

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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June 7, 2020

Who Do You Trust?

by Warren Berkley

"Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish," Psalm 146:3,4.

In certain cases, the erosion of our trust in men is justified and can become a healthy step toward maturity. A cynical suspicion of all men has an absence of virtue and can motivate a variety of wrong behaviors. But there are cases where we ought to diminish our trust in men. And it shall always be true, an increase in our faith God is our challenge. {See the case of God's people trusting in the Egyptians, not God, in Isaiah 31.}

First, there is an essential difference between deity and humanity that should be fundamental to our faith and the obedience of our faith (Num. 23:19).

If we are not clear about the difference between the Creator and the created, we are set on the wrong course (see Rom. 1:18-32). Men are sinners, fallible and carry the capacity to disappoint us. God is perfect, infallible and will never disappoint you (Heb. 13:5). Christ was and is perfect and divine, deserving of our trust. "A man who can read the New Testament and not see that Christ claims to be more than a man can look all over the sky at high noon on a cloudless day and not see the sun," (William Edward Bierderwolf).

Men, who may stir up exaggerated esteem in us, are simply not worthy of the trust we can place in God. Men and women, even at their best, should not be revered as we revere God. Men can possess great charm, enjoy popularity and

Who Do You Trust? ...

esteem and be exalted by their peers, yet be corrupt in character. Their corruption may lie hidden while you follow them and confide in them, to your own peril {Matt. 7:15; Phil. 3:2}.

If your “faith” is dependent upon the conduct of men, you set yourself up for disappointment. Love all men, love the brotherhood and note those who exemplify integrity and righteousness, but watch and beware of men (1 Pet. 2:17; Phil. 3:17-19). Learn from good teachers and be receptive to good influence and experience. But keep men in their place (1 Cor. 1:25). Trust God, “with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning,” (Jas. 1:18). As you read the Bible, discover and meditate on “the immutability of His counsel ... in which it is impossible for God to lie.” Find your “strong consolation” in Him (Heb. 6:17,18).

What happens when we cultivate an unjustified trust in men and submission to them? Read the book of First Corinthians. “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men,” (1 Cor. 1:25). As it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord,” (1 Cor. 1:31). The first four chapters in First Corinthians put us on alert to the danger. We are taught here “not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other,” (1 Cor. 4:6). There was a form of humanism in the culture of

Corinth. It invaded in the church, with devastating results.

There is a subtle, quiet intrusion men can make into our faith, leading to idolatry. Men can make an impression on us (with or without their intention), that tempts us to esteem them beyond what is sound and wise.

Trust in God. Find your motivation, steadfastness and courage in Him, as He is revealed by His Son in His Word. You can't go wrong this way.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - cancelled until further notice.

Services for June - For the month of June, we have decided to recombine the services. For June, we will meet for one service at 10:45 a.m. There will not be a Bible class or evening service, and there still will not be a Wednesday evening service. Toward the end of June we will make a decision on July. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens

Jack Wilson

Jerry Richardson

Karen Hallmark

Shirley Perkins' brother, Leon

Morgan O'Hair

Dinah Williams

Joy Ulrich

Anne Stanberry

And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

NOTES

ABOUT US

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
512-756-4493 Office
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Elders

George Gresham
Jim Johnson
Darrell Trammel

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:45 A.M.
Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 P.M.