

Midtown Messenger

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Issue 41

HE CARETH FOR YOU

By: Ronnie Scherffius

A most comforting thought in difficult times is that someone else is concerned for your wellbeing. The apostle Peter, looking back to the Psalms, noted that such a comfort should also motivate us to humble ourselves before God.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: **Casting** all your **care** upon him; for he **careth** for you.” (1 Pt. 5:6-7)

The three “C’s” of verse seven are especially noteworthy and direct our hearts to the overwhelming peace and comfort Christians have in God.

Casting. Our first “C” derives from a Greek term meaning “to throw upon” (Thayer) and is used only twice in the New Testament. Writing of Jesus’ *Triumphal Entry*, Luke noted: “And they brought him to Jesus: and they **cast** their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon” (19:35). Peter’s use of this word emphasizes a more definite and singular tone and better expresses the sense of “to throw away” or “to give up” to someone else. One commentator noted how the construction of the Greek denotes “an act once and for all.” (Marvin Vincent; Vincent’s Word Studies In The New Testament). The apostle’s admonition is for us to throw the whole of our cares away once and for all — never considering them again!

This character is evident in Hannah’s attitude after petitioning God for a son: “So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad” (1 Sam. 1:18). Certainly a deep abiding faith and trust in God is required for such an act of “giving up” one’s cares to God!

The Scriptures are filled with exhortations and reminders to “throw away” our cares, and trust in God. David wrote, “I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.” (Ps. 27:13-14; cf. 37:5). Jesus continually instructed His disciples to trust in God (Mt. 6:25, 34; Mk. 5:19; Lk. 8:14; et al), and Paul eloquently edified the Philippians to the same end: “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (Phil. 4:6). What a tremendous comfort to know we serve a God in whom we can trust and on whom we can cast every distress in our lives.

Cares. It is the cares of this world that we are to cast away upon God once and for all. This word is often explained as anxieties that come with the distresses of life. While this is an accurate explanation, there is also a sense in the Greek of “separating into parts.” Hence, the cares and anxieties we are to cast upon God refer to those things which “separate us from” or “distract our minds from” spiritual things. We see an occasion of such a distraction in the account of Jesus in the house of Martha: “But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him,

and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me” (Lk. 10:40). Jesus warned of the end of all who fail to trust in God and cast away cares of this world: “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with **cares** and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection” (Lk. 8:14). Hear the appeal of the apostle — Cast away the whole of those things that distract and separate you from a spiritual mind and focus on God.

Careth. The deep sense of this word is “it is of concern” (Strong’s Concordance). God is not simply aware, but He cares about those things that distress us. Imagine, the God who created the heavens and the earth is concerned about your cares! We often comment that one appreciates or cares more for a thing that is the work of his own hands. Parents are sometimes found instructing their children how much more care that child will appreciate something purchased with his own “hard earned money.” God created *all* things. Jesus paid the penalty for *all* men’s sins with His *own* blood. We are bought with a price! How deeply God must care for us!

First Peter 5:7 should be taken in light of the charge of the previous verse: “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord” (5:6). Pride is at the root of most of our anxieties. Human pride greatly resists casting our cares upon another to take care of “my problems.” Dear friend, what anxieties, what cares, what distractions are you trying to “care for” alone? Look to God — He already knows how much you need Him. He is patiently waiting. He cares for you!

Listen to Jesus

If you could go back in time and see any event in the history of the world, what would it be? You might desire to see the day God said, "Let there be light," or when the Red Sea was parted, or when Jesus

rose from the dead. But could anything be as spectacular as what the disciples saw on that mount when Jesus' face shone like the sun and his clothes became like light because of the brightness of them?

Perhaps this scene could be rivaled by the vision John saw and described for us in Revelation 1...

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw... one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. (v 12-16)

Obviously, we have no time machine and can't see what these disciples saw. However, it would be good for us to meditate on these two scenes. And the message behind both is the same: LISTEN TO HIM! (Mt 17:5; Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)

Father, help us to see and to meditate on the greatness and the majesty of our Lord and Savior so that we might pay more careful attention to what he has said!

-Selected-



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of October 11, 2020

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: James Cammock
Fruit of the Vine: James Cammock
Offering: Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Dale Hill
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Wed. P.M.: Isaac Jobs

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Bryce Dolan

Open/Close Building: Will Burleson

Sound System: Mark FitzSimmons

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

**Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.**

MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search MidTown church of Christ Victoria.

***FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE
PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING***

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Sandra Marie who had tests done and Kin Marie who is recovering from back surgery. Athena Scherffius who had surgery last week.

Happy Birthday: Clark Withers (14); Pam Clifton (15)

Happy Anniversary: Kin & Sandra Marie (12)

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Oct. 11: Youth devo here at the building. At 5pm. Please bring \$2.00 each for pizza.

Anyone who would like to donate individually wrapped Little Debbie Food Cakes, single serve size chips and can drinks for the devo, you may leave them in the kitchen

Dec. 4-6: Challenging the Church hosted by MidTown.

Sunday Evening worship services will resume November 1st, 2020 at 5pm.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Ken and Sandra Marie
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick
Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of October 4, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....70
A.M. Worship.....89
Online views during worship.....30
Wednesday Bible Class.....56

Offering week of October 4, 2020.....\$4,840

Reading for this week:

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

Matthew 17:1-2

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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