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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

W O R R Y

(This short devotion was given at the Bryan Station Baptist Church by Brother Nick Ardery, a layman in the church. We felt it might be a help to others.)

--Al Gormley

I will be speaking to you on a subject that concerns all of us, especially those that are saved by the Grace of God. It is a subject that concerns one great hinderance in our christian walk and witnessing at one time or another. The barrier to this hinderance is the same one we run into daily. SATAN--himself--in disguise, just working on our minds trying to get our minds off of the Lord.

At the same time, those of you who know not the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal saviour need to look into what I am saying and see what great relief you can have in your mind and heart, if you will look to the Lord and put your faith and trust in him.

To the saved: in our salvation plan, we had to realize we were lost, that we are sinners and will be sinners, that we are nothing and there is no good in us, and that the Lord is in control of all things and to be saved we had to believe on

the Lord Jesus Christ, that he died for our SINS. We had to put our faith and trust in him. Now, this brings me to my subject where we fail as christians, by not trusting in the Lord the way we should because we WORRY about things we have no control over. Ask yourself this question: How can we as christians worry about earthly problems and at the same time say we are putting our faith and trust in the Lord? I don't think we can do both at the same time.

In Philippians 4:6 God says in his word "BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING" or don't worry about anything.

I found a good definition for worry in our church bulletin several months ago. When I first read it and cut it out, it really didn't mean what it should have to me. I ran into that clipping a few weeks ago, read it again and it really made an impression on me. This is a scriptural definition for worry--"assuming responsibility God never intended for you to have." Again, when you worry, you are "assuming responsibility God never intended for you to have."

Why do we worry about things that happen to us or problems that we have? Could

it be because of a lack of faith and trust in the Lord?

With the help of the Lord, I want to try to show you how that the closer we draw ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ and by believing him and putting all our faith and trust in him as we should, we can all but eliminate worry in our lives. I am going to use some faithful men of the Bible to show you what I mean. Before I start we need to realize one thing and that is that nothing just occurs to God, to God, everything is planned, and that means everything!

Let's look at Moses. In Exodus 3, we see Moses called to the burning bush where God spoke to him and told him that he would be used to bring forth God's children out of Israel. And Moses said unto God in verse 11, "Who am I that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Probably Moses was a little worried here because of what happened before when he, over in chapter two, saved just one Hebrew from death by killing the Egyptian. He had problems just saving one, much less three million people. And God said to him in verse 12 of chapter three, "Certainly I will be with thee." Now that should have relieved

Moses of all worry, but it didn't. And then in verses 14-17, God even told him what to tell the children of Israel so they would believe him. In chapter four, verse one, Moses said, "They will not believe me." Moses was worried here about going because they wouldn't believe him and because of the opposition he might receive from the children of Israel.

This is the way we are today in our witnessing even though God said, "I will be with thee." We are worried about the opposition we might run into in witnessing, yet God told us to GO, just like Moses. Moses was worried about the opposition he would run into, yet our opposition is not our opposition, it is the Lord's opposition. It is God's opposition. We are just to go and present the word. When we do go, we need to put our burden of worry on the Lord and remember this. Romans 8:31 says, "If God be for us, who can be against us." If you go and do what the Lord told you to do while trusting in the Lord, you have nothing to worry about. Don't worry about it even if they curse you and run you off. Remember you did what you were told to do and they didn't; therefore, you have no problem to worry about.

In verse ten of chapter four, Moses has still another problem he is worried about. Moses says, "I am not eloquent." Well, I am not either but God had an answer for both of us here. These are the two verses that I read over and over in my mind to give me the strength to get up and speak before God's people--verses 11 and 12. The Lord said unto him, "Who hath made man's mouth? ...Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

God gave us the Bible.

He puts us in a church where we can be taught. He told us to go as Moses and he even said he would be with us and tells us what to say just like he told Moses. And we are still worried about doing what God told us, just like Moses. In fact, Moses ended up not doing the speaking. God had to get Aaron to do it for him. I believe Moses lost blessings that day all because of lack of faith and trust.

In I John 5:10, the Bible says "he that believeth not God hath made him a liar." If God says he will be with us, he will. If God says he will teach us with his word, he will. If God says he will forgive us, he will. If God says he will deliver us from our enemies, he will. If God says cast your burdens on him and he will give you rest, he will.

God says for us to just put our faith and trust in him and he will lead us and yet we still worry about what tomorrow will bring. If we would just trust in the Lord and believe him as we should, we would have absolutely nothing to worry about. We try so hard to make things in our lives work out to please us and when they don't work out right, we worry. Remember again, to God, everything is planned. Those illnesses that plague some of our members, those who are unemployed, those who have bills that they don't know how they are going to pay, any number of things that come upon us and worry us, happened because God planned it that way. Why? I really don't know. But I do know this. Romans 8:28 says, "All things work together for good to them that love God." In John 16:33, God told us that "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Or, in other words,

I do what I do and I let things happen to you as I have planned for a reason. We need to accept that reason without question. Just realize that someday we will receive great blessings if we will remain faithful amidst these trying times. But, don't worry, he is in control of things.

There is probably some who say if I had a million dollars, I wouldn't have a thing to worry about. I could pay all my bills and live in luxury and have servants to do all my work for me. You know what I have to say about that? Count it not a blessing to be wealthy. Wealth creates problems. Just look at wealthy people and see if they don't have problems. They are just different from yours. Once you have money, you worry about losing it.

Since I have been going on visitation, I have been a lot of fellow-members' homes and none of us are wealthy. In fact, a lot are living on less than we think is possible to survive on, yet they are happy and I mean very happy. How? Because they live by faith. They don't worry about their condition. They have hope in the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and they patiently and faithfully wait and work for the Lord. Why worry about what we don't have on this earth when we are promised much more in heaven.

Matthew 6:19-20 says, "Lay up not for yourselves treasures upon earth. But to lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." We buy nice things for ourselves and put them in our homes and the whole time we worry about somebody breaking

in and stealing our things. Yet, if we put our treasures up in heaven, we wouldn't have to worry.

In Acts 27, Paul was a prisoner. He was being sent to Rome when they ran into a terrible storm. So terrible, in fact, that the Bible says they lightened the ship, even casting out the tackling or the rigging of the ship. Paul wasn't worried because he knew the Lord was with him even though everybody else feared for their lives. Paul was saved and trusting in the Lord. He had nothing to worry about. Everybody else on that ship was lost and worried of their fate. They had nothing to trust in.

They had reason to worry. Paul said in verse 25, "I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." Paul's total obedience and faith relieved him of ALL worry. God had told him not life would be lost. The only thing to be lost would be the ship.

Wouldn't it be great if we all had the trust and faith that Paul had here. Not a worry in this present world because he had the Lord beside him. Paul realized this. We, who are saved, need to realize this also. God is with us always. Paul was a prisoner yet happy in the Lord. In a way, we are prisoners of this present world. We need to be faithful and trusting in the Lord, no matter what our present condition. Paul said in Philippians 4:11, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am to be content" or, don't worry about anything.

When problems and worries do come on you, you have way out. Take it to the Lord in prayer. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly into the throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace in time

of need." Don't assume God's responsibility through worry. Have faith and realize God is in control. Worry is a form of playing God in your mind. Worry is misuse of the imagination. Misuse of the imagination is sin.

If you are lost, you have only one thing to worry about--HELL.

The answer to the problem of worry is the same for both the saved and the lost. TRUST and OBEY.

He Keeps Me

My Father knows my every need
His hand upholds me still—
He sees my every teardrop,
And keeps me in His will;
When darkness hovers o'er me,
He is my lamp, my light, —
Upheld by His almighty power,
No foe can e'er afright.
And so, I'll trust Him ever,
No doubts, no fears dismay.
I know He's near to bless me,
He'll lead through darkest day.

Selected

WATCH YOUR WORDS

A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill.
A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress;
A lovely word may heal and bless.

A LASTING REVIVAL

Thou hast revived thy people, Lord,
In the glorious days just past!
We have felt thy wondrous power,
And our hearts ask, "Will it last?"

It will last if we continue
As did thy disciples of old,
Steadfast in prayer and service,
Winning others to thy fold.

Studying daily thy blessed Word,
Having fellowship deep and sweet,
Exalting Jesus, our blessed Lord,
Laying our gifts at his feet.

Heaven's revival glow will stay
If we continue in his way!

--Author unknown

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED
THE AMERICAN HOLOCAUST? THE
TOTAL NUMBER OF AMERICAN WAR
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He Gave His Only Begotten Son,
That Whosoever Believeth In Him
Should Not Perish, But Have Ever-
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