



Today's Sermons

Morning: TBA

Evening: TBA

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	36
Sunday AM Worship	53
Sunday PM Worship	33
Wed. Bible Study	35
Offering	\$1571

Sins of the Tongue

THE BIBLE LISTS AT LEAST 18 SINS OF THE TONGUE

(1) CURSING	(5) TALE BEARING Leviticus 19:16	(9) DECEIT Romans 3:13	(13) IDLE WORDS Matthew 12:36
(2) FLATTERY Psalm 12:3	(6) WHISPERS Romans 1:29	(10) REVILING 1 Corinthians 6:10	(14) BLASPHEMY Colossians 3:8
(3) EVIL SPEAKING Ephesians 4:31	(7) BACKBITING Romans 1:30	(11) FOOLISH TALKING Ephesians 5:4	(15) FALSE TEACHING Titus 1:10-11
(4) LYING Revelation 21:8	(8) BOASTING Romans 1:39	(12) JESTING Ephesians 5:4	(16) FILTHY SPEECH Colossians 3:8
(17) CROOKED SPEECH Proverbs 4:24		(18) HARSH CRITICISM Matthew 5:22	

Barnes' Bible Charts



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

DOES JESUS CARE?

by Jonathan McAnulty

There is a hymn, written by Frank Graeff, in 1901, which asks, the question, "Does Jesus care?" Does Jesus care, when my heart is pained? Does Jesus care, when my way is dark? Does Jesus care, when I've tried and failed? Does Jesus care, when I've said good-bye.

The scriptures answer this question in the affirmative: Yes, Jesus does care.

The apostle Peter says concerning the care of God and the appropriate response to that divine care: "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 Peter 5:6-7).

As the apostle penned those words, he was writing to Christians who might have reason to doubt that God cared for them. They were saints who were facing persecution and hardships because of their faith. Peter reminds them of the proper manner in which they should answer this persecution: with love and kindness. (cf. 1 Peter 3:13-17) He also reminds them that Christ suffered on our behalf. (eg. 1 Peter 3:18, 4:1). He says concerning their problems: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning

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the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you: But rejoice, inasmuch as you as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12-13)

The example of Christ's reminds us of several important things in relation to suffering and the love of God. Firstly, suffering does not preclude the love of God. Many think to themselves that if God really loved them then He would never allow them to feel pain. But God surely loved His Son, Jesus, and Jesus still suffered. He experienced abandonment by His friends and students. He experienced betrayal. He experienced beatings and torture. He experienced an excruciating, and public, death. There is no heart-ache, pain, or sorrow that Jesus cannot empathize with, having suffered similar in His own flesh.

But through it all, Jesus held to His faith in the love and mercy of God, the Father. He confessed this faith, saying to God in prayer, "for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24) With His final words He commended His soul into the Father's hands (cf. Luke 23:46). Jesus knew that God cared for Him, even in the midst of misery and sorrow, and that such suffering did not signify that God was uncaring.

The example of Christ also reminds us that good can come through suffering, if we face it with faith. The suffering of Christ was not without purpose. It served to bring salvation to a world which desperately needed it. As Peter reminds us, Jesus suffered for us. Elsewhere, we are reminded that no suffering is ever pleasant as we are going through it. But that does not mean we cannot grow through it, and even from it, nor does it preclude the possibility that the suffering might in some way prove beneficial. It is a rather short-sighted perspective which refuses to consider that sometimes God might allow us to experience grief because doing so, in one fashion or another, is good for us, leading to greater joy afterward, if we allow it to. (cf. Hebrews 12:3-11) That's not necessarily a message you want to hear in the middle of suffering, but that does not make it a false argument.

Finally, though, the suffering of Christ reminds us that Jesus cared enough about us to suffer on our behalf. When you find yourself doubting whether or not God cares for you, remember the counsel of the Bible, which reminds us "What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32) Why would God care about us enough to allow Jesus to suffer for us,

but not care enough about us to do more for us, when we turn to Him in faith, through Christ.

God does not promise to take away all of our cares and sorrows in this world. But He has promised to give His children strength to face those cares, if they trust Him and follow where He leads them.

When we find ourselves wondering, "Does Jesus care," we can answer with the old hymn-writer, "Oh yes, He cares. I know He cares." And in so knowing, let us follow the advice of the apostle, by humbling ourselves before God, and casting our cares upon Him.

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"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.' Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (I Corinthians 1:18-25).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jan 13 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Jan 27 – Song Service
- Feb 3 - Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell