

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

JOHN 14:27

With these words our Savior reproves the unbelief that often disturbs the hearts of true believers. It is a reproof framed in kind, tender words of love and concern. But it is a reproof. He is telling us that we ought never be anxious, fearful and worried. He would have us cast all our care upon him, trusting him to provide for and protect us in all things (1 Pet. 5:6-7).

We generally accept worry as normal, acceptable behavior. But it is not. In a sense it is normal because it is natural, as natural as adultery. But worry is no more consistent with faith than adultery. For the believer it is neither normal nor acceptable. We must never be content to live with worried, troubled hearts. Troubled hearts arise from trouble in our hearts. It is not outward trouble that disturbs our hearts, but inward trouble. Sickness does not cause depression. If it did, all sick people would be depressed. Yet, I have seen some very sick people who were full of praise to God. Sin causes depression. Poverty does not cause complaint. If it did, all poor people would murmur against God. But I have known some very poor people who were happy and content with God's providence. Sin causes complaint. Troubled lives do not cause our hearts to be troubled. If that were the case, all who experience pain and sorrow would fret and worry. But I know some men and women whose lives are constantly filled with affliction, pain and sorrow, whose hearts are at ease before God. It is sin that causes our hearts to be troubled.

"Worry" is a polite word for unbelief. It is an evil of my nature with which I have to struggle continually. But it is an evil. It must not be excused. I must

struggle against it. In the first part of this verse the Lord promises, "My peace, I give unto you." That is an act of his free and sovereign grace. He gives peace to faith. And he gives faith to receive peace. But when he says, "Let not your heart be troubled," he is addressing our responsibility to trust him. It is my responsibility and yours not to worry, but to believe God, always, in all circumstances, for all things. To you and me who believe, the Lord Jesus Christ says, "Stop worrying." That is the meaning of his words, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
Don Fortner

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS

PSALM 90:12

It is very good to be back holding a service and streaming on YouTube after two weeks unable to do so. We can easily take good health for granted. It seems that we picked up COVID on New Year's Eve and before we realised we had it, we infected several who met with us on Sunday 2nd Jan. It has not been a pleasant experience and we both have a lingering cough but we were spared the much worse illness that some experienced. We also acknowledge that for some, precious brethren even, this disease was the instrument that God used to take them home to glory. All these things are in the hands of our gracious and loving heavenly Father. He it is who determines when our days are numbered; what a blessing to rest in his care with hearts untroubled about the day of our departure to eternal bliss.
AJ

Biblical Gospel Church

*Preaching the unsearchable
riches of Christ - Ephesians 3:8*

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*(includes current bulletin and links to our
YouTube Livestream channel)*

Sunday 23rd January 2022

11:00 am (GMT) Service

John 14:16,17

"God Manifest Only to His People"

Traditional worship with hymns, prayer, Bible readings and a sermon based on a passage of the Bible. You are welcome to join us via the internet on our YouTube Livestream.

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Reading Ezekiel 36:22-28

117 tune 212 *A M Toplady*

1 Awake, sweet gratitude, and sing
The ascended Saviour's love;
Sing how he lives to carry on
His people's cause above.

2 With cries and tears he offered up
His humble suit below;
But with authority he asks,
Enthroned in glory now.

3 For all that come to God by him,
Salvation he demands;
Points to their names upon his breast,
And spreads his wounded hands.

4 His sweet atoning sacrifice
Gives sanction to his claim:
"Father, I will that all my saints
Be with me where I am."

5 Eternal life, at his request,
To every saint is given;
Safety on earth, and, after death,
The plenitude of heaven.

6 Founded on right, thy prayer avails;
The Father smiles on thee;
And now thou in thy kingdom art,
Dear Lord, remember me.

Prayer

Reading John 14:11-31

Prayer

187 tune 464 *R Burnham*

1 Jesus draws the chosen race
By his sweet resistless grace;
Causing them to hear his call,
And before his power to fall.

2 From the blissful realms above,
Swift as lightning flies his love;
Draws them to his tender breast;
There they find the gospel rest.

3 Then how eagerly they move
In the happy paths of love!
How they glory in the Lord,
Pleased with Jesus' sacred word!

4 When the Lord appears in view,
Old things cease, and all is new;
Love divine o'erflows the soul;
Love does every sin control.

Sermon

1078 tune 409 *A Steele*

1 Dear Lord, and shall thy Spirit rest
In such a wretched heart as mine?
Unworthy dwelling! glorious guest!
Favour astonishing, divine!

2 When sin prevails, and gloomy fear,
And hope almost expires in night,
Lord, can thy Spirit then be here,
Great Spring of comfort, life, and light?

3 Sure the blest Comforter is nigh;
'Tis he sustains my fainting heart;
Else would my hopes for ever die,
And every cheering ray depart.

5 Whene'er to call the Saviour mine
With ardent wish my heart aspires,
Can it be less than power divine
Which animates these strong desires?

6 What less than thy almighty word
Can raise my heart from earth and dust,
And bid me cleave to thee, my Lord,
My life, my treasure, and my trust?