

DOES GOD CARE?

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).

Does God really have any interest in individuals, day by day? Does God really concern Himself about them? We are entitled to a satisfying, working, practical, everyday answer to this question. It is a question that is in the minds of a good many people. It is a question that some modern psychologists answer with a sort of sneer or scorn for anybody that has the simple faith of a Christian. Does God care? Is my life of any value to Him? Is there any such thing as providential interest in me? Does God care?

The correct answer to this question is, Yes, God is interested in each of us. We know that He is interested in us for different reasons. The fact that God is concerned about us is based on different things.

I. Who He Is.

God is interested in us, and has to do with us day by day because of the relationship we have with Him, and the person He is. As to what sort of a being God is, we turn to the Word of God for a clear revelation. There He is portrayed:

1. As Our Creator.

God has made us; we are the creatures of His hand. Since He is the kind of person that He is, we can be perfectly sure that He did not create us as the persons that we are, with feeling, love, interest, and consciousness; with knowledge of Him, response to Him, and responsibility to Him; and then turn us loose and let us go in a life that is not ordered and controlled. He could not be the sort of person that He says He is and do us that way.

2. As Our Redeemer.

There are multitudes of people whom our Lord has redeemed. God is not such a Redeemer as would redeem them at the cost that redemption demanded and then turn them loose and be indifferent forever as to their day by day welfare. God would not do that to any person whom He has redeemed.

3. As Our Father.

In Jesus Christ we find the revelation of God to us as a loving, tender, merciful, heavenly Father, so that He says: "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?" (Matthew 7:9-11).

I am sure that the heavenly Father, with all the perfection of infinity, will never abandon one of His children whom He has created and redeemed, and let him go through the pilgrimage of life's uncertain journey without an intimate interest in the day by day affairs of his life.

Yes, God is interested in us. He would never create us and redeem us and then abandon us. He would not be our Father and not be interested in the day by day heartaches, successes, responsibilities, and happenings of every

kind that make up the regular routine of everyday life for everyday people, such as we are.

II. What He Says.

Here is a book which we call the Word of God, or the Bible. In it we find the definite revelation of this, that, and the other thing, given to us by the will of God. Someone may say, "How is it possible to be sure about the Bible being the Word of God?" Read it, and you will discover that it is the Word of God.

A critic of the Word of God never opens the pages of the Bible to find out what it is all about, but he does not hesitate to say, "I throw it away on scientific grounds." A person with a true scientific mind would not make up his mind about whether he was going to accept or to reject the Bible until he had read and studied it. I do not have any patience with those in some of the educational institutions who tell our young people to reject the New Testament because it is not scientific, and those who tell them to do that have not even read the New Testament. When people open this Book and study it they find plenty of evidence that there is something in it more powerful than man to prove that it is authentic and true. How ridiculous for anybody to throw overboard the claims of the Bible and still call themselves scientific when he has never examined the Book and does not know what it says!

In Nehemiah 9:6 we read: "Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all." Regardless of what you think about it, you can't get away from the statement that God preserves heaven, and earth, and the seas.

Psalms 36:6 says: "Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast." "There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein" (Psalm 104:26). Psalm 37:28 says: "For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever."

Over and over the Bible declares that God is interested in us day by day. "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:29-30). How could the Holy Spirit make any more graphic statement of God's concern about the detailed, physical things, than to declare in that figure that the hairs of our heads are numbered, and He has intimate knowledge of the details.

God often reveals the things of His wisdom in the simplest form in the Book of Proverbs. Here is a striking example: "A man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps." (16:9). In chapter 3 and verse 5 we read: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Notice that verse says "paths." That means that God is interested in and concerned about everything of a man's life who is willing to trust his hear to Him. He is also willing to do something about it. In every detail of life God is concerned about His people, and there is nothing that will come up in my life on any day but what I can be perfectly sure that He is willing to direct it all, if I will only let Him do so. Near the close of His great message our Lord said: "And lo, I am with you alway,

even unto the end of the age." Isn't that enough to satisfy you? God is interested in every one of the details in our daily lives. Every hour of every day, God is interested in your life, if you are His child. He says so in His precious Word.

III. What He Does.

That God is interested in all the details of your daily life is proved by the way in which He has influenced the lives of the various Bible characters. I shall mention a couple of examples.

1. Joseph.

When he was a little fellow Joseph began to have various interesting experiences. Jealous of him, and angry at him because he refused to join them in doing things which they knew their father would condemn, his sinful brothers sold Joseph to some Egyptian traders for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph resolved that he would not worry and brood over the wrongs which were committed against him, but that he would be the best slave possible. Bravely he endured his injuries, forgave his brothers, and refused to be discouraged.

Recognizing his ability and dependability, Potiphar took Joseph into his palatial home and gave him charge of his entire house. By virtue of his character and on account of the favor of God, Who was watching over him daily, Joseph rose to a place of dignity and honor. God was with him and blessed him. God honors those who honor Him.

Potiphar's wife admired Joseph and became infatuated with him. She attempted to seduce him, but he refused her amorous advances. Because of his honorable repulse Joseph was falsely accused of attempted adultery, even though he had fled from the temptation. When he fled he lost his reputation but not his character. Due to the false accusation against him, Joseph was imprisoned for the noblest deed of his life.

God never fails to reward faithfulness. He saw to it that Joseph was elevated to the office of prime minister. He discovered that God was with him and that He had a purpose in his adversities. Later, when he revealed himself to his brethren, Joseph made this statement: "Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good." Frequently it takes time to grasp the divine purpose. It does not always appear at once. Realizing that God was back of things, and that this universe was ruled by Him, and that God is always master of the situation, Joseph said: "God meant it for good." This teaches us that when we cannot grasp God's meaning, we can and should trust Him. We can and should trust God when we cannot understand the peculiar situations which arise in our lives. Remember that whatever happens "God meant it for good." "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

2. Moses.

Moses was laid in an ark and it was placed in the bulrushes along the banks of the Nile River. He was discovered, and then brought up in the household

of Pharaoh. brought up as one of the royal family, taught with all the knowledge of the learning of the Egyptians, and then under God's providences was brought to lead his people out of the land of Egypt into the Promised Land.

Yes, God is very much interested in and concerned about the day by day life of His children on this earth. Time and again in my own life and in the lives of others have I seen the positive proof that God does care for each of His children. Things are in the powerful hands of God, and He is working in your life and in mine to accomplish that which He sees fit. If you are willing to open your heart to Him, and to follow His leadership, God will work out the day by day details for you. Will you give Him a chance with your life. He is ready to do it.