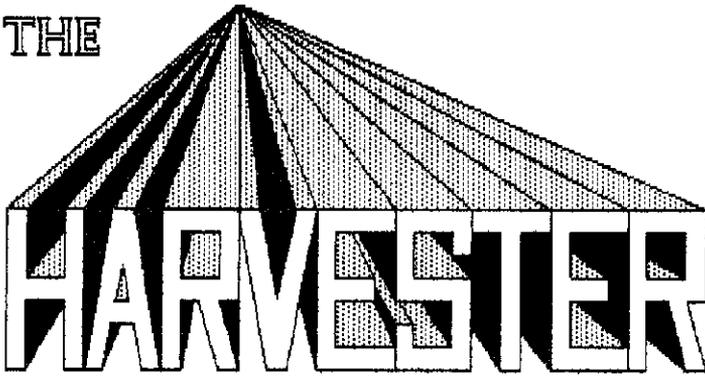


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"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

MARCH 2001

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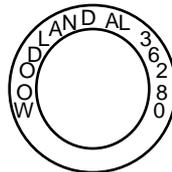
WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?

Just for a moment think about what worries you. Now consider the following:

1. What is the worst that can possibly happen?
2. Prepare yourself mentally for the worst if necessary.
3. What can you do to improve the situation?

WE NEED TO KEEP OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT. Some people spend more time worrying about such things as sporting events or soap operas than about their soul

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salvation. In Luke 10:38-40, when Martha desired that Jesus have her sister Mary to help her, Jesus answered that one thing is needful and Mary has chosen that good part which would not be taken away from her. One sister worried about the physical household chores while the other was concerned about spiritual matters. In Heb. 13:5-9, the scriptures tell us not to be covetous and be content with the things we have. Covetousness leads us to buy things we can't afford and that leads us to worrying about how to pay for them. What is most important in your life? Your actions, not your words, give the answer.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THINGS YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER. Matt. 10:28 tells us *"...fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* Many people spend too much time worrying about things they have no control over. We need to take things one day at a time instead of taking for granted how much time we have left in this life. James 4:14-15 tells us *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."* We put too much stock in what we are going to do in the future: I will do more for God, obey the gospel, or study more when summer vacation is here, as soon as I finish this project at work, when the kids are grown, or when I retire. We don't have any guarantees on the amount of time we have left in this

life. For example, one spring a tornado came through our area and killed 21 people during their church service only a few miles from us as we were having our worship service at Fairview (Oxford, AL). We need to change the things we can change, leave the things we can not change alone, and pray for God to help us have the wisdom to know the difference.

INSTEAD OF WORRYING -- HAVE MORE FAITH IN GOD. Matt. 6:30-32 tells us *"Wherefore if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast in 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 our heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."* Also, we find in Matt. 6:33, we must first seek the kingdom of God, and his righteousness before these things are added unto us. In Matt. 28:17, we see that even some of the disciples doubted; however, Jesus gives us hope and comfort in verse 20 where Jesus tells us He will be with us always even unto the end of the world.

DON'T WORRY -- WORK. II Thess. 3:10-12 tells us that *"...if any would not work neither should he eat ...some among you are working not at all, but are busybodies, ...we command that with quietness they work..."* The answer to our worries may not be in the form we would like: work may be required. I Tim. 5:8 tells us *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."* A man is

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

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responsible for providing for his family. The reason we must work for a living today is because of sin when man was driven from the garden of Eden and told that by the sweat of thy face shall thou eat bread (Gen. 3:19).

LET GOD HELP. Jesus tells us in Matt. 11:28-30 *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Jesus will provide us a rest if we only let Him. He also tells us to learn of Him which means reading, studying, etc, which is part of His rest. Phil. 4:6-9 tells us in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God and the peace of God shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. We are also told to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure lovely, and of good report. The things which ye have both learned, received, heard, and seen in me (Paul) do: and the God of peace shall be with you. If we think on these positive things, we will not be worrying as much and thinking on negative things.

Also, in verse 9 we see action is required: *"do the things learned..."* first and then receive the peace of God.

HOW LIKELY IS YOUR WORRY TO BECOME REALITY? Many things we worry about in life never even happen or if they do they are not as bad as we anticipated. However, there is one thing that we may not be concerned enough about: judgment day. Rom. 14:10-12 tells us *"...we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."* If one's life is not right with God, the judgment is what one should be concerned about. Eccl. 12:14 tells us *"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* Even the innermost secret sins will be revealed. Judgment day will be a reality for everyone.

SPIRITUALLY -- WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT? What is the worst that can possibly happen? If you have not obeyed the gospel or you have and not remained faithful, you will be lost eternally if you die in this condition or if Jesus returns before you do something about it.

Prepare yourself mentally for the worst if necessary. The Bible describes hell as a most dreadful place. Mark 9:46 tells us hell is *"Where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."* Matt. 25:41 tells us *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire"*

prepared for the devil and his angels." Rev. 21:8 tells us "but the fearful, and the unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." As awful as hell is, there is no reason for anyone to be lost and go there. The Bible tells us in I Tim. 2:4 that God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Even the most vile criminal in the world faced with a choice of two doors on judgment day (one door leading to fire, heat, and darkness and the other door leading to a place of beautiful songs, joy, and light) would not choose the door to hell.

What can I do to improve the situation? If you have never obeyed the gospel, then you need to do so and remain faithful. If you have obeyed the gospel and have become unfaithful, you need to repent and pray for forgiveness just as Simon did in Acts 8. Let us all examine the worry in our life and see if we are worrying too much about the wrong things. We should investigate the source of our worries, prepare ourselves mentally to cope with our worries, and then do something to improve the situation. Our salvation should not be the source of worry but of concern that leads us to the action necessary on our part to live in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Bible.

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What is the name of the king's wife who was eaten by dogs?
2. On what island was Paul when his ship arrived at Fair Havens?
3. Who ordered a guard for the tomb of Jesus and a seal on the stone?
4. A woman was considered to be unclean for a period of days after childbirth. Was she considered unclean longer for a boy or for a girl?
5. Of what material was the tower of Babel built?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What accompanied the manna as it fell each night? DEW (Num. 11:9)
2. What day of the week did Jesus heal at Bethesda Pool? SABBATH (John 5:9)
3. What did the man, who cursed David in the town of Bahurium, throw at him? STONES (2 Sam. 16:5-6)
4. What was the only church to aid Paul when he set out from Macedonia? PHILIPPI (Phil. 4:15)
5. After Rahab was removed from Jericho, what was done to the city? IT WAS BURNED (Josh. 6:24)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
March 2 - 4 (F-Su)	New Bethel Church Cullman, AL 7:00pm Fri & Sat	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
March 19 - 23	Goochtown, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)



WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. Hear the Word of God. "The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord." (Mark 12:29)
2. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31)
3. Repent of your sins. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." (Acts 17:30)
4. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. Paul wrote, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom. 10:9)
5. You must be baptized. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)
6. Upon obedience of the above scriptures, God will forgive your sins and add you to his church. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47)