

TITLE: THE PEACE A CHRISTIAN ENJOYS
TEXT: Matthew 6:25-34

THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to show how Christians can and should have peace in the world today (**Peace** in the Bible can reference harmony between individuals, or quietness, tranquility, rest, security or safety).

INTRO: On Amazon.com, a quick search for books on the topic of “worry” yielded 1,391 results! Throw in “anxiety” and you’ll add another 2,990 books! Imagine the results for “fear”! We as humans don’t have to look far in order to find something to worry about. We even have the name “worrywarts” for people who seem to look for things to worry about!
Worry is the opposite of peace. We often hear from our pulpits that we as Christians are to have peace. This morning, I’m going to address a few areas in which I as a Christian have peace in my life...things the world worries about, but I do not.

I. THINGS I DON’T WORRY ABOUT:

- A. Extra-terrestrials / UFO’s!
1. Our world is fascinated with the prospect of life on other planets (Amazon.com book search for “UFO” – 12,305 results)!!
 2. Are they out there? Are they here? Are they coming? What do they want? Are they friendly?
 3. The assumption: life exists on other planets because, *since* life evolved here, it must have evolved elsewhere!
Sir Francis Crick, in discussing origin of life, “*An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.*” This, of course, IS true. BUT, since he cannot admit the existence of God, he then says that life was “planted” on the Earth by intelligent beings from outer space! Sir Fred Hoyle agreed!
 4. Reality: “*It is an act of faith, based on rather shaky probabilistic arguments, to say that other planets like Earth exist in the Universe.*” Michael Rowan-Robinson (Univ. of London)
Dr. Isaac Asimov: “*There are so many books on extraterrestrial life (I have written one myself) that they would almost seem to be a cottage industry. This is in a way surprising, since we have absolutely no evidence that any such phenomenon as life on other worlds exists.*”
 5. What does the Bible say? The Bible actually says nothing of any intelligent life existing anywhere except on Earth.
 - a. **Gen 1:1** – “...heavens and the earth.” The heavens consist of all creation except Earth. Why is Earth alone singled out?
 - b. **Psalms 115:16** – “The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.”
 - c. **Psalms 19:1** – “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork.”
 - d. Jesus’ was sacrificed “once” (**Heb 7:27, 9:12, 26, 28; 10:10, 14**)! Was this sacrifice for the sins of extraterrestrials too?
- B. Ghosts / Hauntings
1. Our world is fascinated with things beyond our grasp and knowledge.
 2. For some reason, we want to believe that when people die, their spirits stay here on earth, **interacting with us**.
 3. * Many will claim that they have had experiences with ghosts. I cannot speak regarding someone else’s experiences!
 4. BUT, **Eccl 9:4-6** – the dead have no more involvement here. Their spirits have gone elsewhere. But where?
 5. **Luke 16** (rich man & Lazarus) – v. 22 -at death, Lazarus was carried by angels to Abraham’s bosom; the rich man was buried. The rich man wanted Lazarus to be sent back to warn his brothers, but this could not happen.
- C. “Deep impacts!”
1. Could a meteor/comet hit the Earth and destroy it? A direct hit would so alter the environment that all life would die.
 2. God is still in control. If he wants this to happen, then it will. However...
 3. Science / astronomy is so advanced that there is no way a comet or meteor would even get near us without our knowing it!
 4. The Earth will be destroyed (**2 Pet 3:10** – “*the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works therein shall be burned up*”).
 5. If we know in advance about the comet that is supposed to destroy us, then **2 Pet 3:10 (1 Thess 4:13-18)** teaches us that it *will not* destroy us. When we are destroyed, it will be the “day of the Lord,” and nobody knows when that will be (**Mt 24:36**).

II. THINGS I DON’T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT SOMETIMES STILL DO!:

- A. Natural disasters – Here are some *real* concerns, compared to the previous three. Hurricane Rita initially threatened to stall out over us and flood our area. Do we panic? We don’t panic when we hear that gas prices are going up this winter. We think of how it will affect us, and we deal with it. True peace is seen when the worst possible outcome (i.e., death) can be accepted.
Phil 1:21 – Paul said “to die is gain.” What’s the worst possible outcome? Gain!
- B. **Mt 6:25-34** – let’s take this idea of peace to its most personal level – worrying about personal daily needs (food & clothes)
1. We’re fortunate that we don’t usually have to worry about these things. But sometimes we do (laid off, gas prices high, etc.).
 2. As Christians, we know God loves us and wants to take care of us (**1 Pet 5:7** – cast you care on Him, for He cares for you).
 3. (v. 25, 28-30) He says, Why do you worry about these things? Don’t you trust me? I take care of birds and flowers!
 4. (v. 27) Who of you by worrying (taking thought) can add one cubit to his height (or hour to his life)?
- C. **PEACE!** We don’t HAVE to worry about these things! SO DON’T!
- D. This is easier said than done, preacher! That’s right. So how do we do it? God answers this question in the same context...

III. THINGS I DO “WORRY” ABOUT (i.e., Things I Seek):

- A. **Mt 6:33** – Seek (crave, require, demand) first (#1 priority) the kingdom (church) and His righteousness
- B. All these other things will be added to you.
- C. Seek and obtain that which brings the other benefits as well

1. The story was told of a man who was presented an offer by the king, "Ask what you will and I will give it to you." He thought of his options (power – to be made General; wealth – to be rich; safety – protection in the kingdom). He then asked for what he knew would bring both...the king's daughter for a wife!
 2. God said to seek the kingdom, the church, the avenue that will provide all other things (in this life and the life to come – **1 Tim 4:8**)
- D. The problem is that the promise is for daily needs (food & clothing); there is no promise of wealth!
1. If your goal is to be godly, and to be content with food and clothing, you'll have great gain, great **peace (1 Tim 6:6)**.
 2. But if your goal is to be rich, or powerful (or any other goal other than v. 33):
 - a. Your time is allocated to that, instead of to God.
 - b. Time that could be used to study the Bible is used for advancing your career (studying a manual, doing extra work, etc.).
 - c. This will never bring true peace (usually, not even in this life, but definitely not in the life to come).

CONCLUSION: The purpose of this sermon was NOT to offend anyone who might believe in some of these things that have been discussed. We've all probably talked to someone who claims to have seen a UFO, ghost, etc. It's not our job to tell them what they have or haven't experienced. It IS our job to show them the Scriptures and try to save their souls. These other questions will work themselves out later. **The purpose of this sermon WAS to show that, although our society worries considerably about these things, as well as its continual pursuit of money, we do not have to. God is in control, and He's told us what we need to know about these things. "A good suggestion might be that we spend our time on more important pursuits." Seek first the kingdom (church) and His righteousness, and all these things (necessities) will be added to you."