

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

Romans 1: 21

Have you ever wondered why we worry? Who doesn't worry at least a little? Worry is something we can all relate to. Worry takes away the kind of life that God wants us to have. Worry is a burden. I think we can say that worry exists because we pick up what belongs to God. Worry is a little like stealing. We take what doesn't belong to us.

Worry was "born" the moment Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. That's the day that mankind stopped honoring God as God in the fullest sense. Since then, worry has "grown and matured." It has become part of the human experience. It was never meant to be that way. God tells us to let Him be God. He says in Psalm 46:10 – "Be still and know that I am God." In other words, "you are not God."

We worry because we know someone needs to be in charge, and sin has caused us to steal that position away from God. We try to be in charge, but we realize that we are not. Worry is a direct result of removing God from His throne. We try to be "in control." But control is an illusion. We are not in control. We just need to learn to live with that reality. But God IS in control.

We don't know everything. We weren't created to know everything. God is the one who knows everything. But when we don't honor God as God, we are left with the fear of the unknown. The Bible tells us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." This means "trust in God's wisdom." Let Him direct things the way He sees fit.

Believe it or not, our problems don't ultimately belong to us when we are trusting in God. They belong to Him. That's why God didn't give Job the information he wanted when Job asked for an explanation for his suffering. God just told Job to remember that he (Job) wasn't God. God does promise to use our problems to bring about what is best for our relationship with Him.

Our problems belong to God because we belong to God. We became God's possession through Jesus' death and resurrection. God owns every problem you may have because He is fully invested in you.

Isn't it a wonderful thing to know that the God of the universe has given us the command NOT to worry. I don't need to feel guilty for not worrying. When I don't worry, I am simply obeying what God has commanded me to do. How blessed we are to know that our lives belong to God.

God's peace!
Pastor Jim