

Title: Trust – The Key to Successful Living

Theme: It's a Matter of Trust

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Place: DCOG

Text: Proverbs 3:1-10

I want to study the teachings found in Proverbs 3:1-10 over the next four Sundays. I believe that we will find in this study the key to successful Christian living. I want to talk with you about trusting God and about what happens to us when our whole relationship is built upon obedience and trust.

* Do you remember the old hymn that we used to sing as some of us were growing up in church? "Trust and Obey".

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way,
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

Today, I want to talk about trust: the key to successful living.

What are the top two questions that Christians ask?

1. "How can I know God's will?"
2. "How can I be a success for God, others and myself?"

Our thesis for this study is that trust is the most important factor in...

Knowing God and His will for my life.

Growing His Kingdom and myself as a steward.

Proverbs 3:1-10

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, [2] for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

(Obey completely/we will live a long and prosperous life)

[3] Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. [4] Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

(Always show love and faithfulness/God and people will like you and consider you a success)

[5] Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; [6] in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

(With all your heart and in all your ways/ He will clear the road for you to follow)

[7] Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. [8] This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

(Don't ever think that you are wise enough/this will make you healthy and you will feel strong)

[9] Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; [10] then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

(Honor the Lord with your giving/He will bless you with grapes and grain)

Proverbs 3:1-10 Observations

- The words that we underlined were all inclusive, there were no exceptions.
- The commands precede the promise.
- These promises are conditional.

Stewardship Statements

1. God is Trustworthy – He is worthy of our complete confidence. He is totally dependable.
2. God has entrusted (placed in our care) the possessions, opportunities, talents and time that we now experience.
3. We are a trustee of everything God has given us.

*As we share these messages over the next four weeks about trust, we are compelled to ask ourselves some questions.

1. Do I trust God?

Where do I place my faith? Where do I place my confidence? Is God truly my source? Do I trust him in everything?

2. Can God trust me?

Have I proven to be a trustworthy person? Am I trustworthy in some areas but do I have areas that God can't touch because I've proven to be untrustworthy?

Two Trustworthy Thoughts about God

1. God's care is constant.

Hebrews 13:5-6

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

[6] So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

*God wants to assure us that He will not leave us.

*George Beverly Shea, that famed soloist from the Billy Graham Crusades once commented on the strangest request he was ever asked to sing. He said it was, "God's Grip, Don't Slip." Poor grammar, but marvelous theology.

- God's care is constant, it's not sporadic.

- God’s care is total, it’s not partial.
- God’s care is sovereign, nothing can touch you without it first touching God.

* Most of us have read the piece called “Footprints.” It was written by Margaret Fishback.

She went through amazing trials: the person that she loved left her, she developed a Meningitis that left her bedfast for many months, she was at the lowest point in her life. Another man came along and wanted to marry her but she would not do it. She had run out of trust and had no confidence in anyone.

One night as she wrote in her diary, she began to write the piece known as “Footprints.”

“One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. “Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you’d walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don’t understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.

The Lord replied, “My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.”

2. God’s gifts are generous.

Psalm 136:1-9

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

[2] Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever.

[3] Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever.

[4] to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.

[5] who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever.

[6] who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever.

[7] who made the great lights--His love endures forever.

[8] the sun to govern the day, His love endures forever.

[9] the moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever.

3. *Remember the old chorus:

“God never fails,
Oh, God never fails.
He abides with me,
He gives me sweet victory,
God never fails.

Just keep the faith
And never cease to pray.
Just walk upright
Morning, noon, day and night.
He’ll be there, He’ll be there,
There’s no need to worry
For God never fails.

Developing Our Trust – 3 areas

1. **Trusting in Adversity** - We are responsible to trust Him in times of adversity, but we are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to enable us to do so.

Problem: God is asking us to do something which is so big that we cannot understand it. Instead of trusting Him to do his part, and us to do our part – total obedience – we want to get over on his side and know all the answers.

2. **Trusting in Plenty** - probably the most difficult

The extent to which we genuinely thank God for the blessings He provides is an indicator of our trust in Him.

3. **Trusting God as our Source**

Human tendency: Trust in God's instruments of provision rather than in God Himself.

Proverbs 18:10-11

*The name of the Lord is a strong tower;
the righteous run to it and are safe.*

*[11] The wealth of the rich is their fortified city;
they imagine it an unscalable wall.*

Conclusion: What is your unscalable wall today?

- Is it your college degree?
- Is it your savings account?
- Is it your job?
- Is it your health?
- Is it your family or your spouse?

It is so easy to put our trust in these other things and not make God the source of and the platform of our trust.

It is like the person that said to God that he just couldn't lean on God like he wanted.

And God says to him that is because you have never put your total weight on me. You are still using your own strength. Relax!

*Rev. S.M. Loughery - "You Can Trust Him".

He's the one who made us, it is He who made us and not we ourselves. The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows his handiwork.

No means or measure can define His limitless love. And no far seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of his shoreless supply. I'm telling you today, **YOU CAN TRUST HIM!**

No barrier can hinder Him from pouring out his blessing. He's enduringly strong and entirely sincere. He's eternally steadfast and immortally graceful. He's imperially powerful and impartially merciful. He's the greatest phenomenon that has ever crossed the horizon of this world. He's God's son. He's the Savior. He's the centerpiece of civilization. I'm trying to tell you, Church, **YOU CAN TRUST HIM!**

He does not have to call for help. And you can't confuse Him. He doesn't need you and He doesn't need me. He stands alone in the solitude of Himself. He's august, and He's unique. He's unparalleled. He's unprecedented. He's supreme. He's preeminent. He's the loftiest idea in literature. He's the highest personality in philosophy. He's the supreme problem of higher criticism. He's the fundamental doctrine of true theology. He's the cardinal necessity of the spiritual religion. He's the miracle of the age. He's the superlative of everything good that you can call him. **YOU CAN TRUST HIM!**

He can satisfy all your needs and He can do it simultaneously. He supplies strength for the weak. And He is available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He sees. He guards and He guides. He heals the sick. He cleansed the leper. He forgives sinners. He discharges debtors. He delivers the captives.

He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He regards the aged. He rewards the diligent. He beautifies the meek. I'm trying to tell you, Church, **YOU CAN TRUST HIM!**

He's the key to knowledge. He's the well-spring of wisdom. He's the doorway of deliverance. He's the pathway of peace. He's the roadway of righteousness. He's the highway of holiness. He's the gateway to glory. **YOU CAN TRUST HIM!**

He's the master of the mighty. He's the captain of the conquerors. He's the head of heroes. He's the leader of legislators. He's the overseer of the overcomers. He's the governor of the governors. He's the prince of princes. He's the king of kings. He's the lord of lords. **YOU CAN TRUST HIM!**

His office is manifold, His promise is sure, His life is matchless, His goodness is limitless, His mercy is everlasting, His love never changes, His Word is enough, His grace is sufficient, His reign is righteous, His yoke is easy, His burden is light.

I wish I could describe Him to you. But He is indescribable because He's incomprehensible. He's irresistible because He's invincible. You can't get Him off your hands, you can't get him off your mind. You can't outlive Him and you can't live without Him.

Pilate couldn't stand it when he found out that he couldn't stop Him and Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him. They couldn't get witnesses to agree and Herod couldn't kill Him. Death couldn't handle Him and thank God, the grave couldn't hold Him!

There was nobody before Him and there will be nobody after Him. He has no predecessor and He will have no successor. You can't impeach Him and He's not going to resign. **YOU CAN TRUST HIM!**

My friends, what can we say about God today? **YOU CAN TRUST HIM!**