

Overview last three weeks:

Oneness – a united force; not clones but each one unique and diverse in function so that the whole can function as each one do their part. Luke 18: always pray, never give up and stay in faith (believing and walking in truth; trusting God wholeheartedly): fear the greatest opponent (Job 3:25). Humility (right understanding of self from God's point of view; we must understand this because God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble; this is a desirable place to be! 1 Peter 5:5-9) Pride the greatest opponent: 'cares' the greatest hindrance to humility: e.g. place of pride to hang on to things which only God can fix. Each of us (worldwide) have cares (the issues of life) but we must deal appropriately.

Cares: anxiety, fear of the unknown; symptoms: sleeplessness (& resultant poorer function next day); palpitations, sweaty hands, dry mouth, jelly knees, mind going blank, etc.

Cares/worries: real things ABS quote up to \$8B cost to Australia in regard to loss of productivity through stress related disorder. Scripture teaches us how to deal with this. Stress in itself is not harmful; we may find ourselves out of a place of security or comfort realm but this should drive us to seek God – if we don't, our faulty response to stress will produce anxiety and fear.

The world offers 'validation' as the answer. Scripture offers a long term answer. Phil 4:6 'be anxious for nothing... PRAY... present your requests TO GOD' Matthew 6 'take no thought for tomorrow' (means do not tolerate worry – it will injure your soul) Fear & anxiety take away from life.

PRAYER AND THEREFORE GOD ARE THE ANSWER. Matthew 18:1-4 v3 'unless you change' ... 'humble yourself as a child' (note that worry and humility are often linked – why? Because pride holds on and gives the devil an opportunity)

Children (although not innocent) are amazing trusting (unless been exposed to too much); don't think about or worry over mortgage, bank accounts or doubt that brekky will be on the table in the morning; they sleep and get up, don't give up.

Matthew 11:11-12 (key text) In context from v1. Greatest is like a little child; greatest in the kingdom – least..

John the Baptist: very humble man graced to do what God wanted – numbers of things in this man that Jesus would honour as the greatest; (cf Matthew 6) simple clothing (not ruled by others' opinions); simple food (no care for that); no care for tomorrow; no fear of man or what people think; courage to stand before the king and challenge his ungodly relationship; always pointed to Christ; obedient, willing; this is imitable humility. Overall, he had the greatest privilege to usher in Christ and the kingdom – he gave glory to God constantly.

The most challenging thought? The least in the kingdom of God now is greater than John the Baptist (giant because of his childlikeness). We are graced to do greater. John did not have what we now have and perhaps take for granted:

- Christ in us – fullness of the deity in Him, and fullness of Christ in us
- Prophets, priests, kings to our God – God living within
- Precious blood of Christ – a clear conscience
- Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world
- Peace that transcends understanding
- Privilege to proclaim these truths
- Christ in us; the creator, the originator, upholding all things by His Word, King of kings, Lord of all, able to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy

Old testament was but a shadow of what we have now.

Matthew 11:28-29 ‘Come to Me... weary and heavy laden & I will give you rest.. ‘ please read

To walk before God in the way He wants us to, we cannot carry burdens He has not asked us too (we were not created for this – the burdens of life wear us out). The humble man believes and knows that God can take care. He cares for you and can accomplish what concerns you today. SEE:

- 2 Timothy 1:12
- Romans 4:21
- Ephesians 3:20
- 2 Corinthians 9:8
- Jude 24
- 2 Peter 1

GRACE IN ON ITS WAY 2 TIMOTHY 2:13 ‘If we are faithless, He is faithful for He cannot disown Himself’

Matthew 11:12 Forceful men lay hold of the kingdom; reach up and grab hold of the things of the Kingdom that belong to us – we can do this one we have let go of the cares in our hands and cast them upon the Lord.