

TRUST GOD NOT MAN

Psalm 118:8-9

INTRODUCTION

- Throughout history, some of the greatest tragedies have been the result of people trusting in falsehood while rejecting the truth
 - ✓ The fall of mankind was the result of Eve trusting lies instead of God
 - ✓ Multitudes perished in the flood because they refused to trust in God
 - ✓ Israel were repeatedly chastened by God because they put their confidence in man instead of God (Isaiah 30:1-3)
 - ✓ The greatest crime that was ever committed – the murder of the Son of God – was because the Jews refused to trust God, but instead trusted men (John 19:14-15)
- And today, multitudes are dropping into hell all because they put their confidence in man, and do not trust God
- Psalm 118 was written by an unnamed psalmist at an unspecified time, but its message applies to God's people in every age
- It is a thanksgiving psalm, where God is praised for his mercies in hearing the cries of his people and bringing deliverance from distress
- The psalmist was in "distress" (vv.5-7) – a narrow place, a strait

- How often God brings us into a state of distress to prove our faith – who will we call upon? God or man?
- God took his part, but notice – it was with his friends (v.7)
- How God often works through human means – the saints
- So vv.8-9 are not mere propositions, but the personal experience of the psalmist
- And it is the experience of every child of God, learned often the hard way, after trusting one failed source of help after another, to finally realise only the Lord can truly help me
- As humans we are disposed to put our trust in man, in human means, in the power of what we can see, hear and touch
- People look to authorities, to experts, to governments to solve their problems
- We need to realise how prone we are to be carried away by the persuasions of human wisdom
- Our trust is not in what is seen but in the unseen (2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1; 2 Corinthians 4:18)
- Note that while we are exhorted here that trust in God is better than in man, it does not mean that we should never trust any man or that all men are always untrustworthy
- It is a great joy in this life to have friends and brethren that we can trust and rely upon to share our burdens – indeed, human trust is a vital element to a harmonious society of men (cf. Proverbs 31:11)

- The point is that *comparatively*, trust in God is better than in man

Why is it better to trust in God and not man?

I. BECAUSE IT IS PROPER FOR US AS GOD'S CREATURES

- A. God is our Maker and has every right to our trust and obedience
 1. Man is the special creation of God, made in his image and likeness
 2. By the very act of bringing us into existence, he is worthy of our faith
 3. His purpose for man is that we love him, worship him, commune with him and obey him
 4. He made us for his pleasure (Revelation 4:11)
 5. Throughout the Scriptures, God's creation of man is presented as a compelling reason to worship and trust him
 - a. God is our Creator, therefore we should praise him (Psalm 100:3-4)
 - b. God is our Creator, therefore we should not fear man, but trust in him (Isaiah 51:12-13)
 - c. God is our Creator, therefore we should not worship idols, but trust in him (Acts 17:28)
 6. Subsequent to creating us, he continually sustains us by his providence

B. As our Redeemer, he has further right to our full trust and obedience

1. Redemption is to purchase back something that had been lost by the payment of a ransom
2. Christ purchased his people with his precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19)
3. He is the rightful owner of those he redeemed – he is our Lord, we are his slaves
4. But our motive to trust him is much greater than that of the duty of servants; it is the response to his great love towards us in giving himself for us (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
5. “Love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, by soul, my all.”
6. Having given us the greatest gift possible, his own Son, we have proof and confidence that he will freely give us all lesser things (Romans 8:32)

II. BECAUSE OF THE PRE-EMINENCE OF GOD OVER MAN

A. God is Almighty, man is weak

1. There is no limit to his power (Psalm 147:5; Revelation 19:6)
2. There is nothing too hard for God (Jeremiah 32:17)
3. Man is vanity (Psalm 39:5,11; 62:9; 144:4)
4. Man’s help is vanity (Psalm 60:11)

5. Man is a mere worm (Job 25:6)
6. Man is a grasshopper in comparison to God (Isaiah 40:22)
7. Man, through his intellect, skill and strength is able to help with some of the issues we face in life
8. But there are many great problems we must face, including death, that are too great for feeble man, and can only be overcome by trusting in the Almighty God

B. God is benevolent, man is selfish

1. From the beginning of the creation, the goodness of God has been displayed in his works (Genesis 1:31)
2. "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works." (Psalm 145:9)
3. Particularly towards the righteous, God has a special care, and promises his goodness and provision continually (Psalm 23:6; 35:27; 84:11; Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28)
4. But man is inherently selfish, seeking his own welfare (Philippians 2:21; cf. Isaiah 56:11; 2 Timothy 3:1-2)
5. Even the kindness and charity of man is tainted by selfish motives, seeking personal gain in return (Matthew 6:1-4)

**III. BECAUSE WE PROSPER ONLY BY DOING SO, BOTH
HERE AND HEREAFTER**

A. Those who trust God are blessed (Psalm 2:12; 31:19; 34:8; 37:3; 40:4; 64:10; 84:12; Proverbs 16:20; 28:25; Jeremiah 17:7-8)

1. "Blessed" means happy and favoured
2. It is a prosperity of soul that comes from being in favour with God
3. It abides upon believers through life, death and to eternity
4. But for those who trust not in God, there is no blessing, only cursing (Jeremiah 17:5-6)

B. Those who trust God have joy and rejoicing (Psalm 5:11; 13:5; 28:7; 33:21)

1. This is not the fleeting joy of the world that is dependent on circumstances
2. It is a divinely given contentment and confidence in God that can rejoice regardless of the circumstances (2 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Peter 1:6)

C. Those who trust God are saved from their enemies (Psalm 17:7; 22:4; 34:22; 37:40; Jeremiah 39:18; Daniel 3:28)

1. The Christian has many enemies, the world, the flesh, the devil, the ungodly, infirmity, death
2. Yet God makes us "more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37) and "giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57)

3. The unbeliever, far from being delivered from his enemies, will be given into the hands of his enemies, and his chief enemy is God (Romans 5:10; James 4:4)
- D. Those who trust God are free from fear and have peace (Psalm 56:3-4,11; Isaiah 12:2; 26:3)
1. The believer who trusts in God is delivered from all his fears
 2. “Confidence in God elevates, produces a sacred quiet of spirit, and sanctifies the soul” (Spurgeon)
 3. The unbeliever is consumed with fear, most of all the fear of death (Hebrews 2:15)
 4. Any peace that the wicked have is a false peace (Jeremiah 6:14)

CONCLUSION

1. The myriad of things that man puts his trust in have all proven to be untrustworthy
 - ✓ Man is untrustworthy (Psalm 41:9; 52:4-8; 146:3-5; Isaiah 31:1; Jeremiah 9:4; 17:5-6; Micah 7:5; Hosea 10:13; 2 Corinthians 1:9-10)
 - ✓ Our hearts are untrustworthy (Proverbs 28:26)
 - ✓ Riches are untrustworthy (Psalm 49:6-7; Proverbs 11:28; Mark 10:24; 1 Timothy 6:17)
 - ✓ Idols are untrustworthy (Isaiah 42:17; Jeremiah 46:25-26)
 - ✓ Material things are untrustworthy (Jeremiah 5:17)

- ✓ Our own goodness and righteousness are untrustworthy (Ezekiel 33:13; Luke 18:9; Philippians 3:4)
- 2. There are many obstacles to hinder us from placing our complete trust in God: unbelief, satanic blindness, carnality, ignorance
- 3. But the greatest hindrance of all is our pride
- 4. Multitudes are like king Asa, who in his foolish pride, though afflicted with exceeding great disease, “yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians” (2 Chronicles 16:12)
- 5. Trusting in God requires humility
- 6. Trusting in God requires believing his word (Psalm 119:42; Proverbs 30:5)
- 7. Trusting in God requires continual, day by day faith in him (Isaiah 26:4)
- 8. Trusting in God must be with “all thine heart” (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- 9. Trusting in God is to confess, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him” (Job 13:15)