

MY CONFIDENCE

INTRODUCTION

Do you remember the Titanic? When she set sail across the Atlantic on her maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York City on 10 April 1912, at 52,310 tons, she was the largest passenger steam ship the world had ever seen.

It was claimed that she was virtually unsinkable. Philip Franklin, Vice-President of White Star Line, the owners of Titanic said this: "We place absolute confidence in the Titanic. We believe that the boat is unsinkable."

Tragically four days into her maiden voyage, at 11.40pm on 14 April 1912 the ship struck an iceberg, and sank less than three hours later at 2.20am on 15 April and claiming the lives of 1517 of the ship's 2223 passengers in what was to become the most enduring image of maritime tragedy of all time.

In a matter of three hours all their misplaced confidence was wiped out as the Titanic disappeared under the waters. One can find many examples of misplaced confidence.

Many people have died because a person had confidence in their ability to drive even though they had been drinking alcohol. Building structures on which highly qualified engineers had placed their confidence have fallen.

As we face these difficult circumstances with the corona virus, where is your confidence today? Can you say like that Vice-President of White Star Lines, "I have absolute confidence"? Where would that absolute confidence be placed?

MESSAGE

Let's have a quick look at the meaning of the word, "Confidence".

- The feeling or belief that one can have faith in or rely on someone or something.
- The state of feeling certain about the truth of something.
- A feeling of self-assurance arising from an appreciation of one's own abilities or qualities.

Some **similar words** are trust, belief, faith, reliance, dependence.

Opposites: distrust and skepticism.

In the Bible, "trust" is probably the closest word to "confidence".

Jeremiah 17:7 (AMPC) [Most] blessed is the man who believes in, trusts in, and relies on the Lord, and whose hope and confidence the Lord is.

That the person who is blessed places their trust and confidence in the Lord, is a no-brainer. But often as Christians, it's not what we do! If our absolute confidence is in the Lord, why is it that the first thing we tend to do when a problem arises, is become anxious?

Could it be that our confidence, like the owners of the Titanic is misplaced?

HOW DO WE MISPLACE OUR CONFIDENCE?

There are three areas in which we tend to have misplaced confidence.

1. Money and wealth.
2. People and things.
3. Ourselves.

MONEY AND WEALTH

Money is normally the one that catches us first. If a financial crisis hits us, we look to our savings, or we say, "okay, I will just borrow some from the bank or a relative or friend or from my employer". This is horribly misplaced confidence.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NKJV) Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

- Money and riches are uncertain.
We just have to look at the devastating impact the corona virus lockdowns are having on the world economy and personal wealth to realise that what we once may have seen as a sure thing, has suddenly become a shaky anchor in an unstable world.
- Money and wealth are not eternal.
Our money and wealth will not go to heaven with us. If we use it correctly here on earth, it may result in treasure in heaven if our motives are right!
- Jesus taught in Luke 6:35 that we should lend, hoping for nothing in return. The borrower may be confident that they can repay but circumstances may prevent them from doing so.

Job 31:24-25 & 28 (NKJV) "If I have made gold my hope, Or said to fine gold, 'You are my confidence'; 25 If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great, And because my hand had gained much; 28 This also would be an iniquity deserving of judgment, For I would have denied God who is above.

One of the greatest mistakes we can make in this life is to trust in our wealth. This is no place to place our hope or our confidence. Job calls our confidence in money and wealth an iniquity deserving of judgement because by doing so we deny God and the fact that all we have comes from Him.

Not only is money a bad place to put our confidence, but there is a real risk we will fall in love with it, and that leads only to evil.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Have we possibly fallen into the trap of loving money and placing our confidence in it? The financial stress caused by the coronavirus lockdown is going to test us all in the area of our confidence. Where is our confidence today? Is it our bank account or is it in Jehovah Jireh, our Provider?

CONFIDENCE IN PEOPLE AND THINGS

Psalm 118:8-9 (NKJV) It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man. 9 It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in princes.

Israel made the mistake of misplacing their confidence in the men and horses of Egypt and God judged them for it!

Isaiah 31:1-3 (NKJV) Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the Lord! 2 Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster, And will not call back His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers, And against the help of those who work iniquity. 3 Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; And their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the Lord stretches out His hand, Both he who helps will fall, And he who is helped will fall down; They all will perish together.

Israel had drifted so far from God that they returned to their ancient Enemy Egypt to place their confidence in them!

Who are you trusting during this corona crises? Are you trusting man? Are you trusting the medical fraternity? Are you trusting the government? Possibly you are trusting something, or someone else...

Psalm 20:7-8 (NKJV) Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God. 8 They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright.

If we want to remain standing at the end of a crisis, the ONLY place to place our trust and our confidence, is in God!

Those who trust in other things bow down and fall, but those who trust in the Lord God Almighty rise and stand! Where will you place your trust today?

CONFIDENCE IN OURSELVES

We can barely carry a glass of water without messing, why is it that we try to sort things out ourselves? King David made that mistake. First I, he used his position as king to seduce married Bathsheba. Then he messed up and got her pregnant, then he tried to hide it by getting her husband Uriah to come home from the war so that he would sleep with his wife and think he made her pregnant. But Uriah being an honourable man didn't go home to sleep, so the king arranged his murder. This also didn't work because God saw it and sent Nathan the prophet to tell him that he didn't get away with it!

Need I say more? Relying in our own strength and ability is a pointless exercise. Paul knew it and that's why he said, in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

When we are weak, then God is strong". We need to acknowledge our weaknesses and limitations and place our confidence in God, and God alone!

Have we been relying on our own abilities when we face crises? It's time to stop trusting in our own abilities and instead, place our confidence in God alone!

WHY PLACE CONFIDENCE IS IN GOD

Psalm 65:5 (NKJV) By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of the far-off seas.

God's word tells us that He is the confidence of the whole earth!

Psalm 118:8-9 (NKJV) It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man. 9 It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in princes.

When we place our confidence in Him, *our confidence is in a better place!*

Psalm 125:1 (NKJV) Those who trust in the Lord Are like Mount Zion,

Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

When we put our confidence in God, we cannot be moved! Our God is faithful, He is Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent and He is waiting for us to put our trust in Him!

CONCLUSION

Where have we placed our confidence? In our bank account, in a financial loan, our employer, our personal intellect and abilities or our family? Possibly, we've put our confidence in a doctor or medical specialist? Possibly you've placed it in your pastor, or in your church? These are the wrong places! Our confidence must be in the living God.

Psalm 121:1-4(NKJV) I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? 2 My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

We have an amazing Heavenly Father, He is our Hiding place, His Son Jesus is our Rescuer and Redeemer, His Holy Spirit, our Comforter and counsellor. He is ALL we need, and He is faithful and true.

Let us renounce all confidence we have misplaced in anyone and anything but Him and position ourselves in a place where He is our sure and absolute confidence. This is the only way we will surely remain standing in the day of trial.