

Jesus gave us the Great Command or Great Commission to be His Witnesses and Make Disciples. One of the most effective tools when it comes to being a witness for the Lord is our lives. We have been given a new life in Christ. So it is not about what we do, but who we are in Christ. It is not about what we try to do to make ourselves good, it is about what God has done in Christ to declare us good in God's eyes. But do we trust God and His Word?

So what is trust? Here are a few answers given to that question in an international survey. Trust is when you like someone; feeling safe; when my hearts feels at home; love, peace, respect, care; the absence of deception or fear from one person to another; public reputation; earned; the most important currency; and leaving questions and control behind.

One thing we know is that trust is collapsing in America. The 1960's told us not to trust anyone over 30. The internet has opened the doors to post just about anything regardless of whether or not it is true. So we have learned not trust a lot of things.

Earlier this year Forbes reported on the institutions Americans trust the most and the least. Only the military, small businesses and the police are trusted by a majority of Americans. The criminal justice system, television news and Congress with only 11% are the least trusted. Christianity today reports that Americans trust judges, day care providers, police officers, pharmacists, medical doctors, grade school teachers, military officers and nurses more than Pastors. At least we beat out members of Congress and used car salespeople.

So who do you trust? Do you trust your spouse, siblings or other family members? Do you trust your teammates or coworkers? We have a growing skepticism of experts. I don't think we can come up with a blanket answer to the question of "Who do you trust?" because people let us down and we let other people down. Proverbs, the book of wisdom in the Old Testament, tells us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." (Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT)

We can trust God because He loves us. We can trust God because Jesus gave up His life for us to take away our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NLT) tells us, "This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." We can trust God because He always keeps His promises. Jesus is God "YES!" to the world. 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NLT) says, "For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" This is the message of hope and love the people around us need to hear. The people who don't trust Jesus need to know that he loves them even when they reject him, even when they are living contrary to God's will. He loves us when we turn our backs on him and do our own thing too.

Jesus is revealed to us in God's Word. At the conclusion of his Gospel account of Jesus' ministry, John the Disciple wrote, "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30-31 NLT) The Bible is not a book of myths and legends. It is not a collection of moral truths. The purpose of the Bible is to lead us to faith and give us a new life in Christ.

Jesus is not revealed in the "Lost Gospels" or the "Gnostic Gospels" that some people want to use today. These are not faithful or accurate accounts of the life or teachings of Christ. They were written later by people who claimed to have an association with Jesus. But they didn't. They reveal a false view of Christ. The same could be said for the Koran, the Book of Mormon, the writings of the Watchtower Society, or any of the other groups that distort the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We can trust God's Word. The Apostle Paul wrote to a young preacher by the name of Timothy, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives." (2 Tim. 3:16 NLT) The Bible is God's inspired Word. That means that the Holy Spirit guided the authors to give a faithful and true account of what they wrote about. That doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit dictated to them the things to write. Take a close look at God's Word and you can see the personality of the authors and their understanding of their audience come out. For example, the Gospel of Matthew was written for Jews and Jewish Christians, so it emphasizes the truth that Jesus kept the promised God made in the Old Testament. The Gospel of Luke was written to the Gentiles, people who were not Jewish, and emphasizes that Jesus came to save all people from sin and to open God's Kingdom to all who would believe in Him.

The Bible is useful for teaching the truth. Many people today want to make truth relative or to say that everyone can decide what is true for them. But that doesn't work. Either we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ or we are not. Either God created us to be part of His eternal family or this life is all there is and there is nothing more. Both can't be right.

The Bible is useful for showing us what is wrong in our lives, our attitudes, thoughts and actions that are contrary to God's will. That is why it is important to learn from the Bible, to let God's Word and Spirit correct us and set us on the right path. If we don't take God's Word seriously, we can be susceptible to any distortion or misrepresentation of God and His Word.

The Bible is God's gift to us to lead us to Christ. We believe the Bible is faithful and true to God, but the Bible isn't going to save us. Only Jesus can do that. That is why we need to put our trust in Him. Jesus tells us, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you

that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.” (John 14:1-3 NLT)

This is our hope. This is the message of hope that we need to carry to the people around us in our anxious and troubled world. Jesus is the One who gives us God’s gifts of Hope that doesn’t disappoint and Peace that never ends. Amen.