

James 5:19-20

"Gospel-Focused Rescue Missions"

Introduction: The Shepherd's care for His sheep

- **One way in which the sheep emulate the Shepherd:** Going on gospel-focused rescue missions.

We must be prepared to go on gospel-focused rescue missions to those

who _____ from their _____ of faith.

- **A reminder from God's word:** Even the holiest of saints have had their wanderings into sin.
- **The Greek word translated as "wanders":** the word from which we get our English word 'planets.'
- **A crucial distinction to keep in mind:** the distinction between the invisible and the visible church.
- **The church members referred to by James:** those who had a profession of faith, but wandered away from the objective truth of God's word.
- **The church member who wanders away from the truth of God's word:** In grave danger of dying in his or her sins.
- **"Saving his soul from death":** means saving his soul from hell.

- **A gospel truth to be amazed at:** The Savior from heaven suffered the pains of hell on the cross for the sins of His people.
- **Something all church members can do:** Pray for the success of the gospel-focused rescue mission.
- **Some gospel-focused rescue missions:** will require the faithful exercise of church discipline.
- **Our WCF on the visible church:** "Unto this catholic and visible church, Christ hath given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints."
- **One of the Christian's great privileges:** serving as an ambassador for Jesus Christ.
- **Personal Application:**

*To view this sermon online go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com), and search North Fort Myers presbyterian Church Live stream.