

WCBC NEW YEAR'S SERMON - JANUARY 5, 2020

TOPIC: "Christ's Encouragement In 2020!"

TEXT: Matthew 6:25-34

INTRO:

- Canadians' Number 1 2020 Worry!

I. WHAT IS WORRY?

The term "worry" comes from the Greek word, "merimnao," meaning, "to be anxious, distracted, to have a divided mind." It is the word that Christ used in Matthew 6:25 when He said, "Do not worry about your life."

The Two Kinds of Worry:

1. Illegitimate (Unhealthy) Worry - Matt. 6:25-34
2. Legitimate (Healthy) Worry - Phil. 4:6-7

II. THE CAUSE OF WORRY: v.30

Note: In verse 30, the Lord Jesus had identified the underlying cause of worry amongst Christians as THE LACK OF FAITH IN GOD!

Note: Living by faith includes our responsibility to work and to do what we can to provide for the needs of ourselves and our families! - II Thess. 3:10

III. THE USELESSNESS OF WORRY: vv.25-32

Note: Worry is pointless. Nothing has ever been accomplished by worry!

- Vance Havner
1. It causes us to forget our individual worth - vv. 25-26
Note: God takes care of the birds. In God's eye, our value far exceeds that of the birds! - v.26
 2. No one can prolong his/her life one hour longer by worrying - v.27
 3. It blinds us to God's blessings - vv.28-30

Note: We will always overlook God's bountiful blessings to us if we are preoccupied by worry and

doubt!

4. It is PAGAN! - vv.31-32

Note: Here, Jesus equates Christians who worry unnecessarily to pagans, or unbelievers!

IV. THE CURE FOR WORRY: vv.33-34

Note: In verses 33-34, here the Lord Jesus shows us that the cure for the illegitimate, unhealthy worry is a MATTER OF PRIORITIES!

1. We must exercise faith and prioritize God - v.33
2. We must take one day at a time, and everything will fall into place - v.34

Note: Phil. 4:6-7 = by-product of vv.33-34

- Sleeping Well vs. Worry!

CONCLUSION: Christ's Twofold 2020 Message!

Story of J.C. Penney!

In 1929, J.C. Penney's business was highly unstable. And so he began to worry, and became sleepless. He worried to the extreme and contracted shingles. In the hospital, Penney was given medicine to tranquilize him, but it was no help. He still worried about his business!

One night, he felt he would die before morning, and so he started writing farewells to his wife, son, and friends. But by the next morning, as he was lying in bed, he heard singing from the hospital chapel next door. He heard the line:

"No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you..." (p. 179 in our Hymnody song book)

Suddenly, he leaned up, thinking to himself: "It is real! God loves and cares for me!" In no time, he had jumped out his bed, and entered the chapel. And then a miracle took place in his soul, as if he were a little bird suddenly freed to fly out of the dungeon into the sunlight, from hell to paradise! - Paul L. Tan

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

