

WE TRUST IN HIS HOLY WORD– Sunday June 30th 2013.

Our soul waits for the LORD;

He is our help and our shield.

²¹ For our heart rejoices in Him,

Because we trust in His holy name. (*Psalm 33:20-22*)

Beloved in the Lord,

What do you place you trust in? What gives you strength? What motivates you to get out of bed in the morning to face another day? What is the driving force in your life? What motivates you to live and work and function? What is the source of your hope? What do you think about when you wake up in the morning?

Your answers to these questions will tell you a lot about yourself and where you find yourself in respect to God and His Holy Word and His will for your life.

If the answer to the above questions is not God and His Holy Word then something is not right in your life. Our life is right, when we trust in God and when we trust in His holy name and His holy Word – the Bible. Jesus should be at the very centre of our life, of our thinking, of our heart.

Our text today is a beautiful confession:

Our soul waits for the LORD;

He is our help and our shield.

²¹ For our heart rejoices in Him,

Because we trust in His holy name.

Do these words describe you? Do they describe your relationship with God and His holy Word? If not then the invitation is change your life and come to Him in faith.

David writes in Psalm 34:4-8

***"I sought the LORD, and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.***

***⁵ They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces will never be ashamed.***

***⁶ This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him
And saved him out of all his troubles.***

***⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him,
And rescues them.***

***⁸ O taste and see that the LORD is good;
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!***

Blessed is the person who trusts in God. This is so clearly stated. To trust in God, to trust on His name and His holy Word is to be blessed. So much is given to us in these few verses. David testifies that he sought the Lord and that the Lord answered him. This is exactly what God promises to do. Jesus taught:

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

Again these words are clear and easy to understand. Jesus means exactly what He says. Ask and it will be given unto you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened. So many people live in spiritual poverty because they do not heed this teaching. They simply do not act on these words. So many people simply do not ask, seek and knock.

God wants us to do these things. That’s why He put it in His Word. When we ask, seek and knock, then we demonstrate our faith and trust in Him. This pleases our Heavenly Father. As I mentioned last Sunday, not to trust in Him, not to walk in His ways is not only stupid, but also prideful, and God hates pride.

With every day I live, I see and understand more fully how evil pride is. You can take any sin whatsoever, and if you peel back the layers, you will find that at it’s very core there is pride. Sin is disobedience and rebellion against God. Sin is to follow one’s own will and not God’s.

To trust in God, to follow Him and seek His will is the way of blessing. God’s ways are always perfect, they are always right and they always bring ultimate blessing. Very often God’s ways are different to what we expect or desire, but they are always right. God speaking through Isaiah tells us:

***“Seek the LORD while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.
⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
And let him return to the LORD,
And He will have compassion on him,
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.
⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.
⁹ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,***

***Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.
¹² "For you will go out with joy
And be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you,
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
¹³ "Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up,
And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up,
And it will be a memorial to the LORD,
For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off." (Isaiah 55:6-13)***

Again we have the same encouragement to seek the Lord and to trust in Him. He is love, and He abounds in grace and mercy. These are not just words, God demonstrated His love to us on Good Friday:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:16-17)

You see God is abounding in grace and mercy and love. He loves us with an everlasting love! His ways and His thoughts are perfect. His Word is Truth. His Word is immutable. He doesn't change.

We read in Hebrews 13:8 ***"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."***

The next verse begins with the words: ***"Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings;"***

This is exactly what happens if we do not trust in God and His holy Word, we are carried away by varied and strange teachings. If we are not living in a close relationship with Jesus and are not trusting in His Word alone, then we can easily get led astray. Herein is another reason why we must trust in the Lord.

How then do we do this in a practical way in our daily life?

We should begin the day by surrendering control to God. We should confess our faith and trust in Him by stating "Lord, I place control of my life this day fully in Your hands. Take me by the hand and lead me. I give myself to you as a living and holy sacrifice, that is pleasing to You. I trust in You and rely upon Your leading me. Show me Your way O Lord. Teach me Your will. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done." This is just an example of the kind of prayer we should pray. The main thing is to do it, to consciously surrender control to Him. You are my Lord and I trust in You.

The next thing is to study His Word. Take your Bible and read it. Dig deep and drink from the Living Water every day. Read the Psalms, read Proverbs, read the Gospels, read Paul's letters. Read it all. It is all God's Word. Paul wrote to Timothy:

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2.Timothy 3:16-17)

Please note Paul wrote "ALL SCRIPTURE is inspired by God." There are no surplus verses in the Bible. The Bible is God's Word from Genesis to Revelation. God speaks through every part of the Bible. It is important that we read, study and meditate, and rely upon His Word.

The third thing we need to do is to pray and worship God. We should discuss all things with our Heavenly Father. In the song "Take Thou my Hand and lead me" there is a line in the Latvian version that says "I do not want to take a single step without You." This is trusting in God fully. Not a single step without You. That should be our prayer and daily practise. We should keep our hand firmly in His. As we do, we will find that truly Blessed is He who walks in God's ways. Trust in Him always. May the testimony of your life be our text today. I will personalise it: **"My soul waits for the LORD;**

He is my help and my shield.

²¹ For my heart rejoices in Him,

Because I trust in His holy name.

Amen.

Pastor Colvin S. MacPherson Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sydney.

All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.