

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

....*"This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB*

September 17th

A WORRY FREE LIFE

[part 3 of 9]

....*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer [proclamation] and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things".... Philippians 4:6-8 NASB*

We also find the word "merimnao" used in the parable of the sower and the seed. Matthew 13:22 says, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." The word "care" is the Greek word "merimnao", and again, it is connected to material worries and concerns.

Jesus says such worry "chokes" the Word. The word "choke" is the Greek word "sumpnigo", which means to suffocate to smother; to asphyxiate; to choke; or to throttle. You see, worry is so all-consuming in an individual's mind that it "chokes" him. It is a suffocating, smothering force that throttles his whole life to a standstill.

In Luke 21:34, Jesus gives a special warning to people who live in the last days. He says, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, so that day come upon you unawares."

When Jesus mentions the "cares of this life," the word "cares" is the same

Greek word "merimnao", but this time it is used in connection with the word "life," which is the Greek word "biotikos". This comes from the root word "bios", the Greek word for life, and it is where we get the word "biology." But when it becomes the word "biotikos", it describes the things of life - pertaining primarily to the events, incidents, and episodes that occur in one's life.

This phrase could be understood to mean that we should not allow ourselves to worry and fret about the events, incidents, or episodes that occur in life. This is a particularly fitting message for people who live in the last days and who are confronted by the troubling events, incidents, and episodes that occur during this difficult time.

So when Philippians 4:6 says, "Be careful for nothing" that verse is pleading with us not to be worried about the basic needs and provisions required for life. Paul was also telling us not to let the events of life get to us and throw us into a state of anxiety or panic. To let us know how free of all worry we should be, Paul said we are to be "careful for nothing." The word "nothing" is the Greek word "meden", and it means absolutely nothing!

So this phrase in Philippians 4:6 could be translated: "Don't be worried about anything - and that means nothing at all!"