



VILLAGE BIBLE CHURCH SUGAR GROVE CAMPUS

Our Faithful God in an Unfaithful World

Part 1 — Lamentations 3:19–24

Tim Badal | January 28, 2018



This morning we're embarking on an eight-week look at how to manage our finances. In our small groups we're using a series called "Financial Peace University," plus we're dedicating time from the pulpit to speak on the subject of money. But we want to look at it from a different standpoint than simply dollars and cents. We want to focus on the matter of trust.

Now I realize that the minute a pastor starts talking about money, all kinds of walls go up. We have lots of assumptions about why our church would be addressing this subject. If you've been with us for some time, you'll know this is not a common theme here. One of the greater omissions I might confess is that we probably don't preach about money enough—not because the church needs money, but because our society really struggles with these issues. So we want to know how our Lord has taught in this regard.

For those of you who might be newer to our church, I'm not doing this to promote higher offerings. In fact, this past year we've had the highest level of giving in our history. We believe that Jesus teaches that this is a heart issue. I'm not sure exactly what nerve is connected from your heart to your pocketbook, but somehow people get worked up when this subject is raised. Still, Jesus said we will know where our heart is by looking at the things we treasure. Many of us treasure money far more than we probably should. So we need to be reminded that God's Word has a lot to say on the subject of money.

Today and next week, we'll be specifically focusing on the topic of trusting God. Whether it's your money or your marriage or parenting your children or how you view work, if you don't trust God, you will never give Him these areas. Think about it. If there's someone you don't trust in your life, I'm pretty sure you're probably not giving them a lot of intimate information or insight into what you're doing. Some of us might wonder, "Why do I struggle with finances? Why am I struggling as a parent?" Because we're trying to do these things apart from God. And when we lack trust in Who God is and in His promises, we end up trusting ourselves instead.

Some of us are trying to manage finances or our marriages or our relationships on our own, instead of acknowledging that God knows best how to deal with these. Our problem is trust. So today we'll look at what is probably the most famous passage in Scripture regarding why we should trust God.

Our first thought when we read these verses in Lamentations, and sing the song that comes from them, is probably, "What a great phrase: great is Thy faithfulness." We put it on our coffee mugs and in picture frames. It makes us feel good. Many of us may not even know where that phrase comes from, but we at least know the song.

The context of this verse is one of great pain and sorrow. Probably the hardest thing for us to do when we are hurting or struggling is to trust. In emergency situations, we find ourselves looking for someone who can help us, but too often the last person we turn to is God. Amid a very difficult circumstance, Jeremiah recognizes the faithfulness of God and why He should be the One alone in Whom we trust. So let's look now at Lamentations 3:19–24:

¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! ²⁰ My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. ²¹ But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Whether or not we want to admit it, we live in an unfaithful world where it's hard to trust people. Every day our lives are impacted either by our own unfaithfulness, failings and falterings, or by the unfaithfulness of someone else. No doubt we've experienced broken promises, even when we were assured they would be kept. We have said we'd be somewhere, then we didn't show up. We've missed appointments and deadlines. We have been on both the giving and the receiving end of unmet expectations.

The thing that probably hurts most is relational betrayal. If you Google the word "unfaithful," it would produce lots of material on love and romance and the betrayals these bring. Sometimes unfaithfulness is as simple as the white lies we tell to cover up our own failures. We live in a world that lacks trustworthiness and faithfulness.

Recently I read an article in the magazine *Psychology Today* that addressed the question, "Who can we trust?" The author wrote, "Trust should be easy. We do it every day. We trust other drivers on the road to stop when their lights turn red. We trust that the reporter, expert and news correspondent whose work we read is giving us truth about the world as it is and how it is likely to be. We relax in that trust and feel informed—that is, until a fact checker comes along who challenges some part of the official version."

The author goes on to explain that we've learned to live with politicians who aren't completely trustworthy. We've come to rely on the insights and forecasts of experts, until we learn that their predictions are about as correct as chance. How about media experts and opinionizers? It seems the more confident and convincing they appear, the less likely they are to be correct. Preachers and teachers lost our trust long ago in a landslide of scandal, both sexual and financial. And while we're on the subject of finances, the very idea of trusting in banks and financial institutions would be hilarious, she says, if it didn't hurt so much to laugh.

Okay, so we shouldn't trust public experts or politicians, news reporters, religious or corporate leaders. But we can trust the people we know, can't we? As a society we do trust. Perhaps the greatest commitment of trust comes when we marry. She writes, "But many of us still marry—over and over again, trusting love and desire alone, divorce statistics notwithstanding."

She finishes her article this way: "We are let down by lovers, frustrated by public officials, spun by historians, analysts and authors." You might say she's right. We have been let down by people. People have not lived up to what they said they were going to do. Then she states, "But there's at least one person we can trust—ourselves."

Here's the stupidity of that idea. She was doing so well in articulating the world in which we live. It's an unfaithful world. It is hard to find a trustworthy individual, someone who does what they say they're going to do in the timeframe they say they'll do it. It's hard to find someone who will live up to the promises they make. It's hard to find someone to whom you can give your life and they in turn will give you theirs—without looking elsewhere and betraying your trust. We live in a world that is saturated with unfaithfulness. But that author careens down the mountain, out of control, when she says, "At least we know who we can trust—ourselves."

I'm not an expert, but let's think about her logic. Seven billion people are on the earth, and she's saying we cannot trust any one of them, right? But there's one person of the seven billion you can trust—yourself. Well, wait a minute? Aren't you part of the seven billion? Aren't you also untrustworthy and unfaithful in the things you do? The logic doesn't work. We're now in a society that says in spite of all the untrustworthiness in our world, at least you know you are a faithful person. In reality, none of us are trustworthy. We have to turn to someone else to depend on.

Our dollar bills say something that we as a country should honor and marvel at: IN GOD WE TRUST. He's the only One Who lives up to all His promises. He's the only One Who doesn't falter and never betrays. God is the only One we can trust. When we fail to trust God and choose to go along with the world, that creates a problem. As the author in *Psychology Today* explained, this means we will face chaos. If we can't trust people—if we always have to be concerned whether people will keep their promises—the result is stress and even heartbreak. Whether tomorrow will be a good day or a bad day for you could be determined by whether people in your life have been proved reliable—and whether you have been as well.

If you get into your car tomorrow morning, turn the key, and the engine sputters and dies, your car has not been faithful. You assumed it would start and would take you from point A to point B. So after you get your unfaithful car jump-started and you're driving to work, someone cuts in front of you on the expressway and hits your car. They have been unfaithful in their driving habits or at least faltered in their attention to what they were doing. You finally make it work, only to find out that your partner, who is working on a project with you, hasn't completed his part. You'd been working hard all weekend on your part, only to learn he had chosen to go on a short weekend vacation instead. The problem is that at 11:00 you're scheduled to make the presentation. Based on all these things, your Monday has started out really bad—mostly because other people have failed to keep their promises.

So you continue through your day, until 7:00 rolls around, when you suddenly remember there was a basketball game you were supposed to attend that began at 5:30. That means this time you're not on the receiving end of unfaithfulness, but on the giving end.

We sometimes forget to live up to our commitments. So now your son or daughter is at the game wondering where you are. They're let down and they feel like you really don't care. In short, the quality of your day was determined by how trustworthy people were to you and how faithful you were to others. And to be honest, we have a lot of bad days, don't we?

So we must realize we live in an unfaithful world—but this was not the way God intended it to be. His plan was that we would live in a society where things didn't fail, where commitments weren't broken, and where lies weren't told. In the Garden, in what appears to have been a short period of time, man and woman lived in a perfect relationship with God and with each other where nobody was let down or betrayed. No one forgot things. It was a place of perfection.

In these unfaithful times, we must recognize the chaos we face.

But because of sin—our own or someone else's—everyone now falls short of the glory that God originally planned us to enjoy. Instead, we live in chaos, which means we must realize certain realities.

Our chaotic lives are difficult.

First, this chaos leads to a life of difficulty. Notice, we're going through this series topically rather than our usual pattern of expositional teaching, that is, verse-by-verse study in a particular book of the Bible. One of the limitations of topical preaching is we don't always get the context of the verses we use to the extent we might wish. In the book of Lamentations that we're looking at today, the context is pretty easy to understand. Lamentations is a lament. When we lament, we express our sorrow through weeping and mourning. Jeremiah is in a season of great sadness and regret. Why is Jeremiah so sad here? He's called the weeping prophet for a reason.

Jeremiah lived about six centuries before Christ, and during this time the children of Israel had been profoundly unfaithful, both to one another and to God. They had chosen to worship other gods, ignoring His law and moral requirements. So God took His hand of protection off them, and instead sent the cruel Assyrian and Babylonian armies to destroy their land and take them captive.

So in chapter one of Lamentations, Jeremiah was grieving the losses of God's people. He speaks of how the previously bustling streets are now empty. We might compare it to the moments before 9/11, when tens of thousands of people were walking the streets of New York City. But in the matter of a couple hours, all that changed. What were once busy streets were now filled with ashes and smoke, and the people were filled with fear and sorrow.

Jerusalem lay wasted and was eerily quiet following the destruction that had come. The nation of Israel, which had been called to live in close relationship with God, now faced extremely difficult times. In Lamentations 3, Jeremiah speaks as a representative of these people who have *"seen affliction under the rod of his wrath"* (verse one).

Jeremiah continues, *"He has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long. He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones."* Jeremiah realized that because of the people's sin, they were facing a very difficult future. Instead of their flesh and skin being vibrant and healthy, it would literally waste away. Instead of having all their faculties, they would have broken bones. Jeremiah realized that the hand of God was heavy upon the people, making it hard to go on.

In a sense, that's the picture of all humanity as we live under the curse of sin. Whereas we could have continued in perfect relationship with God, we chose to sin—and we continue to choose to sin. So the hand of God's judgment has removed us from a life of joy and peace, and has placed us in a garden that now fights against us. The ground that should produce fruit now produces thorns. Work that should bring great satisfaction now causes us to sweat. The life we should have lived in relationship with others and which should have completed us literally tears us apart instead. Everything we could have had in perfection with God has been exchanged for the difficult consequences of sin. This doesn't mean that all our difficulties are the result of our individual sins. Life is difficult because man has been born to trouble. We live in a fallen world.

Our chaotic lives lead to disappointment.

Look at what Jeremiah writes in Lamentations 3:5–9:

⁵He has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; ⁶He has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. ⁷He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy; ⁸though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; ⁹he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked.

Because of the unfaithfulness in our world and because of our own failings, we will have many disappointments. Our bodies will fail us, so we go to the doctor, who tells us, "You have this malignancy" or "You have this syndrome." As we age, we'll realize we aren't what we used to be—and that brings disappointment.

Not only is life difficult, but we're going to do things to no avail. "He has besieged me." I can't go anywhere. I can't escape. "He has enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation." Babylonians were well-known for their creative ways to kill their enemies. Scholars tell us that they loved to kill their enemies through long, arduous and heart-wrenching methods. They would build deep cisterns with high stone walls, with enough room to put a person into, but in which they could not move. If you've ever been in an elevator or had an MRI, you know the anxiety this would bring. But suppose you were left in a cistern unable to move or escape—all you can do is scream. Then you would be left there for days, screaming and screaming. When people were left in this state, they would suffocate, or their hearts would stop. After the person died, they would pull him out using a chain they had connected to him. This is the image Jeremiah is referencing.

Our chaotic lives cause us to despair.

We can see from Jeremiah's words that life will lead us to despair if we try to live it on our own. If left to our own devices, we're going down a meaningless road. Even our cries for help do us no good, if we choose not to live for God. He says, "If you're not going to walk with Me, then I won't hear your selfish prayers."

Jeremiah describes it this way:

¹⁰He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding; ¹¹he turned aside my steps and tore me to pieces; he has made me desolate; ¹²he bent his bow and set me as a target for his arrow. ¹³He drove into my kidneys the arrows of his quiver; ¹⁴I have become the laughingstock of all peoples, the object of their taunts all day long. ¹⁵He has filled me with bitterness; he has sated me with wormwood. ¹⁶He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; ¹⁷my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; ¹⁸so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the Lord."

Notice that his soul is bereft of peace and his hope from the Lord has perished. When we trust ourselves or trust other people, we're going to learn life will be difficult. We'll learn that we'll be disappointed, which at some point will lead us to deep despair. It might not happen right away, but after a long life in this pattern, we'll come to realize these realities. People will taunt us in our misery.

If you've ever fallen for a scheme or had someone betray you, you begin to wonder if people are seeing you as foolish. Israel became the laughingstock of the surrounding nations. Even though they had boasted of their relationship with God, it was actually non-existent. Their enemies taunted them: "Where's your God? Where is your comfort and help?"

The problem is they had been trusting in themselves, in their kings, in their military might or riches, instead of trusting in God. But none of these objects of trust proved sufficient. So they would hear, "Where are your armies now? Where are your chariots?" And Israel would respond, "We have forgotten what happiness is." In other words, they realized that their lives were so bad that even if they now turned to God, they no longer believed He would rescue them. As it says in verse 18, their hope from the Lord had perished.

Some of you may be in a similar situation. Because things in your life have gone so far off course, you've given up hope. You've put your trust in people who have failed you—or you may have failed yourself—to the extent that you've forgotten what happiness feels like. You are bereft of peace. You dread the thought of what people are saying about you behind your back. And even if you wanted Him to, you're not sure God could relieve your despair.

Our chaotic lives take place for different reasons.

Why do we find ourselves here? There are a number of reasons, but we experience hardships and trials primarily for two reasons. First, we live in fallen bodies in a fallen world. We're going to forget and falter and fail, whether we mean to or not.

This might surprise you, but I'm not a perfect man. Because of this, I'm also not a perfect husband. There should be one amen that you hear. I'm not a perfect father. That should bring three amens. I'm not a perfect pastor. You all should say amen. Is it because I don't want to be? No. Who doesn't want to pursue perfection? My desire isn't to be bad in these roles. I love my wife and children—and yes, whether you believe me or not, I love you. But here's what's crazy: I'm going to fail you, because I'm a

broken individual. Hardships are the inevitable result of living with broken people. My failings impact those around me. The little tremors of faltering impact people close to us.

But that's not the reason Israel was in despair. They weren't just going through the normal failures of fallen people. Rather, they willfully disobeyed God. And that could be true in our lives as well. We might be feeling the heavy hand of God and the resulting lack of joy and peace because we too have turned to other things.

In these unfaithful times we must recognize the counterfeits we turn to.

What are the things we turn to instead of God? Counterfeits—people and things—which advertise that they can meet our needs. The people of Israel were worshiping counterfeit gods such as Baal, believing the gods of the surrounding nations could bring them what they desired. They listened when people told them, "Build for yourself a kingdom unto yourself. What has God done for you lately? It's all about you, not Him."

Instead of God, we turn to products.

Similarly, we believe the lies we hear. But the counterfeits we turn to look different from the idols of Israel. Often, we put our trust in products. How many of us see claims in magazines or on TV or social media that a certain product will bring a desired result? Maybe it's a weight loss product, or something that will build muscle, or something that will make us rich or beautiful. But the underlying message is, "This will change your life."

How many of us have bought products thinking, "If I take this pill or follow these principles, it will make my life better"? We put more trust in the products than we do in our Creator. Be very careful. Now, that doesn't mean products can't be beneficial. Of course they can. But we must never put our trust in these things and remove ourselves from God.

Instead of God, we turn to plans.

Second, we often trust in our own plans. I often talk to my entrepreneurial friends who are always dreaming, always envisioning—and I'm right there with them. I love thinking about what might be done. But as I'm getting older, I'm realizing that just because I write something down and it looks good on paper doesn't mean it works out that way in real life.

How many times do we assume that once it's written down on a napkin—or gets entered into our computer—that means it's real? James reminds us of an important principle:

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that" (James 4:13–15).

Why should we be careful with our plans? Because Jesus told us, "No one knows what a day might bring." You might plan for the next year, only to have something happen the very next week that makes that plan non-existent. That doesn't mean we should never plan, but we must hold our plans lightly, trusting God rather than our plans. For example, we might go on a vacation, hoping to change our marriage. We invest a lot of money, thinking it will bring us happiness—only to be disappointed. Things don't go the way we expect.

Products and plans are not our answer.

Instead of God, we turn to people.

One of our most frequent alternatives is turning to other people rather than to God. This often happens when we believe the person we love will complete us. We expect them to give us satisfaction in exchange for our sadness. How many unhappy singles enter marriage with another unhappy person who is also seeking to find happiness? Two unhappy people expecting each other to solve their problems doesn't work. If we depend on our spouse to remove all our pain, we will be disappointed. No matter how good that person is, they're never perfect.

Some people have children thinking that they will relieve the emptiness in their lives. While both marriage and children are good things to desire, they should never be called on to bring us contentment and fulfillment. As I might testify from this week at the Badals, children bring their own troubles to the mix. You might even have been happier without this responsibility.

The issue isn't that our desires are bad. It's that we often trust and hope in the wrong people to make our lives what we want them to be. People are ultimately unfaithful. We are going to let each other down.

Instead of God, we turn to possessions and portfolios.

Finally, we sometimes turn to our possessions and portfolios. We think money will fix everything—but it doesn't. No amount of money will bring Steve Jobs back—and he was a billionaire ten times over. Money won't bring a wayward child home. Money won't fix a marriage. Money can do some things—but as Paul tells Timothy, *"Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction"* (1 Timothy 6:9).

Still we think, "If I can buy this house, that will make everything right. If I can buy this car, I'll lose 50 pounds as soon as I sit in it. I need this outfit. I need..." We laugh, but the heart of marketing is the assumption that whatever it is we are being called to buy, this thing will improve everything. All will be better when we can watch the news in 60" of hi-definition instead of 46".

Keep in mind that the things money can buy will rust and erode. Your youngest son will throw a Thor hammer at it and break it. We must stop putting our trust in these things.

In these unfaithful times we must recognize the characteristics of a faithful God.

So where should we put our trust? We must put our trust in what we see are the characteristics of a faithful God. We'll be talking more over the next few weeks about Who God is and how we are to pursue Him. But here are a few things to think about concerning the faithfulness of God.

God proves His faithfulness in the way He acts.

How can we know that God is faithful? He is faithful in the way He acts. This is seen both in His character and His conduct. Regarding His character, God is immutable. That means He doesn't change. He never wakes up on the wrong side of the bed. He is never late. He never sleeps through the alarm. He's always on time. You never have to wonder if He's in a happy or a mad mood. You'll never have to worry whether God will show up organized or disheveled. God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). We can trust God. We can rely on Him, because He declares and demonstrates His total reliability and trustworthiness.

I love this definition: "God's faithfulness means that everything He says and does is certain. He is 100% reliable, 100% on time. He does not fail. He does not forget. He does not falter. He does not change. He does not disappoint. He says what He means and He means what He says, therefore He does everything He says He will do."

We are told God is everywhere. We are told He is all-powerful. We are told He is all-knowing. Because of this, we can rely on this faithful God. Numbers 23:19 says, *"God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"* And in Deuteronomy 7:7-9 we read:

It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

God is faithful in His character. He's also faithful in the way He lives. This is where our text in Lamentations comes in. How does God live? Lamentations 3:22: *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

These are some things we'll address in the coming weeks. First, God's faithfulness is ongoing. It is steadfast and never ceases. It just keeps coming and coming and coming. Every morning God's mercies are new.

One of funniest episodes of TV history was "I Love Lucy" when she and Ethel are working in a chocolate factory. Remember the conveyor belt with the chocolate candy running faster and faster? They're supposed to be taking the chocolates and putting them into boxes. But in a panic, they decide to start eating them. Then Lucy starts throwing them. She doesn't know what to do with them.

The mercies of God are on a conveyor belt, speeding along. You can't even receive all of them. That should bring you hope. They just keep coming and coming and coming, until you are overwhelmed by them. If you're thinking, "But I don't see them," it's not because God isn't giving them. It's because you've put your eyes and trust on something else, missing God's steadfast love and mercy. His faithfulness is not only ongoing, it's overwhelming. We need to praise Him for that.

God proves His faithfulness in the words He declares.

The Bible you're holding is a love letter written by a faithful God. We can trust every word we find in it. God is wholly reliable. There are more than 3,600 promises in Scripture, the majority of them being for us as His people. We have seen thousands of these promises already come to pass, but there are still some yet to be fulfilled.

The question is this: When you see the on-going faithfulness of God to fulfill so many promises over the years, will you then trust in yourself or your friends or your possessions? In things that will fail you over and over again? Or will you make the decision today to trust in God and in Him alone?

In these unfaithful times we must recognize the choice we must make.

In the face of this question, what are we going to do? We can continue to put our faith in other things, or we can turn to God. If we decide we're going to turn to God, here is what that will require.

We must repent of our own faithlessness.

We read in 2 Timothy 2:13, *"If we are faithless, he remains faithful."* In our faithlessness, we need to tell God, "I have wronged You. I have wronged other people. I have even wronged myself. You are the only One Who has been trustworthy in my life. Please forgive me and help me not to live faithlessly anymore."

We must remember our frailness.

When I was growing up, my brothers and I would approach Dad about something we wanted him to do. We'd ask him in advance and he'd always respond, "Not this week...but Monday. We'll do it on Monday." Monday would come—and maybe some Mondays he'd get to doing what he promised—but after a while it became a joke. "Dad, when are we going to Disneyworld?" "We'll go on Monday." It took me several years of therapy to enjoy Mondays again.

Seriously, I love my dad. He's a great man. But as a flawed man, my dad would promise us things he wasn't able to fulfill. But I've learned that I've caught that sin from my father. I say things I'm going to do, but I don't live up to my word.

We must recognize that when we promise something—and hear me, you who are salesmen—we're only as good as our finite body is. We will fail and we need to be honest about that. It's better to say, "I don't know what will happen or what I can do."

A question was raised in one of our congregational meetings concerning the adoption process, "How successful is this going to be?" I had to respond, "I don't know. It could fail tomorrow." We can make plans, but we have to give them to the Lord. If we realize our own brokenness, we will be more open-handed in the way we live our lives.

We must rejoice in His forgiveness.

Even as we realize our own faithlessness, we can learn to rejoice in His forgiveness. In 1 John 1:9 we read these wonderful words: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* God not only forgives our unfaithfulness because of His own faithfulness, but He is able to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Praise Him! Even though we have blown it, there is One Who lived a perfect and faithful life. He Who is called Faithful and True will one day come back, riding a horse (Revelation 19:11), and bringing us into a full understanding of our redemption. He is the One Who has faithfully saved us by His blood shed on Calvary and we should rejoice in that.

We must rest in His faithfulness.

When life throws us a curve, when life is difficult and we don't know what to do, Lamentations 3:21 reminds us, *"But this I call to mind..."* What are we to call to mind? The faithfulness of God. Even though we don't know what the week will hold, we can be sure of the reality that God is on His throne and He has everything under control. He will bring to fruition everything He has planned; therefore we are able to trust, rest, hope, rely and rejoice in this God Who loves us.

We are told in His Word that He has wonderful things planned for us. *"No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9). We must stop trusting in ourselves, stop trusting in other things, instead trusting wholly in God alone and finding our hope in Him.