

# In God We Trust

**Revelation 2:1-5** - Return to Your First Love

*Whitney Houston – songs spoke of person looking for love*

Foundation of Love is **TRUST**

## **BACKGROUND:**

1. One day in history: Pharaoh gathered 600 of his best chariots and chased the Israelites to the edge of the sea of reeds. You know the outcome. Exodus 14:6
2. One day in history: kings from all corners of the earth surrounded the Israelites. God told Joshua he would be victorious. Joshua 11:4
3. One day in history: Solomon had 1400 chariots and 12,000 horses. His problem was he loved many foreign women who convinced him to worship their gods. His kingdom was ripped from him. 1 Kings 10:26

What do such days in history have in common?

A choice of who or what to depend upon.

When tragedy becomes terror, or turmoil turns to war, we turn to God.

Too often, we turn away once the crisis has passed.

We forget the Bible provides clear guidance on how to choose freedom or captivity.

When the foundations are being destroyed, when we are blinded by all manner of sin, the Bible says choose freedom through your Lord God.

Read Psalm 20:7

INTRODUCTION:

A. The paradox between trusting in horses and chariots or God is seen in our \$1 bill.

Take out a bill and look at it

### **1Corinthians 13:13**

1. **Faith** is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Heb.11:1).

Most folks have never seen the gold or silver that backs the dollar, yet we are sure the \$1 bill will buy something. We have never seen God, yet by faith we are certain He exists.

2. **Hope** is put in the Lord, now and forevermore (Psalm 131:3). Our hope resides in the fact that God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

We hope the \$1 bill we pull out of our wallet will be good tomorrow.

3. **Love** is not in word or tongue, but by our actions and in truth (1 John 3:18).

Few would admit to loving money, but their actions testify otherwise. Believers love God with all their heart, mind, and soul.



B. It seems that the more \$1 bills one has, the more they rely on horses and chariots.

This \$1 bill does remind us of 4 ways of how we are to trust in God:

Trust in His Name

Trust in His Word

Trust in His Promise

Trust in His Power

## 1. TRUST IN HIS NAME

- The back of \$1 bill reads “In God We Trust”.

Our founding Fathers understood its meaning. Today there are many dark forces trying to remove that statement from more than just currency; they want it removed from our hearts and minds.

- **Authentic Christians trust in the Name; by faith they know “Name-brand” quality. Unbelievers buy the cheap imitations.**

- **Illustration: Buying knock off watches or purses**

- **Psalm 9:10** –*Know (intimate) the name of the Lord, seek and not be forsaken*

- **John 1:12** –*Receive (impregnated) and get “right” to become sons of God (child=slave, but son (maturity) was heir)*

- So what will you choose? Horses and chariots or the Name.

## 2. TRUST IN HIS WORD

- The word “One Dollar” printed on a \$1 bill

Words that define the worth of the money. They not only inform you of the value, anyone who is handed the bill knows what it is worth by these words.

- **Isaiah 55:11- 12 – Word will not return void**

Psalm 119:105 – Word is a lamp to my feet

- **Illustration: Father’s, husband, people not keeping their word so we associate inadvertently that God won’t keep His.**

- John 17:17 – The Word sanctifies (cleans of sins, separates, makes pure) us

- So what will you choose? Horses and chariots or the Word.

### 3. TRUST IN HIS PROMISE

- “Federal Reserve Note” is printed on the back of a \$1 bill.

It is a promise of payment, signed by both the Secretary of the Treasury and the Treasurer of the US. Payment is promised for “all debts, public and private.”

The promise is reinforced by the Seal of the US printed on the back of the bill.

- **2 Corinthians 1:19-22** – The answer to all God’s promises are “YES”
- **Habakkuk 2:2-3** – Prophecy (promise) that Habakkuk received...though it tarry, wait for it
- Illustration:
- So what will you choose? Horses and chariots or the Promise?

#### **4. TRUST IN HIS POWER**

- “The United States of America” is prominently printed on the front of the \$1 bill.

You may travel around the US, but you never really see The USA. The power of the USA is found in its citizens.

- **2 Timothy 1:7 –**

spirit of power (Ephesians 3:20),

love (redemptive, resurrection power),

and sound mind (Romans 15:13)

- Deuteronomy 8:18 – God gives power to get wealth (success)

- **Illustration:** Man caught in a turbulent stream after boat wrecks. Stranger on a bridge reaches out his, but does the man trust him.

- **When we are being swept away in the torrents of sin and tribulation, do we trust enough in the power of God to reach for His unseen hand?**

- **So what will you choose? Horses and chariots or the Power.**

## **DECISION:**

### **A. Do you live by “In God We Trust” or do you live by the \$1 bill?**

1. Will you ever have enough dollar bills to preserve your life?
2. Can there ever be enough money to guarantee liberty from the bondage of sin?
3. Does pursuit of an infinite supply of dollar bills bring genuine happiness?

### **B. Today might be the day you trade your horses and chariots for trust in the Lord**

1. **Trust in the Name of the Lord** to save you from an empty life and a dreadful future. Admit you are a sinner. Believe in Jesus Christ as the risen Lord. Confess Him as your Lord and Savior.

2. **Trust in the Word of God** that you belong in a fellowship of believers. You are called to be part of the body of Christ.

3. **Trust in the Promise of God** Let not your heart be troubled by the burdens you are carrying today. Pray for your burden to be lifted.

#### **4. Trust in the Power of God**

Your lifestyle has not been so wicked that God cannot fix it.

Your problems are not so great that Jesus cannot handle them.

You are not so bad that the Holy Spirit has forsaken you.

Be bold in your request to call upon the Lord's infinite power to get you back on the highway of holiness.