

The Wednesday Word' March 22, 2017: Worry or Worship

“Be careful for nothing (don’t worry about anything), but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

Does this mean that the act of saying our prayers brings peace? No! There is a big difference between prayers and praying.

What we do learn from this scripture, however, is that believing, thankful, earnest praying is the antidote to worry. This kind of praying will slay worry while it releases the peace of God in the depth of our beings.

Listen to me, worry will circumvent the peace of God in our lives. But, believing, earnest, thankful prayer will destroy all anxiety.

One old time preacher observed, "Worry, is like a rocking chair; it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere." That’s so true! We as Gospel believers, however, are to be “careful for nothing, prayerful for everything and thankful for anything.”

In our praying, we draw near to the God who is never subject to worry. He is the sovereign, omnipotent, creator and Lord of the universe. He has nothing to worry about. Nothing takes Him by surprise. He’s not wondering how things will turn out. He is at peace! He has bought and paid for us so we also need not worry. We are now, as we grow in grace, learning to thank Him for all that He is and all that He has done for us. We are worshippers not worriers.

Lest we misunderstand, as believers, we already have peace. Earnest praying does not create it. Jesus has already given the gift of peace to every believer. In John 14:27 He promised, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

All Gospel believers have this peace.....our problem is that we often allow many things to disrupt it. Our Christian life begins with peace. By faith, we have peace with God (Romans 5:1). The war is over. We have been brought near by the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 2:13).

Then comes the peace of God. It is humanly inexplicable (Philippians 4:7). It passes understanding. It garrisons our hearts and minds. We are kept! The word “keep” means “to stand guard over.” It’s interesting to note that when Paul wrote these very words, he had a Roman guard on either side of him. They were “standing guard” over the great apostle. It’s no wonder that Paul says that God’s peace is like a guard that protects the heart from anxiety and worry!

Because of the blood, we are already- in intimate, permanent union with Christ (Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 10:19.)

Oh, that we would learn not to worry. Worry destroys our peace. Yet, as believers, we so often willingly and readily enter into the disobedience of worry. However, God’s promise is that His

peace will “keep” our “hearts and our minds.” Oh that we would learn by heart and live in Isaiah 26:3 which says: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee.”

We are faced with 2 choices today... Worry or Worship

And that’s the Gospel Truth!