

## Ancient Truths for Modern Times

### Put All Your Eggs In One Basket

#### Malachi 3:16-4:6

**Get eggs** – How many times in the investment world have you heard someone say . . .

Don't put all your eggs in one basket!

Don't put all your money into one stock or one property or one asset or one mutual fund

Diversify, spread it around – if one investment goes south, the others won't

That's *good* advice . . . for our savings plans

But it's *terrible* advice for the rest of life; especially for eternal life

The Bible says put *all* your faith and trust in God, and God alone

In fact, God is adamant about that

Is 43:11 – *I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior*

Is 45:21-22 – *There is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me . . . For I am God, and there is no other.*

Is 48:11 – *My glory I will not give to another*

Don't be spreading your allegiances around – trust me, and me alone, God says

Mal ends this message of burden on an up note, describing the benefits for those who do exactly that

Read Mal 3:16-4:6 – Having spent most of the first 3 chapters rebuking and warning those who don't fear him and live his way, God now turns to address those who do

#### Those who genuinely fear the LORD put all their eggs in God's basket (16)

The essence of those who fear God is trust

They take him at his word and trust him with their lives

They have such a profound awe and respect for God that if he said it, they believe it, and that settles it

Then live by it – entrusting every single aspect of their lives to God

The general direction of their life; and their well-being – it's in his hands

I will take care of you; I will direct your paths

Given up trying to control every single detail of their lives by manipulating and orchestrating things

How often run around acting like we're the *conductor* and God's just one of the players  
High School band camp

Conductor was adamant despite what we thought, he was the only legitimate conductor, and we'd better watch him; If we didn't, there would be a mess

Final performance – stopped us right in the middle of a song because somebody was doing their own thing, acting like they were the conductor

Many of us are like that – we either lose sight of God who is doing the conducting, or we think we're better at running our lives than he is

For others, it's lack of trust – We don't put all our eggs, every aspect of our lives in God's basket, in God's care, because we don't trust him to take care of us

Some of you say you do that, but you don't

You try to choreograph every last detail of your life, your spouse's life, your kid's lives

You're either in denial; you're not honest with yourself; or don't see it in the first place

Live by the song "Every Breath You Take" by The Police

Every breath you take, every move you make, every vow you break, every step you take – I'll be watching you

Every single day, every word you say, every game you play – I'll be watching you

In the process you get an ulcer, have a nervous breakdown, or fight a perpetual sense of discontent – then wonder where God is

Search your heart on this one – don't slough it off

Ask someone who will speak truth into your life –

Do I trust God with my life/my kid's lives? Or do I try to control every last detail?

Those who genuinely fear the Lord, trust him with their whole lives, putting all their eggs in his basket

Best part – God promises a whole bunch of benefits when we do

He doesn't just tell us to trust him, and then leave us

Just do it; Have a great time; Love ya; Catch you later

#### Ancient Truth #10 – God lavishes us with his grace when we trust him with our lives

He lays out the benefits of fearing and trusting him

Gives us a dozen reasons to put all our eggs in his basket

To trust him with our whole lives – now and in the future

#### A Dozen Reasons to Put All Your Eggs in God's Basket

##### 1. He notices you (16)

*The Lord paid attention* – piddly us; awesome God; and he pays attention to us  
David wondered about that long ago

*What is man that you are mindful of him* (Ps 8:4)

God notices us when we place our trust in him

That's a good reason to put your eggs in God's basket

##### 2. He hears you (16)

It's one thing that God notices our trust in him, but to listen to us? He does too

That could be good or bad

It's bad that he hears our blow ups

It's good that he hears our prayers, our confessions, our cries, our praise

Ps 115:4-7 – Idols, the work of human hands, have ears but do not hear you

Take advantage of this and cry out to God regularly; pour your heart out

Another reason to put all your eggs in God's basket

##### 3. He remembers you (16)

*A book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name*

This keeping of records by God appears in both the OT and the NT (even more)

The point is not that God *needs* a written record to remember you, but that he does remember you, and everything about you; He knows you intimately

Not one person who fears/trusts the Lord will be forgotten by him

Another reason to put all your eggs in God's basket

##### 4. He holds you (17)

*They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts*

This is emphatic in Hebrew – what is declared by God to be his, is irrevocably his

God holds and keeps forever, those who love, serve, and trust him  
Once his, no one can take you from him (John 6:37-40; 10:27-29; Rom 8:31-39)  
1 Pet 1:5 – We are being guarded by God’s power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time  
He holds you – another reason to put all your eggs in God’s basket

#### 5. He treasures you (17)

*They shall be mine . . . when I make up my treasured possession*  
God considers those who love and trust him, to be a treasure  
Red, brown, yellow, black, and white we are precious in his sight  
No wonder there is great rejoicing in heaven when someone comes to Christ  
Or when someone who has turned his back on God and his people, comes home  
Deut 7:6 – *You are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.*  
As a follower of Christ, you’re part of God’s people – true Israel (Rom 9:6-8); his treasured possession

#### 6. He s pares you (17, 4:1)

*I will spare him [from what?] . . . For behold, the day is coming, burning . . .*  
The day that is coming is *the great and awesome day of the Lord* (4:5)  
Refers to the day when the curtain will drop on world history and the Lord, who came the first time as Savior and Friend, will come as King and Judge  
And for those who do not fear God, who do not trust him with their lives, who reject him and don’t seek him out – it will be a terrible  
They will be irrevocably given over to God’s wrath and eternal judgment in hell  
Once again, strong prophetic imagery to describe a truth of God and his ways  
But as one who fears and trusts the Lord, you are spared from that eternal judgment  
That’s a good reason to put all your eggs in God’s basket

#### 7. He loves you (17)

*I will spare them as a man spares his son* – that’s a picture of love and compassion  
Think of it – God considers you as a son, one of his own who is faithful in serving him  
He even goes so far to adopt us into his family and call us a child of God  
That’s love, that’s compassion – he doesn’t have to do that;  
We don’t deserve it, no matter how well we live  
Not only does he spare us from final hardship and judgment in his love for us . . .  
But he also spares us from many (not all) of the consequences of our sin and the sin of this world in which we live  
That’s mercy – withholding what we deserve

#### 8. He enlightens you (18)

On the final day of the Lord it will be clear who is righteous in God’s eyes and who isn’t; who fears him and who doesn’t . . .  
Who trusts him and who doesn’t; Who serves him and who doesn’t  
The distinction will be clear; no mistaking it  
*We shall see* – We will be enlightened, plain and clear

#### 9. He revives you (2)

*For you who fear my name* – for the humble/righteous as opposed to arrogant/evildoers

*The sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings* (2)

*Wings* – Common symbol of power in the ANE, depicting the all-pervasive scope of the sun’s rays  
In the day when Christ returns, the righteousness of God will burst on the scene like the morning light of the rising sun  
Reviving and healing all heartache, sickness, and disabilities for those who fear God  
Filling with joy (like *leaping calves*[just released] *from the stall*) those who trust God with their whole lives

Another reason to put all your eggs in God’s basket

#### 10. He vindicates you (3)

*You shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet*  
Here’s another word picture that describes God’s justice on the day of judgment when the roles and fortunes of the wicked and righteous will be reversed  
We know so little of persecution these days in our culture, that we attach very little significance to its vindication as described here  
In fact, it’s uncomfortable for us  
But for those who *are* persecuted for their faith, for those who long for such vindication – they draw much comfort from the certainty of this promise  
The important thing to remember is that our vindication is not for us to carry out  
Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord (Rom 12:19; Dt 32:35; Prov 20:22)  
Nor should we revel in it (Ps 35:11-14)

#### 11. He guides you (4-5)

Having spent the first part of the book urging us to abide by the principles of his law . . .  
God reminds us here at the last to remember them, because they guide us  
God has given us his *word* to help us know how to live (4)

And, he has given us his people – prophets, apostles, evangelists, pastors, teachers – to help us know and apply that word  
God cites one of those prophets, Elijah – referring to John the Baptist, who would . . .  
Influence the attitude of his contemporaries  
Be a moral catalyst for the nation  
Be one of the means God used to guide the decisions of his people  
Best of all, God gives the Holy Spirit to those who trust him through faith in Christ  
He guides those who fear him with his word, his people, and his Spirit

#### 12. He changes you (6)

When you trust God with your whole life, he changes you  
And he starts with the most important relationships in life – your family  
So that fathers and parents fulfill their responsibilities to their families, love their kids  
So that children submit to the authority of their parents and obey  
That kind of turning of heart only happen as God changes you – from the inside out

## Summary

That's a dozen reasons to put all your eggs, all your trust, every aspect of your life, in God's basket, in God's hands, in God's care

No wonder Solomon said – *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom* (Prov 9:10)

Only a fool would look at these benefits, and reject him

Unfortunately, we often try to hold on to one or more aspects of our lives, and end up making a mess of things – break the egg

God lavishes his goodness and grace on us when we trust in him

Put all your eggs *that* basket