

I. Introduction.

II. If you trust in mankind, you will be cursed. v. 5-6 11:3 Gen. 3:14,17

A. Don't rely upon the flesh. v. 5

1. Judah was inclined to trust men. 5:31 7:4,8 2:14-19 46:25 Is. 31:1-3 Eze. 29:16
2. Man in all of his power and glory is but frail flesh. v. 5a
3. People can't be trusted. v. 9

B. When you trust mankind, your heart is turned away from the Lord. v. 5b 2:13 5:23

For my people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns that can hold no water.

1. He alone is to be the arm of your strength. 27:5 32:17 Isa. 33:2
2. Trust in anyone or anything else is nothing less than idolatry (spiritual adultery). 3:2,6-10 2:20
3. You violate the greatest commandment. Dt. 6:5

C. If you put your trust in people instead of God, your life will wither away. v. 6

1. You will be desolate and hopeless.
2. Such was the condition of Israel as Jeremiah wrote -- exile. 8:13 11:16 1:15 25:9 Dt. 28:15ff 29:22-23 Ezek. 17:8-10 19:10-13
3. Such is the condition of all humanity apart from the waters of divine grace. Ps. 129:6

D. Like Israel we are prone to trust man instead of God.

1. Our nation is guilty of self reliance rather than dependence upon God.
2. Many professing Christians are double-minded. Js. 1:8 4:8 Ps. 119:113
3. The church itself has neglected the biblical means for ministry and has become reliant upon worldly methodologies. II Tim. 3:16-17 4:1ff I Co. 1:18,21 2:2

E. Don't entrust yourself to people in the world: government leaders, military power, employers, economists, doctors, athletes. Ps. 146:3-5 20:7 44:6 I Sam. 8 Isa. 31:1-2 Dt. 28:52 Pr. 11:28

F. Don't put your ultimate trust in human relationships.

1. Family. Ps. 27:10 Is. 49:15
2. Friendship. Pr. 25:19
3. Co-dependency (co-idolatry). Pr. 29:25

G. Don't entrust your spiritual life to frail men. Gal. 2:11ff II Chr. 24:2 I Pe. 4:9-11

H. Don't Trust Yourself. Pr. 28:26 *He who trusts in his own heart is a fool.*

1. God does not want you to be self reliant in life. Mt. 6:11 John 15:5 Pr. 11:28
2. You cannot trust yourself. Jer. 17:9
3. You can't make yourself righteous. Eze. 33:13 Ro. 3:20 Jer. 7:4,14 12:2 Is. 64:6
4. You cannot keep yourself pure. Jo. 15:5 Phil. 1:6
5. Even Christians can be guilty of a false perfectionism. Phil. 3:12

I. Questions.

1. Is there any sense in which you should be self reliant?
2. Is there any sense in which you are to trust others? Pr. 31:11

III. Trust God and you will be blessed. v. 7-8

A. Entrust yourself to the LORD. v. 7 Ps. 31:24

1. God alone is trustworthy. Ps. 27:3 118:8-9 40:4 62:5-6 22:5 Isa. 50:10 Pr. 14:26
2. Trust Him in every circumstance. Isa. 26:3-4 John 15:5
3. Trust that His way is best. Pr. 3:5-6 Heb. 3:13 II Ti. 4:1ff
4. Trust that His plan is best. Ro. 8:28
5. How do you trust God?

B. You will flourish. v. 8 Ps. 52:8 1:3 92:13-14 Ps. 1:3

1. Your security will be unshakeable. Ps. 34:8 Isa. 44:4 Rom. 8:31ff Jo. 10:28
2. When hard times come, you will endure. 14:1 42:16 38:1ff II Cor. 4:8-11,16-18 Pr. 3:11-12 Heb. 12:6-11 Rom. 5:3-4 Js. 1:1ff
3. You will bear fruit unto the glory of God. John 15:5

C. Christ is the source of the water of life. John 4:13-14 7:38

D. Application: Whom are you trusting?

1. Is your joy and stability controlled by circumstances and people? Pr. 29:25a
2. Or is your trust in the Lord? Pr. 29:25
3. Depression is not caused by circumstances, but failure to trust Christ.

IV. Concluding Application: You must choose whom you will trust.

A. Why would anyone be so foolish as to trust man instead of God? v. 9 Pr. 4:23

1. You cannot cure your own heart condition. 13:23 15:18 30:12
2. You need regeneration, not mere outward reform! Titus. 3:5 John 3:5ff

B. God alone can change your heart. Jer. 31:31-34 3:12ff Isa. 30:18

Discussion questions

1. In what ways was Israel trusting men rather than God?
2. What consequences came upon Israel for their misplaced trust?
3. How is our nation inclined to trust men instead of God?
4. How is the church guilty of trusting in men rather than the Lord?
5. Why is it wrong to trust yourself?
6. Why should you trust God?
7. How can you show your trust in God when it comes to relationships?
8. What is the right and the wrong answer for a person who feels dried out and depressed?
9. How does this passage point to Christ?
10. What kind of fruit will be produced by a person who trusts in the Lord?