

E-Series

The Rescuer (Continued)



*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it... **14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” —John 1:1-5,14*

On Sunday I mentioned a discovery I made online. When I was searching for a picture of a rescue helicopter, I ran across the picture above. It’s called the Alpine Wasp, and it features brand-new, cutting edge technology in rescue helicopters—in fact, it’s still being developed. See, one problem with regular helicopters is that they can’t travel above about 14,000 feet. Normally, that’s fine. But, for mountain climbers, particularly the hundreds of people every year who attempt to climb Mt. Everest, a rescue helicopter that can’t fly above 14,000 feet won’t do them much good. So, there is a company that is developing the Alpine Wasp as a solution to that. It will be able to travel up to 30,000 feet. That will be good news for climbers stranded at the top of Mount Everest, people who would otherwise be doomed.

Do you notice anything strange about it? Exactly. There are no windows for the pilot to see through. There’s a good reason for that. There won’t be a pilot. This helicopter will be unmanned. It will be remote-controlled. The pilot will be able to fly a rescue mission with absolutely no risk to him or herself whatsoever. You can fly this helicopter even from the warmth of the rescue station, safe and sound on solid ground. It’s unmanned.

The Alpine Wasp is the polar opposite of the good news of Christmas. Strange thing to say, isn’t it? Yes, but it’s true. Christmas is when we celebrate the Incarnation, when God comes to be our Rescuer. Thankfully, our God doesn’t use an Alpine Wasp. God doesn’t stay safely sovereign, high above all the dangers and darkness of our world. Our God is not sending us a radio-controlled Rescuer, while he remains safe and warm on solid ground. God loves us too much for that. God sees our darkness and danger, the sin and sorrow that we are stuck in and comes running to be our Rescuer. God doesn’t stop to do cost-benefit analysis. He doesn’t dilly-dally taking time to calculate the risks. He enters the fray. He dives head-first into time, into our humanity, into our darkness. Our God comes to, us as one of us, to rescue us. That is the message of Christmas!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Michael