

TRUSTWORTHY GOD

What God says is so. His Word and promises cannot be broken. He is worthy of our complete confidence.

SCRIPTURE*	MUSIC†
1 Kings 8:56 Psalm 25 Psalm 34 Psalm 37:1-7 Psalm 56:1-4 Psalm 62 Psalm 115:9-13 Psalm 118:1-14 Psalm 119:89 Psalm 130:5 Proverbs 3:1-13 Nahum 1:7 John 10:35 Romans 4:1-8 2 Peter 1:19-21	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Almighty Father Great Is Thy Faithfulness How Firm a Foundation I Know Whom I Have Believed My Faith Has Found a Resting Place My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone (Courtney) SATB O God, Our Help in Ages Past Seek Ye First This is My Word (Choplin) SATB Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus Trust and Obey Trust Him (Lynch) SATB/Solo Trust His Word (Hamilton) SSA



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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* Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

† Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

GOD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS

Talk about the fact that God is Who He says He is; His motivation is our good and He has no “angle,” as opposed to our modern society’s thinking, which always wonders, “What’s the catch?” “What’s His angle?” Satan has been using this ploy – to question God’s goodness, since the beginning of time (the serpent & Eve in the garden). That’s why in order to trust God, we need childlike faith—faith that God is genuine, faith that God can really be trusted.

Trustworthy God. What brings a person to trust God? What brought you to the place where you trusted Him with your eternal destiny? You believed God truly was what He said he was. He said He was just and holy and you believed Him. He said He was all powerful and had the power to require you to pay for your own sin, and you believed Him. And you believed what He said about His love. His actions in giving His Son for you proved what He said about Himself, about that attribute of love. You were not suspicious that He might be hiding something from you about His person. “Yes, you say you love me, but I’m not sure I can believe you.” No. You believed Him. You counted Him trustworthy.

Are you now continuing to count Him trustworthy? Or are you succumbing to one of Satan’s oldest attacks – his attack on the character of God. “God knows that on the day you eat that fruit, Eve, you’ll be as gods.” God says He is good, but He’s really keeping something good from you. His character is suspect. You cannot trust Him.

And Satan continues to attack our minds – God has some angle. He wants me to surrender to Him but what’s the catch? Satan tempts us to be suspicious of God.

We must quench, extinguish those fiery darts that Satan shoots at our minds with faith. Faith in who God says he is. As you grow in your knowledge of Him, you will grow in your trust in Him. Psalm 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

When you’re tempted, ask yourself, what attribute of God am I doubting? His dependability to give me wisdom like He said he would. His promise to supply my needs. His promise of grace for possible future difficulties. God CAN be trusted. He truly IS Who He says He is.

(Pastor Mark French)

THINGS WE TRUST

There are some things we depend on to work, like starting a car, but we aren't too surprised when they don't work. There are other things that you do expect to work, and it is hard to adjust when they don't. When the electricity or water is off, you still find yourself flipping light switches and turning faucet handles. There are other things that never break, like gravity. Can you imagine if gravity failed? There are things going on in the world right now that we never would have dreamed about a year ago. People are struggling to adjust as the things they depended on to always be there are suddenly gone. Even authorities give conflicting information. But we have a God who is completely trustworthy. He is more dependable than gravity. His promises will never fail.

I was driving my Ford Escape the other day with the AC on full blast. In my car, that's the "Number 4" setting. After a little while, though, it was getting to be a refrigerator in there, and I was ready to back it off. So I clicked it back to "Number 3," and suddenly the AC just shut off. It really threw me! I had to try it again several times before I finally accepted that my AC would only work on full-blast-number-4.

I realized I have a lot of confidence in that "Number 3"—so much confidence that I didn't even think about my confidence. There are some things we trust to always work—your key in the ignition, the light switch, the water faucet. Even when the power goes off, we still instinctively turn on the light-switch when we walk into a room. We've learned to trust it.

Then there's something like gravity—something that's *never* stopped working. What if gravity suddenly "shut off" right now? I'd need to hold onto this pulpit. We probably couldn't help but laugh looking around, everybody floating out of their chairs—Bibles and purses and Kleenex and children just floating out into the room...

Our faith in these things is so habitual it doesn't even feel like trust. You know where this is going: God and His words are *more trustworthy* than gravity itself. And it's not just what *He* says that we can trust without thinking—it's *Him* we can trust, for anything.

But sometimes we treat Him like an old car, doubting every time we turn the key in the ignition, "Is it going to start? Is He going to keep His promise? Is He going to let me down? Am I really secure forever in Christ?" Let's refuse the doubts in worship this morning. Let's worship our Trustworthy God! (Caleb French)

TRUST IN RICHES? TRUST IN GOD

Our money system is an illustration of trust. We don't put our trust in the physical paper that makes the money but rather in the government that backs the money. (Possibly talk about the security features of our money, the printing process, or other aspects that help us trust it enough to use it) Because we live in a wealthy nation, we may be tempted to trust our wealth instead of trusting God. This temptation can take different forms, such as the temptation not to give or the temptation to plan our futures without reliance on God. But I Timothy 6 reminds us of the uncertainty of riches and the dangers of trusting in our own resources. Our trust must be in God alone.

What's your money worth? [Pull out a dollar bill.] Well, it probably costs less than a dollar to print this bill. But how can it still buy me a taco? Or part of a taco? It's because the taco stand guy and I both trust Uncle Sam. We trust that the United States backs this "Federal Reserve Note," not because of the value of the paper but the word of our government.

Jesus uses an interesting phrase in Matthew 13:22 as He explains the parable of the sower: "the deceitfulness of riches." He doesn't explain it—He assumes it. And what makes riches deceitful? What gives them such power to choke the seed of God's Word before it has chance to sprout into lasting fruit in our lives? Riches tell us a lie, and we believe it. We believe we can trust them—to make us happy, to make us feel safe, to cover our mistakes, to give our lives some meaning. We trust riches to save us.

If we're honest, that's blasphemy. And if we are further honest, this blasphemy is one of the great sins of our nation. We trust money, but we doubt God. We must take the warning of 1 Timothy 6:17, we who "rich in this world, that [we] be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God." We have a limitless wealth of security in the God who delivers all He has promised. He keeps His Word. Don't settle for the shadow of deceitful riches. Trust, worship our trustworthy God. (Caleb French)