

God Cares

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:7).

In this imperfect world of sin and strife we must all face the reality that we will experience emotional pain from time to time. The loss of a loved one, a severed marriage, the unfaithfulness of one's children are all sorrows that cut the heart and bring us to tears. For some, these tragedies bear down on their souls for years, yes, even unto death.

When faced with these difficulties, faithful Christians turn to God in prayer and to His Word for strength and comfort. They seek refuge in the hope (Romans 8:24), joy (James 1:2) and peace (Philippians 4:7) that comes from knowing God. They stand on His promises that are ever sure (Titus 1:2) and trust in His providential oversight (I Corinthians 10:13). Why do they turn to the Lord in these strenuous circumstances? They have seen the proof in God's Word that He cares when His children hurt.

When Jesus went to the home of His recently deceased friend, Lazarus, He was faced time and again with the sad scenes of sorrow that are typical of bereavement. Lazarus' sister, Martha came to Him and said, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." (Luke 11:21). Shortly thereafter, Lazarus' other sister, Mary came to Jesus and repeated Martha's sentiments (Luke 11:32). With those trusting words of grief in His heart and the lamentations of the crowd of mourners in His ears, it's no wonder that Jesus Himself wept (John 11:35). Though some have offered various explanations as to why Jesus shed tears, it has long been clear to me that His sorrow was motivated by His compassion for those whose hearts were hurting over the loss of their beloved friend and brother. Since Jesus would later say to Philip, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father (John 14:9), we can appropriately conclude that the Father cares about our grief.

Unfaithfulness also weighed heavily on the heart of the Son of God when He walked the earth in human flesh. At one point He stopped outside the city of Jerusalem and, "when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now are they hid from thine eyes." (Luke 19:41-42). Some 35-40 years later Jerusalem would be razed, even as Jesus said it would in this passage. When He thought of the city's former glory and contrasted that with the impending destruction coming as a result of their disobedience, it caused His grief to well up and manifest itself in tears. Again we remember that seeing Jesus meant seeing the Father. His sorrow over unfaithfulness reflected the Father's care regarding the same.

There is a stark contrast between the words "care" and "careth" as they appear in the verse cited at the beginning of this article. The "care" which we are to cast upon God is our anxieties, our worries, doubts and fears. They are those burdens we bear when faced with trial and pain. On the opposite end of the spectrum of these human heartaches is the heavenly blessing of God's care or concern. Peter tells us that when we are anxious over life's sorrows, we can be sure that God has regard for our hurting hearts.

So now what's hurting you? Is there trouble at home? Are you anxious about your job? Is the disobedience of dear friends and beloved family members pressing on you? Don't bear those burdens alone. Cast them in prayer to the One who is both aware of and ardently concerned about your sadness. Trust His precious promises and believe His tender words, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5). "He careth for you."

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