



He Cares for You:

I Peter 5:6-7

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EXTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 29, 2014

God Cares: 1 Pet 5:6-7



- ▶ 6 And God will exalt you in due time, if you humble yourselves under His mighty hand 7 by casting all your cares on Him because He cares for you. (NET)
- ▶ 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. (NASB)

Do Not Worry – Matt 6:25-34

- ▶ ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t there more to life than food and more to the body than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds in the sky: They do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you more valuable than they are? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add even one hour to his life? ²⁸ Why do you worry about clothing? Think about how the flowers of the field grow; they do not work or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these! ³⁰ And if this is how God clothes the wild grass, which is here today and tomorrow is tossed into the fire to heat the oven, won’t he clothe you even more, you people of little faith? ³¹ So then, don’t worry saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For the unconverted pursue these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But above all pursue his kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ So then, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own.

Ingratitude is Condemned



- ▶ Rom 1:20(b) -21: that they may be without excuse; because that, knowing God they glorified Him not as God, neither gave thanks, but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened.

The Fact Is That:

- ▶ Most people fall into 2 extremes. They focus on:
- ▶ What they do have, or
- ▶ What they do not have
- ▶ The latter will never be satisfied in this life because they will never obtain all that they want. Witness the many fabulously wealthy and famous people who live miserable lives and destroy themselves and those around them.

However...



- ▶ It's often hard to remember these consoling promises when...
- ▶ The baby is sick.
- ▶ The rent is due (or overdue).
- ▶ The boss has threatened to fire me.
- ▶ The transmission just went out, and
- ▶ The power has been out for 5 days!

The Goals of the Lesson Are:

- ▶ To help us understand God's love for His children in any situation we experience.
- ▶ To understand that our trials, relatively speaking, often pale in comparison to the trials others have experienced and are experiencing today.
- ▶ To increase our gratitude to God, the Source of all good things and Hope of better things to come.

This Lesson is NOT Designed to:

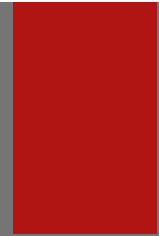
- ▶ Diminish those of us dealing with grave chronic problems in our lives and families
- ▶ Make light of difficulties that present themselves from time to time, such as accidental injuries, sudden deaths of loved one, lost jobs, or natural disasters
- ▶ Life is not always fair...and very bad things sometimes happen to very good people.

The Truth Is..



- ▶ Americans:
 - ▶ Are richer...
 - ▶ Healthier
 - ▶ Are living longer
 - ▶ Have more creature comforts
 - ▶ Are better educated
 - ▶ Have more leisure time
 - ▶ Have more human potential than anytime in world history

America's Poor - 2011



▶ Key Points

1. The typical poor household, as defined by the government, has a car and air conditioning, two color televisions, cable or satellite TV, a DVD player, and a VCR. If there are children, especially boys, the family has a game system, such as an Xbox or PlayStation.
2. In the kitchen, the household has a refrigerator, an oven and stove, and a microwave. Other household conveniences include a clothes washer, clothes dryer, ceiling fans, a cordless phone, and a coffee maker.
2. The home of the typical poor family is in good repair and is not overcrowded. In fact, the typical average poor American has more living space in his home than the average (non-poor) European has.
4. By its own report, the typical poor family was not hungry, was able to obtain medical care when needed, and had sufficient funds during the past year to meet all essential needs.

▶ Heritage Foundation, 7/19/2011

In Many Ways, We Live in the Best of Times—But Who Knew?

- ▶ U.S. life expectancy at birth was 39 years in 1800, 49 years in 1900, 68 years in 1950, and 79 years today. *The average newborn today can expect to live an entire generation longer than his great-grandparents could.*
- ▶ In 1900, 1% of American women giving birth died in labor. Today, the five-year mortality rate for localized breast cancer is 1.2%. *Having a baby 100 years ago was almost as dangerous as having breast cancer is today.*

Consider...



- ▶ In 1952, 38,000 people contracted polio in America alone, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In 2012, there were fewer than 300 reported cases of polio *in the entire world*.
- ▶ From 1920 to 1949, an average of 433,000 people died each year globally from "extreme weather events." That figure has plunged to 27,500 per year, according to Indur Goklany of the International Policy Network, largely thanks to "increases in societies' collective adaptive capacities."

Consider...



- ▶ According to the Census Bureau, in 1900 there was one housing unit for every five Americans. Today, there's one for every three. In 1910 the average home had 1.13 occupants per room. By 1997 it was down to 0.42 occupants per room.
- ▶ According to professor Julian Simon, the average American house or apartment is twice as large as the average house or apartment in Japan, and three times larger than the average home or apartment in Russia.

Consider...

- ▶ The average American work week has declined from 66 hours in 1850, to 51 hours in 1909, to 34.8 today, according to the Federal Reserve. Enjoy your weekend!
- ▶ You need an annual income of \$34,000 a year to be in the richest 1% of the world, according to World Bank economist Branko Milanovic's 2010 book *The Haves and the Have-Nots*. To be in the top half of the globe you need to earn just \$1,225 a year. For the top 20%, it's \$5,000 per year. Enter the top 10% with \$12,000 a year. To be included in the top 0.1% requires an annual income of \$70,000. America's poorest are some of the world's richest.

The World-Wide Flu Pandemic

- ▶ The Legacy of the Pandemic
- ▶ No one knows exactly how many people died during the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. During the 1920s, researchers estimated that 21.5 million people died as a result of the 1918-1919 pandemic. More recent estimates have estimated global mortality from the 1918-1919 pandemic at anywhere between 30 and 50 million.
- ▶ **An estimated 675,000 Americans were among the dead.**

“They are placed on the cots until every bed is full and yet others crowd in. The faces soon wear a bluish cast; a distressing cough brings up the blood stained sputum. In the morning the dead bodies are stacked about the morgue like cord wood.”

—Victor Vaughan, *A Doctor's Memories*



Poverty in America: The Great Depression, 1929 - 1940

Men Wanting Jobs



Young Boys in a Soup Line



Dust Storm – Oklahoma 1935



Dust Bowl - Oklahoma



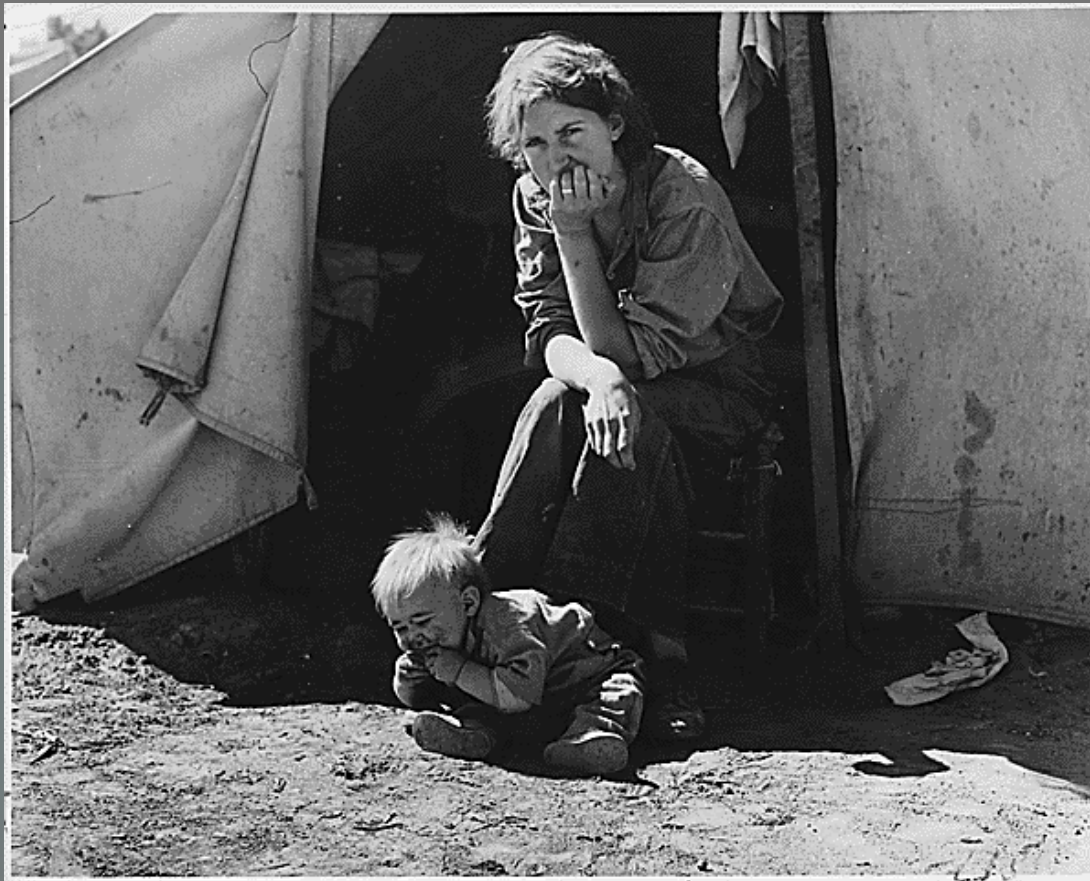
"Okies" Driving to California - 1935



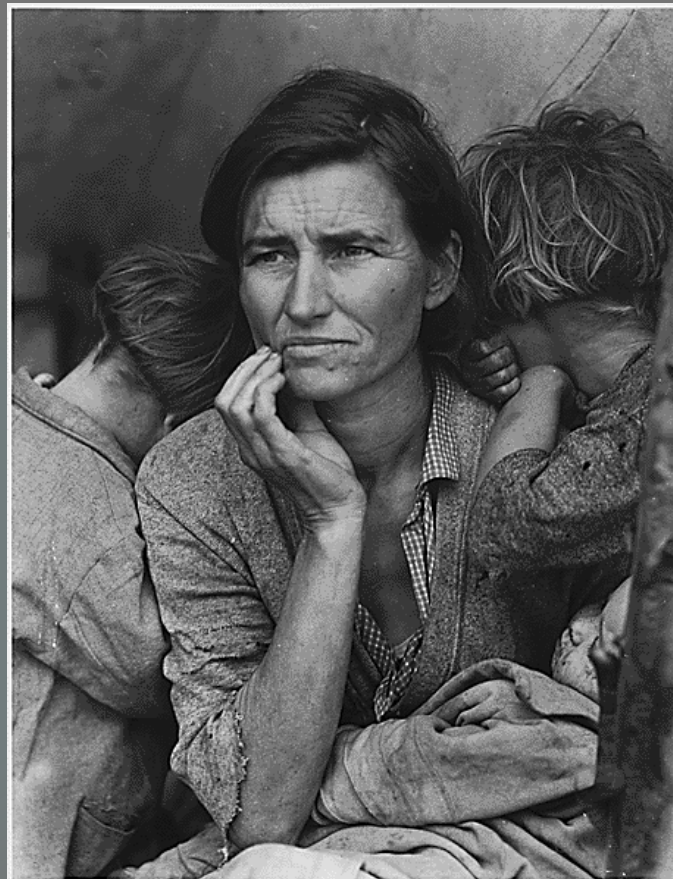
Migrant Family of 9 – NM 1935



18-Year Old Mother on the Move



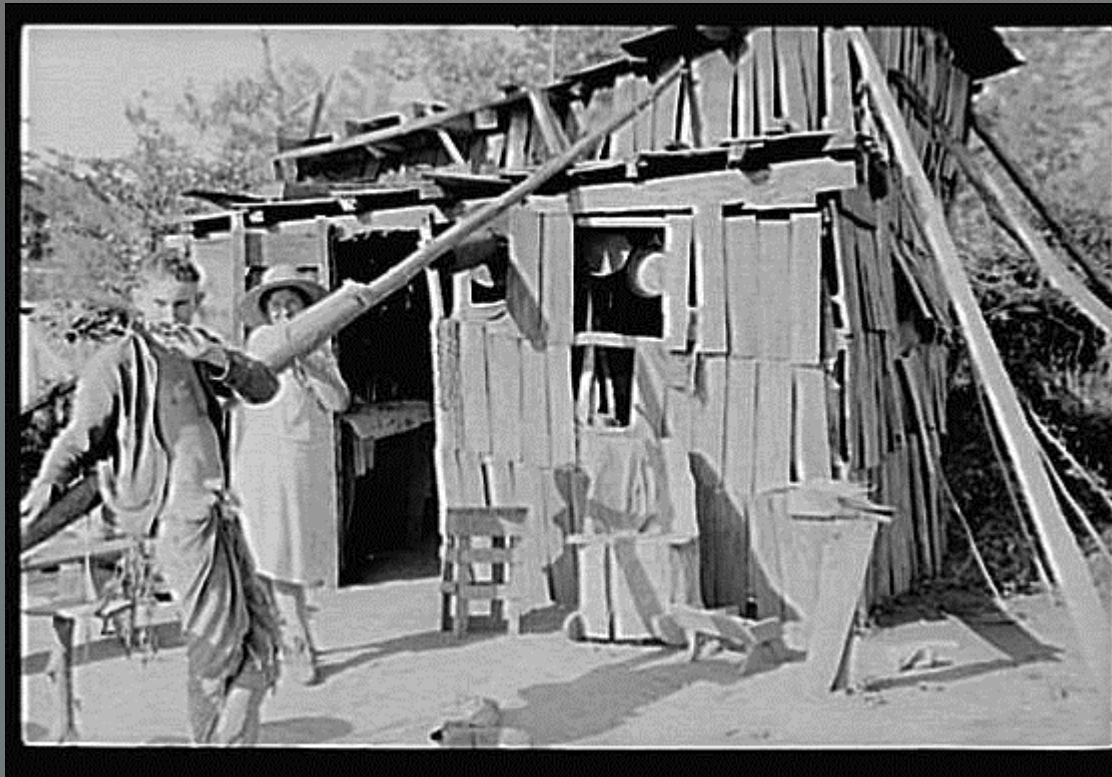
Woman with 7 Children- In Migrant Camp



Sharecropper Family in Alabama - 1935



Squatter's House in Arkansas



Squatter's House in Texas



Sharecropper's Home





Destruction in World War II Europe

The London Blitz - 1940



The British victory in the Battle of Britain was achieved at a heavy cost. Total British civilian losses from July to December 1940 were 23,002 dead and 32,138 wounded, with one of the largest single raids on 19 December 1940, in which almost 3,000 civilians died.

London Blitz - 1940



CENTRAL PRESS // GETTY IMAGES

Coventry Cathedral – London 1940



KEYSTONE/GETTY IMAGES

British Kids in the Tube - 1940



REG SPELLER/FOX PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

Berlin – Summer 1945



Berlin – Summer 1945



Battle of Okinawa – April 1945

Allied Casualties

*12,513 dead or missing,
38,916 wounded,
33,096 non-combat wounded,
79 ships sunk and scrapped,
763 aircraft destroyed*

140,000 civilians killed or wounded



Poverty in the World Today

Searching in a Manila Dump Site



Child at Home in Manila



Manila Housing Area



A Young Child in His Home



Manila—Haves & Have Nots



Freedoms in America

- ▶ To assemble
- ▶ To worship
- ▶ To free speech
- ▶ To trial by jury of our peers
- ▶ Against unreasonable search
- ▶ To privacy
- ▶ To grow beyond our “class” of ancestors

Is it not reasonable to believe that God will hold us accountable for being good stewards of all that we have been blessed with as Christians in America?

How Do We Process This?



- ▶ Recognition of our peculiar blessings
- ▶ Gratitude to God for all things
- ▶ Endurance in the face of trials
- ▶ A mental toughness toward minor inconveniences
- ▶ A reduced anxiety and subsequent stress in light of God's sure promises
- ▶ We are "too blessed to be stressed!"

Conclusion

- ▶ God sends the rain on the just and unjust, but any fair assessment would conclude that God has blessed Americans in abundance...and we should acknowledge this and show our gratitude every day.
- ▶ God's ultimate gift and blessing was His sacrifice of Jesus, the Christ for our sins. Through Him, we receive all spiritual blessings. Through God's longsuffering, the world continues and we remain blessed physically as Americans.
- ▶ How will you respond to God's generosity in the future?