

"Does Jesus Care?"

1 Pet. 5:7

Introduction:

- A. A song which explains that our Lord does care for us is "Does Jesus Care" (Hymns for Worship, #466). The text was written by Frank E. Graeff (1860-1919). A Methodist preacher and the author of over 200 hymns, he was known as the "sunshine minister" because of his cheerful personality. However, unknown to a lot of people, he was often called upon to go through many severe testing experiences in his life. It was while passing through just such a test and experiencing physical agony, severe despondency, and even spiritual doubt, that he wrote these words after turning to the scriptures for comfort. The tune (Hall or My Savior Cares) was composed specifically for this text by J. Lincoln Hall (1866-1930). The song was copyrighted in 1901, and its first publication seems to have been in the 1905 hymnbook, *New Songs of the Gospel #2*, edited by Herbert J. Lacey, Maurice A. Clifton, and C. Austin Miles, and printed by Hall's Hall-Mack Co. of Philadelphia, PA.
- B. This hymn mentions several areas in which Jesus's care is manifested.
- I. ***Stanza 1 Asks If Jesus Cares During Times Of Pain, Burdens, And Cares***
- A. God has always cared for His people and asked them to cast their burdens on Him - Psa. 55:22
- B. Jesus has told us that He will give us rest from the cares of this life - Matt. 11:28-30
- C. When our hearts are filled with pain, we can look to God for comfort - 2 Cor. 1:5
- II. ***Stanza 2 Asks If Jesus Cares During Times Of Dread And Fear***
- A. Even though we may walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we have nothing to fear if God is with us - Psa. 23:4

1. Betwixt that part of the flock, which is on earth and that which is gone to heaven, death lies, like a deep valley that must be passed in going from the one to the other. But this valley cannot hurt believers, and should not alarm them. It is indeed deep and dark, but fruitful. The good Shepherd will accompany his sheep through it, by his gracious presence: his rod, the token of his power, will defend them from the assaults of their enemies; his pastoral staff, his word of promise and Spirit of grace, will support them with inward strength; and thus he will render death safe and comfortable to them (Thomas Scott).
- B. The fact is that God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power - 2 Tim. 1:7
- C. The reason that we need not live in fear is that perfect love casts out fear - 1 Jn. 4:18

III. *Stanza 3 Asks If Jesus Cares During Times Of Sadness, Heartache, And Loss Of Loved Ones*

- A. Jesus Himself experienced sadness at the loss of a dear friend - Jn. 11:32-35
- B. Therefore, in the scriptures He has given us words by which we can comfort one another in such situations - 1 Thess. 4:13-18
- C. And since He Himself has suffered death, He enables us to be free from the fear of death and bring the comfort of hope into our lives - Heb. 2:14-18

Conclusion:

- A. Each stanza asks if Jesus cares during these various occasions in which we all find ourselves from time to time, and in the chorus the answer keeps coming back, "O yes, He cares, I know He cares." This shows us that Jesus not only demonstrated that He cared for us through His death but also continues to care for us even now. Thus, in times of darkness and sorrow, we can rest in the security of the fact that the answer is a resounding, "Yes," to the question, "Does Jesus Care?"