

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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THE FAILING ECONOMY

America is in an economic recession. We see evidence nearly everywhere. Here in Michigan, the evidence is especially acute. As I write this, mortgages are going into default at an alarming rate and GM is counting on a government bailout to avoid bankruptcy. Yes, economically speaking, the U.S.A. is in serious trouble.

However, Christians are not supposed to be affected by such a scenario. We are not supposed to be anxious (worry) about the failing economy. Our Lord made this commandment clear. Note what He has said:

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” (Matt. 6:24-33).

Let’s now notice some specific reasons why no Christian ought to ever worry about the failing economy. We ought not to be anxious (worry) about such because...

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN FOOD AND CLOTHING

Note again vs. 25 of the above section of text. It reads: *“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. **Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?**”* Folks, sometimes we put too much emphasis on material goods. We need to put things in their proper perspective. Life, real life (**John 10:10**) is much more than cashing paychecks and buying life necessities. Our focus is not to be on carnal things. We are to be clothed with Christ (**Gal. 3:27**). Our meat is to do the will of God (**John 4:34**).

COMMON SENSE FORBIDS SUCH

Look again at vs. 26: *“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. **Are ye not much better than they?**”* The answer is, of course, yes. Jesus was/is appealing to the common sense of His disciples. Oh, how we need to remember this lesson.

WORRYING IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY

Note vs. 27: *“Which of you by taking thought **can add one cubit unto his stature?**”* Jesus is here teaching that all the worrying in the world will not change the outcome of a situation. We need to heed His admonition. Worry never accomplishes anything but making the anxious individual sick.

WORRYING IS A MARK OF UNBELIEF

Notice vs. 31 and part of vs. 32: *“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (**For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:**)....”* The word “Gentiles” was/is to be understood as heathens; i.e. unbelievers (**cf. Matt. 18:17**). Worrying about a failing economy is what we would expect from a non-Christian, not something we ought to be engaging in.

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER KNOWS OUR NEEDS

Look again at the last part of vs. 32: *“for your heavenly Father **knoweth that ye have need of all these things.**”* Folks, the faithful have God “in their corner.” He’s greater than a failing economy. He will not let us down (**vs. 33; Ps. 37:25**). Remember this and put the worry to rest, rather than being one who is of little faith (**cf. Luke. 12:28**).