A View of Life

For SATB Choir

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(2.03.12)

The 'Benedictus Dominine' passage within the *Benedictus* of John Taverner's *Missa Gloria Tibi Trinitas*, arguably, has two striking characteristics. The first being its contrapuntal texture: the voices interact, weaving rhythmically around one another very much independently. The second being the point of imitation, which is identifiable as a rising minor third that returns, by step, to its original pitch.

I have endeavoured to capture *A View of Life* with these two defining characteristics. Each phrase, therefore, contains a form of this minor third gesture; in many cases a rising third and its inversion i.e. the descending interval, returning to its original pitch. The resulting effect, created by juxtaposing rising and inverted minor third movement, is an attempt to reflect the ideological dichotomy that is in conflict within the relevant texts being set. Independent voice leading, such as found in the Taverner, is prevalent, except where it seemed more appropriate to group voices in pairs for dramatic effect - for example, the opening and close of the piece.

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Duration: c. 3.5 minutes

A View of Life

Charles Darwin, from *The Origin of Species*,
Psalms 53:1, Genesis 1:27, Luke 12:10,
Jeremiah 17:5, Hebrews 11:1

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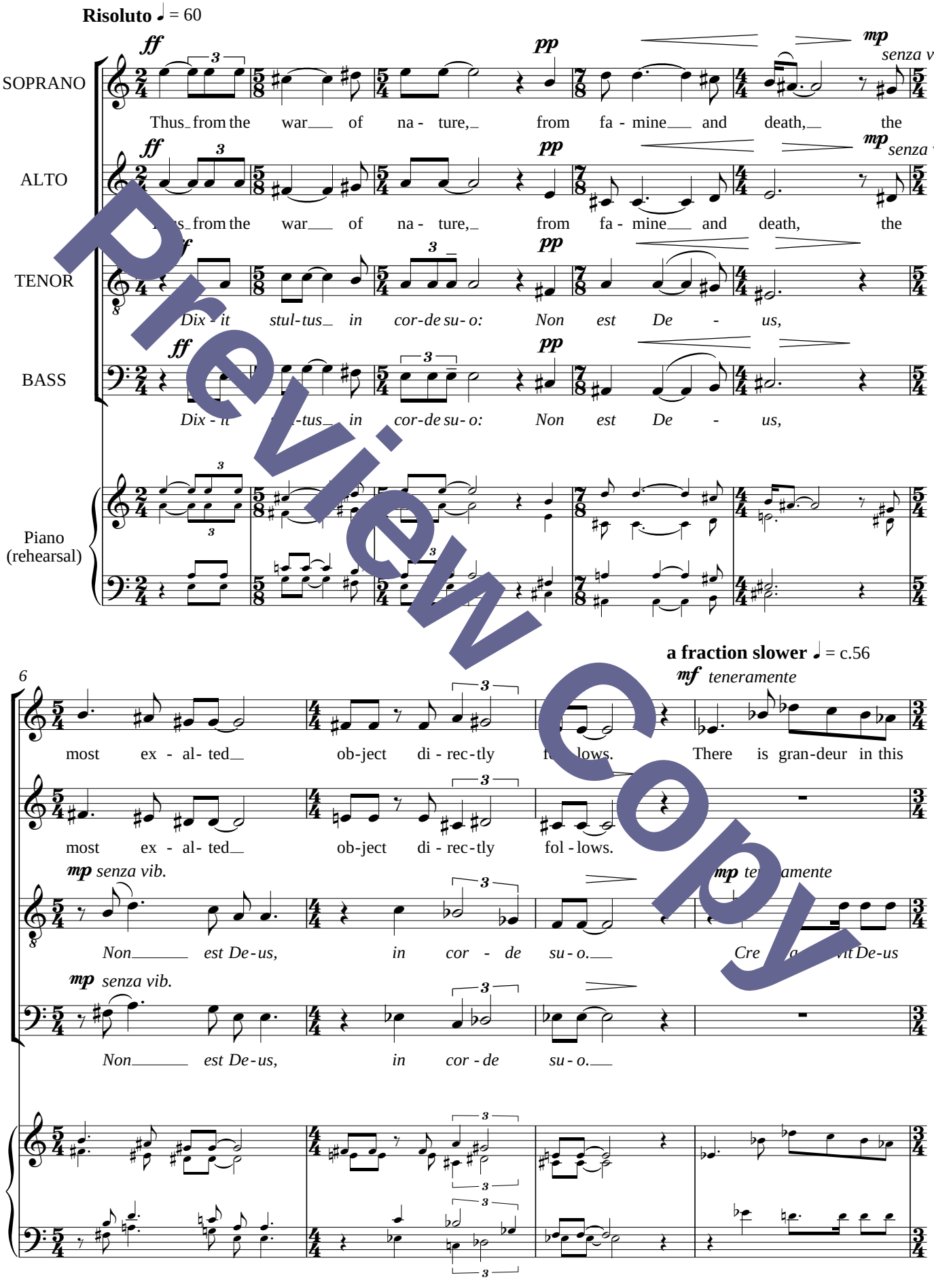


Preview Copy

Tempo Primo

10

view of life, gran - deur in this view of life,

mf teneramente

There is gran-deur in this view of life, this view of life,

mf *f*

ad im - a - gi - nem su - am. With its se-ve-ral

mf *f*

ho - mi nem ad im - a - gi-nem su - am. With its se-ve-ral

poco rit.

A Tempo

14

f *ff*

Au - tem qui in Spi - ri - tum Sanc - tum blas - phe - ma - ver -

f *ff*

Au - tem qui in Spi - ri - tum Sanc - tum blas - phe - ma - -

(f)

pow'rs, and that whilst this pla - net has gone cy - cl - ing

(f)

powr's, and that whilst this pla - net has gone cy - cl - ing, cy - cl - ing

Preview Copy

poco rit.

17

pp

it non re - mit - te - tur.

pp

- ve-rit non re - mit-te - tur.

p *pp*

on ac - cor-ding to the fixed law of gra - vi - ty:

mp *pp*

on ac - cor-ding to the fixed law of gra-vi - ty, to the fixed law,

a little slower ♩ = c.52

19

più pp

From so sim - ple a be - gin - ning, from so sim-ple a be - gin ning,

più pp

From so sim-ple a be - gin - ing, from so sim-ple a gin - ning,

più pp

Ma - le-dic - tus

p

Ma - le-dic - tus ho - mo

Preview Copy

Tempo Primo

molto rit.

A Tempo

23

mf

f

end - less forms most beau - ti ful

mf

f

end - less forms most beau - ti ful

mf

f

con- - dit in ho - mi - ne, in ho - - - - mi - ne,

mf

f

qui - - - dit in ho-mi- ne, Ma - le - dic - tus,

a [illegible] slower ♩ = c.56

29

mp

f

and most won - der-ful have been, and are [illegible] ing, ev - olved,

mp

f

and most won - der-ful have been, *Ma -*

mp

in ho - - mi - ne. [illegible] ng ev-

mp

qui con - fi - dit in ho - mi - ne. Be - ing ev-

Preview Copy

Tempo Primo

32

mf

are be-ing ev-olved, are be-ing ev-olved, be-ing ev-olved. *Est au-tem*

-le-dic-tus ho-mo qui con-fi-dit in ho-mi-ne. Est au-tem

ol be-ing ev-olved, are be-ing ev-olved, be-ing ev-olved. *Est au tem*

olved, be ing ev-olved. *Cre-a-vit De-us ho-mi-nem.* There is

36

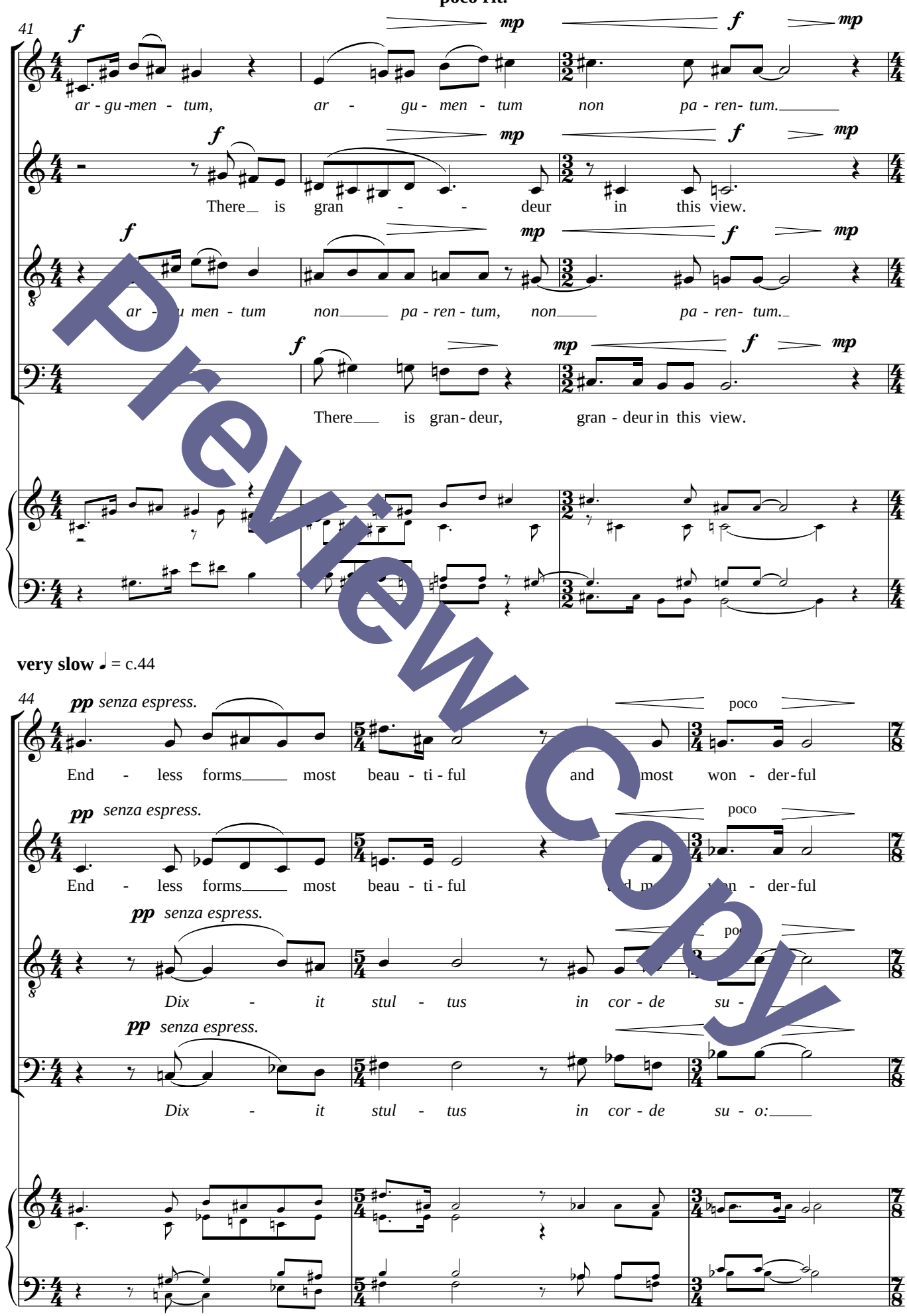
fi-des spe-ran-do-rum sub-stan-ti-a re-rum,

fi-des spe-ran-do-rum sub-a re-rum,

fi-des spe-ran-do-rum sub-stan-ti-a re-

gran-deur in this view of life, in this view of life.

Preview Copy



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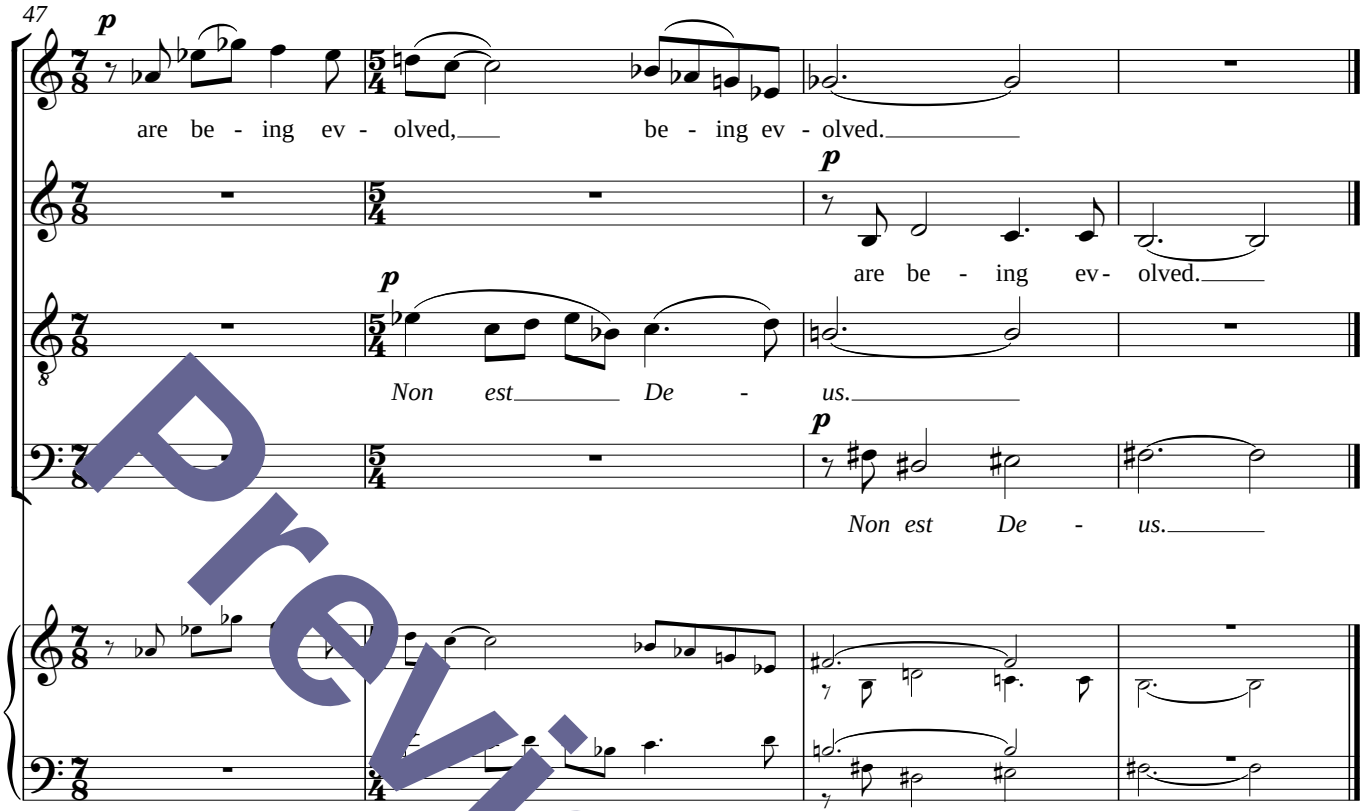
moving on slightly ♩ = c.50 **senza rit.**



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Dixit stultus in corde suo: Non est Deus. The fool hath said in his heart: There is no God. - Psalms 53:1

Creavit Deus hominem ad imaginem suam. God created man in his own imagine. - Genesis 1:27

Autem qui in Spiritum Sanctum blasphemaverit non remittetur. But they that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven. - Luke 12:

Maledictus homo qui confidit in homine. Cursed be the man that trusteth in man. - Jeremiah 17:5

Est autem fides sperandorum substantia rerum, argumentum non parentum. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. - Hebrews 11:1