

*In
search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

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"He Careth For You"

By David McElister

One of the most beautiful statements in all the Bible is found in 1 Peter 5:7 -- "*casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you*" (ASV). The apostle here combines commandment and fact in a most assuring way for every Christian. How great it is to know that we are not faced with the unpleasant task of having to worry our lives through or become dragged down by the day-to-day problems which are seemingly capable at times of piling up much faster than we can deal with them. By the grace and love of God, we are spared from the nervousness which plagues those outside of Christ. All we need to do when the worries come is hand them over to God and let Him take care of them.

What a blessing this is! Yet all too often we neglect it and find ourselves needlessly grappling with our fears and worries. We often spend far too much time worrying about the bills, getting out of debt, the security of our jobs, our health, our safety, and a host of other things which really distract us from our main job of being the people of God first and making spiritual things our primary concern. Before we know it we are so bogged down in anxiety that we have lost sight of our spiritual concerns and have become like the rest of the world -- spending all our time minding the things of this life, rather than paying attention first to the things of heaven.

For this reason, it is good to step back once in a while and evaluate just how we are living our lives. We all need, from time to time, to pull ourselves up from the details of the bills, job, etc. and make sure that heaven still is our chief desire. That is not to say that we must abandon all responsibility, but that we must ever be sure that we are not losing sight of our most important responsibility, which is obeying God. But

TIMES OF SERVICES	
SUNDAY	
Bible Classes*	10:00 AM
AM Worship	10:45 AM
PM Worship	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	
Bible Classes*	7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)	

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even more than this, we need to take all of those cares and worries and deposit them squarely into the hands of God. He is far more capable of dealing with them than we are, for He is, after all, the Creator of all things. Surely a God as powerful as the one we worship can handle the problems we mortals face. Yet the facts are more encouraging still.

Did you ever wonder why it is that God wants us to let Him handle our worries? It is not because God particularly enjoys having problems heaped upon Him, even though He can deal with them easily. No, God wants to take on our problems so that we can keep our sights set on heaven without any distractions. We need to realize that God wants us to be saved. The Scriptures plainly teach, *"The Lord is...not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Pet. 3:9), and *"...God our Savior...would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Tim. 2:4). God is on our side! He wants to see us be faithful to Him, and so He will deal with our problems so that we can concentrate upon being faithful and making it to heaven.

This is a piece of what it means that *"he careth for you."*

Thus we are commanded to cast our cares upon God. The apostle Paul issued the same exhortation in Philippians 4:6: *"In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* This is not merely an option open to the Christian, nor is it a casual suggestion. It is a commandment of the Lord delivered by His apostles. The plain and simple fact is that God does not want us wasting our time worrying over things that have not yet happened to us. He wants us to spend our time wisely (Eph. 5:15f), concentrating on the good we may do in His service now. Let God take care of the problems of the future. As Jesus said, *"Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof"* (Matt. 6:34). It is a matter of letting God be God, letting faith be faith, and letting today be spent in His service.

God has designed the Christian life to be one of supreme serenity and peace, and there is no good reason why any Christian's life should be otherwise. Sure, troubles will come. They come to all men. But the great thing about our life in Christ is that we do not have to face them helplessly or alone. God has volunteered to handle our fears, cares, and anxieties for us. Now, with such fears out of the way, how much time do you suppose that leaves us for pleasing God? All of it! And what shall be the result for us? *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:7).

Via Guardian of Truth XXIX: 7, pp. 193, 217, April 4, 1985

"Where are the Dads?"

Larry Ray Hafley

Our title is the question Clarence Page, a prize winning columnist, recently asked. Said he, *"The importance of dads to the lives of daughters as well as sons is receiving long-overdue attention from psychologists. Girls who are not living with their fathers begin to have sex sooner and are more likely to become pregnant than teenagers from*

two-parent homes, a 13 year Duke University study of 762 girls reported this year" (Houston Chronicle, 9/114/03, 3C).

It is good that psychologists are focusing attention on "The importance of dads," but aren't they the same group that says there is nothing wrong or immoral when two consenting teenagers agree to commit fornication? If a preacher released such statistics and called for children to be born to married couples, he would be accused of being "judgmental" and of being a "Bible thumper" (to whom no one listens), because, after all, teenagers are going to "experiment" with sex, so, we should see that they use "protection" and practice "safe sex." What about unwanted pregnancies? Isn't that why liberals and other hedonists legalized abortion? If a baby results, no problem. Just kill it in the womb.

A family unit, as defined by the Bible-Psalms 127:3-5; 128:3; 1 Timothy 5:14; Hebrews 13:4-is, according to Duke University statistics, the best thing for children. What a revelation that is, huh? Excuse my extended sarcasm, but it is difficult to write about such matters when infidels discover the truth but do not know how to enforce or establish it. So, it is best for society, they have concluded, if children are raised with two parents.

Alright, now, how are unbelievers going to promote what is "best?" Upon what basis shall they build? What principles shall they utilize? They dare not refer to what is "right" and "pure" as opposed to that which is sinful and immoral. So, how shall they urge that a family, consisting of a man and a woman within the marriage bond, bear children? Other than asking, "Where are the dads?" and releasing statistics which show that God's way is best, how are they going to advocate, propagate, and perpetuate their (dare I say, "righteous") plan?

This dark world needs the light of truth. That is why we, as Christians, need to live and exemplify the good and godly way of God in such matters. Let our families be strong in love for one another, with all purity. When scoffers discover that God's family order is best, let us lead the way in exhibiting it. Let us show them, not just the social consequences of ignoring it, but the eternal ones, too (Jn. 12:48). Challenge them with this: If God is right about society and family life, what else might he be right about? Perhaps a light will go on and Christ can be preached.

News N Notes

Sick:

- Terry Smith's brother George, suffering from Kidney Cancer
- Faith Kress, Linda Marshall's niece
- Cindy North
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
- Marie Roberts
- Ed Roberts father
- Grace Lancaster
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother during her rehabilitation following surgery

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Rhea Henthorn
- Pauline Midcap
- A card, phone call or a visit can really brighten someone's day.