Sermon Transcript—February 12, 2011

Who Do You Trust?

By Mr. Steve Ferenciak

Many of you will probably remember Johnny Carson, long time host of The Tonight Show. And I believe he used to host for 30 years. But before he became host of The Tonight Show, he was the host of another TV show. It was called Who Do You Trust? It was an afternoon game show, and I remember watching that show as a kid. I looked it up and found that it ran from 1957 to 1962 with Johnny Carson as the host. And his announcer for that show, starting in 1958, was Ed McMann, who of course went over with him to The Tonight Show for the 30 year run.

Who Do You Trust? was a game show where husbands and wives would answer questions to try to win money, and they would decide who would answer the question, hence the name Who Do You Trust?, the husband or the wife. Now I think you can tell what the title to this sermon is just by what I’ve said so far, but do you know what started me thinking about the subject of this sermon? And it’s not what you probably are thinking, and no, it wasn’t the game show, Who Do You Trust? What got me thinking about the subject of this particular sermon was an expression that I’ve heard for years and probably most if not all of you, at least adults, are familiar with this expression. The expression is, “Trust no man,” and people will often say the Bible says, “Trust no man.” In fact when I started working on this sermon my wife Judy was going to pick up something for me at a store at lunch time, and I was describing her the item that I wanted. But then I added this, I said, “But if you see something you like better, go ahead and get it; I trust you.”

And as I turned to go into the study, she said to me, “Ah, trust no man.” And that was before she knew I was going to use that expression in the sermon. In fact she didn’t know I was going to use that expression until just this very moment, and I thought well how people will often say, as I was preparing this sermon, I pondered that expression, “Trust no man,” and I thought about how people often say the Bible says, “Trust no man.” And I started wondering where exactly does the Bible say that? I wanted to know the book and page. I’ve heard that expression for years, but I just couldn’t remember where in the Bible those exact words are given.

Now we all know that the Bible teaches us to trust in God instead of putting our trust in man. God is to always come first. But the expression, “Trust no man” means exactly what it says, “Trust no man.” So even though I’ve heard people say that the Bible says, “Trust no man,” I wanted to know where it said that and under what context. So I first checked my New King James Concordance, and I could not find those three words listed together. Then I thought about how people have said this for years, the Bible says, “Trust no man” so I thought perhaps it’s in the King James Version because I’ve done that before. I remember an expression from the Bible and I’m looking it up in the New King James Concordance so I could use it and I can’t find it and the way I remembered it was actually in the King James Version, so I had to go into my King James Concordance, and that’s what I did in this case. I checked my King James
Concordance, and again I could not find those three words listed together.

I checked an on-line Bible word search, and I also came up empty with that. So I did some more checking and this is what I found out. The expression, “Trust no man” is not from the Bible, and no doubt all those people who say the Bible says, “Trust no man” would be surprised to hear that. Then again I think we all realize that the Bible in various places tells us “to trust God, to put our trust in Jesus Christ.” We are not to trust in ourselves and what do we sing in our hymn, “Hallelujah praise God, put your trust not in mortals for in them is no help.” So knowing that some may think, well even if the Bible doesn’t give those exact words, “Trust no man” that teaching, that thought, is still given in the Bible. Well, is that what the Bible is telling us, is that how it means it? Well, today we’ll see.

During this sermon we are going to take a good hard look at the subject of “trust” as taught in the Bible. Yes, we know we are to trust in God but how do we put our trust in God? Our money here in the United States says, “In God We Trust.” The average American who believes in God will no doubt say that they believe that saying, and they will say, “Yes, they trust in God.” Well, look around our country, what do you see? Do we really see a country that truly puts its trust in God?

Personally I am amazed at election time in our country. I told you I started this in November and this is what this is coming from. I am very surprised or amazed at election time in our country and how so many people put their faith, they put their trust in their candidates and it doesn’t matter which political party Democrat or Republican, they both do it. We’ve all seen these huge political rallies where candidates make all these promises to these enthusiastic, cheering crowds. After the November election so many people were so happy that the Republicans took control of the House of Representatives. Two years prior to that, so many other people were so happy that the Democrats were in control of the House of Representatives, the Senate and the presidency. “Trust no man” to me, especially at election time, or when Congress is in session the expression should be “trust no politician.” That’s the way I look at that, but year after year, especially every two years and every four years, that’s who many people put their trust in.

Now the expression, “Trust no man,” is actually a part of a quote by John Adams, our country’s second president. The main part of the quote is actually a very long quote, but the main part of the quote is this, “…trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty…” Our founding fathers knew that power begets power in government. Going back to the last elections, I can remember some of the political TV commercials just before the election, and often they would come on one right after the other, especially the closer you got to the election, and often they’d have one opponent’s TV commercial followed by that person’s opponent TV commercials. So it’s kind of interesting what they both were saying, or what they both or she or he were saying. Now of course two of the main problems in our country are the economy and the deficit, and it seems that all the candidates whether the incumbent or the challenger, whether Democrat or whether Republican; it seemed that they all were promising the voters that they would create jobs and reduce the deficit. Did you notice that? I told Judy that based on what their promises that we were in a win-win situation because no matter who got elected based on their TV commercials and what they were promising, either way we were going to get more jobs,
lower unemployment, and debt would be reduced because that’s what each candidate was promising. That’s what each political party was promising. It didn’t matter, they were going to solve our country’s problems. So it was a win-win situation for all of us. Right? The sad part is, how many people in fact did put their trust in those promises? How many people put their trust in those candidates, whether or not they got elected? So many people put their faith in man to solve their problems instead of God, and therein lies the problem for our country and therein lies the problem for us if we do the same.

Some of us remember how Mr. Armstrong would say, “Don’t believe me believe your Bible.” Why did he tell us that? Was he then going to lie to us about what the Bible said? So he was warning us to watch out. No, he wanted us to see for ourselves what the Bible said because what so many people teach as coming from the Bible is not from the Bible as many of us found out when we actually started reading and studying the Bibles, our Bibles for ourselves and as I like to say, it was my Catholic Bible at the time. Immortal souls, heaven, hell, Sunday worship, Christmas, Easter, all beliefs taught by men that we at one time put our trust in until we put our trust in God by studying His word and most importantly was our living by His word.

Let’s delve more into this expression, “Trust no man,” because that’s what you see in our society even in the church. We’ll see people go from one extreme to the other. Let’s go back to our example of politicians and people putting all their trust in them. Then when they find out they’ve been lied to, they just pick another politician to put their trust in, and then they can’t understand why their lives are filled with one disappointment after the other. Then on the other side, some people trust no one, not family, not friends, not coworkers, brethren, no one. People like that tend to live lonely, miserable lives because they only look inward towards themselves, and that even hurts them because they really can’t trust themselves either.

Brethren, let’s do this. Let’s take the expression, “Trust no man” as a truism, that it means exactly what it says, that it’s 100% true. “Trust no man,” not ever. Okay, let’s do that, and by man we mean both the male and the female of the species. So, everyone look at all the people around you, at all of us in this room, but you “trust no man.” So, trust no one here ‘cause that’s what it means. Wives and husbands, don’t trust each other. Always assume your spouse is lying to you. Parents, don’t trust your children. Children, don’t trust your parents. When they tell you eating broccoli is good for you, don’t trust them when they say that. Everyone, don’t trust your friends because remember it’s “Trust no man.” Actually, if we didn’t trust anyone we wouldn’t have any friends would we? Most people, I was going to say, “All people,” but who knows; most people wouldn’t even get, wouldn’t marry someone they wouldn’t trust. Would they? Would you? If “trust no man” was a truism would we even be here together on this Sabbath? Could we trust what any of us say in a sermon or sermonette or even in the opening or closing prayers? Or even with each other as we are fellowshipping before or after services? Could we trust the Bible? After all didn’t flesh and blood men write the Bible? They said it came from God, but remember it’s “trust no man.” Let’s turn to the book of Revelation and I’ll show you what I mean. Let’s just read Revelation 1:1 (let’s see what it’s telling us keeping in mind that expression that we’re saying is a truism, “Trust no man.”)
Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants-things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.

So John wrote the book of Revelation but telling us that the words came from Jesus Christ through God. But remember it’s “trust no man.” John was a man so what should we do? Well, we should throw out the book of Revelation. Another example, the book of Isaiah starts out with a vision of Isaiah, Isaiah was a man “trust no man” throw out the book of Isaiah. What about the words of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, can we trust them? Can we just trust Jesus Christ? Yes, we can, most definitely. Well, where do we find the words of Christ? Where do we find His teachings?

Let’s start with the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Those books tell us so much about Jesus Christ, about what he taught us. But who wrote those books? Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, all men. What’s our truism? “Trust no man.” Throw the gospels out then. Paul’s epistles, Peter’s epistles, the epistle of James, throw them out too. They’re all written by men. What all this means is that we have to throw out the entire New Testament; we have to throw out the entire Old Testament which basically leaves us with nothing except “trust no man.” Is that the way to live? Will that expression, will that way of life, bring peace and happiness to any of us? Even in the church we can hear something for years and believe in it and still then find out that that’s not what the Bible says, such as, “Trust no man.” The Bible doesn’t say that, but it does have much to say about trust and about who’s to come first in our trust.

Let’s turn over to Jeremiah 17:5, Jeremiah 17:5. (Let’s see what the Bible says about trusting in man, and we’ll begin to see where God is leading us in this subject.)

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, (The NIV says: He depends on flesh for his strength. Now if we just stop there we can all say, we’ll see it says that we are cursed if we trust man.” Oh, yes, it does. Let’s read the next line.) Whose heart departs from the Lord.

If you first notice it says trust in man. Notice the word “in” a small word added there makes a big difference. It is talking about men in general, not a specific person, and putting your trust in man instead of whom? Instead of God, our Father. We will be cursed if our hearts depart from God.) Whereas verse 7 says,

Verse 7: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. As we’ve always been taught, we are to put and keep God first. Let’s go over to Psalm 118:8, Psalm 118:8. I think this says this very well. We will read verses 8 and 9.

Psalm 118:8, 9 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

Or we could say, instead of princes, we can say governance, government officials or my favorite, politicians.) Let’s look at Psalm 146:3. Same point as we just read, but it adds something else.
Psalm 146:3 (It says) Do not put your trust in princes, (or government officials or politicians) Nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

Verse 4: His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish.

Man perishes, if we put our trust in man then we are putting our trust in something temporary; here today, gone tomorrow, but let’s look at verse 10, first line:

Verse 10: The Lord shall reign forever- (Now politicians may try to stay in office forever, but the reign of politicians will not last, but the Lord shall reign forever as we all know. We know that don’t we? We acknowledge it; we preach it; we believe it, but do we always live it? How often when we are going through trials, going through some very rough times in our lives, brethren, let’s ask ourselves, “Does our trust in God ever begin to slip? Do we ever have our doubts? Do we ever stop looking to God and instead look to ourselves to solve our problems?” And when we do that are we putting our trust in God? When we put our trust in ourselves, which is in fact putting our trust in man.)

2 Corinthians 1:9 says we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead. Do we always follow that scripture?

Now let’s switch gears a bit. Yes, we are to put our trust in God rather than in man, but does that mean we should never trust each other? Who wants us not to trust each other? Who stirs the pot so we won’t trust each other? Well, none other than our arch enemy, Satan the devil. Please turn with me to John 8:44. John 8:44. Satan is the one we should never trust under any circumstances, and unfortunately Satan holds sway over most of the world. Why shouldn’t we trust Satan? Well, Jesus Christ will tell us why here.

John 8:44 (The words of Jesus Christ.) “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

And Satan wants us to think that everyone else is just like that and not to be trusted. Now do we make mistakes? Do we say the wrong things at times? Do we hurt one another at times? Well, yes, you better believe we do. Does God give up on us during those times? No. Does Jesus Christ turn his back on us when we make mistakes? No. Shouldn’t we do the same with each other? If we are following Christ we will, which leads us to 1 Corinthians 11:1. Please turn there.

1 Corinthians 11:1. Now we’ve come out of a situation where there was so much mistrust. Are we bringing that mistrust with us so much so that we won’t trust anyone, we won’t trust any organization; we won’t trust anyone in leadership anymore? Well, if we do that then, brethren, our efforts are doomed from the start because we will not be able to do the work of God. In other words brethren, we will fail, F A I L, fail, with a capital, capitalize it all, and we need to work
together not be off by ourselves. Some people want to belong to the stay-at-home-Church-of-God, but there’ve always been people who thought that way.

Hebrews 10:25 tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves. The Greek word ecclesia is most often translated “church,” but it’s also translated “assembly” so the assembling of ourselves such as today, and the word church or assembly are connected; they are intertwined. And we know that the Church of God will never fail, but individually and collectively brethren we can fail.

1 Corinthians 11:1 *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

The NIV puts it *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*

Yes, we can trust each other if we are following Christ in every facet of our lives. His way is the Father’s way which is the only way. Brethren, we are all on that narrow path to the kingdom, and sometimes we can stray from it as we heard in the sermonette. But as long as we get back on that path, brethren, get back and going in the right direction, our Father will be there for us. Our elder brother, Jesus Christ, will help us every step of the way.

Please turn with me to Amos 3:7. Amos 3:7. The Minor Prophet right after Joel right before Jonah. Amos 3:7 God trusts, He puts trust in His servants, to do His will to do His work. Yes, sometimes they’ll stumble; sometimes they’ll fall, but God will pick them up, and God will pick us up too when we fall or stumble.

**Amos 3:7** *Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.*

And in this book, the Holy Bible tells us God’s plans for all of us. You don’t have to turn there but in Matthew 13: 11 Christ said, “It has been given to you to know the mysteries (or the secret) of the Kingdom of God.”

He is telling us that, and we trust what is written in the Bible, don’t we? Because we know it is the word of God. So we trust what Amos wrote; we trust what Moses wrote; we trust what Isaiah wrote; what Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James wrote. We trust what all these men wrote, and we are to trust God’s servants as they follow Christ.

**Hebrews 13:7** (says) *Remember those who rule (or lead) over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, (not their word but God’s word) whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.*

The Living Translation says, *and followed the example of their faith.*

It goes right along with what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11, “follow me as I follow Christ.” And if we follow a man who isn’t following Christ then we’re liable to follow him right off a cliff to
our own destruction. Unfortunately, that’s happened to many people, and it’s going to happen to
other people, too, and brethren following God’s way, living by God’s word, will not leave us out
there by ourselves. No, it will lead us to God’s people; lead us to work together with the people
that God has called.

As we know, we live in a world where the words terrorist and terrorism have become almost a
daily part of our vocabulary, and often on various news shows, they will have these terrorism
experts from Homeland Security, and they’re interviewing them. And they’ll be talking about
how all these terrorist plots have failed, some by skill, by their hard work, and some by luck.
Some of you remember that Times Square bomber who left a bomb in the car, and if it had gone
off, it would have killed a lot of people. But fortunately he didn’t know how to build a bomb, and
it didn’t go off. It was really luck that that didn’t happen, and the terrorist experts will tell you
that. Have you ever heard some of these experts say something like this? They’ll say, “Now we
can stop 100 terrorist attempts to kill or maim people or blow up buildings. We can be successful
100, 200 straight times, but all a terrorist has to do is succeed just once, and if he is successful
just once then he wins.”

Let’s relate that to our spiritual lives because it can be similar to Satan and his constantly
attacking us. Satan can fail thousands of times over the years in his attacks against us in his
tempting us, but, brethren, with us if we just think about it, he only needs to succeed one time,
and if he does, he wins. Because brethren, if we give up, Satan wins. We only have to give up
once. It doesn’t matter if we’ve endured 30, 40, 50 years. If we stop enduring to the end as our
Savior said we must, then Satan wins where we’re concerned, and as we know the end is not here
yet.

Satan hates the church of God, and he is trying everything he can to destroy it. And as we
mentioned earlier, we know that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it as we’re told in
Matthew 16:18. But Satan will continue to whittle us down, and I’m not talking about a physical
organization, I’m talking about the spiritual organism, the body of Christ, and if Satan can cause
just one person to give up, then Satan wins. If he can get God’s people to mistrust one another,
then Satan wins. Now in the end he loses, but in the meantime we need to stand together. We
must fight together. We must protect each other to help insure that Satan doesn’t win where
we’re concerned.

Please turn to James’ epistle, the epistle of James 4:7. James 4:7. When we look around at what’s
happening in the world and what’s happening in the church, sometimes we’re just ready to fight
aren’t we? We just want to put up our dukes and duke it out with somebody, but brethren, we
need to fight Satan, not each other because if we fight each other, Satan wins, but if we continue
to fight Satan with God in our corner, we will win. In fact, we can’t lose with God in our corner.
James 4, read verse 7 and the first part of verse 8.

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

The first part of verse 8.
Verse 8: *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*

And let’s not forget that Satan never gives up. He is going to go down fighting. Now we don’t ever want to give up fighting, and we want to fight to the end because that’s when we win at the end. Endure to the end, and we shall be saved. Jesus Christ’s own words.

Let’s turn back to the book of Revelation, Revelation 12:10. Three points I’d like to bring out about this verse. First, we talked about what will be ours if we fight until the end. Second, in the last year, especially in the last few months or so, there have been a lot of accusations made out there. And third, we said that Satan will go down fighting. Well, Revelation 12:10 gives us the answers to all three of these points.

**Revelation 12:10** *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, (and that’s what awaits us if we fight, if we endure unto the end, the kingdom of God) and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night,*

The accuser, who’s the accuser of the brethren? Well, none other than Satan the devil, and he’s been working overtime the last few months hasn’t he? Now we said that Satan is going to go down fighting. Well, let’s change that phrase a bit -- as we read *who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.* -- so let’s instead say Satan will be cast down by them. In fact, he will be cast down kicking and screaming into the bottomless pit, and of course the Day of Atonement pictures that wonderful day for all of us in God’s plan of salvation.

As we also know brethren, there’s a lot more bad things that are going to happen in this world before that happens. And quite frankly, some of us may be caught up right in the middle of some of those bad things that are going to happen because if you think, knowing too recently as bad as the expression goes, “You ain’t seen nothin’ yet.” But as we also know, there’s a lot of good coming. A lot of good coming for God’s people, for us, and the good that is coming far outweighs the bad that we may have to go through before Jesus Christ returns.

How much trust do we put in the words of the Bible that describe our Jesus Christ returning to this earth in all glory to usher in the kingdom of God? How much trust? Well, brethren, we stake our lives on those words of the Bible don’t we? Let’s remember the words of Moses just before the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea. I think that’s a good analogy for us to remember during these trying times because in a way we’re crossing our Red Sea. As Moses spoke to Israel we can see these words directed at us. I’ll read it for you in Exodus 14:13.

**Exodus 14:13** *And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord,...*

I can still picture Charlton Heston saying that to the children of Israel as they’re about to cross the Red Sea. Brethren, can we see the salvation of the Lord? It’s right ahead of us if we keep
Brethren, we’ve gone through a lot just to be here, and we never thought we would be here, did we? Yes, we are here. But, we still want to know if everything is going to be Okay now, don’t we? Let’s please turn to 2 Corinthians 11:3. 2 Corinthians 11:3.

As we talked about in the sermon we need to put and keep our trust in God. We also need to trust His servants as they follow Christ and brethren, if we all put our trust in Jesus Christ we can’t go wrong. Now we know God’s word tells us that, don’t we? We’ve heard it again during this sermon, but so many in the church are in pain right now, aren’t they? When people are hurting it’s easy to think, easy to say, especially when hearing a sermon like this, “Well, Steve, he’s making it sound all so simple in what we have to do.” Well, brethren, it is simple. If we doubt that it is, then we are allowing our old enemy to influence us again.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Our solution is simple as we start anew. Let’s look at Ephesians 3:17-19. Ephesians 3:17-19. As we go through some hard times brethren, let’s realize we’ve always had the solution to our problems. We’ve had the answer all along within us, but sometimes we can forget what we have. Sometimes we can forget what God has given us, what we are capable of.

Ephesians 3:17-19 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

And brethren, we have all that within our grasp. Will we hold on to it? Will we use it? Will we demonstrate the power of God’s Holy Spirit that we have within us? Again, look around at each other. Will we trust each other as we follow Christ? Satan has and will continue to attack us in ways that we’ve never imagined. We’ll be waiting for him to attack us over there, and he’ll come over there and attack us. Problems will arise; threats will be made; accusations will be thrown at us. Some of our friends, some of our families, some of our brethren will turn their backs on us. Some will outright reject us; some may even vilify us. But brethren, through it all we can always put our trust in God.

Let’s go back to Joshua 24:15 and we’ll read the last part of the scripture, and I love this expression from Joshua. Joshua 24:15. Brethren, when times look dark and doubts set in when we feel ourselves weakening spiritually, this is one of the many scriptures to remember and to follow. The last part of Joshua 24:15.

Joshua 24:15 But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

And brethren, as we look at all of us here today together, let’s all remember Joshua’s words.
Let’s all say, “We are, but for all of us in our house, we will serve the Lord, no matter what.” Our trust in the living God will never falter.

The year was 1995, and for me personally, my spiritual and emotional life was put through the wringer, and I know many of you went through that same wringer. In John 17:17, Jesus Christ said referring to the Father: *thy word is truth*. And often when we quote that scripture in a sermon, we’ll then reference God’s word, the Bible, and how it contains His truth, and that’s why we trust what we read in the Bible. It’s the word of God, and God’s word is truth, but the scripture, “Thy word is truth,” just doesn’t refer to God’s written word. It describes God’s character; it describes who God is. It tells us what He stands for because God is truth.

Hebrews 6:18 tells us that it is impossible for God to lie. And God’s people follow His way. They will live by God’s truth. Lies, deceptions, distortions, half-truths, holding back the truth are not part of the truth. There is only one way of truth, and that’s God’s way; something to never forget.

I’d like to close the sermon with a trip down memory lane for many of us. We started that way; we’re going to end that way. There was a TV show in the 1950’s when I was a kid that I loved to watch. It was called *Superman*, and if you remember that George Reeves played the part of Superman. And those of you who remember who George Reeves was, a little trivia question here. If you watched the opening scenes of *Gone With the Wind*, when they’re at the plantation and at the barbeque, and Scarlet O’Hara is there, and she’s got all these young men around her. And there is two brothers arguing about who’s going to bring her barbeque, one of them is George Reeves who later became Superman. Just a little trivia there.

Of course George Reeves played the part of Superman, and he was also Clark Kent who was Superman in disguise. Now I have to tell you, even as a five-year-old I wondered how no one could recognize that Clark Kent was not Superman just because he had glasses on. Okay, let me show you what I mean. I’m wearing glasses, okay. Is everyone wondering what happened to Steve? He was just here a second ago? Who is this guy? Well if you are, don’t worry. See, it’s me. Well, I guess if they had to do that, the writers had to do that, I don’t know what else except have them wear a mask, and that wouldn’t have been right, but anyway, I still loved the show.

And this is what the announcer said in the introduction of the TV program, *Superman*. I mean this is going to bring back memories to some of you. “Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Look, up in the sky; it’s a bird; it’s a plane; it’s Superman. Yes, it’s Superman, strange visitor from another planet who came to earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. Superman, who can change the course of mighty rivers, bend steel in his bare hands, but who disguised as Clark Kent, mild manner reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper, fights a never ending battle for truth, justice and the American way.” And they would have Superman standing there like this with an American flag flying in the background. Remember that? Ah, that was great, but that’s what Superman stood for: truth, justice, and the American way, and that’s the phrase I want to end with. But with two significant changes, and this phrase will apply to all of us.
Now, we can’t leap tall buildings in a single bound; we can’t bend steel with our bare hands, can we? No. But we can, and we will, stand for principles that come from God’s word, the Bible. Brethren, as we start a new chapter in the Church of God, we, too, will have our battles to fight. And as Superman stood for truth, justice and the American way, we will stand for something that Jesus Christ taught. Brethren, we, in the Greensboro congregation of the Church of God will stand for truth, integrity and God’s way, and we will follow God’s truth. We will grow in godly character, and we will live by God’s word every step of the way. Why? Let’s turn to 1 Timothy 4:10 for the simple answer as we close for today and it also answers our original question in this sermon, “Who do you trust?” 1 Timothy 4:10.

1 Timothy 4:10 *For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God.*

Good Sabbath, brethren.