

Placing Your Trust

Psalm 37:3-5

Matthew 6:31-34

Where do you place your trust? Is it in man? Listen to what the Scriptures say about that, in Jeremiah 17:5; “cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord.” Psalm 146 says not to put trust in man in whom there is no help; if you put trust in worldly things, bad choice since Proverbs 11 tells us that trusting in riches will cause our fall; or if you place trust in your own abilities, Proverbs 28 says you are a fool.

It would seem that Scripture is trying to tell us something, but what? Trusting in man will leave us high and dry, if we trust in man, money, or our own abilities, the result is failure.

So where should we put our trust? What does God’s Word tell us? Listen to Proverbs 3:5-6; “trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.” As it said in the Psalm 37 reading this morning, “commit your way unto the

Lord, trust in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.”

When we trust in God, He meets our every need and there are benefits of trusting in God. One benefit is having happiness in our lives, Proverbs 16 tells us that when we trust in God, happy are we. When we trust in God, we acquire happiness and we don't have to pursue it. A second benefit is spiritual fatness and health when we put trust in God. When we trust in God, we will be prospered, in other words, we will be on top of things spiritually and health wise. Another benefit is safety as it says in Proverbs 29: whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe. I'll just mention some other benefits in passing: God will have mercy on us, He will deliver and rescue us.

Listen as I read Genesis 15:1. This Scripture is taking place after Abraham won a big military victory over the armies of 5 kings and rescued Lot who had been taken prisoner. Abraham still had some reservations and uncertainties as to what might happen in the future, if the kings came back to take revenge. Remember that Abraham had faith and trusted in God, even though he wavered at times.

God, in this verse, told Abraham three promises: (1) don't be afraid, God saw that

Abraham had fears even though all had gone well, he worried about the kings coming back to exact revenge or maybe he didn't know what to do next. We do the same thing, don't we? Situations come up in our lives, even achievements or successes can cause fears and anxiety. We get fearful over our health or finances, but what does God say to us? Do not be afraid. Jesus in Matthew 6 says not to worry about everyday things or needs; worrying about these daily things is unbelief or having no trust in God. (2) God said He was Abraham's shield or his divine protection. God is our personal shield, in Ephesians 6 we are told to take the shield of faith. God told Abraham, and He tells us the same, that He is personally our shield; this means that Satan can't get to us unless he goes through God or God permits such, as He did with Job. The most significant example of our divine shield is Jesus, He took the brunt of Satan's attacks and was made a curse so we might be blessed. He was made sin for us so we can be made the righteousness of God in Him. Something to remember about a shield is that the farther we are from it, the less value it has and vice versa. So it is with the Lord, if we walk at a distance from Him, then we aren't protected from Satan and his attacks. (3) God said He was Abraham's great reward. Abraham doesn't

have to depend on the people of God, but depend on the God of the people. God told him that He was Abraham's sufficiency and God would take care of his needs as life goes along. God was telling Abraham that He was not only his rewarder, but was his reward, and was a reward of faith, not works. That reward would be far beyond anything Abraham could ever imagine.

Trust in the Lord, there are 365 times in the Bible where God says: "do not be afraid", one for every day of the year. In Isaiah 41, we are told don't be afraid, for God is with us and He is our God, He will strengthen us and hold us up with His victorious right hand.

Trusting in God is the only way to go: 2 Samuel 22:3 says: "the God of my Rock, in Him I will trust; He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my savior; He saves me from violence." Trusting in man will leave us high and dry, trusting in God means we will have comfort, no wants, and will always bear fruit.

The promises of God were there for Abraham, what did he do to receive those promises that God laid out before him, and how do we receive them today?

Genesis 15:6 gives us the answer: and Abraham believed in the Lord and God accounted it to him for righteousness. Trust and faith, we must receive by trust, simply believe what God says.

AMEN.