

Who Do You Trust?
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
December 19, 2009

This past week has been very interesting for us, to say the least.

Plans change all the time. By this, I mean that OUR plans change – not God’s plans.

Last Saturday evening, the twins were excited about another “sleepover” here. Brian changed his mind and postponed it until tonight. We were, of course, disappointed.

On Sunday morning, I was working on fixing a corned beef hash omelet in the electric skillet. It was on about 225, so it was cooking slowly. I went to stir the hash, lifting the glass cover in my left hand and holding it about shoulder high so it was near nothing. All of a sudden, it simply exploded!!!!!!!!!!!!

I mean that literally. It was a loud explosion; really scared Nita. I was left holding nothing but the handle. Glass & hash covered the kitchen and dining area completely. It was absolutely incredible. There was not a piece of glass larger than a quarter anywhere to be found. I have written to Presto about it, but I can only assume it was due to old age. We had granola for breakfast ☺

If the twins had been here, at least one of them, if not both, would have been standing right next to me while I was fixing breakfast. But, thanks to God, OUR plans had been changed.

It was a 2002 Presto Professional model. I am pleased to say that the Presto Company representative responded to the predicament very professionally and has replaced the skillet. Our new one does NOT have a glass lid ☺

Yesterday, I had my 3rd or 4th gastro scope of my esophagus. Needless to say, I was given an anesthetic and was totally out of control. The doctors and nurses were quite pleasant, but I was as helpless as a newborn baby – or even less. My life was completely in their hands. I had no recourse but to trust them – or did I have an alternative?

We all know that trust is a delicate item these days.

Who do you trust?

- Employer
 - EDS
 - After spending 32 years with them, the company no longer exists
 - HP is now dropping benefits that have been existent for many years
 - *James 5*
 - 1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!
 - 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

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- 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.
- 4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.
- 5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.
- Government leaders
 - What can you believe?
 - Are the conservatives telling truth?
 - Are the liberals all wrong?
 - Are the Democrats more believable than the Republicans?
 - Health care reform is in their hands now, and we will pay the price
- Family members
 - **Micah 7:**
 - 1 Woe is me! For I am like those who gather summer fruits, Like those who glean vintage grapes; There is no cluster to eat Of the first-ripe fruit which my soul desires.
 - 2 The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net.
 - 3 That they may successfully do evil with both hands-The prince asks for gifts, The judge seeks a bribe, And the great man utters his evil desire; So they scheme together.
 - 4 The best of them is like a brier; The most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge; The day of your watchman and your punishment comes; Now shall be their perplexity.
 - 5 Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion; Guard the doors of your mouth From her who lies in your bosom.
 - 6 For son dishonors father, Daughter rises against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household.
 - **Matthew 10:**
 - 35 "For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';
 - This was not the Savior's object, but the effect. The conversion of individual members of the family would cause variance. In nearly all quarrels, except those about religion, the members of the same family stand together,

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but in religious feuds the family circle is often broken and its parts arrayed against each other.

- Ministers
 - **2 Corinthians 11:**
 - 12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast.
 - 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.
 - 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.
 - 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.
 - **Deuteronomy 13:**
 - 1 "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,
 - 2 "and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods' -which you have not known-'and let us serve them,'
 - 3 "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
 - 4 "You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.
 - **Matthew 24:**
 - 23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.
 - 24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.
 - **Jeremiah 23:**
 - 1 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD.
 - 2 Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD.
 - 3 separate results:
 - scattered the flock – divisiveness
 - driven them away – alienation

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- not attended to them – not provided assistance
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- 9 My heart within me is broken Because of the prophets; All my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, And like a man whom wine has overcome, Because of the LORD, And because of His holy words.
- 10 For the land is full of adulterers; For because of a curse the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their course of life is evil, And their might is not right.
- 11 "For both prophet and priest are profane; Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness," says the LORD.
 - Within the church itself!
- 12 "Therefore their way shall be to them Like slippery ways; In the darkness they shall be driven on And fall in them; For I will bring disaster on them, The year of their punishment," says the LORD.
- 13 "And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by Baal And caused My people Israel to err.
- 14 Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.
- 15 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: 'Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, And make them drink the water of gall; For from the prophets of Jerusalem Profaneness has gone out into all the land.'"
- 16 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD.
 - Remember the radio preacher who did not want to preach the Bible?
- 17 They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You shall have peace";' And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'"
- 18 For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?
- 19 Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury-A violent whirlwind! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked.

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- 20 The anger of the LORD will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. **In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.**
 - But not before!
- 21 "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.
- 22 But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from
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- 25 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!'
- 26 "How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart,
- 27 "who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal.
- 28 "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD.
- 29 "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?
- 30 "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor.
- 31 "Behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.'
- 32 "Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the LORD, "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the LORD.
- 33 "So when these people or the prophet or the priest ask you, saying, 'What is the oracle of the LORD?' you shall then say to them, 'What oracle?' I will even forsake you," says the LORD.
- 34 "And as for the prophet and the priest and the people who say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' I will even punish that man and his house.
- 35 "Thus every one of you shall say to his neighbor, and every one to his brother, 'What has the LORD answered?' and, 'What has the LORD spoken?'
- 36 "And the oracle of the LORD you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God.

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- 37 "Thus you shall say to the prophet, 'What has the LORD answered you?' and, 'What has the LORD spoken?'"
- 38 "But since you say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' therefore thus says the LORD: 'Because you say this word, "The oracle of the LORD!" and I have sent to you, saying, "Do not say, 'The oracle of the LORD!'"'"
- 39 'therefore behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you and forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and will cast you out of My presence.
- 40 'And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.'"
- **Jeremiah 50:**
 - 6 "My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; They have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place.

2 Timothy 3:

- 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
- 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,
- 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
- 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,
- 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The dilemma = we must trust in God, but we must live with and work with people. God works through people. So, it follows, we must live peaceably with ALL people and trust that God will not allow them to harm us.

Psalm 31:

- 1 In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness.
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- 5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.
- 6 I have hated those who regard useless idols; But I trust in the LORD.
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- 14 But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."
- 15 My times are in Your hand; ...

Psalms 37:

- 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
- 4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

Ecclesiastes 12:

- 12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.
- 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

We have talked in the past about the elements of learning. Our ability to learn is a matter of our frame of mind. Colloquially, we say it is a matter of the heart. The heart is in our chest. If you remember that, you can remember the 5 basic elements of learning;

1. Curiosity
 - a. You need to actively want to know more about what you believe and what others believe
 - b. You may be right or wrong in what you now know
2. Humility
 - a. You need to believe that your current knowledge is incomplete
 - b. There is more to learn
3. Empathy
 - a. You need to listen for coherence in variant beliefs
4. Self-esteem
 - a. You need to truly know yourself
 - b. You need to be self-confident
 - c. You need to feel comfortable with who you are
5. Trust
 - a. Put your trust in God. All we can do with humans is to trust that they are doing the best they know how.
 - b. In 1943, Robert Scott, a pilot for the USAF, wrote a book titled "God is My Co-Pilot". It was made into a film in 1945.
 - c. If your life includes God as your "co-pilot", I suggest you change seats.