

Who Can We Trust?
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So what do you think? Should we manufacture money that doesn't really exist in order to buy up debts, stimulate banks to lend, and jumpstart our economy? Or do we tighten our belts and hold our breath?

For most of us, trying to figure out the monetary wizardry of our "economic gurus" is about as easy as figuring out how magician David Copperfield made the Statue of Liberty disappear. Maybe in the end it all comes down to smoke and mirrors, whether it's magic or the market. But there is one bankable economic disclosure. U.S. currency is still stamped with the assertion "In God We Trust." The question is, do we?

"In God We Trust" doesn't mean we don't wear our seat belt, stop paying our life insurance premiums, stop recycling, or stop going to the doctor. "In God We Trust" means that our faith points us towards something higher.

Most things in our lives are designed to keep us "maximally secure and minimally exposed." We get security systems for our homes and offices. Firewall and ant-virus software are standard on our computers. We have gated communities that keep careful tabs on who comes in and who goes out. Our lives are filled with extended warranties, pre-nuptial agreements, and no-fault divorces.

We tend not to trust anyone except ourselves to be in charge of our lives. Our actions, our attitudes, and our works are what bring us to a place of safety, security, and spiritual peace. Self-sufficiency is our greatest god. Self-sufficiency is the reason we buy both life insurance and lottery tickets. Everyone wants to believe that if we don't need anyone for anything, life will be better and blessed.

Well, not everyone. "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:9-14).

In whom will we ultimately put our trust? Will we, like the Pharisee, put our trust in ourselves; our position, and our goodness? Or will we, like the tax collector, give up the arrogance of our self sufficiency, self-centeredness, and contented complacency, and put our total trust in God's provision, grace, and mercy? Remember: He who humbles himself will be exalted.

