

No, No's
In the Life of A Christian



Fret Not!
Fear Not!
Forget Not!

NO, NO'S FOR CHRISTIANS

Lesson 1

Intro: Coffee Table – glass things sitting on it – To children, “Those are No – No’s!”

- A. Every Christian has “No, No’s” in their life.
- B. Not talking about: Movies – Mixed Swimming – Long Hair – Pants - –smoking
Important – but minor!
- C. Every Christian has several No – No’s in their life.

I. **Psalms 37:1 – FRET NOT** – That’s a “no, no” in the life of every Christian.

Not a Psalm of Prayer or of Praise – **Psalm of a “no, no.”**

- A. God Forbids a Christian to fret at the prosperity of the wicked and of the hatred of the world toward Christians. (Psalm 37: 1, 7-8)
 - 1. You live an ordinary life, but you look around at other people
 - a. Lost, wicked people - are prosperous!
Big house – car – boat – possessions
 - 2. Be careful or you will ask: “Why does God not do that for me?”
- B. God gives GOOD reasons why we should not envy wicked/worldly people that prosper:

Reason #1

- 1. Because of the scandalous character of the wicked
Psalms 37: 12, 14, 21, 32
You don’t want to be like them – Do you???
- 2. Because of the honorable character of the righteous
Psalms 37: 16, 21, 30-31
Proverb 24:19

Reason #2

- 1. Because of the destruction and ruin that awaits the wicked
Psalms 37:2, 9-10, 20, 35-36, 38
- 2. Because of the Salvation and protection that the righteous enjoy
Psalms 37:13, 15, 17, 28, 33, 39-40

Reason #3

- 1. Because of the particular mercy God has in store for righteous people
Psalms 37:11, 16, 18-19, 22-25, 28-29, 37.

Question: If God gave you the choice and said, “Which person do you want to be?”
Which would you choose?

II. **God prescribes remedies against the sin of envying the prosperity of the wicked**

- A. We must understand the **providence of God.**
- B. Verses 1-6 tell us that if we fear the Lord and trust in Him, **“It shall be well with us.”**
We may not see how it will – but it will!
- C. Text needs no exposition – it’s clear.
- **But needs a great deal of faith to practice these verses**

III. We are **cautioned against being discontent at wicked men who prosper.**

- A. We **look back** ...We see that history repeats itself!
1. We see what is going on today has been going on forever.
 2. We see men in the past and today – have:
 - a. Always had what they wanted,
 - b. Always done what they wanted,
 - c. Always got what they wanted.
 - d. Always been dishonest and harmful.
- 3. We see that God has not been hindered.**
4. Why should we think he will be hindered today?
HE WILL NOT BE HINDERED!
- B. We **look within**.....Tempted to envy “Why can’t I have...”
- **Psalms 73:3 – We are tempted.....**
1. We are tempted to think God has been wrong to let such men live.
 2. We are tempted to shake off the Bible restraints – and go after prosperity.
 3. We are tempted to think those people are “happy” people. They are not.
- Note: THAT is what we are warned against.**
FRET NOT!
- C. We **look forward**.....through eyes of faith – See no reason to envy!
1. We see their ruin at the door....
 - a. We see them flourish, but as grass---- **No one envies grass!**
 - B. We are promised that we will flourish like a fruit tree. (**Psalms 1:1-3**)
 2. We see they will wither of themselves – Outward prosperity is like a vapor.
 3. We see they will be cut down by the judgments of God.

IV. **Three Precepts to Live By**

- A. We should “make God our **Hope.**” Psalm37:3 Psalms 23:17
1. We shall have comfortable provisions. (Vs 25)
 2. We should do two things:
 - a. Trust in the Lord. (Vs. 3)
 - b. Do good. (Vs. 3)
 3. It is promised that we shall be provided for.
 - a. “So shall thy dwell in the land”
 - b. Elijah was fed through the famine. II Kings 17
 - c. Psalms 23.... The Lord Himself is our Shepherd....**I shall not want**
Spanish: Jehovah is my pastor, nothing shall I lack for!
- B. We make “God the **delight** of life.” (Vs. 4)
1. We shall have the desires of our heart.
 - a. What is the desire of the heart of a good man?
 1. To Know God – Philippians 3:10
 2. To Love God – Matthew 22:37
 3. To Please God – John 8:29
- C. We make God our **guide** for life. (Vs. 5)
1. Promise is that we shall have enough to make us content and comfortable
 2. Psalms 37:23-25

V. **FRET NOT THYSELF**

To fret is to disobey God!
To fret is to not trust God!

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Lesson 2

Last week: "Fret Not" - Forbidden to fret – **A No – No!**

If we disobey and fret, we get ourselves in trouble. (Like children)

Intro: Found in Acts 27:24 – "Fear Not" - Forbidden to fear. A No – No!

Today, people are fearfully of everything:

Economy, job, war, terrorist, health, life, and sickness

And for - no Reason – just fearful.

- A. Acts 27:1 (Background of voyage) Crete to Italy
- B. Middle of Mediterranean Sea – 14 days (vs. 33) – 276 people on board
- C. All hope taken away! (Vs. 20)

I. Paul prayed to God. (Vs. 21a)

- A. Today – Christians do everything but that.
- B. Paul got alone – In the midst of storm!
No life will be lost! (Sounds sure! Do you think they questioned?)

II. Paul heard from God (vs. 21-23)

- A. How? Not by human reason – But by divine revelation
 - 1. Paul was confident that God's Word was so sure
 - 2. We have a "more sure Word....." (I Peter 1:19)
- B. Informs them of his relationship to God (Vs. 21-23)
 - 1. Should have listened!
 - 2. Be of Good Cheer
 - 3. You're not going to die.

III Paul's message from God was: (Verse 24)

- A. "Fear Not" – God's first message (doesn't want us to fear)
 - 1. Isaiah 41:10
 - 2. Psalms 46:1-5
He is forbidden to fear (not anyone else on board)
All about him seem doomed - They had given up hope.
Sea ready to swallow them, but he is forbidden to fear.

IV. Paul tells us why he had no fear (Vs24)

- A. Must go to Rome (Do you think they understood that????) No.
The stormy sea cannot hinder God's plans
- B. **Paul must be "preserved" through this storm**
Because he is "reserved" for further service
Comfort to all of God's servants. Safe until God is finished
EXAMPLE: D. L. Moody was asked, "Do you have 'dying' Grace?"
No! Don't need dying grace...!!!
Only need "grace" to preach this message tonight!
See: II Timothy 4:6-7

As long as God has any work for you to do, your life will be prolonged
Also, all others were to be delivered because of God's servant.
World hates us, but they are preserved because of us being here.

V. Two reasons why Paul had no fear.

A. The Promise of God

"I BELIEVE GOD" He believed what? The promise of God.....

It shall be ---- Romans 4:20.... Staggered not at the promises

If we fear, it is because we do not believe God will do it.

If God said it, will He not do it?

No doubt He can

No doubt He will

He is not a man that He can lie.....

B. The Providence of God (In control – building a log house)

Now watch! Gives details of how this voyage will conclude

Middle of Mediterranean Sea

Large Section 400 x 400 – 160,000 square miles

Paul did not know where he was!

Pilot had quit his post (vs 17)

No latitude or longitude – no moon or sun

Seamen were afraid and were ready to jump ship (Vs. 30)

They could not steer ship and bring it to safety

No matter the storm - God can bring the ship to shore

He is the master of the sea.....

What manner of man... Matt 8:27

Example: Mediterranean Sea – Large

400 x 400 mile square (160,000 square miles)

No land! ONE little island about 5 x 15 in middle !!!

Sounded (Vs. 27-29) near land

HOW????

The Providence of God could bring them to shore. **Fear Not**

VI. How can we not fear in a world like we live in. By doing what Paul did.

"I believe God" (Vs. 25).....If we will believe the promises of God,

We will not have any reason to fear.

A. Hebrews 13:5

"I will never leave thee"

B. Matthew 6:25

"Take no thought for your life....."

C. Phil 4:19

My God shall provide of thy needs.....

D. Psalms 121:3

Thy foot

E. Psalms 121:8

I preserve thy coming out and thy going in

F. Isa 41:10

Fear not. I will strengthen....

Forbidden to fear....That's a No, No for you and me as Christians.

No, No's For Christians

Lesson 3

Intro: Fret Not – Psalms 37
Fear Not - Acts 27:24

Today: Forget Not (Hebrews 13:16)

There are some things the Bible tells us that we should forget.

- a. Forget past failures
- b. Forget past sins that you have confessed and received forgiveness for
Learn from both of these, but “forget them.”

(NOTE: God did not give us the ability to “forget” as we think of forgetting. The word “forget” pictures “putting something in another room, closing and locking the door – and refusing to take it out again.)

There are some things that God states we should not forget.

I. **Forget not that your sins have been forgiven** (II Peter 1:9) (Hilton Taylor)

A. How do we protect against forgetting that our sins have been forgiven?

Answer: By FAILING to add some things to our Christian lives (Verse 9).
The following are all found in the life of Joseph in Genesis

1. Virtue – Verse 5 **Genesis 37:2**
 - a. Their evil report
 - b. You cannot join people in worldly activities – Mixed swimming!
2. Knowledge – Vs. 5 **Genesis 37:5**
 - a. OT – Dreams (Hebrews 11:1-2)
 - b. NT – Gods Word
3. Temperance (Vs. 6) - Control **Genesis 39:7-8**
 - a. Mohawk Party
 - b. What you watch (Psalms 101:3) Mine eye affected my heart
4. Patience (Vs 6) **Genesis 39:20**
 - a. Listed with - I Tim. 6:11
 - b. Enduring tribulation
5. Godliness (Vs. 6) **Genesis 39:21-23**
 - a. God's will – Romans 8:29
 - b. Deny Self – Luke 22:42
 - c. Think like God, Want what He wants, Ask for what he wants you to ask
Do what he wants (THIS is godliness)
6. Brotherly Kindness (Vs. 7) **Genesis 42:18-24**
 - a. Brothers meant it for evil
 - b. Abraham - Genesis 13:8
7. Charity (Vs. 7) **Genesis 45:4 & 50:15-19**
 - A. I Cor. 12:31 – 13:1

II. Forget not your friends – Friends who have helped you (Be thankful)

Men God has used in my life

- A. Leo Eddleman – Preaching when I got saved
- B. Jack Parchman – Helena – praising God for church burning down changed my life.
- C. Windon Baker – SS teacher who taught and helped me get started
- D. Pete Steelman – Got me to enroll in Memphis Baptist College

Over the years I have written all of these men and thanked them for the part they played in my life. Don't forget your friends.

III. Forget not the Lord's Commandments (Deut. 8:11)

- A. Purpose of your life (Mark 12:28-30)
- B. Be ye Holy (I Peter 1:15)
- C. Die to self (Romans 12:1 & 2)

Forget not! That's a No, No!

Fret not, Fear not and forget not are three things that are "no, no's" for Christians!

A MAJOR THING THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD LEARN TO FORGET.

(Many Christians cannot determine between Conviction of the Holy Spirit and Guilty of Satan and the result is it torments them. I'll explain).

On several occasions, after I had preached a message in some church, someone would come up afterwards and ask, "Brother Gambrell, can I talk with you?" We general move to a place in the auditorium that is separated from people who are still talking, somewhere that we are out of "ear-shot."

They begin by explaining that they have something in their past life, some sin of a serious nature. They tell me how that during the service that night God convicted them of that sin. Upon questioning, I learn that they have experienced that "conviction" a number of times over the years since they committed the sin. It is easy to see that they are being "tormented" by that sin coming up in their mind again and again.

As we continue I take them back to the time they committed the sin and ask them what happened after that. Without exception they tell me how God brought them under great conviction and how sorry they were for committing the sin. I ask if they confessed the sin to God, out of a sincere heart, and asked God to forgive them. Again, without exception, they say, "Oh yes! I confessed it – I was sorry for it – I regret it ever happened – I cried and cried over the sin." I ask for their Bible, open it to I John 1:9 and have them read the verse. Strangely, they declare, and I think they honestly believe, that God forgave them the sin just as He promised He would do.

I think take them to the scriptures that tell us that God forgave them – cast their sin behind His back, cast it as far as the east is from the west, and stated that “He remembered it no more!”

Then they say, “But tonight the Holy Spirit convicted me of it again – and the conviction was strong! I don’t know what to do.” I then go back to the first time they confessed the sin and ask them how they felt. They say it in difference ways, but basically they have all said that God broke their hearts, they wept tears, went to the altar and confessed it to God and asked forgiveness.

To that I generally say, “That’s good. That is what happens when the Holy Spirit of God convicts you. He breaks you hearts and you go to the altar with tears and ask forgiveness. Now, let me tell you what I think happened tonight. When that sin came to your mind, it did not “break your heart like it did on that first occasion. To the contrary, you felt guilty, you felt dirty, you felt low, you hated yourself, and you felt you were not even worthy to be in church tonight. Is that correct?” ALWAYS they have said, “Yes. That’s the way I felt.”

I then explain that Satan is a MASTER at “counterfeiting” the Holy Spirit. The difference is the Holy Spirit breaks our heart over our sin and Satan makes us feel guilty, dirty and no good. I explain that what they felt tonight and called “conviction” was not conviction of the Holy Spirit, but was Satan trying to make them feel “no count.” If Satan can get a Christian to hate themselves and feel “no count” they will never be of any good service to God. I explain how that in the future, when Satan brings that sin to their mind, they need to immediately take Satan back to the time and place they confessed it and were forgiven. They need to “forget” that sin and Satan and put it in another room, close the door, and refuse to take it out again. You may have to do that several times, but eventually, Satan will see that he cannot torment you in that manner and will leave you alone on that point.

Paul said, “Forgetting those things that are behind..... I press toward the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus.” There are SOMETHINGS that Christian should forget.