

## Dear Friends,

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Greetings in the beloved name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Hope that you are well and are encouraged in your walk with the Lord.

Masterman said: *"It is the belief that <u>God cares that</u>* <u>marks off Christianity from all other religions</u>..." (cited in Hiebert, *I Peter*, 313).

In 1 Peter 5:7, the apostle brings a timely reminder to Christians undergoing suffering and persecution: "*Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*" This exhortation is directly and vitally related to the context.

One man said in the far context, this verse "encapsulates the thrust of both the ethic (v. 7a) and the comfort (v. 7b) of the entire letter." Thus, one is to entrust one's life to God, even in troubled times.

In the near context, verse 6 points out that confident reliance on God's goodness is an advantage flowing from *humbling ourselves under God's hand*.

Today, believers often share with one another their anxiety, discouragement, disparity, discontentment, or what have you! I believe there is room for this but what good could it be if it is not "cast" to God himself?

It is interesting to note that the aspect of "casting" depicts a decisive, energetic act. It implies "throwing something on someone" (cf. Luke 19:35).

I believe Peter has something very practical to say:

- ⇒ "**Anxiety**" is a self-contradiction to true humility.
- $\Rightarrow$  "**Care**" is a burden which faith casts off the man on his God.

## Reflection:

- May we benefit from God's gracious provision!
- Mundane anxiety is pointless.

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- God could be wholly trusted to undertake for us.
- Isn't the unshakable demonstration of God's love and concern "the cross and resurrection of Christ?"

## College of Theology & Evangelism Fiji Class of 2013 - "On - Campus"



It is a privilege to be involved in training future church leaders. This year we have 24 students enrolled for fulltime studies.

Students are from 8 different countries, namely:

- Fiji,
- Niue,
- Tonga,
- Vanuatu,
- Solomon Islands,
- South Korea,
- Australia.
- Nepal.

This semester, I am teaching Spiritual Life/Prayer and the Exposition of Isaiah. Please allow me to introduce the first year students to you. You will also get to hear what they are learning in the Spiritual Life Class. Hope they are an encouragement to you.



These first years are in their sixth week of the Spiritual life Class. Part of their course work includes studying "**The Cup and the Glory**": <u>Lessons on</u> <u>suffering and the Glory of God</u>. I am already hearing good report on what the Lord is doing in each of these young men's lives. Apart from the discipline of praying an hour each day, the men are also required to go out and teach the lessons once a week.



Hi! "The spiritual life class is the most essential and special to me, which has now become the central area of my learning in the College. Lessons learned on how to handle perplexities in life has been most helpful. I also lacked assurance of salvation prior to my coming to the College. The spiritual class has helped me sort this important doctrine." Jason Rua: Solomon Islands



Hi! "The spiritual life class is by far my favorite. This is surprising as I usually enjoy systematic thinking subjects [mathematics, programming, etc.]. I have been on a new spiritual path over the last year and have therefore been forming a new testimony.

In the past I have encountered other Christians who respond to some theological questions with 'you don't need to worry about that question, just focus over here instead.' In this class I have found a free environment where the truth is revealed directly from Scripture; and other false ideas are subsequently dealt with." Simon Wood: Australia

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Once a week, I meet with these students for "Spiritual Life" Class.

This is an interesting group since it comprises of men and women from all different denominations, namely, *Assemblies of God, Church of Christ, Brethren, Pentecostal, Salvation Army, and Methodist.* 

I have never taught a group of such a mix. Nonetheless, I admire they keenness to learn God's Word and follow Christ. Please be in prayer. My hope is that they will teach others what they themselves are learning.

It is a joy to share a little about what the Lord is doing in this part of the world. Our family is very encouraged. We could not have done this without your prayers, encouragement, and support. THANK YOU!



Premend, Sharmila, Charlene, Abby