

Trust in God Instead of Yourself

By Ed Stover

WE all have certain passages in the Bible that we hold dear to our hearts as a source of encouragement. I received a card of encouragement in the mail last week, as I often do, from Mrs. Wanda Kerr. As I opened the card, I found two of my favorite verses printed on the inside. It said, *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths"* (Prov. 3:5,6). I have always been fond of these verses, and after reading them in the card I spent some time thinking about all that is revealed in them. Let's spend some time considering the great truths presented in this wonderful and encouraging text as we break it down into sections.

1. **"Trust in the LORD with all your heart."** This short phrase embodies the very foundation of what our relationship with God should be. We cannot be saved without a trusting faith in God. Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16), and Paul states that we are "justified by faith" (Rom. 5:1). A true Christian faith means absolute trust in the fact that God will keep the glorious promises He made in the Bible. God cannot lie (Tit. 1:2). Trusting in oneself, or the false beliefs and philosophies of the world, can be dangerous. But, if we trust in God, we can be assured of blessings in this life and the realized promise of eternity in heaven. *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart."* This short phrase embodies the very foundation of what our relationship with God should be. We cannot be saved without a trusting faith in God. Jesus said, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved"* (Mark 16:16), and Paul states that we are "justified by faith" (Rom. 5:1). A true Christian faith means absolute trust in the fact that God will keep the glorious promises

- He made in the Bible. God cannot lie (Tit. 1:2). Trusting in oneself, or the false beliefs and philosophies of the world, can be dangerous. But, if we trust in God, we can be assured of blessings in this life and the realized promise of eternity in heaven.
2. **"And lean not on your own understanding."** Isn't it a great relief to know that we do not have to lean on our own understanding to guide us through life and make it to heaven? I think anyone with a humble heart would admit that he doesn't have all the answers to life's questions. We can look back in history and see the depressing results of those who attempted to lean on their own understanding. One of the main reasons we tend to rely on ourselves is because of pride. We see this occur first in the beginning of history itself. Eve was deceived into believing she could be "like God" (Gen. 3:4). Another Proverb states, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"* (Prov. 16:25). Adam and Eve's desire to lean on their "own understanding" was how death was introduced to the world. When we trust in God, we can lean on Him instead of the weaknesses we find in ourselves.
 3. **"In all your ways acknowledge Him."** This is how we show our trust in God. We acknowledge Him by believing in His powerful attributes. We obey and submit to Him in all our ways because we believe He is all powerful, all knowing, holy, and just. We acknowledge Him as the sovereign creator and sustainer of the entire universe (Gen. 1:1). We can trust in God because He is in total control of everything. We acknowledge God by being thankful for His saving grace and mercy, which is exhibited to us through His love.
 4. **"And He shall direct your paths."** When we trust and acknowledge God, we admit our weakness and submit to His guidance and direction. Jeremiah explained it perfectly when he said, *"O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps"* (Jer. 10:23). God will direct our paths through the guidance of His word. David said, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* (Ps. 119:105). Let us all trust and acknowledge God so He will direct our paths through life. Remember, God's ways are greater than man's ways.

Heartland Herald

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Michael Demory

Ministers

All members of the church

Schedule of Services

Sunday—9:30am
Wednesday—7:00pm

Evangelistic Efforts

Dubuque Advertiser

TV Program

"The Bible Says"

Public Access
Cable Channel 16

Free Bible Studies

Steps to Salvation

- **Hear the Word** (Romans 10:17)
- **Believe** (Hebrews 11:6)
- **Repent** (Luke 13:3)
- **Confess Christ** (Matthew 10:32-33)
- **Baptism** (1 Peter 3:21)
- **Faithful Living** (Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
- **Bearing fruit** (Colossians 1:10)

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Are Creation & Evolution Mutually Exclusive?

By Michael Demory

IT is a fact that most everyone has been taught from elementary school to higher education that man is a mere product of chance. That Evolution is fact and the Big Bang is what started the entire process. As a youngster I molded those ideas with what I learned in Bible classes, to form what I assumed was a viable argument for our existence; that God was responsible for the evolutionary process, taking billions of years to create the universe and evolve us upon the earth. As Paul once said, *"when I was a child I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things"* (1 Corinthians 13:11). Therefore I have come to the understanding that what I once thought was plausible, I now find to be illogical. Many assume that religion cannot possibly be built upon fact, reason, or even science, when the opposite is true. Religion **MUST** be built upon "faith," but not a "blind faith." A faith that is built upon evidence (Hebrews 11:1,6).

Using science and reason, we discover that there are only two plausible models for our existence – (1) Creation or (2) Evolution. Keep in mind that the definition of "science" is "knowledge acquired by careful observation, deduction of laws governing conditions and testing these deductions." There are some things that neither creationists nor evolutionists are able to observe or test, yet those that are will certainly prove or disprove one or both of the models.

When the proverbial rubber meets the road, honest minds will admit that creation and evolution **ARE** mutually exclusive. That God did not use the process of evolution to create the universe, mankind, animal kind, or anything else. Science, reason and facts will prove that it would be illogical for Christianity to as one writer said, "Embrace the four-legged fish of evolution." There is a huge difference between God **CREATING** man out of the dust, and man evolving from the dust, lesser creatures into more complex creatures, etc. Evolution teaches a "soulless" mankind, with no responsibilities, while creation teaches man is created in the image of his Creator, with responsibilities towards everyone. Evolution no more affirms original sin, than does the Bible itself.

Creationism teaches that man is not a higher form of animal, but an eternal being with intellect, reasoning power, will, emotions, and the ability to choose right or wrong. Yes, the earth was created in six literal 24-hour days as a mature, fully developed universe. The light from the most distant star was already here at that time, just as Adam and Eve, animals, plants, insects were all created adults, ready to pro-create.

When all the evidence is calculated, creation and evolution are mutually exclusive. Science will prove that creation is the only plausible model for our existence. Believe it or not, there is a purpose for our being here.

Remember in Prayer

Special Prayers

Lyra Grochmal (8 yrs)—spine cancer— tumors are stable
 Rich Miescke recovering from skin cancer removal
 Linda Krabacher—leg fungus
 Preston Estes family
 Wade Miller—diabetes
 Brett Boor—doing well after open heart surgery
 Mya Kulle - a tumor that turned out to be a cyst
 Our new evangelism effort
 Lilly Rucker & family
 Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis

Yolanda Ritchwood—M.S.
 Natalie Bauman—M.S.
 Susan Noel— that she studies to understand God
 Russell Bender— that he studies to understand God
 Freeman Dudley—liver cancer
 Kaiser family
 Eric Boor—blood disease
 Rockfalls church of Christ
 TV Program
 State of our Nation
 The closing of Planned Parenthood
 The church
 The erring & the Lost

Military

Jonathan Duckstein—Afghanistan
 Michael Chlamon—Ft. Drum, NY
 Daniel Heflin—Afghanistan
 Jason Cunningham—Stateside
 Jon McCain—Tech Training
 Military families who are coping while loved ones in harms way

Evangelizing the World

Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.
 Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.
 Brian Sherrell—Rockfalls, IL.
 Bernie Guzman—Philippines
 Johnny Robertson— Martinsville, Vir

James Oldfield—Riedsville, NC
 Derrick Brown —Jamaica
 Gary Workman—Ukraine
 Kolakaluri Prasad—Nalgonda, Dist., India
 G. Prabhu Kumar—Chennai, India
 John O'Neal—India & Ghana
 Tom Wacaster—India & Russia
 Holger Neubauer—South Haven, Michigan
 Ernie Lawrence—Hutto, Texas

Calendar of Events

- **June 28-30**— Editing @ Mediacom 1-5pm
- **July 1**—Newsletter evangelism
- **July 27—Aug. 1**—County Fair Booth
- **August/2nd week**—Power Lectures—Southaven, MS
- **Sept/3rd week**—St. Louis Lectures
- **October 18-21**—Lectureship—Dubuque, IA

Overcoming Pride

By Dan Flournoy

“Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16: 18).

THE word Pride has two meanings. It can mean simply a sense of worth in the sight of God. This is what is called “self-respect.” This kind of pride is right and good. Folks should take pride in their appearance...in the way they keep their homes and yard, etc. On the other hand pride may be used in the sense of “inordinate self esteem or conceit” (Webster). This is the kind of pride Solomon speaks of in our text. This kind of pride is displayed in a haughty attitude. The sin of pride brings with it sad and severe consequences:

Pride produces failure and brings destruction. The Pharisee, lifted up with pride, thanked God that he was not as the publican (Luke 18:9-14). The publican, on the other hand, humbled himself, confessed his sins and went on his way justified.

Pride shuts the door to salvation. Many rulers of the Jews believed on Jesus but would not confess their belief “lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of God” (John 12:42-43). Thus, because of pride, they would not come to Christ. How many are like that today? They will not confess Christ and obey the gospel because they are afraid they will lose their place of prominence.

Pride destroys the peace of the church. Because Diotrephes was one who “loved to have the preeminence” in the church, he refused fellowship even to the apostle John and cast faithful brethren out of the church (3 John 9-10). Some brethren are so puffed up with pride that they must “rule or ruin.” Either way, the peace of the church is destroyed by such brethren.

The only way to overcome pride in our lives is to humbly submit

to the will of God. May we remember that “*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*” (James 4:6 and I Peter 5:5). Jesus said, “*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me*” (Matthew 16:24). Anything less than full surrender to Christ is borne of pride and will bring destruction.

Are You Led by the Holy Spirit?

By H. D. Simmons

ARE you led by the Holy Spirit? Simply to ask provokes various emotional responses from many. But, what does the Bible say? This is the really important question. We can be deceived in religious matters Proverbs 14:12, II Thessalonians 2:10-12 and Matthew 7:15). So we must test everything we believe by the Bible (I Thessalonians 5:21). We must be like the noble Bereans and test all religious teachings by the Scriptures (Acts 17:11). Peoples and emotions can deceive us, but the Bible is available to protect us from religious error (II Timothy 3:16-17). Everyone should test what they believe by this infallible authoritative standard (I John 4:1). People have done many strange things, even murder, and claimed to be led by the Holy Spirit. In regard to this question, are you led by the Holy Spirit, we must take what people call leadings and check them with the Bible.

Many actions people call leadings of the Holy Spirit actually contradict the Bible. Thus we know those leadings are not the leadings of God’s Spirit. How do we know this? Because the Holy Spirit would not contradict His own teaching in the Scriptures. Man often contradicts himself but God is absolute perfection and does not contradict Himself. Many believe that inward, impulses and emotions are the leading of the Holy Spirit. Yet, there is not

a verse in the Bible that would indicate this is the case. Paul explained that Christians must put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit (Romans 8:13-14). He clearly said we must walk or live according to the Spirit. The he told us how to walk by the Spirit. This is accomplished when Christians stop living according to the flesh and live according to the Holy Spirit’s instructions given in the Bible (Galatians 5:16-25). When we do this we are walking by the Holy Spirit, we are following the Spirit’s leading; we are being led by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is His Word and so when we follow the Word, we are being led by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit speaks through the Word (I Timothy 4:1), so when we heed the Word we are being led by the Holy Spirit (Revelation 2:7). In this verse the Holy Spirit had a message for a congregation in the first century. This message was sent to other Christians and they were told to hear what the Spirit was saying in the written message. When we pay attention to what He says in the Word, we are following His leading. So I ask again, are you being led by the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38, Galatians 5:19-22 and Revelation 2:10).

The Whole Truth

By Robert Dodson

PAUL reminded the elders at Ephesus that he “*kept back nothing*”, but he declared to them “*the whole counsel of God*” (Acts 20: 20, 27). There are those who don’t mind some truth, but they do not want the whole truth. They view the Bible like a cafeteria where you go through the line and pick out what you want. For example:

There are those who don’t want the whole truth when it comes to the plan of salvation (II Thessalonians 2:9-10). They will accept the passages that say we must believe (John 8:24), but

don’t want to hear about baptism (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38 and I Peter 3:21). People will flock to hear Billy Graham tell them to just ask Jesus into your heart, but they turn away when told the whole truth. Sadly, many preachers, including some of our own, refuse to tell people all that they must do to be saved!

There are those who don’t want the whole truth when it comes to things that might interfere with their lifestyle. They don’t want to hear about smoking, dancing, drinking, gambling, stealing, cheating and fornicating (Galatians 5:19-21). Some preachers will not touch these subjects lest they offend someone.

There are those who don’t mind you exposing others for their wrong, but just don’t get too close to home. They delight in hearing about the sinfulness of others, but don’t want to hear about those things in which they might be guilty, such as hypocrisy, prejudice, gossip, envy, anger, apathy and gluttony. Preachers need to tell the people that they are preaching to what they need to hear and not just about those who never hear them. Unfortunately, some churches will not put up with a preacher who tells them what they really need to hear. People don’t want the whole truth, they just want to hear things that make them feel good (II Timothy 4:1-5).

When an elder was asked about certain members in the congregation living together without marriage, he said, “We don’t address that issue.” How sad that so many elders and preachers today have no desire to deal with controversial issues such as sexual immorality, immodest dress, smoking, social drinking, dancing, the role of women in the church, denominationalism, liberalism, worldliness and materialism. That is what’s wrong with the church today!

Many preachers may preach every week but they will not preach the whole truth! The psalmist wrote, “*O Lord, And all your commandments are truth...The entirety of Your word is truth*” (Psalm 119:151, 160). Anything less than the whole truth is not the truth, it is a lie