

hard days, are enticed by temptations, or hear some new idea that many are following. God directs us in all our paths.

Many Christians fail to let God direct them because they do not know what the word of God teaches. They do not read their Bibles very often. They do not attend Bible study. They do not pay attention during sermons. When faced with choices they make them selfishly because they do not know any other way to decide. They have not learned how to live beyond baptism.

Other Christians know what God says, but they do not like some of it. They will obey the commands they agree with. They will never move outside of their comfort zone. They do not believe God requires them to do everything He teaches. Loving enemies, forgiving others, and teaching the lost seem a bit extreme to them. They will not turn the other cheek, go the second mile, or do more than others. They see themselves as “good enough”.

There are also Christians who know the Bible and follow God until some difficulty comes to them. They lose their faith after a divorce, the death of a loved one, or a devastating financial loss. They feel God has failed them, so they will no longer serve Him. They fail to see that this world is not our home. People will die. This is an unalterable consequence of life. Our spouse may choose to divorce us. God did not do it. Money only has value as a tool on this planet. It means nothing when we move beyond this world. To reject God because of some temporary physical problem reveals a carnal attitude. Our rejection has eternal consequences that will make us regret our reaction forever.

We trust in the Lord by following His word. We believe in His wisdom, His promises, and His goodness. We follow without deviation. No temptation, trial, or trend in teaching will remove us from our path. He directs us. We know He knows what is best. We will trust Him and not be moved from our goal of heaven.

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

May 5, 2019

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Editor: Ron Roberts

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Elders: Randy Allen and
Ron Roberts

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Announcements

If you would like recordings from any of last week's lessons tell Wes, or sign the sheet in the back.

The Roberts will be in Ohio next week (May 12-17) for a Gospel meeting. Braden will be preaching here at Mooreville on that Sunday.

Our annual singing will be at 7:00 on May 31.

Dewey will have surgery on May 8. Keep him and Jesse in your prayers.

Didi will be taking on the duties of the treasurer from now on. We thank Jerry for his many years of faithful service in this position.

Additional parable books have been printed for those who need one. The teachers have been assigned their dates and topics. See Ron if you did not get a teacher's sheet.

Keep Jill and Julie in your prayers.

**Praise God
for who He is
and what He
does**

Trust in the Lord

Ron Roberts

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Prov. 3:5-6).

Most religious people will say they trust in the Lord. They will pray to Him, attend a church, and live a somewhat moral life. They have confidence that God is protecting and providing for them. They are sure they will go to heaven when they die. They trust the Lord will do for them all that they need done and cannot do for themselves.

Although trusting in the Lord does include trusting He will take care of us, I do not believe that is all it means. Many people feel the Lord will provide for them, but they have no right to believe that. God does not listen to everyone's prayers. He does not take all people to heaven who acknowledge Him from time to time. He does not give blessings to all people indiscriminately.

Indeed there are many blessings to be found in the Lord that pertain to this life. Proverbs 3:1-12 refers to length of days, long life, peace, favor with God and man, understanding with God and man, as well as good health, and prosperity. But these blessings are not granted simply because we trust God will supply them. That is not the "trusting in the Lord" that Solomon refers to. The wise king is admonishing his son to trust in the Lord to provide only after he obeys. We should trust in His wisdom and follow His guidance with confidence.

Notice Solomon said, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart." We are not coming to God occasionally. We are not following Him only when we happen to agree. The wise king is talking about complete commitment. He says in verse 7, "*Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord and depart from evil.*" We cannot be guided by our own opinions and preferences. We cannot trust in science, psychology, or society. The last half of verse 5 says, "*lean not unto thine own understanding.*"

The chapter begins with telling the son "*forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments.*" Solomon's commands are God's. He has commanded what God has said. Just like the prophets, Solomon shared God's instructions through the Holy Spirit.

He goes on to say, "*Let not mercy and truth forsake thee:*" These traits must be carried with him and practiced consistently.

He should honor God with his *substance, the firstfruits of all his increase*. This means he gives back to God. We recognize God is the source of all our blessings. We honor Him by returning a portion of what He has given us in the way He has commanded. This would involve animal sacrifices offered through the Levitical priests in the Old Testament. We cheerfully give as we have been prospered in the church.

This son was also admonished to not despise the chastening of the Lord. From time to time God will bring us difficulties instead of blessings. There are spiritual benefits to be had from these if we do not reject God because of them. The same way the athlete or soldier gains strength through tough exercise, so the Christian gains strength from dealing properly with the trials God has placed upon Him. James tells us this is where patience develops in chapter 1:2-4.

I recall a poem I read when I was young. It reflects the way many of us fail to trust God. It went something like this:

As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God, because He was my friend.
But then, instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help with ways that were my own.
At last I snatched them back and said, "How can you be so slow?"
"My child," He said, "What could I do, you never did let go."

Trusting God means we let go of our own "think so's". We put His word before us. Each move is made only after considering what the Bible teaches. We navigate through life by faith in His wisdom. We acknowledge Him in all our ways. This does not change when we have