

Living Confidently in a Dangerous World

Matthew 6:25-34; Psalm 121; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Philippians 4:10-19

I. The Confidence of a Disciple: God, my Father, is my _____ (Matthew 6:25-34)

A. A Prohibition (25): Do not worry about the necessities of life

Seven Reasons to Reject Worry		
Verses	Because worry is . . .	The Point
25	<i>Needless</i>	God can be counted on to provide
26	<i>Senseless</i>	God's care of birds is a reminder of his care for his children.
27	<i>Useless</i>	Worry can't add hours to our lives
28-30	<i>Faithless</i>	Worry betrays the insufficiency of our confidence in God
31-32a	<i>Godless</i>	Worry is characteristic of pagans who have no God to trust
32b	<i>"Parentless"</i>	Worry forgets who it is who cares for us.
34	<i>Counterproductive</i>	Worry robs the present of energy needed to handle today's problems

B. A Prescription: "Worry about" God's _____ and _____

1. "Seek first" = Be preoccupied with the pursuit and spread of
2. "God's kingdom" = the rule of God in my life and world.
3. "And his righteousness" = The right relationship with God that results from submission to His rule, and the right conduct that results from a changed heart.

Summary: Be committed to the spread of God's rule in my own life (spiritual growth) and in my world (ministry).

C. A Promise: God assumes responsibility to meet the needs of those who are committed to his rule and his righteousness in their lives.

2. Some qualifications
 - a. The promise is not for everyone
 - b. The promise does not guarantee luxuries
 - c. The promise does not exempt disciples from earning their own living (2 Thessalonians 3:10)..
 - d. The promise does not exempt disciples from responsibility for others Ephesians 4:28).
 - e. The promise does not exempt disciples from experiencing trouble (Matthew 10:29).

D. Some Principles

1. Disciples of Jesus are expected to be different from everyone else.
2. The key to right behavior is right perspective plus right commitment.
3. As we face the uncertainties of life, disciples are to displace anxiety with trust and preoccupation with God's kingdom.

II. The Confidence of a Pilgrim: God, My Guardian, is my _____ (Psalm 121)

A. The NEED for Help (1-2)

1. To look to the hills will bring _____
2. To look beyond the hills brings _____

B. The ASSURANCE of God's Help (3-8: three couplets)

1. The Nature of the protection

- from that which is _____ (3)
- from that which is _____ (5-6)
- from that which is _____ (7)

2. The Constancy of the protection

- He doesn't _____ (3-4)
- By day or by night (6)
- From this time forth and _____ (8)

3. The Intimacy of the protection

- He is Israel's Keeper (4)
- He is at your right hand (5)
- He watches your going and coming (8)

Summary: God's promise is that He will get us from here to _____ intact. While there will be troubles en route that are _____ and _____, He promises to protect us from harm (evil) that is either _____ or _____.

III. The Confidence of a Servant: God, My Master, is my _____ (Phil. 4:10-19; 2 Cor. 12:7-10)

A. By his grace, God supplies the resources and _____ I need to fulfill my assignments.

B. Often the means God uses to strengthen us is the ministry of _____.