

## GOD CAN BE TRUSTED

Text: Prov 3:5-8

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.

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.

Introduction: Some very interesting events have occurred in my life recently as you all know. But the words of the old hymn kept ringing in my ears – “Trust and obey for there is no other way, but to trust and obey.”

Folks “God can be trusted.” I received this message from God in the middle of the night. I want to encourage you to reaffirm your faith in God that can be trusted.

I. God Made Us a Promise.

A. He said He would never leave us.

Matt 28:20b “...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

B. Jesus further declared to us these words:

John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—

C. This illustration expresses the thought clearly.

924. A Better Answer. A young man went away from home to embark in a modest enterprise. His capital was

small, but it represented the earnings of many years. He had won the esteem of his employer, and, as he was about to leave, the merchant said to him, "Don, if you ever get into a tight place, let me know of it. I will be glad to help you." For awhile the young man prospered; then came a misfortune. This was followed by others in such rapid succession that he began to see before him bankruptcy and ruin. He thought of his old employer, and at last resolved to write to him and ask for help. He had not the courage to ask for the whole amount, but hoped the small sum he asked for would enable him to somehow retrieve his fortunes. He waited eagerly for an answer, but no answer came. He knew that the merchant was at home, and that he was not a man who ever procrastinated about what he intended to do. Don's heart grew sick. Tomorrow his creditors would seize upon his goods. There seemed to be no way of escape. As he sat wrapped in his gloomy thoughts, the door opened and his old employer stood before him.

"My boy," he said, "I received your letter, and while you said you wanted money, I made up my mind that you needed me. I have been to see your creditors, and they understand that my entire fortune is behind you."

His friend had kept his promise, but he had answered in a way that the petitioner had not dared to hope. Brother, if your Lord has given you exceeding great and precious promises, do not allow yourself to fear that he will not fulfill them. God doesn't always give his loved ones what they ask, but he never fails to supply their needs. (from Heartwarming Bible Illustrations)

- D. Did you hear those closing remarks?
  1. God does not always give us what we ask.
  2. But He never fails to supply our needs.
- E. Let me share the story of one of the Minor Prophets and how he handled the crisis of a world in trouble and kept his faith in Jehovah God.

## II. A Troubled Prophet.

### A. God where are You?

Hab 1:2 How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?

3 Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.

4 Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

1. His world was caving in around him.
2. Wickedness was prevailing.
3. And God seemed to be silent and inactive.

### B. God reveals His plan of destruction that is coming.

Hab 1:5 "Look at the nations and watch — and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

6a "I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people..."

### C. The prophet is amazed that His God would be silent.

Hab 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

D. God then tells the prophet that judgment was coming.

Hab 2:2 Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.

3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

D. Then we hear those words that turned Martin Luther around and thus the Church.

Hab 2:4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

1. The just shall live by faith.
2. Trust in God.

E. Habakkuk understands that his nation is going to see the judgment of God and a cry for mercy springs forth from his lips.

Hab 3:1 Prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth.

2 O Lord, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

F. This is the cry that should be on our hearts – revive Your work!

Conclusion: How did Habakkuk do it? How did he hold on to his trust in Jehovah God? The answer is simple – “The Just shall live by faith!” Plain and simple truth.

But Habakkuk speaks some words that you and I need to hear and consider.

Hab 3:17 Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,  
18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

Here is God’s Word to you today. If things, as we say, ‘go belly up’ are you going to hold on to your faith and trust in God?

Remember, I told you that God spoke this message to me in the nighttime. When I awoke from my sleep, I went down to my office to read from the Bible my daily commitment. These words were spoken to me and you need to believe that they are from the Lord concerning you and me and this Church family.

Hag 2:18 "Think about this eighteenth day of December, the day when the rebuilding of the Lord's Temple began. Think carefully.

19 I am giving you a promise now while the seed is still in the barn. You have not yet harvested your grain, and your grapevines, fig trees, pomegranates, and olive trees have not yet produced their crops. But from this day onward I will bless you."

