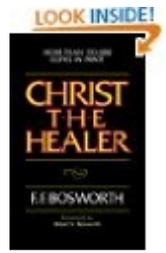


HEALING FOR THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER'S BODY

(The notes below are a brief summary of some points made in the superb book "Christ The Healer" by FF Bosworth).



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Proverbs 4:20-22: "My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body."

Psalm 103: 1-5: "1. Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits— 3. who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4. who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5. who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's".

1. Romans 5:12 – death entered the world by sin. Since disease entered by sin, its true remedy MUST be found in the redemption of Christ. It is the devil who oppresses (Acts 10:38).

2. Since disease is a part of the curse, its true remedy must be THE CROSS. The Bible teaches that disease is a physical penalty of iniquity. Since Jesus has borne in His body ALL our physical disabilities on account of sin our bodies are therefore released judicially from disease.

3. QUESTION: Did Jesus redeem us from our diseases when He atoned for our sins? If no, then why were types of the atonement given in connection with BODILY healing throughout the Old Testament?

4. In Leviticus 14:18 the priest made atonement for the cleansing of the leper. Why an atonement for the leper's healing if healing is not in the Atonement of Christ? Such atonement prefigures Calvary.

5. In Numbers 21:9 all who looked at the brazen serpent were healed. - another type of atonement.

6. In Psalm 103 David says: "Praise the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases." QUESTION: How does God forgive sin? ANSWER: through the Atonement. He heals us in the same way, because the Atonement of Christ is the only ground for any benefit to fallen man. How can God save any part of man except through the Atonement?

7. God has 7 redemptive names in the Old Testament. One of these is Jehovah-Rapha. Jehovah-Rapha means "I am the God that healeth thee".

8. For Isaiah 53:4 one translator (Dr Young) gives us "surely he has borne our sicknesses and carried our pains" . Dr Isaac Leeder, translator of the Hebrew English Bible renders verses 3-4 and 10 as:

- 3). He was despised and shunned of men, a man of pains and acquainted with disease,
- 4). But only our diseases did he bear himself, and our pains he carried."
- 10). But the Lord was pleased to crush him through disease."

9. Matthew 8:17 says (NIV) of Isaiah's verses "He took our infirmities and carried our diseases."

10. Why should not "the last Adam" take away all that the "first Adam" brought upon us?

11. In the same way as the sinner exercises faith in Christ before he can receive salvation, so must the sick person exercise faith in God's promise to heal before he/she can receive their healing.

12. Exodus 23:25 says "Worship the Lord God, and his blessings will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span." Psalm 90:10 says "The days of our years are threescore and ten". To say that the privilege of health is NOT for God's people today, is to change God's "I AM JEHOVAH-RAPHA" to "I WAS JEHOVAH-RAPHA". But it is written that Jesus is "the same yesterday, today and forever."

13. Universal good health for Israel in the desert continued as long as God's conditions were met. When they sinned, they again met God's conditions when they confessed their sins. Exodus 21: 6-8 says that anyone who was bitten by a snake and who looked at the bronze snake LIVED. In the same way, divine healing is not promised unconditionally to all Christians regardless of their conduct. It is for those who believe and obey - "All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant." (Psalm 25:10).

14. Jesus said "I came down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me. When he laid his hands on people and healed ALL WHO CAME TO HIM, Jesus was revealing the Father's will for our bodies. IF YOU HAD BEEN THERE, and your friends had brought you along to Jesus, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN HEALED. No-one who came to Jesus for healing was ever sent away disappointed.

15. John 14:13 says "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may give glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

16. The Gospels often speak of Jesus' compassion for the sick. Rev Kenneth Mackenzie says: "Could the loving heart of the Son of God, who had compassion on the sick and healed all who had need of healing, cease to regard the sufferings of HIS OWN when he had been exalted at the right hand of the Father?" If God is not as willing to show the mercy of healing to his worshippers as he is to show the mercy of forgiveness to his enemies, then he is more willing to show mercy to the devil's children than his own ! The Scriptures DENY THIS, by saying "The mercy (compassion) of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting [not upon the sinner alone, but] upon them that FEAR HIM". He loves his own sick and suffering child even more than he loves the sinner. "His mercy (compassion) is everlasting and his truth endureth to all generations."

17. Galatians 3 tells us "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us, for it is written, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree". (See Deuteronomy 28: 15-62 and other scriptures) He delivered us from the following diseases specified in Deuteronomy: consumption (TB), fever, inflammation, the boils of Egypt, tumours, festering sores, the itch, madness, blindness, confusion of mind, boils, "all the diseases of Egypt", and "every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in the Book of the Law". This would include cancer, influenza, mumps, measles, M.E. and every other modern disease. If Jesus released us from the curse of the law, and sickness is included in the curse, then surely he redeemed us from sickness.

18. Dr R A Torrey in his book "Divine Healing" says: "The atoning death of Jesus Christ secured for us not only physical healing, but the resurrection and perfecting and glorifying of our bodies.....The Gospel of Christ has salvation for the body as well as for the soul....Just as one gets the first fruits of his spiritual salvation in the life that now is, so we get the first fruits of our physical salvation in the life that now is..... Individual believers, whether Elders or not, have the privilege and duty to "pray for one another" in cases of sickness, with the expectation that God will hear and heal."

19. The USA Episcopal Church's "Commission on Spiritual Healing" stated in their report: "The healing of the body is an essential element of the Gospel, and must be preached and practised....God wills our health...."

20. Some offer prayer for healing with the qualifying phrase "if it be thy will". Among all who sought healing from Christ during his earthly ministry, we read of only ONE who had this kind of theology. This was the Leper who said "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean" The first thing Jesus did was to correct his theology by saying "I WILL", be thou clean!". This added to his faith that Christ COULD could heal him, the FACT that he WOULD!

21. In Psalm 91:16 God says concerning the man "that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High"..... "with long life will I satisfy him".

22. After three years of study and research the USA Episcopal Church's Commission reported: "The healing of the sick by Jesus was done as a revelation of God's will for man". Because they discovered that His will is fully revealed, they further said: "No longer can the Church pray for the sick with the FAITH-DESTROYING, qualifying phrase "If it be Thy will".

23. Many say "I believe in healing, but I do not believe it is for everyone." If it is not, how could we pray the prayer of faith for anyone? If it is not God's will to heal ALL, then no man can ascertain God's will for himself from the Bible. Must we get our revelation direct from the Spirit before we can pray for the sick, because the will of God cannot be ascertained from the Scriptures? How are the sick to be healed if there is no Gospel (Good News) of healing to proclaim to them as the basis of their faith?