



February 22, 2026 | Matt Magee

Series: Fully Equipped: Pursuing Christian Maturity (2 Peter)

Sermon Title: God Who Knows How to Rescue the Godly from Trials

Main Scripture: 2 Peter 2:4-10a

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS/CHURCH BODY HIGHLIGHTS

1. [Past Newsletters](#)
2. Learn about the ACBC Conference, which equips you to think biblically, and help yourself and others face all manner of life's challenges.
  - a. Who doesn't love a good road trip with friends (Oct 4-7)
  - b. Visit <https://biblicalcounseling.com/about/events/2026-annual-conference/> (scroll down to sessions and expand the breakouts to see ALL of the topics you can choose from)!
  - c. Let us know of your intent to go here:  
<https://ogc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1067480> Prices increase with time, so let us know sooner than later.

## OUTLINE & DISCUSSION GUIDE

### I. Introduction: The Perceived Justice Gap

- Pastor Matt introduced "The Perceived Justice Gap" – The sinking feeling you get when you see a villain get away with their actions.
- **Examples:** It happens when you see a corrupt leader retire to a yacht, a dishonest coworker get a promotion, or false teachers get rich while faithful churches struggle. Deep down, it *tempts* us to ask, "Is God actually watching? Is He really going to handle this? Or is He asleep at the wheel?"
- **Discuss:**
  - When was a time you felt the frustration of this "Perceived Justice Gap" in the real world?
  - Why is it so tempting to believe the false teachers' claim that judgment is a myth when they brag that lightning hasn't struck them yet?

### II. The Evidence: Three Witnesses (The "Ifs")

To prove that God keeps His receipts and knows His perfect timing, Peter calls three witnesses to the stand. Read **2 Peter 2:4-8** together.

- **Witness 1: The Angels (Verse 4) – High Status Won't Save You.**

- God cast the rebellious angels into *Tartarus*—the deepest, darkest abyss—to be kept as prisoners until judgment.
- **Discuss:** If God didn't spare angels who had unimaginable power and glory, why do we sometimes assume a "Pastor" title, a PhD, or a big podcast following will impress God?

- **Witness 2: The Flood & Noah (Verse 5) – Numbers Won't Save You.**

- Noah was a "Herald" (preacher) who spent 120 years preaching with zero converts outside of his own family. By modern standards, he was a failure, but God preserved him while holding millions for judgment.
- **Discuss:** Have you ever felt outnumbered as a Christian at work, at school, or in your family? How does Noah's story encourage you that God can rescue the minority?

- **Witness 3: Sodom & Lot (Verses 6-8) – Geography Won't Save You.**

- Lot lived in Sodom, and his righteous soul was "tormented" by the lawless deeds he witnessed.
- **Discuss:** Pastor Matt described the "Spiritual Gag Reflex." A dead body doesn't feel pain, but a living body does. You know you are a Christian in part because sin actually bothers you. Do you find yourself growing numb to the culture, or do you still feel that "spiritual gag reflex?"

### **III. The Verdict: The Almighty's Competence (The "Then")**

**Read:** 2 Peter 2:9. God is an expert at two things:

- The Expert Rescuer.
  - God is better than "Special Ops" at extraction. He has the coordinates of every believer and knows exactly how to get you through 2026.
  - **Practical Exercise (Preaching to Yourself):** God provides a "way of escape" so that we can endure temptation (1 Corinthians 10:12-13). Discuss how to implement these three steps from Pastor Matt this week:
    1. **"In humility, know your own susceptibility."** Where, when, and how are you most vulnerable right now? (This is not a time to "look strong" to others; This is a time for vulnerable honesty.)
    2. **"Know that your temptation is not special to you."** How does it help to remember that you are not alone in your struggle?

3. **"Remember that God is Faithful... and take the offramp."** Since God is the expert rescuer, He has provided an escape route. What does taking the "offramp" practically look like in your life? (Be super practical.)
- 2. The Expert Keeper.
    - Peter says God knows how to "keep" the unrighteous under punishment. Pastor Matt used the metaphor of a "Holding Cell." The criminal might be playing cards and laughing, thinking he is fine. But the door is locked, the trial date is set, and the Judge has the evidence.
    - **Discuss:** How does viewing the wicked as simply waiting in a holding cell bring you comfort when it feels like they are "winning"?

#### IV. Conclusion: The Comfort of Judgment

- **The Hope:** Judgment is a scary word, but for a victim, it is hope. It means the abuser won't get away with it and the lies won't last forever.
- **Prayer Focus:**
  - We are "the godly" not because we are better than Sodom, but because Jesus Christ stepped into the "Justice Gap" for us. He took the fire and the flood to rescue His people.
  - Spend time thanking Jesus for this rescue, and pray for the wisdom, desire, and follow-through to take the offramps God provides when temptation hits.
  - Pray for our pastors, elders, small group leaders, and teachers to be ruthlessly faithful to God's Word.