

1 Peter 5:7 – Rediscovering the Love of God

- 1) So far this year we have studied three promises from God
 - a) January 4: **New life** replacing the old
 - b) January 11: **Rest** for the weary
 - c) January 18: **Hope** for the hopeless
 - d) January 25: **Grace** sufficient for our need
- 2) But none of these promises mean anything if I think God does not **care** about me – they will seem to only be meant for someone else, not me
- 3) That brings us to the verse for today – 1 Peter 5:7: **“Cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you.”**
- 4) “**Cast**” – “**throw**” or “**fling**”, even “**dump**” – in other words, don’t be shy in sharing the things that cause you anxiety or worry
- 5) all your **cares**” – “**distractions**”, “**anxieties**”
 - a) We “**cast**” or “**share**” our needs, not to “let God know” what we need – He already knows (Matthew 6:8)
 - b) We give to God the anxiety that is caused by unexpected or difficult circumstances
- 6) “**on Him**” – on God our Heavenly Father: it is important that we recognize that we are to give our anxiety to God, not to Jesus; because too often though we recognize the love of Jesus in going to the cross for us, we forget that, as Jesus tells us in John 16:27, “The Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.”
- 7) “**because He cares for you**” – this can also be translated, “**the things that concern you matter to Him**”
- 8) But how do I know this applies to **me**?
 - a) John 3:16: “**the world**” means everything God has created
 - i) In Job 14:14, Job expresses his belief that God would be moved with compassion to help him because God made him – and an artist or creator loves what he creates
- ii) God Himself expresses this thought in Hosea 11:8-9 and 14:4, where, despite Israel’s sin, God’s final word will be a word of love and restoration for Israel as His child, his unique creation
- iii) We too were made by God, and He loved us enough to die for us even when we were estranged from Him because of our sin
- 9) Yet, because we still experience anxieties and hardships, we often are tempted to doubt the love God has for us, even as those who were closest to Jesus did:
 - a) The disciples, anxious about a severe storm that arose as they crossed the sea of Galilee in a boat, found Jesus sleeping (!) in the bow of the boat and asked accusingly, “**Don’t you care** that we are about to die?” (Mark 4:38)
 - b) Martha, a dear friend of Jesus’ (John 11:5), asked the same question of Jesus - when she was burdened with serving Jesus as her sister sat by Jesus and did nothing to help her; she finally gave voice to her frustration and anxiety over the meal, saying “ “Lord, **don’t you care** (“does it not matter to you”) that my sister has left me to do all the work alone? Tell her to help me.”
- 10) Martha teaches us an important lesson about ourselves – we often measure God’s love by what we think He should be doing for us – in this case, Jesus did not do what she thought “**love**” would do; yet His response demonstrated the compassion she doubted
- 11) By sharing our anxiety we remind ourselves we are not alone, and that God does in fact care about us – that what “**matters**” to us “**matters**” to Him
- 12) So we can say with the Apostle Paul (who experienced his share of “**anxieties**” – or as he called them last week, “**weaknesses**”): “I am convinced that … nothing in all creation can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord” – and since He loves me, I can find in Him **grace, hope, rest, and life**