

TRUST HIM COMPLETELY

Proverbs 3:5-6

Nov. 15, 2009

INTRODUCTION: The subject of this text is trust. I have found in my life that there is literally an on-going war for my trust as it pertains to my affections and allegiances. The first of the Ten Commandments is found in Exodus 20:3, "You shall have no other gods before Me." It is then defined in vv.4-6, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

Jesus, when asked, "Which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Note His answer: Matthew 22:37, "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'"

Ernest Becker wrote, "In a society that has lost the reality of God, many people will look to romantic love to give them the fulfillment they once found in religious experience."

GREAT QUESTION: *If you could do life over, what would you change?* It seems that Prov 3:5-6 gives clarity in simplicity as to what's really needed to not only have a good answer now, but in the end. It is about decisions we make, our devotion to those decisions, and the direction in which they lead- not to forget disciplines which it all requires.

There were major reasons Paul could give us.

2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

It had lots to do with 1 Cor. 9:27, "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

I. DECISIONS WE MAKE. 5

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart"

"trust" – entire reliance; speaks of a relationship, to cling to, to confide in, to set one's hope and confidence upon. Speaks of total trust; both arms.

Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Along the Christian journey, Jesus must have all of us. Not limited to special occasions. We trust Him with every fibre of our being, putting the full weight of our cares, concerns, and challenges on Him.

SPECIAL NOTE: This runs counter to our sin nature and upbringing; we are often self-reliant.

WHOLEHEARTED – by Eddie Carswell

*Trying to be in two worlds at one time
Holdin' on to all the things that I call mine
Sayin' one thing but really livin' two.*

*But I want You to know
That this double life is through
And everything, all of me,
I'm giving to You.*

*And with my whole heart
I'm gonna love You
And with my whole heart
I'm gonna live it for You.
Take my heart, every secret part
I'm wholehearted in love with You.*

This relationship of **Trust**

- 1. Speaks of Salvation**
- 2. Speaks of Sanctification**
- 3. Speaks of Glorification**

This is a life of obedience, unreserved commitment, that prepares us to receive and enjoy what He has planned for us.

John Phillips said, “*God always goes after the heart. When the mind is engaged in an issue the motive is, “I ought to”; when the will is engaged in an issue the motive is, “I have to”; but when the heart is engaged in an issue, the motive is, “I want to.”*”

Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

II. DEVOTION TO THE DECISION. 5

“And lean not on your own understanding” – we haven’t finished one verse and there is already something *competing* with my allegiance and my decision.

Romans 7:18-19, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”

The mind has a tremendous capacity for rationalization. The challenge of this text does not mean that we are not to use our own understanding, for example, form plans of discretion and employ legitimate means in the pursuit of our ends, but that when we use them we are to depend on the Lord and His directing and overruling providence.

Proverbs 16:1, “The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.”

Proverbs 16:9, “A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.”

Proverbs 16:33, “The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.”

“Lean not” – used for a person who rests upon his spear for support and safety.

2 Kings 7:2, “So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, ‘Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?’ And he said, ‘In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.’”

Psalms 20:7, “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”

Trust – one more look at this word; to lie helpless, facedown. It pictures a servant waiting for the master’s command in readiness to obey, or a defeated soldier yielding himself to the conquering general.

Prov. 3:5-6 consist of 3 **imperatives** which serve as conditions that lead to a **promise**. There must be the **connecting of the dots**.

Tim Keller, **Counterfeit God**, speaks on the empty promises of money, sex, and power. They can so easily become idols and counterfeits competing for our affections and allegiance that belong to Christ.

QUOTES:

“We know a good thing has become a counterfeit god when its demands on you exceed proper boundaries.”

“An idolatrous attachment can lead you to break any promise, rationalize any indiscretion, or betray any other allegiance in order to hold on to it. It may drive you to violate all good and proper boundaries. To practice idolatry is to be a slave.”

Ernest Becker wrote, *“In a society that has lost the reality of God, many people will look to romantic love to give them the fulfillment they once found in religious experience.”*

Truth is, the love object is God. No lover, no human being, is qualified for that role. No one can live up to that. The inevitable result is bitter disillusionment.

We look to sex and romance to give us the transcendence and sense of meaning we used to get from faith (trust) in God.

Nobody has ever said this better than C.S. Lewis in **Mere Christianity**

“Most people, if they have really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise. The longings which arise in us when we first fall in love, or first think of some foreign country, or first take up some subject that excites us, are longings which no marriage, no travel, no learning, can really satisfy. I am not now speaking of what would be ordinarily call unsuccessful marriages, or holidays, or learned careers. I am speaking

of the best possible ones. There was something we have grasped at, in that first moment of longing, which just fades away in the reality. I think everyone knows what I mean. The wife may be a good wife, and the hotels and scenery may have been excellent, and chemistry may be a very interesting job: but something has evaded us.”

When we do not practice **Discretion**, wise, prudential consideration, it seems to always lead to **Seduction**.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his profound work on **Temptation**, vividly portrays the battleground of our experience:

“In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power, desire seizes mastery over the flesh. All at once a secret, smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames. It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire or ambition or vanity or desire for revenge or love of fame and power or greed for money. At this moment, God is quite unreal to us. He loses all reality and only desire for the creature is real. The powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us.”

It is so easy to allow something to become an idol instead of the affection that should be focused on Christ.

IDOLS ENSLAVE

- ◆ **Which DISTORTS**
- ◆ **Which DISAPPOINTS**
- ◆ **Which leads to DISILLUSIONMENT**
- ◆ **Which drains ENERGY**

Energy, that once focused on Christ, leads to such a life of joy, contentment, fulfillment, etc.

C.S. Lewis says at the end of his great chapter on hope, reorient the entire focus of your life toward God. He concludes, *“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world (something supernatural and eternal).”*

“Remember, idols are good things turned into ultimate things, so the desires they generate become paralyzing and overwhelming.”

“When an idol gets a grip on your heart, it spins out a whole set of false definitions of success and failure and happiness and sadness. It redefines reality in terms of itself.”

Idols distort our thinking and our feelings.

Not just Sex/Lust, but Money/Greed

According to **Col 3:5** and **Eph 5:5**, greed is a form of idolatry.

Luke 12:15, “And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’”

“consist” – to be defined by what you own and consume. Refers to people who, if they love their wealth, do not have a “*self*” left; equate personal worth to financial wealth.

Idolaters do 3 things with their idols:

- 1. Love Them**
- 2. Trust Them**
- 3. Obey Them**

- ◆ **Always thinking of making more money**
- ◆ **Feel secure and in control of their lives; safe and secure because of money**
- ◆ **“Servants of money” – sell our souls, look to money for our significance. Jesus said you can't serve God and money = covenantal service rendered to a king**

Money is one of the most common counterfeit gods (idols) there is. When it takes hold of your heart it blinds you to what is happening, it controls you through your anxieties and lust, and it brings you to put it ahead of all other things.

Not just Money/Greed but Power/Pride

Our addiction to power and control is due to false conceptions of God.

Sociologist Christian Smith gave the name “*moralistic, therapeutic deism*” to the dominant understanding of God he discerned among younger Americans.

- ◆ God blesses and takes to heaven those who try to live good and decent lives (the “moralistic” belief).
- ◆ The central goal of life is not to sacrifice, or to deny oneself, but to be happy and feel good about yourself (the “therapeutic” belief)
- ◆ Though God exists and created the world, He does not need to be particularly involved in our lives except when there is a problem (that is deism)

This view of God literally makes you masters of your fate and captain of your soul. Salvation and happiness is up to you.

III. DIRECTION HE PROMISES. 6

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

“acknowledge” – literally means to consciously know or recognize. Knowing Jesus to the point that there is no area in our life where He cannot be welcomed and enjoyed.

He promises:

1. **To Remove Obstructions**
2. **To Reveal Instructions**

SOLUTIONS: Repentance

In Sex/Lust: Know that God is the ultimate spouse. It is not that we should try to love our spouse more, but know and love God more.

In Money/Greed: The solution to stinginess is a reorientation to the generosity of Christ in the Gospel.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

David Powlison writes:

“...that most basic question which God poses to each human heart: ‘Has something or someone besides Jesus the Christ taken title to your heart’s functional trust, preoccupation, loyalty, service, fear and delight? Questions...bring some of people’s idol systems to the surface. ‘To who or what do you look for life-sustaining stability, security and acceptance?... What do you really want and expect (out of life)? What would (really) make you happy? What would make you an acceptable person? Where do you look for power and success?’ These questions or similar ones tease out whether we serve God or idols, whether we look for salvation from Christ or from false saviors.”

CONCLUSION: *“Jesus must become more beautiful to your imagination, more attractive to your heart, than your idol. That is what will replace your counterfeit gods. If you uproot the idol and fail to “plant” the love of Christ in its place, the idol will grow back.”*

Proverbs 28:13, “He who covers his sins will not prosper,

But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”