

Upon This Rock

Why do people trust? It's a simple question. **Why** do people trust? Webster states that trust is "a firm belief in the honesty and reliability of another, faith, and also a confident expectation". When buying a car or an appliance, don't we want to trust in its reliability and know what the warranty will insure in case something goes wrong that should be covered by the manufacturer? After all, a warranty is the assurance in which we are able to trust in the manufacturer's craftsmanship. Or do we just trust what the car salesman says, for instance, before going into debt and purchase what could turn out to be a very expensive lesson on how **not** to buy a lemon? And if we haven't been referred by someone else whose opinion we trust, who've recently made a purchase from whatever dealer, don't we first check to see whether he's been in business for a while or how he's treated past customers before we make such a leap of faith? Remember, trust **has** to be based on **something**. So, if we go to such ends when purchasing a car, an appliance, a house or other high priced items, shouldn't we go even further before we entrust the one thing that **should be** most precious to us? Sadly, it seems to the majority in the world that the soul is the last thing thought of when making plans for the future, as though it really isn't worth much. What they don't realize is that...

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Which is why many... **Trust in Riches**

The Pharaohs built extravagant mausoleums, known as pyramids, thinking they'd be able to enjoy their wealth in the next life when nothing could be further from the truth. We've all heard the expression that "you can't take it with you". So why do so many people trust in their wealth when "gold" eventually "perishes" (*1 Pet 1:7*)?

Mat 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- What we place most dear in life has our focus but so many have their priorities a little mixed up. Life insurance should be termed "death assurance" since we're all assured that we will die someday and can't be the recipients of the property and money we leave to those who will inherit them. Speaking of inheritances...

Luk 12:20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

- The wisest of all, are those who leave just enough behind to take care of their own funeral arrangements and pay off whatever they've owed, toward anything or anyone. After all, who worked for it in the first place? The wise man Solomon had the answer to this dilemma.

Ecc 3:12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil--this is God's gift to man.

- In many cases what gets left behind goes to those who squander it away as if it were some sort of windfall anyway, but still end up more in debt once their inheritances are spent. So why make the recipients of what property you leave behind miserable unless you know in advance they'll be wise stewards of it? The one legacy a saint **should** leave behind is that of having lived a godly life according to the truth. Which brings us to the next point on "who" we are to trust. Especially when it comes to our eternal souls, are we to...

Trust in People

Family

The biggest category of people we seem to trust most in is family. I was once told by a guy, who must have thought I was about to bring up religion, that he was raised Catholic, his parents were Catholic as were his grandparents, and if Catholicism was good enough for them it was good enough for him. It was obvious though, he wasn't a "practicing" Catholic. He just accepted a faith without putting anything into searching whether or not it was the right faith. Why did Jesus say "search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me" (*Jn 5:39*) if we are to just accept what's handed down to us like we would just any old thing? Remember how the Bereans "were more noble (*honorable*) than those of Thessalonica"? Why? Because "they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (*Act 17:11*)? They weren't willing to sacrifice their souls on just any doctrine that came along without proof of it being according to the truth. Maybe our families weren't taught the truth and are only passing their beliefs on in ignorance. Are we to trust our eternal souls to that? Remember what Jesus said about how we are to view family with relationship to our devotion to Him?

Mat 10:36 ... a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

- We can't rely on a family member when it comes to our eternal souls without first comparing what they believe with what the Bible teaches. If they press their ideas and practices, which differ from what the inspired writers penned, then they truly are our enemies. In this passage Jesus was speaking to a Jewish audience who were living under the Old Testament Mosaic Law. If that generation was to trust in their family and stay with the Old Testament system and not follow Him into the New, He was warning them of any association, that would forbid such a conversion, were indeed their enemies. Likewise today when those of our own blood family may want us to follow some false religion or no religion at all. If we

followed such it would be the same as Jesus stated where we wouldn't be worthy of Him. But family aren't the only ones to lead people astray. What about...

Religious leaders

Mat 7:22 On that day (*speaking of the judgment day*) many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name (*Gk.3686- authority*), and cast out demons in Your name, and do many mighty works in Your name?'

Jesus' answer to their inquiry will be "depart from Me you workers of iniquity" (*v. 23*). Just performing miracles was no proof that the one doing them was eternally saved. Cornelius and his group weren't saved when Holy Spirit fell on them or Peter wouldn't have "commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ" (*Act 10:48*). And since "baptism now saves" (*1 Pet 3:21*) performing miracles wasn't an assurance that their sins would be washed clean. And since the performance of miracles is a thing of the past since "the perfect (*the completed word in written form*) [came and] the partial (*the miracles performed to substantiate the word spoken*) [passed] away" (*1 Cor 13:10*), anyone who preaches false doctrine accordingly are to be considered on the same level as a 'snake charmer'. They are like the "seven sons of Sceva" in Acts 19.

Act 19:13 Then some of the itinerant (*traveling*) Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name (*Authority*) of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.

Obviously, such won't happen today. But what will become of those who preach false doctrines, proclaiming they have their authority from above to do so? There will be many, many so called religious leaders who will have a rude awakening when they face the One they presumed they received their authority came from. Many only go by what their colleges teach but never even open their own Bibles to find the real truth according to **divine** inspiration. According to Wikipedia, there are over 41, 000 "Christian" denominations in the world today. Why so many when the Bible speaks of only "one faith" (*Eph 4:5*). After all, isn't the Bible the authority on the Christian faith? Many don't believe so. There are so many in Christendom that have their own interpretations, versions, creeds and articles of faith, that didn't come as direct inspiration from above but had to have come from a lack of trust in the word of God. They "add to" and "take from" Holy Spirit inspired writings not realizing how "God will take away [their] share in the tree of life and the holy city, which are described in this book" the Bible (*Rev 22:18-19*). They may, for the most part, talk a good talk but don't walk the good walk. Jesus said of those of His day...

Mat 23:3 ... For they preach, but do not practice.

- At that He went on to talk about how many of them only desire the titles, and other benefits, that come with whatever sect they belong to and promote, but not out of a sincere love for the truth. Obviously, at that time there must have been those who wished to be compared with God as though equal with Him since Jesus addressed such as blasphemy.

Mat 23:9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, Who is in Heaven.

- From this we understand that Jesus wasn't referring to our male biological parents when He concluded these thoughts with the Father Who resides in Heaven. His command here has to do with those who wish to be addressed as father from a spiritual position. As though they have such a relationship with God. Many in the "religious world" also take on the title "Reverend" which in and of itself, according to the KJV, refers to God and Him alone.

Psa 111:9 He sent redemption unto His people: He hath commanded His covenant forever: Holy (*Heb.6918- sacred*) and Reverend (*Heb.3372- to revere*) is His name.

- WHO sent redemption to WHOSE people? WHO commanded WHOSE covenant forever? To be sacred and revered then refer only to the Person Who was able to do what the titles required! No man on earth is therefore just who will entitle himself to such high and holy ranks because no man, or woman, on earth can redeem man from his sin. And only those who speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent, whose...

1Th 2:3 ... appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, **so we speak, not** to please man, but to please God Who tests our hearts. (*Emp. Added*)

- What does it mean then to "test our hearts"? Heart, in the Greek (2588), has to do with "the thoughts or feelings" or, in another word, "the mind". Testing our hearts then, in this lesson, involves looking inside the self to see if our spiritual teachings and ideas measure up to what the Bible instructs accordingly. If we aren't "communicating spiritual things by spiritual means" (*1 Cor 2:13-Berry's Interlinear*) then maybe we need to be careful not to...

Trust in Self

The one person that seems to let us down most in life is ourselves. Maybe the person who thinks he can trust in his own ideas never had even one regret. But how many times have we had those "V8" moments where we hit ourselves on the side of our heads wishing we would have said or done certain things differently than we did?

2Co 7:10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

- Obviously, the one thing we should never regret is our salvation. But as Jesus told His disciples in the garden (*Mat 26:41*) how “the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh (*Gk.4561- human nature*) is weak”, such is so true when we trust our own human nature which is bent toward “all that is in the world- the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in [life]” (*1 Jn 2:16*). Of course there are those who will say they have no such desires and for the most part maybe they don’t. But, to claim such ultimately would be to assert they have no sin, thus no regrets, and we know such a person can’t be living in the real world. Jesus was the only Person on earth to have no sin thus no regrets. For anyone else to state such would be to assert that they have no need for Christ or His pardon. Therefore...

1Jn 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- So, trusting in the ‘self’ and our own ideas about salvation will only lead us down the path that is “easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many” (*Mat 7:13*). The next area we need to definitely be careful with is when we...

Trust in Works

How many people have we known who have, on their deathbeds, stated how they feel their works were good enough for God to accept them into His heavenly home? I’ve personally heard one woman say shortly before succumbing to cancer, obviously questioning her thinking since she was so nervous about what came next, how she earned God’s favor because she was a good mother who stuck by her children. She was clinging to anything she might have done to justify her acceptance into Heaven and to escape the grip of Hell. But those, obviously good qualities considering today’s approach to parenting, will not even be considered, compared to obedience and the blood of Christ, when she stands before God on the day when all will be judged. Others claim being a faithful spouse, involved in charitable causes or some other activity that brought relief to the downtrodden, will win them their approval from God. As noted earlier where many will profess that they did “many mighty works in [Christ’s] name” (*Mat 7:22*); those works **will not save them!** Neither will our own works of charity save us today! Many, many benevolent, kind and loving people have left this life feeling they did so with the idea their works were more than enough to put them in favor with God.

Isa 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our **righteous deeds** are like a **polluted garment**. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (*Emp. Added*)

- If the good we do in this life doesn’t bring recognition or glory to God then it will be of no value to save us. And if saint and sinner did the same good works, the saint will be the one to be honored in the end since he did so to the glory of God and not to the glory of self. So, if we can’t trust in people, whether family or the self-proclaimed religious leaders of our time, if we can’t trust in self or our own

works of charity when it comes to our eternal destiny, and if we want to enjoy a life in Heaven after the judgment, who than are we to trust?

Trust in Christ

Trusting in Christ has to do with faith in His word to the point of obeying it and it alone. Faith means to have a “reliance upon Christ for salvation” according to one Greek gloss (4102). In much of His teaching Christ spoke of foundations upon which we are to base and build our faith. Ultimately, those foundations refer back to building our trust in Him.

Mat 7:24 "Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and **does** them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. *(Emp. Added)*

- It's not enough to just hear what the Bible says about God having “loved the world [so much] that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him **should not** perish but have eternal life” (*Jn 3:16*) *(Emp. Added)*. Notice Jesus didn't say “will not perish” since belief alone cannot atone and God will never save unbelievers. The lack of faith won't save but even faith, by itself, won't save anyone! We can have faith that an automobile will get us from point (A) to point (B) but that faith is dead unless we drive it from point (A) to point (B). It would be foolish to have an automobile if we don't plan on driving it. Just like hearing the words of Jesus would be useless if we aren't willing to obey them.

Mat 7:26 And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does **not** do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." 28 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He was teaching them as One Who had authority, and not as their scribes. *(Emp. Added)*

- Just as it would be foolish to listen to the teachings of religious leaders whose authority isn't from Christ. The scribes of Jesus day were the ones who knew the Mosaic Law better than anyone but many chose not to put their faith in Jesus, even when He was the fulfilment of the things “which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning [Him]” (*Lk 24:44*). And after Jesus questioned what the general idea was among the Jews concerning Him...

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in Heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock** I will build My church, and the gates of [Hades] shall not prevail against it. *(Emp. Added)*

- Jesus didn't say He would build His church on Peter, as so many blatantly false interpretations claim, but upon his confession that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God". Why would anyone want to build their faith on Peter who was imperfect and, according to true history, was not the first Roman Catholic Pope?

Gal 2:11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. 13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

- If a person's "conduct was not in step with the truth of the Gospel" (*according to Paul's statement in v. 14*) how could anyone want to put their eternal soul's trust in that person's hands? Thus said, once again, the rock (*Gk. 4073- a [mass of] rock*) that Jesus spoke of with reference to Peter's confession, is the foundation upon which Jesus built His church.

1Co 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that **which is laid**, which is Jesus Christ. (*Emp. Added*)

- So once again, as asked earlier, **why** do people trust? There are many different things people trust in but **why**, when all these other things are to be destroyed in the end, **why** do we trust in **them**, instead of, for the most part, in Christ?

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

- If we **believe** God will accomplish what He said He will, then our trust needs to be in Him and upon the foundation of Jesus Christ as His Son, Who alone can save us from an eternity of misery.

1Jn 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is **in** His Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does **not** have the Son of God does **not** have life. (*Emp. Added*)

- Do you have the Son? If you do, you have eternal life? You might ask "How can I know I have the Son? How is that possible?" To have Christ is to be found, as this verse states so clearly, **in Him!** To have Christ is to be in a covenant relationship with Him but can only be HAD once a person has been obedient to His will. It is so sad to hear such controversy when it concerns those certain, very simple, passages in the Bible that promote obedience to Christ through the act of having one's sins washed away in baptism. There is no other way to be "in"

Christ! Jesus proclaimed it (*Mat 28:19, Mk 16:16*), Peter commanded it (*Acts 2:38; 10:48*) and preached how it actually and truly does have the power to save (*1 Pet 3:21*). Even Paul preached concerning being in a covenant relationship with Christ when he wrote to the Galatians.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized **into** Christ have put on Christ.
(*Emp. Added*)

- How can something be so prevalent in the writings of the New Testament concerning man's salvation, and his obedience in order to obtain it, and yet so misconstrued? It's time to stop putting our faith in people who are fallible and who haven't received even a portion of authority as Jesus did when He gave the great commission. He said He has "**all authority**" and that His true believers are to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name (*authority*) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe **all** that [He has] commanded" (*Mat 28:18-20*) (*Emp. Added*). Not just some or most of what He commanded or even a warped version of what He taught! He said they (*and we*) are to teach **all** that **HE commanded!** The Gospel of Christ is the only good news given by God to save man and nothing on earth, no man-made philosophy, distorted gospel or "deceitful schemes" (*Eph 4:14*) will take its place. The apostle Paul was dumbfounded when the Galatian brethren were so influenced by the warped gospel they were considering after they were instructed in the truth. He said...

Gal 1:6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him Who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

- The Bible is clear. So why do the majority try to reinterpret and muddy its pure teachings?

1Jn 5:13 I write these things to **you who believe** (*Gk.4100- to have faith; by implication to entrust [especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ]*) in the name (*Gk.3686- authority*) of the Son of God that **you may know** (*Gk.1492 : -be sure*) that you have eternal life. (*Emp. Added*)

- In whom do **you** trust? What is **your** faith established upon?

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