

It would behoove each of us to read each of the above passages. The first reading stressed "... trust in God." The second emphasizes the importance of Christ's resurrection for us. And the Gospel relates the narrative of the Beatitudes.

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord." So writes Jeremiah.

If we really believe and reflect on the fact that God created us and all that is, and that our very existence depends upon God, continuously keeping us in existence, we could not but put our total trust in God who will take care of us and make all things work for our ultimate good. God is love. He does not cause evil upon us. God keeps us in existence for our good, our benefit so that we may be with Him for all eternity. However, God leaves that choice up to us.

He gives us all we need to make the right choices. Our own weakness, the lure of the flesh, selfishness and our desire to please ourselves constantly are at war with the right choices. There is suffering, pain, death and a host of difficulties, unpleasantness that we all experience. But God does love us and wants the best for us. He does not take away our free will. We are the ones who have the choice for good or not.

When we choose to live a life of trust in the Lord, we will come to see that no matter what happens God is in control and we will always ultimately benefit no matter what the current situation presents.

Jeremiah did not say "...whose hope is in the Lord". He wrote "...whose hope is the Lord." Think about that!

If Christ was not raised from the dead, we can have no hope for resurrection – life after death. If the life we live is all that there is, we are the most pitiable people of all. That is part of the message of the second reading. The fact is that Christ is raised from the dead and our expectation of life after death is therefore certain.

All of us have read and perhaps reflected on the Beatitudes. Jesus pronounces blessings on many situations in life. Notice that the blessings pronounced (given) are to those situations that seem most undesirable in life or at least in our society. The poor, the hungry, the weeping, the hated are all declared blessed.

It would seem that each of these difficult situations in life would have to be recognized and accepted with firm trust in God for a person to be truly blessed.

I do not believe that I would be blessed even by God if I hated my poverty, fought against it, and blamed God for allowing such a pitiable state to befall me.

It is only in accepting one's state in life and trusting the Lord's care and guidance that one is truly blessed. Accepting poverty and weakness does not mean we wallow in it. We do all we can to live a good life. That means to pray, work, and serve others as best we can. And allow God to work wonders in our life. The greatest wonder is eternal life with Him for those who are trustingly faithful.