He'll make the sun stand still all day long, He did for Joshua. If that's what it takes to deliver us, I believe God is committed, He's given His only begotten Son on Calvary, and if He's going to be willing to be that committed, He's not going to stop now. He'll do what it takes to deliver you, my friend.

If you've got some things on the third list that still need to be delivered from, God is willing to do what it takes, otherwise He wouldn't pray deliver us from evil. It's kind of interesting thinking about politics in the contemporary world. That king, that political king, he spent all day trying to deliver Daniel.

Get him out of there somehow, someway. He couldn't do it, could he? Just leave it up to God. Just send an angel, one angel.

I don't know how many angels. But God did it. And I believe God will take care of our hearts.

He'll take care of this conference. He'll take care of your conference, whoever you are, wherever you're from this morning. Brothers and sisters, wherever you've come from, wherever you go back to, the God that is able, that you serve continually, is able to deliver from the lions.

What's so interesting is as we tamper with contemporary culture around us, you know how this thing all ended up. All the people that threw Daniel into the den by their wicked plot, the Bible says that they were

all thrown in that pit together. Verse 24, they brought those men which had accused Daniel and they cast them into the den of lions.

Them, now there's 120 of them, maybe more, their children. How many children did they have? Their wives. I just did a little bit of calculation.

There might have been 1,200 people thrown in that pit. I don't know. I don't know whether there was 10 or 1,000.

All I know is that the inspired record says that before those people hit the bottom of the pit, the lions had ripped them in pieces. And that's the ugly end of our contemporary culture. It's a sinking ship.

Don't get on it. Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from contemporary culture? Yes. The second lion is the lion of half-hearted worship.

And I would say, how is your heart? The lion of half-hearted worship. And I would ask this question. Remember when they were trying to find a way to get to Daniel? Remember how they said they couldn't do it through his work? They couldn't do it through his political involvement and so forth? They could only do it through his worship.

And I just wonder, could there be a little clue there for us this morning, personally, congregationally, and brotherhood-wise, if somehow the enemy could just take a bite out of our worship? Just get us to calm down the worship. Just get us to, when the preacher says, make a list, it's not all that important. When the preacher says, are you willing to respond to the call of the Spirit in your heart? Eh, it's not all that important.

When you come into the sanctuary and the songs are sang, and you look out there and people are yawning and still kind of trying to digest that big breakfast. I mean, where is the spirit of worship? I felt it in this place, and praise God for that. We want to take that home with us by the Spirit of God, and by the grace of God.

Well, would my worship condemn me? It condemned Daniel just three times a day. They hit Daniel on his worship. They did.

Now, I'm going to tell you, I've been asking you to do some things, it's stretching, and I didn't know I had this story to tell when I came here, but I'm going to tell it. I've been delivered from something since I've been in this place. I came here, got here by disruption.

Not boards and broken pieces, but we got here. And somehow, my heart was closed. I came in here yesterday morning, first service, morning worship.

I just, good message, brother, but I just wasn't stirred. And the next thing was a nine o'clock meeting with the elders to arrange for communion, and these brothers from the northwest, they're hearing it. I stood in their midst, and they tried to encourage me to be part.

And I was just like, my heart was closed and locked tight. And finally, I felt like I was being pressured, and the more pressure I got, the worse it felt. You know, we all say kind of nice things, like, it'll be okay, it'll be okay.

But it didn't feel okay. And finally, our dear brother that opened this morning, he says, Merle, how's that feeling to your heart? And I said, it doesn't feel very good. And then ten o'clock came right up here as the lamb to the slaughter, and heard that message on the open heart.

And during the message, I'm thinking, but how do you get your heart unlocked? You know, it's okay. He's talking about this open heart, and what God does open. And all of a sudden, I pulled out my key.

I said, well, he takes the key to unlock a heart. And while I was fumbling with this key, I noticed on him, oh, magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt His name together. Could it be that the key to unlocking a closed heart, one of the keys could be worship? And I begin to think, as Everett was preaching, what did the Bible say about Lydia? Before it said her heart was open, it says she worships.

Oh! And I started to get excited. And I thought, well, maybe I'll close the meeting. And pretty soon, I thought, well, what wasn't going on in that jailhouse before the jailhouse doors was opened? What was going on? They're worshipping in there.

And that place opened, and the bands broke, and the doors opened, and the whole place was demolished. I said, you know, maybe the key to unlocking hearts is worship. And what happened over there in the jailhouse when the jailer went home to his home, what opened up his home? The Bible talks about everything he did.

Everett talked about that so nicely. And he says, there was rejoicing in there. I think there was worshipping in there.

And their home was open, so hearts is open, and hard things are open, and prisons are open, and shackles are loosed, and chains are broken when people are willing to worship. I thought, boy, that's quite a message. And it never hit me until I walked over to my dorm yesterday afternoon, and God says, that is the message for your heart, and you need it, and you need to go to your room and worship.

And that's what I did. Over in room 140 in Murphy Hall, I got on my knees, and I said, Lord, that is me. And I come back in here for the afternoon service, a delivered man.

My mouth opened, and the song came out. My heart started beating with the message Brother John was preaching. And I praise God for that deliverance in my life.

And there's a woman sitting out there that's really excited that that happened too. I believe many times half-hearted worship is the lion that we face and we daily deal with, whether it's in our individual private devotions, just one time to the window today, or not. Okay.

Did the circumstances in Paul's life stop him? Absolutely not. I'm going to have to finish this up. 2 Timothy chapter 4 Paul talks about all the circumstances, demons and all of that stuff, and people that forsook him and all of that.

And I'm not going to have time to read it. And he said, notwithstanding, verse 17, when nobody would stand with him, the Lord stood with him and strengthened me. What am I getting out of this? I'm getting out of this.

He says, I'm going to keep worshipping. Everybody forsook me. Everything's against me.

The circumstances aren't right. The place isn't right. It's not what I expected.

It's not what I hoped for. I could probably be doing better somewhere else, but he decided to worship. And the key kept his heart unlocked.

He says that I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. I could talk to you about that. I'm not sure exactly what all that was at that point.

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work. If worship is our key, wholehearted worship, He will preserve me into His heavenly kingdom. And I would say today, what is keeping me from worship? The last lion.

Very briefly, I just want to mention, we've had the lion this morning of contemporary culture. We've had the lion this morning of half-hearted worship. I would like to preach a sermon about the last lion, but you're probably going to have to deal with this one yourself.

Proverbs 27 and 20 is where I get this lion. Proverbs 27 and 20. And I'm going to call it the lion of hell and destruction.

The lion of hell and destruction. It says, hell and destruction are never full. And I read through that a while back, and I said, that sounds like a lion.

There it is. Hell and destruction are never full. So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

There is no thing that will satisfy my flesh other than Jesus Christ. There is no life in anyone else. There is no life in anything else.

And there was nothing wrong with Eve trying to get closer to God. But she tried to do it without God. And you can do it in religion.

You can do it in all types of mental gymnastics and spiritual gymnastics. And there's nothing wrong with those things. But let me tell you, the lion of hell and destruction is a lion that is never full.

It's a lion that's always roaring. It's a lion that's always there. And we call it materialism.

Timothy was warned by Paul, that if you love materialism, it will drown you in destruction and perdition. The broad way, the Bible says, many take and are destroyed. The unregenerate Romans 3.16 says, destruction and misery are in their way.

The casual return of the Lord is setting back. And kind of, oh well, I guess it's something out there. And then the Bible says, cometh sudden destruction and fleshly lust, that war against the soul.

So I ask you in closing, is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from the lion of contemporary culture? Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from the lion of half-hearted worship? What are you deciding? What's your list looking like now? Is the God whom I serve continually able to deliver me from hell and destruction? You say, oh what a pitiful thing to preach to a new conference, a group of blood-bought, spirit-filled, born-again people. But if there, I tell you, there's just one soul up in those bleachers that has not made their peace with God and accepted Jesus Christ, the peace of God, for their salvation. How are you going to face the lion of hell and destruction outside of bringing Him a greater lion, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the amen, the apostle of our faith, the arm of the Lord, the author and finisher of our faith? How else will we make it, my friend? That lion defeats all lions.

That lion is Lord of Lords. That lion is King of Kings. And when we take our filthy lists and we dump them, we burn them, we share them, and we exchange in His life, then I can say, yes, oh King of Kings, you've sent your grace, you've sent your angel, and you've delivered me from the mouth of contemporary culture.

You've delivered me from the mouth of half-hearted worship. And you've delivered me from the mouth of hell and destruction. Daniel's testimony was, I've been delivered.

Darius' testimony was, Daniel's been delivered. Paul's testimony is, I've been delivered. What is yours?

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Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/23/SID23894.mp3>

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