

concerns are so enormous and sweeping and crushing, are we not in danger of giving simplistic (not to say simple-minded!) answers to very complex questions? And yet at the same time we realize that one aspect of the genius of the gospel is its simplicity in dealing with such monumental issues as sin and salvation, spiritual death and life, physical death and resurrection, and heaven and hell. And so we take heart and place our weight firmly on God's own words as revealed in the Bible.

Let us then consider

A. What is a Christian response to ultimate concern over what some people perceive to be the basic needs of life?

1. What about physiological needs: food, clothing, shelter, medical care, etc.?

A Christian can be assured of God's promises to those who savingly trust in Him, such as the one found in Matthew 6:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? . . . So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

A Christian can pray for his brothers and sisters who are in need that the good Lord will provide for their needs. And a Christian can do whatever he or she can to help meet that need, especially by giving directly or by donating to Christian and non-Christian relief agencies that are attempting to help alleviate that need.