

Whom Or What Can We Trust?

To ask a question like this is to imply another question: "In what or in whom do you place your trust?" Just what can we trust in this life, especially when it comes to preparing for eternity? Throughout the ages, man has always sought that which will comfort him, encourage him, set his mind at ease concerning his origin, reason for being and destiny. If people would be truly honest with themselves, probably all are concerned about these things today. The psalmist said, *"For thou didst form my inward parts: Thou didst cover me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks unto thee; For I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Wonderful are thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well"* (Psalm 139:13,14).

Whenever man is left to his own devices, he creates confusion and conflict about his world, his being and his destiny. The prophet said *"O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps"* (Jeremiah 10:23). Again, God's man wrote *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:8,9). Man has always failed to guide himself spiritually to acceptance before God. For thousands of years, man has been saying "the Bible is not contemporary with us; it is out-dated; it will not last." One of the more recent claims is found within a book called "the age of reason," written last century. The writer said the Bible would not last another generation. How wrong he was!

We who believe and have come to know the Bible is true and is truly God's word, have no fears of its being destroyed as man has tried to do seemingly throughout his existence. So sad that men will not accept and believe the testimony of the prophet who said *"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever"* (Isaiah 40:8). Would that people like this would believe the words of Jesus who said *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"* (Matthew 24:35).

The most recent attacks upon God's word has come from the realm of what is falsely called science. Yes, there is true science and we give thanks to God daily for the marvelous inventions, conveniences and medical breakthroughs of our day. But, there is a false religion, a kind of "faith" that is widespread in our society and in our schools that is nothing but

unproved theory at least, based solely upon conjecture, and not upon factual evidence. This faith is called evolution and is one of the offshoots of humanism.

For over a century, this false doctrine has taught that the universe had no beginning but was eternal. Thus, denying the first phrase of the Bible, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). We have heard recently that Darwinism and his theories of the origins of species, is finding far less and less following among scholars and scientists today. Many are beginning to again consider the marvelous design of the universe and all its complexities and to conclude there must have been a designer for it all. This is simply the logic of "cause and effect." For every effect, there had to be a cause which brought it about. Hopefully, these will come to know the designer as the one true and living God. Such conclusions fit neatly into what the Bible already taught for 20 centuries: *"For every house is builded by some one; but he that built all things is God"* (Hebrews 3:4).

What can we trust? There is a song that we sing entitled "Stand up for Jesus," and one of the lines says "the arm of flesh shall fail you, ye dare not trust your own." What or rather, Whom can we trust? Obviously, we can trust God, His son Jesus, and their inspired, complete revelation called the Bible. The Old Testament is for our learning, according to what Paul told the Romans Christians. He said *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the Scriptures we might have hope"* (Romans 15:4). And the New Testament is for our living. Again Paul said *"for he that hath died is justified from sin"* (Romans 6:7). That is, when we die with Christ in baptism, we are free from sin. He told the Galatian Christians *"But before faith came, we were kept in ward under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. So that the law is become our tutor to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith"* (Galatians 3:23,24). Then finally, he wrote to Ephesus, *"But now in Christ Jesus ye that once were far off are made nigh in the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who made both one, and brake down the middle wall of partition, having abolished in the flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; that he might create in himself of the two one new man, so making peace; and might reconcile them both in one body unto God through the cross, having slain the enmity thereby"* (Ephesians 2:13-16).

Who can we trust? We can trust God who gives us comfort through Christ His son. *"casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you"* (1 Peter 5:7). Paul told the brethren in Corinth *"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort them that are in any affliction, through the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound unto us, even so our comfort also aboundeth through Christ"* (2 Corinthians 1:2). Why can we trust the Bible? Because it is perfect for us. We read *"The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul: The testimony of Jehovah is sure, making wise the simple"* (Psalm 19:7). According to this verse and several other verses from this psalm, it is perfect, pure, true and the sum of this word is truth *"The sum of thy word is truth; And every one of thy righteous ordinances endureth for ever"* (Psalm 119:160). Jesus said of truth, *"and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). What is truth? According to Jesus, *"thy word is truth"* (John 17:17).

But, a fearsome thing is happening: many religious leaders are now beginning to say the Bible is not perfect, infallible nor truly the word of God. These men and women are leading thousands of people astray with their false thinking and teaching concerning the word of God. They seem to be more interested in being "politically correct" than right with God. As Peter put it, *"the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as [they do] also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction"* (2 Peter 3:16). Jesus said *"But Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God"* (Matthew 22:29). He would call such people "blind guides who lead the blind." He tells us that we are to pay them no mind; not to follow them. Just because a person or a group of people are religious does not guarantee that they are correct. Again Peter said *"if any man speaketh, speaking as it were oracles of God"* (1 Peter 4:11). Many today speak out of turn, speaking for themselves and not for God. Therefore, we who believe the Bible must ask, shall ask, and will not cease to ask for proof of their positions in regard to things spiritual. Even many who believe in God and hold His word to be truth teach error by perverting it. The word of God is a sword and we shall never be afraid to take it up and contend for the faith earnestly, as Jude said in his little book, verse three. We shall do so with meekness, gentleness for our fellow men and women with fear and reverence for God as Peter taught in 1 Peter 3:15.

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

January 4, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1418.00

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We trust that everyone had a nice holiday time and a good start to the new year. We also pray God's blessings on all of this congregation as well as on all that we try to accomplish for the Master this new year.

Fellowship meal and business meeting will be next week. Please plan to stay for these functions.

Robin & Cheryl would like to thank all who came by the house to enjoy some snacks and fellowship. We enjoyed having you all come by.

Continue to pray for those who are ailing or recovering from the latest round of coughs and colds.