

In the beginning God created everything (Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11). Mankind was the only portion of creation made in the very image of God (Genesis 1:26). Mankind was the crown of creation in God's eyes and He gave all other creation to him (Genesis 1:28). I know God cares for mankind.

God cares for all of His creation and watches over it. God watched over the land He promised to Israel every day of the year, as a gardener watches over his garden (Deuteronomy 11:10-12). God declared in His law that the ox was to eat of the corn that he tilled. A young man will at some point bring flowers as a gift to a young lady – a special gift. He will care diligently for the flowers. It is because of the young lady that he does this. He cares for her deeply. Paul said the same was true in God's ruling for the ox eating the corn (1 Corinthians 9:9-10). He was teaching mankind for whom he cares deeply. He was providing hope and sustenance through our labors and burdens. I know God cares.

Mankind is above all creation in God's sight. Yet even sparrows that are common and numerous do not escape His care. He knows when each one falls to the Earth. You are worth more than many sparrows. God knows the number of hairs on your head (Matthew 10:29-31). God is not in love with your hair. He cares for you. I know God cares.

The birds have homes and the flowers are dressed in beautiful, vibrant, colorful clothes. God will add these things to us if we seek Him and His kingdom as a first priority in our lives. God will never allow the righteous to be moved. He will bear our burdens and sustain us (Psalm 55:22). I know God cares.

Jesus was sleeping in a boat on a storm tossed sea. The boat was filling with water and was about to sink. Fear filled the minds of his closest earthly associates. This panic drove them to wake Jesus and ask feverishly, "Master, carest Thou not that we perish?" (Mark 4:36-40). In the greater context of the life and mission of Jesus this must be the silliest question ever asked! He left Heaven to come to Earth to be humiliated, rejected and crucified to save those who had humiliated, rejected and crucified Him (Romans 5:8; Acts 2). As surely as He calmed the wind and the sea our faith must not be small and our minds not clouded with doubt and fear. Remember that God remembered Noah on the flood waters; Job on the dung hill; He heard the cries of Israel in Egypt. I know God cares.

Where was Jesus going when He was walking across the waters of the Sea of Galilee? He was going to the cross of Calvary. He had no need to be met there. It was me that was poor and needy and the Lord was thinking about me (Psalm 40:17). We are saved by His grace (Ephesians 2:5, 8). I know God cares.

Peter wrote, "Humble yourselves under the

mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time; casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He careth for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7). Peter wrote this as a witness of the sufferings of Jesus (verse 1). Peter had denied Jesus openly with emphatic words. He had wept bitter tears of anguish realizing his betrayal. He may very well have been eye witness to the scourging, mocking, humiliation and crucifixion of Jesus. "And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed with him from Galilee, stood afar off, seeing these things" (Luke 23:49). Peter had grown comfortable in following Jesus from afar and may very well have been in this group. Upon this foundation he encourages troubled and burdened Christians to cast their burdens on Jesus because He cared for them enough to endure those sufferings for them. I know that God cares.

Picture a suckling baby at his mother's breast. Can that mother soon forget that child? The Bible says, "Yes!" (Isaiah 49:15). We see it all the time. Today, it is becoming harder for a child to even arrive at his mother's breast. God promises that He will never forget or neglect us. Even when a father and a mother would give up and forsake their own child; God will be there and bear him up (Psalm 27:10). I know God cares.

These are dark images. These are dire circumstances. It is in times like these that we really wonder if the God of all the universe is

mindful of our pain. Even if we do not utter the words, we sometimes groan in our minds the questions expressed in a well known hymn.

### *Does Jesus Care?*

*Does Jesus care when my heart is pained,  
too deeply for mirth and song;  
as the burdens press, and the cares distress,  
and the way grows weary and long?*

*Does Jesus care when my way is dark, with  
a nameless dread and fear;  
as the daylight fades into deep night shades  
– does He care enough to be near?*

*Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed to  
resist some temptation strong;  
when for my deep grief I find no relief,  
though my tears flow all the night long?*

*Does Jesus care when I've said, "Good-bye"  
to the dearest on Earth to me;  
and my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks  
– Is it aught to Him? Does He see?*

*Oh yes, He cares; I know He cares – His  
heart is touched with my grief.*

*When the days are weary and the long nights  
dreary, I know my Savior cares...He Cares!*

Frank E. Graeff and J. Lincoln Hall

As we get older we become more reflective. The prism through which we ponder is that of life experience. We have learned there is a cost

to everything and an effect for every cause. We know that time has a beginning and an end. Thus we become more fearful and small things become great burdens (Ecclesiastes 12:5). But we also have knowledge to strengthen us. "Yea, even when I am old and gray headed, O God, forsake me not, Until I have declared thy strength unto the next generation, Thy might to every one that is to come" (Psalm 71:18). Even in old age God cares.

If we are what we should be, we shall never be without a friend as long as there is God, eternal in the heavens above.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the  
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# I Know... God Cares

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