



Anchor of the Soul  
P.O. Box 401  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777



# Anchor of the Soul

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## Endure Afflictions

Adapted from David Riggs

*"But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me." (2 Tim. 3:10-11)*

Dr. Glenn Olds, former President of Kent State University, recalled the sight of Mt. Rushmore as he hitch-hiked cross-country in 1941 during his junior year. From 10 miles back, he recognized Washington and Lincoln. But in the middle was a figure that looked like Adolf Hitler. Once close, instead of hair combed over a forehead, the young man saw cable wires, instead of a moustache, he saw a scaffolding. The image stuck, and he made this note in his journal: "What was Adolf Hitler at 10 miles away was Thomas Jefferson under construction."

The experience is true to life. Almost every major problem at a distance looks bad; however, up close, it can be seen as something under construction or repair.

*"Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (2 Tim. 2:3)*

*"And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation." (2 Cor. 1:6)*

# Salvation Is By Faith...

...But what kind of faith?

## Faith like the fearful?

“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.” (John. 12:42-43)

## Faith like demons?

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” (James 2:42-43)

## Faith like Satan’s children?

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him ...”;  
“Ye are of your father the devil...” (John 8:31, 44)

## A faith working by love?

“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.” (Galations 5:6)

## God says: Faith that works!

“What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?” (James 2:14)

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## Faith Only...

- Does not save (Jas. 2:14)
- Does not profit (Jas. 2:15-16)
- Is dead (Jas. 2:17, 20, 26)
- Cannot be shown (Jas. 2:18)
- Is no more than the demons have (Jas. 2:19)
- Did not justify Abraham (Jas. 2:21-22)
- Is imperfect (Jas. 2:22)
- Is not accounted for righteousness (Jas. 2:23)
- Does not justify (Jas. 2:24-25)

# Reconciling Trust With Reality

By Byron Smith

Christianity is a religion that calls upon man to trust and obey God. While much could be said about obedience and the necessity of it (Mt. 7:21), let's focus our attention on the concept of trust. Trust is one of the fundamental tenets of Christianity. Yes, you should "trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov. 3:5; cf. Ps. 37:3, 5; Isa. 26:3-4; 50:10). The idea is that one is to trust implicitly, with their whole being. While that is easy to say, it is not always easy to apply, especially when one is facing intense adversity. Though we are to trust in God to care for us, it is a fact that Christians suffer, get sick, are in car wrecks, and eventually die. That is reality. Life can sometimes be difficult. Challenges arise. Struggles often beset us. Suffering occasionally overwhelms us. And yes, even those who are Christians and profess a solemn trust in the Lord experience these difficulties. Again, that is reality. So how is one to reconcile the idea of trust with reality?

The answer is found in recognition that trust looks beyond this life with hope. Christians have "a living hope... an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you..." (1 Pet. 2:3-5). With that hope a Christian can have a trust that is not blinded by the shifting circumstances of life. Trust takes the good and the bad with stride knowing "that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:31). Trust is not an assurance that this present life will be free of frustrations, disappointments, and heartache, but trust is a confidence in God to provide a future life, beyond the grave, where "there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4). Genuine trust is a total reliance upon God to do what He knows is best even when life appears bleak and there is no apparent explanation for one's adversity.

Right is right,  
even if everyone is against it;  
And wrong is wrong,  
even if everyone is for it.  
— William Penn

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"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"  
— Isa. 5:20

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"Hate the evil and love the good."  
— Amos 5:15

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"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil..."  
— Ex. 23:2

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"Because straight is the gate,  
and narrow is the way,  
which leadeth unto life,  
and few there be that find it."  
— Mt. 7:14

# Seek First The Kingdom

David Riggs

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt. 6:33)

Someone, who had put one of those humming bird feeders into his yard, told this story about a particular humming bird. At first, several humming birds used the feeder. Later, however, one humming bird began to guard the feeder and chase all other birds away. The little bird sat days on end guarding his self-claimed feeder, so much so that he became a slave to it. He could go nowhere and do nothing but sit and guard his feeder. Thus, what was supposed to be an aid became a hindrance to this one bird. Isn't this the case with many of us when we become overly occupied with things which hinder us in our service to the Lord? The owner of the feeder decided to bring the bird feeder inside so that the humming bird could once again run free.

Let us free ourselves of all slaving hindrances and truly put the kingdom of God and His righteousness first in our lives.

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## Come Worship the Lord With Us!

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Sunday.....Bible study | 10:00 AM |
| Worship                | 11:00 AM |
| Evening Worship        | 6:30 PM  |

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Wednesday....Bible study | 7:00 PM |
|--------------------------|---------|

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Job expressed clearly the idea of trust in God, even as he was experiencing the reality of suffering. He said, "Though He slay me yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). Perhaps his trust had been well established with an understanding that "the righteous has a refuge in his death" (Prov. 14:32; cf. Ps. 23:4).

Paul likewise exemplified the meaning of trust, even as he anticipated execution. Listen carefully to his words of trust and hope: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." (II Tim. 4:6-8; cf. 4:18). While Paul was facing imminent death, he knew that death is not defeat for the Christian (I Cor. 15:20-23), it is merely the transition from this world of trial to "be with Christ which is far better" (Phil. 1:21, 23; cf. II Cor. 4:16-5:1-4).

For further study of trust, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, offer an excellent example. Having been commanded to bow before a gold idol and threatened by the mighty Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and the fiery furnace, they insisted, "...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us..." (Dan. 3:16-17). However, if God chose not to deliver them they still would not worship Nebuchadnezzar's false gods (Dan. 3:18). That is trust! Trust is not surviving every danger; it is facing every threat and even death itself with the peaceful assurance that God will keep His promises (II Tim. 1:12).

The ability of a Christian to trust that there is a bright and glorious future in the presence of Jesus is priceless. The world offers nothing comparable to it. But that ability belongs only to the Christian! Why? It is because only the Christian can live "in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began..." (Tit. 1:2; cf. I Pet. 1:3-5; Col. 1:5). Non-Christians are described as "having no hope" (Eph. 2:12). Why continue another day without the Lord? Why not trust and obey?

# If Saved Before...

- **Repentance,**
  - We shall all likewise perish (Lk. 13:3)
- **Love, (saved while hating the Lord)**
  - We are anathema to the Lord (1 Cor. 16:22)
  - We are nothing (1 Cor. 13:2)
- **Confession,**
  - Christ will deny us before the Father (Mt. 10:32-33)
- **Baptism**
  - We have not washed away our sins (Ac. 22:16)

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# What Saves Us?

- **Faith** (Jn. 3:16)
- **Repentance** (2 Cor. 7:10; Ac. 11:18; 3:19; 2:38)
- **Confession** (Rom. 10:9-10; Mt. 10:32; 1 Jn. 4:15)
- **Baptism** (1 Pet. 3:21; Mk. 16:16; Ac. 22:16; 2:38)
- **Remain Faithful** (Rev. 2:10; Col. 1:23)

## May Bible Reading

| Sun                                       | Mon                            | Tue                           | Wed                          | Thur                            | Fri                                    | Sat                          |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1<br>Worship With Us!<br>11 AM & 6:30 PM  | 2<br>Eccl. 1-4<br>Col. 1       | 3<br>Eccl. 5-9<br>Col. 2      | 4<br>Study With Us!<br>7 PM  | 5<br>Eccl. 10-Song 3<br>Col. 3  | 6<br>Song 4-Isa. 1<br>Col. 4-1 Thes. 1 | 7<br>Isa. 2-5<br>1 Thes. 2   |
| 8<br>Worship With Us!<br>11 AM & 6:30 PM  | 9<br>Isa. 6-9<br>1 thes. 3-4   | 10<br>Isa. 10-13<br>1 Thes. 5 | 11<br>Study With Us!<br>7 PM | 12<br>Isa. 14-19<br>2 Thes. 1-2 | 13<br>Isa. 20-24<br>2 Thes. 3          | 14<br>Isa. 25-29<br>1 Tim. 1 |
| 15<br>Worship With Us!<br>11 AM & 6:30 PM | 16<br>Isa. 30-33<br>1 Tim. 2-3 | 17<br>Isa. 34-37<br>1 Tim. 4  | 18<br>Study With Us!<br>7 PM | 19<br>Isa. 38-41<br>1 Tim. 5    | 20<br>Isa. 42-44<br>1 Tim. 6           | 21<br>Isa. 45-49<br>2 Tim. 1 |
| 22<br>Worship With Us!<br>11 AM & 6:30 PM | 23<br>Isa. 50-55<br>2 Tim. 2   | 24<br>Isa. 56-60<br>2 Tim. 3  | 25<br>Study With Us!<br>7 PM | 26<br>Isa. 61-65<br>2 Tim. 4    | 27<br>Isa. 66-Jer. 2<br>Titus 1-2      | 28<br>Jer. 3-5<br>Titus 3    |
| 29<br>Worship With Us!<br>11 AM & 6:30 PM | 30<br>Jer. 6-8<br>Philem. 1    | 31<br>Jer. 9-12<br>Heb. 1-2   |                              |                                 |  |                              |