

TRUSTING GOD FOR SAFETY Proverbs 29:25 (KJV)

“The fear of man bringeth a snare:
but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”

The writer of Proverbs (whom many including me believe was Solomon) admonishes us about fear and encourages us to trust God. He says that “the fear of man bringeth a snare,” and the word “snare” based on Hebrew studies suggests to be ensnared or trapped. It was a noose used for catching animals or a hook for the nose. **Fearing anyone or anything just ensnares us to a situation that God did not design for our lives; instead, God wants us to be safe which is guaranteed for believers who trust in the Lord.** Thus, as we live in these uncertain times, God wants us to trust Him at all times even in regards to safety.

WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Our two in-person Worship Celebrations are on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (the North Campus) and 11:00 a.m. (the South Campus). Everyone (especially people who are elderly and physically disabled) is encouraged to arrive at least 10 minutes beforehand to be seated safely and comfortably. Temperatures are checked, hand sanitizing is urged, social distancing is applied regarding where people shall sit and walk, wearing a mask is requested, utilization of restrooms is restricted to 2-4 people at a time (depending on the size of the restroom), and congregating before and after Services is prohibited.

If you have any Covid symptoms (such as cold or flu) or if you have not completed at least 5 days of quarantine after testing positive, please view and participate in our online worship via YouTube rather than in-person worship along with many others who choose to worship with us through live streaming.

TITHING OFTEN REVEALS PEOPLE’S HEARTS

We learn in the Bible that tithing is an important part of faith for those who follow God and that tithing (10 % of our gross income/increase) should be money we set aside before paying anything else. We have observed that Jesus endorsed tithing and that tithing began before the Mosaic law. We have learned that tithing enables believers to experience a harvest (abundant blessings), that tithing empowers God’s church to minister effectively, and that tithing is a step of faith. We have

also learned that people are “cursed with a curse” when they fail to tithe which is a consequence of robbing God and that tithing demonstrates our love for God.

Today, I am inclined to say that tithing often reveals people’s hearts. Jesus said, “**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also**” (Mt. 6:21). Basically, people do what is in their heart to do. **If tithing is not in one’s heart, one will always make excuses for not tithing; however, if tithing is in one’s heart, very little is capable of preventing one from tithing.** My beloved, don’t allow Satan to convince you that you cannot afford to tithe. If you have mismanaged your finances by not making tithing a priority in your budget, pray to get your finances in line with God’s will. Rather than believing that you cannot afford to tithe, you should recognize that you cannot afford not to tithe.

At St. John, **we currently give in person** during Sunday Morning Worship Celebrations, by mailing or dropping off our tithes and offerings at our Administration Building or South Campus, or by giving online through our website (sjmbc.org). Let’s demonstrate our faith with our Tithes and Offerings.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Friday, March 4: Numbers 32-33; Mark 10:1-31
Saturday, March 5: Numbers 34-36; Mark 10:32-52
Sunday, March 6: Deuteronomy 1-2; Mark 11:1-19
Monday, March 7: Deuteronomy 3-4; Mark 11:20-33
Tuesday, March 8: Deuteronomy 5-7; Mark 12:1-27
Wednesday, March 9: Deuteronomy 8-10; Mark 12:28-44
Thursday, March 10: Deuteronomy 11-13; Mark 13:1-13
Friday, March 11: Deuteronomy 14-16; Mark 13:14-37
Saturday, March 12: Deuteronomy 17-19; Mark 14:1-25

MEMORANDUM

Building Fund Pledges: We still desire to construct a multimillion-dollar **Family Life Center**, adjacent to our current sanctuary at the North Campus, which will consist of a gymnasium, game room (for the youth), and weight room. Many of us made a pledge that we fulfilled, but some have not. I personally thank those of us who have already fulfilled our pledge and others who have made “Building Fund” contributions. I encourage everyone (if you have not already done so) to participate financially (in full or installments) as soon as possible in this building project by choosing one of the following tiers:

- 1) \$10,000.00 or more
- 2) \$5,000.00 to \$9,999.00
- 3) \$1,000.00 to \$4,999.00
- 4) \$500.00 to \$999.00
- 5) Below \$500.00

Weekly Activities: I strongly encourage everyone to participate in the St. John activities that benefit you. In regards to each of the following activities, visit our website at sjmbc.org if you need more information. What's forthcoming?

Sundays:

- **Worship Celebrations** at 9:00 a.m. (North Campus) and 11:00 a.m. (South Campus)
- **Online Church School** at 2:00 p.m.
- **Online J.A.M. (Children Fellowships)** 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
- **Online Lord's Supper** 1st Sundays at 7:00 p.m. To participate, each believer will need bread or a cracker and grape juice (or something similar).

Mondays:

- **Preparation For Grocery Giveaway** at 10:00 a.m. (South Campus)
- **Online Women Missionary Ministry (General Mission)** 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays:

- **Grocery Giveaway** (North Campus and South Campus) at 12:00 p.m.
- **Online Church Leadership Council** Tuesdays before 3rd Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays:

- **Online Prayer** at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- **Online Church School** at 7:00 p.m.

BIBLICAL RECAPITULATION

Trusting God for safety is what the Lord wants us to do (Prov. 29:25). Also, tithing often reveals people's hearts.

May God bless and sustain each of us.

Your Servant In Christ,

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor