

SERMON: TRUST

Psalm 37:3

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Introduction

Trust is a presumption of meritorious predictability. It is a belief that there are some “good things” a person will “always” do and a belief that there are some “bad things” a person will “never” do. There is intermediate trust and there is ultimate trust. Our ultimate trust should only be placed in God, our Creator. Of course, we have to have a certain amount of intermediate trust in the people with whom we interact or society would not function. Trust has to be earned; it cannot be demanded. Once trust is lost, it can be re-earned; but it does take a while—sometimes a long while. Trust is historical and futuristic; from past experience, someone may believe that the future good actions of another can be predicted. There are many ways to garner trust. Lawyers have to pass the bar. Computer technicians and software engineers seek certification. Company’s books are audited by CPAs. The CPAs have to pass a rigorous examination process. School teachers are required to pass the National Teacher Examination or some state certification examination. All of the examples seek to provide credentials which proved trustworthiness. As I am preaching this sermon, election officials and poll workers throughout the nation are recounting ballots to prove to citizens that the election results are trustworthy.

Let’s look briefly at four parenthetical ideas before we get into our exposition. First, healthy skepticism is an asset, but anything carried to the extreme becomes a liability. Our need to question and vet information should not become counter-productive. Secondly, relationships, no matter what kinds, will not go any higher than the trust level of the parties involved. Thirdly, there are trust boosters and trust busters. The Bible— in 1st Thessalonians 5:22— tells us to avoid the appearance of evil. The appearance of evil can be a trust buster. Remember, perception plays a big part in the trust equation. Fourthly, the biggest trust buster is to publicly defend the indefensible.

Trust has three aspects: character, competency, and communication. Some individuals like to put it in the form of a mathematical formula: $T=C1+ C2+ C3$. Let’s look at them and we will easily see that our God is trustworthy to the nth degree.

Exposition

1. We Can Trust God's Character

(God Is Holy)
 (A Holy God Will Do No Wrong)
 (A Holy God Is Not Hypocritical or Deceitful)
 (A Holy God Is Immutable- He Will Not Flip-Flop On You)
 (Leviticus 11:44-45; Psalm 99:9; Isaiah 6:30; 1st Peter 1:15-16)

2. We Can Trust God's Communication

(God Cannot Lie)
 (Whatever God Speaks Become Reality)
 (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18)

3. We Can Trust God's Competency

(God's Many Names Tell of His Competency)
 (God Is Omnipotent; An All-Powerful God Cannot Fail)
 (God is on His "A" Game All the Time)
 (Luke 1:37; John 10:28-29; Ephesians 3:20-21; Jude 24)

Closing Thoughts

There is a question for us: Can God "trust" us to "trust" Him, even in difficult times? Job is the perfect example. He said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Can you trust God in spite of personal losses? Can you trust God in spite of personal afflictions? Can you trust God when He is silent? I believe 99.9 percent of us said yes. Give God Glory! Give God All the Glory!

End Notes:

- Here are some of the many Old Testament names of our God
 Jehovah Jireh (The Provider) Genesis 22:14
 Jehovah Rophi (The Healer) Exodus 15:26
 Jehovah Nissi (My Banner) Exodus 17:15
 Jehovah Shalom (My Peace) Judges 6:24
 Jehovah Sabaoth (Lord of Hosts) Isaiah 6:3; Jeremiah 46:18
 Jehovah Tsidkenu (Our Righteousness) Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16
 Jehovah Gmolah (The Recompenser) (Jeremiah 51:56)
 Jehovah Makkeh (The Righteous Smiter) Ezekial 7:9
 Jehovah Mekaddesham(The Sanctifier) Exodus31:13
 Jehovah Shammah (Is There-The Present One) Ezekiel 48:35

- There are several Scriptures such as Psalm 146:3 and Micah 7:5 which use hyperbole to instruct us not to put our ultimate trust in individuals. Just remember

in this culture they used exaggeration to express a very important point. The message was taken seriously, but not literally.

3. You know I like to do word studies. The word credential comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means to believe. From this we have the word “creed” which is what one believes. So, credentials are documentation which gives assurance that we can believe the individual is competent. From *credo* we also get our word “credit.” A lender will extend credit when it is believed the borrower is willing and able to repay the loan.

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