# TITLE: Trust

TEXT: 2 Chr. 1-3,6,22-24:29:1-5: 32:7; Ps. 20:7; 1 pet. 2:9; Mk. 16:15; Jere. 17:7

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about trust.

# Trust! What does it mean?

 **Webster: Trust; Strong belief (confidence) that some person or thing is honest or can be depended upon, faith. The one that can be trusted!**

#  In America, our coins make a statement about trust: Inscribed on our coins and monies are the words: In God We Trust.

 In God we have confidence, have faith---Because God can be depended upon, He is trustworthy.

This morning, in talking about trust, I want to parallel two Kings....

 The first King that I want to talk about is a King of Judah named Ahaz, a direct descendent of King David who was king over the nation of Judah in about 741 BC.

**2Chr 28:1 (NIV) Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD.**

**2 He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and also made cast idols for worshipping the Baals.**

**3 He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his sons in the fire, following the detestable ways of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.**

One sentence hear really sums it all up about King Ahaz....**Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD.**

It says that Ahaz..

**2. Made cast idols for worshipping the Baals.**

**3 He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his sons in the fire, following the detestable ways of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.**

God’s instruction to His people that would be called by His name...

**2Cor 6:17 (NIV) “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.**

**Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”**

 Ahaz walked in the ways of this world, not in the ways of God.

 Instead of separating himself from the detestable practices of the world, he not only participated in them, but led a nation to do the same..

 The result..... God judged King Ahaz and the nation of Judah.

 First God handed Judah into the hands of the King of Aram, who killed many of Ahaz’s soldiers and took many of the people of Judah captive.

**2Chr 28:6 In one day Pekah son of Remaliah killed a hundred and twenty thousand soldiers in Judah—because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers.**

 Ahaz’s son is killed in battle, and the invading armies took captive two hundred thousand of Judah’s wives, sons and daughters. They also took a great deal of plunder.

Ahaz still didn’t repent and his heart remained hard against God...

**2Chr 28:22 (NIV) In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the LORD.**

 He continued to worship the gods of the nations that had defeated him thinking that their god was stronger than the one true God Jehovah!

 His heart became so hard that he did this ...

**2Chr 28:24 (NIV) Ahaz gathered together the furnishings from the temple of God and took them away. He shut the doors of the LORD’s temple and set up altars at every street corner in Jerusalem.**

**25 In every town in Judah he built high places to burn sacrifices to other gods and provoked the LORD, the God of his fathers, to anger.**

 Ahaz’s main problem was that he had no trust, no confidence in God! He instead relied upon himself and his own understandings of things...

 After leading himself and a nation into God’s judgment and wrath, Ahaz dies and his son Hezekiah succeeds him as King of Judah...

 The second king that I want to look at this morning is Ahaz’s son, Hezekiah....

**2Chr 29:1 (NIV) Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years.**

**2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done.**

 We have the life of Hezekiah also summed up in one sentence....

**He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done.**

 Because of Hezekiah’s father, Ahaz’s lack of trust and confidence in God, Ahaz had brought much heartache on the nation of Judah. He brought the judgment of God down upon them as a nation...

  Hezekiah, witnessing this downfall, determined that when he became king things would change. He would place his trust and confidence, not in himself or in the things, the powers of this world, but he would place his trust in the Lord... Just as his forefather King David had done!

 This is evidenced by Hezekiah’s first official act after becoming king...

**2Chr 29:3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them.**

**4 He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side**

**5 and said: “Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.**

One of Ahaz’s last acts as the king of Judah was to defile the temple of God and actually closed it down, shutting off the formal worship of God within the nation...

Hezekiah’s first act in restoring the nation was to re-open the temple and re-institute worship of the one true God!

 In his first month in office Hezekiah calls together the Levites, those who God had set apart and called to be a tribe of priest among the people of Israel and Judah, and says:

**5 “Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.**

 Hezekiah’s role model was not his ungodly father Ahaz!

Hezekiah’s role model was his great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great-grandfather, King David!

David said in the Psalms.....

**Psal 20:7 (NIV) Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.**

 Ahaz placed his trust in chariots and horses, the power and strength of man!

 Hezekiah, his son, like his forefather David, placed his trust in the strength and power of the Lord!

 What we see in Hezekiah’s first official act as King of Judah is thee formula for national revival!

 How to take a nation that has turned from God and fallen under His hand of judgment and bring that nation back to a place of true prosperity and right standing with God....

 As we look at this formula for national restoration I want to draw some contemporary parallels as we go along this morning.

First Hezekiah calls the Levites before him and says to them...

**5 “Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.**

# Does everyone know who the Levites where?

 They were the tribe of Levi that God had set apart as His priests.

 The Levites where one of the 12 tribes of Israel that God called out and separated to himself to be a tribe of priests, a tribe that would perform the ministry of God among the rest of the people...

What is it that we, the Church, that we as Christians, have been called to do?

 God has called us out to be separate from the world to be His representatives to the world.

The Levites are an Old Testament type or foreshadowing of the New Testament Church.

The Apostle Peter in addressing, you and I, the Church says...

**1Pet 2:9 (NIV) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

You and I, as the Church, as the body of Christ, is the Levitical tribe of priests of our day!

 We have been called by God to come out from among them, (the world), and be separate.

We are a chosen people! We are a royal priesthood!

We are to be a holy nation! A people belonging to God!

 Our express purpose, once we come to Christ, once we enter this Holy Priesthood of Christ, is to declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

 This is the same calling and purpose of the Levites in the Old Testament.

 Hezekiah’s instructions to the Levites, Gods chosen tribe of priests....Gods chosen representatives to the world in which they lived. **Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.**

 First the Levites were called to consecrate themselves and then consecrate the temple of the Lord.

For us today, as Christians,  that is one and the same thing.

 When we consecrate ourselves we are consecrating the temple of the Lord! For we are the temple of the Lord!

**1Cor 6:19 (NIV) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;**

**20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.**

If we are a Christian, If we have asked Jesus to come into our heart and be the Lord and Savior of our life, then we have become a temple, a sanctuary, a residing place of the Holy Spirit of God!

Scripture says we are to **consecrate ourselves and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of our fathers.**

The Hebrew word for consecrate is:

**06942 qadash {kaw-dash’}**

## 1a1) to be set apart, to be hallowed

**to be holy**

**1c1) to set apart as sacred,**

 We are to set ourselves apart unto God. Set ourselves apart as something holy, something sacred, because an all Holy God has taken up residence within us.

 Hezekiah tells the Levites that the first order of business to bring about national restoration is that Gods temple first must be cleaned up.

He says: **Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.**

### The sanctuary was the inner room in the temple where God dwelt..

#  We are the sanctuary of God if God dwells in us!

So we too must remove all defilement from Gods sanctuary!

 KJV says**: and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy [place].**

Hebrew for filthiness is:

**05079 niddah {nid-daw’}**

**1) impurity, filthiness, any impure thing**

**i.e. of idolatry, immorality**

 You see, before true worship could be re-established and the nation restored, the temple of God needed to be made ready! The temple building and the temple workers needed cleaned up so that God could dwell among them and work through them!

The same is true with us! Before true worship can take place in our lives, before we will ever be able to be the kingdom of priests that God has called us to be, we need to first prepare the temple of our life.

### We must remove all defilement from our sanctuary.

 This was Hezekiah’s first order of priority after becoming King, in bringing a nation, who had turned its back on God, back to God.

 If national repentance and revival was going to happen, Hezekiah knew it had to first start with Gods people..

 The same is true for us today. If our nation is ever going to be turned from the crash course with disaster it is on, because of its turning its back on God, if we are ever going to see national repentance and revival and restoration, it has to first start with Gods chosen representatives! It will have to first start here within each and every one of us!

 Our nation today is probably a lot like the nation that Hezekiah inherited from his father Ahaz.

 A once Godly nation that came to place more trust and confidence in themselves and the institutions of men then they did in God.

Hezekiah was a man whose trust and confidence was, first and foremost, in God.

The result----

There came a time a few years after Hezekiah became king, that armies that had beaten and inflicted many casualties on his father King Ahaz years earlier, combined forces and came to make war against Hezekiah.

 As the armies, much greater by world standards then the armies of Judah, started to amass their forces around Jerusalem, Hezekiah has these words of faith and trust to say to his people:

**2Chr 32:7 (NIV) “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him.**

**8 With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.**

 As the people placed their trust and confidence in God, God delivered them with a mighty deliverance…

 God sent an angel into the Assyrian camp and slew all the officers of the army. The army ran away in terror!

 The king of Assyria went home in disgrace and his own sons killed him in the temple of their false God.

 As we place our trust and confidence in God the same promise is true for us today. God is there to fight our battles. Whether it is individually, as we face the day to day battles and trials and tribulations of this life, or whether it is corporately as a Christian nation.

**8 With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.”**

[Charles Dickens](http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Charles_Dickens/), opening line is his book, *A Tale of Two Cities,:*

This is the worst of times; this is the best of times!

# You see it is all a matter of perspective…

When we look at where our nation is today, the direction that we have allowed it to go, it can almost be depressing.

 We can look back over the last 3-4 decades and think, oh the heights from which we have fallen as a nation. We see where we are today and think this is surely the worst of times!

We are, a once Godly nation, that has, in a lot of ways, forsaken, turned our backs on God . We have become a nation that has come to place more of our trust and confidence in the delivering power of men than we do in the delivering power of God.

 Who do many look to first for saving social security and recovering our economy? The Lord God?

No, Government officials a hand full of legislators!

 Nationally we have enacted laws that protect the rights of people to kill their unborn children.

 We have enacted laws to make sexual perversions a right!

We have enacted laws that keep God and prayer out of our schools all the while many schools are welcoming in curriculum that teaches and encourages acceptance of sexually immoral lifestyles, denouncing the Godly heritage that we have by many distorting American History and teaching that America is a racist and evil nation..

 For a Christian looking at all this going on in the country that we live in and love, it can be depressing, more than depressing, it can seem defeating.

 We say, we need to change the laws but find that many, if not most of those enacting the laws are as immoral as the laws that they enact.

 As I was thinking about this a while back and getting more and more frustrated, I believe the Lord gave me this thought....

You can’t legislate morality! You can’t legislate right behavior!

You need to change people’s hearts!

 We have immoral laws because we are becoming an immoral people**.**

 The only way to change the laws is to change the people hearts that make the laws! And change the hearts of us that give them their jobs!!

Only God can do that---that is why, we the Church, need to be doing what God has called us to do—

 **1Pet 2:9 (NIV) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

We have been called to declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light!

 We have not been called to change other people’s minds, we have been called to declare the praises of God to them, we have been called to introduce them to Jesus, so that He can change their hearts and their minds about their sin just as He did with us.

# It Makes sense!

#  Want to change someone’s mind that is pro- abortion?

 Introduce them to Jesus and allow Him to change their heart!

 Want to change someone’s mind about living an sexually immoral lifestyle?

 Introduce them to Jesus and allow Him to change their heart...

# Allow God to do in them what God is doing in us!

How do we bring a nation that has turned from God back to Him?

Introduce or re-introduce that nation to Jesus Christ!

# How do we do that? We do it one person at a time!

Jesus commission to His Church:

**Mark 16:15 (NIV) “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.**

 Go into all the world and declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light…

 Wherever we are at any given moment, is the world that Jesus has called us to minister His Gospel to.

 Church, we are a chosen people, we are a royal priesthood, we are a holy nation, we are a people belonging to God, that we may declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

 Declare the praises of Him to those who don’t yet know Him or have turned away from Him.

Is it your testimony that the coins in your pocket bear this morning?

 Is it in God that you trust? Have you placed your confidence in Him?

## If you have then are you being true to your calling?

 Are you sharing Jesus in the corner of the world that God has placed you today?

 I hope that this is indeed the worst of times for this country! God forbid that these be the best of times!

 As a nation, I pray that the best of times are not times past, but times yet to come, as we as a nation, come back to a place where we can truthfully say that our testimony is the testimony that our coins bear...That as a Nation we can say---It is In God and God alone that We Trust!

**Jere 17:7 (NIV) “But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.**

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ today? Are you offering Him a clean temple in which to dwell? And are you looking for daily opportunities to declare the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His wonderful light, declaring His praises and the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the part of the world that He has you right now?