

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **2Thessalonians 3:3-9**.
- B. Everyone likes to have things and friends they can trust in. No one likes those who are “wishy-washy” and unreliable. The apostle Paul speaks of those to trust and those not to!

I. WE CANNOT HAVE CONFIDENCE IN SATAN TO TREAT US RIGHT.

- A. Text: 2Th. 3:3.
But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.
- B. The devil is known as the father of lies (Jn. 8:44).
“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.
- C. All references to Satan in the Bible are bad. He has sinned against God, and tempted mankind to do evil ever since man was created (1Jn. 3:8).
the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- D. The devil can never be trusted to tell the truth or give good advice (2Cor. 11:3).
But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.
- E. The devil is not content with what he has. Satan is always looking to increase his number of souls, and is as a lion seeking someone to devour (1Pet. 5:8).
Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- F. We cannot make deals with Satan, he will lie and cheat. The only way to successfully deal with him is to totally resist him in every way (Jas. 4:7).
Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

II. WE CANNOT HAVE CONFIDENCE IN EVIL MEN.

- A. Text (2Th. 3:2).
and that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.
- B. Paul is not kind in his description of those who profess godliness, but in reality are serving themselves and Satan (2Tim. 3:2-7).
For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- C. When planning co-ventures with those of the world; we serve God, but our partner(s) may be serving Satan. The admonition is to **not be unequally yoked** (2Cor. 6:14).
Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
- D. Another sobering thought about putting one’s trust in men is that as we try to do what is right, their deeds will become more and more sinful (1Tim. 3:13; 2Th. 3:6).
(1Tim 3:13) For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.
(2Th 3:6) Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

III. WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

- A. Text (2Th. 3:4).
And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command.
- B. As the perfect Son of God, we know that Jesus did what said He would do, and what Jesus says He will not do, He will not do (2Tim. 2:10-13).
For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. It is a trustworthy statement:
For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him;
If we endure, we shall also reign with Him;
If we deny Him, He also will deny us;
If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.
- C. The words of Peter about X are invaluable here (Jn. 6:68).
Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.
- D. The substance of all things belongs to X (Col. 2:17).
things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

IV. WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN FAITHFUL BRETHREN.

- A. Text (2Th. 3:7-9).
For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example.
- B. The faithful always help in times of trouble, give when needs arise, and look for the good in every situation.
- C. Teaching the word of God is so important that we are to only instruct faithful brethren with the task of instructing others (2Tim. 2:2; Jas. 3:1).
(2Tim 2:2) And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
(Jas 3:1) Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.
- D. The faithful are trying to pattern their lives after X (2Th. 3:7).
For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,
- E. Faithful brethren are an inspiration for good works, and a greater faith (2Th. 1:3-4).
We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Remember the old saying, "You can trust your car to the man who wears the star." May we entrust our souls to the bright and morning star, JC.
- B. A brief review:
 - 1. We cannot... trust Satan in anyway.
 - 2. We cannot... always trust evil men who serve only themselves.
 - 3. We can... trust Jesus Christ to save our souls.
 - 4. We can... trust faithful brethren to do what is right.
- C. Do you need to shift your trust tonight?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.