

Find confidence in uncertain times

"Unemployment rate continues to climb" - "Economists predict slow recovery" - "Record Numbers without Health Insurance." Recent newspaper headlines like these abound in our times of economic uncertainty.



Eugene Rothfuss

• From the Pulpit

Everywhere I go around Colby and across the area, I find people concerned about the impact of the recession, and especially how it affects them personally. Those connected with agriculture industries see the recession in terms of crop and animal prices; teachers fear budget cuts and job eliminations.

Home foreclosures are at an all-time high. The stock market recovery is very slow.

"How will I pay my bills?" many are wondering. Let me offer you some encouragement. You can have confidence and peace in the middle of troubling times!

The way to have confidence is to put your trust in God. Jesus taught us that we don't need to be worried about our lives - what we will eat or drink, what we will wear - we just need to reorder our lives so that the first priority is not stuff, but God. Matthew chapter six in your Bible is a great place to read when things around you seem shaky.

Read Matthew 6:33-34 (NIV): "But seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

God has promised that if we "seek first his kingdom," all the things like food, shelter and clothing will be provided for us. The

key is to discover what it means to "Seek first his kingdom." The dictionary says that to seek means to go in search of... to look for... to try to reach, to make inquiry after. But the dictionary definition doesn't cut it for me. To seek something means...

- When you're ready to leave for an important meeting, and you can't find the car keys, that's seek first.

- When your child disappears while you're shopping in the mall, that's seek first.

- When you're on vacation, and your purse or wallet turn up missing with all your cash, credit cards and ID, that's seek first.

- When the boss says, "your job depends on your work on this contract!" That's seek first!

In this case, seek first means you lay aside all other priorities in favor of this one - his kingdom. Jesus tells us that we are to spend the best of our time, energy and resources in seeking to know more about our God and his son Jesus, and all our needs will be supplied.

Here's the challenge for your day - seek God in your activities, watch for where he is working and join him in it! Lay aside the worries in favor of the trusting.

Pastor Rothfuss is pastor of the Colby Wesleyan Church.

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