

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Bible and Bodily Healing

SERMON REFERENCE: James 5:10-15

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #0524

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) James 5:10-11, 13-15
- b) There are times when Christians do get sick, but there is hope in the Lord.
 - i) Jesus Christ is the answer to every need that we have.
 - (1) Philippians 4:19
 - (a) This includes needs for the spirit, needs for the soul and needs for the body.
- c) In Jesus, we have the victory.
 - i) There is no reason why a Christian should be born crying, live complaining and die disappointed.
 - ii) Christians ought to be victorious persons.
- d) In spite of the victory we have, Christians do suffer affliction.
 - i) James 5:10-11
- e) The matter of healing is a very complicated matter, which we will look at in today's message.

2) THE CAUSE OF SICKNESS

- a) Sometimes people are sick because of their sin.
 - i) 1 John 5:16
 - (1) There is a sin that is unto death.
 - (2) This passage is not referring to spiritual death but physical, bodily death.
 - (a) Some people die because of their sin.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 11:30
 - (1) The Apostle Paul is speaking about how some people mistreated the Lord's Supper.
 - (2) Because of their sin, the people were sick and some died.
 - iii) Sometimes sickness is the direct result of our sin, but it doesn't necessarily mean that God is judging us.
 - (1) Sometimes God leaves us alone, and our sin takes over.
 - (a) Alcoholism is an example.
 - (i) We're told that alcoholism is a disease.
 - 1. For every other disease, we try to find the cause of it so that we can eradicate the disease.
 - 2. With alcoholism, instead of eradicating the cause of it, we advertise and sell this particular cause.
 - (b) Cigarette smoking
 - (c) Some people are sick because of an unhealthy diet.
 - (d) Many of us worry.
 - (i) Psalm 37:8
 - (ii) Worry can do harm to our physical wellbeing.
- b) Sickness can be caused by Satan.
 - i) Job 2:7
 - (1) Satan smote Job with boils.

- ii) Luke 13:16
 - (1) This woman had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years and was bent over, and Jesus said that Satan had bound her.
- iii) Acts 10:38
 - (1) Jesus healed those who were oppressed of the devil.
- c) Some are sick because God allows it, and He has a special purpose.
 - i) It is not because Satan has caused it, and it is not because our own particular sins have caused it.
 - ii) Many of God's choicest of saints have been sick.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 12:7-9
 - (a) Many believe that Paul's thorn in the flesh was an eye problem.
 - (i) Galatians 4:15
 - (b) Why was Paul not healed?
 - (i) It wasn't because Paul had no faith.
 - (ii) It wasn't because of a sin issue in Paul's life.
 - (iii) Paul was not outside the will of God.
 - (iv) God had a higher plan for Paul.
 - (2) 2 Timothy 4:20
 - (a) A saint named Trophimus was grievously sick.
 - (b) The Apostle Paul had the power to perform miracles and could heal.
 - (i) It was not that Paul didn't care about this man or was too lazy or too indifferent to heal him.
 - (ii) It was not God's will for him to be healed.
 - (3) 1 Timothy 5:23
 - (a) Timothy had digestive problems and was often sick.
 - (b) Timothy was a child of God and a preacher of God and was a greatly used servant of the Apostle Paul.
 - (c) Paul could not miraculously heal Timothy.
 - (i) All Paul could do was write a prescription for him.
 - (4) 2 Kings 13:14
 - (a) Elijah was taken to Heaven in a chariot of fire in a whirlwind.
 - (b) In this Scripture, Elisha (who had a double portion of the Spirit that rested upon Elijah) became sick and died of a sickness.
 - (i) The Bible tells us that Elisha was in communion with God while he was sick and even made one of the most remarkable prophesies in the Bible while on his sick bed.
 - (ii) There is no inference in Scripture that Elisha was sick because of sin.
- iii) Five of the loving purposes God might have for His children in sickness include the following:
 - (1) Power comes through suffering and sickness.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

- (i) Paul discovered that through sickness, he could know the power of God.
- (ii) The phrase “rest upon” in this passage means “to spread a tabernacle over”.
 - 1. God put a covering of power over the Apostle Paul.
- (b) 2 Corinthians 12:10
 - (i) Because of his physical ailment, Paul learned to depend upon the Lord Jesus.
- (2) Productivity often comes through sickness.
 - (a) God sometimes uses our suffering to bless others.
 - (i) The world has been greatly blessed and influenced by those who are sick.
 - 1. For instance, Fanny Crosby, though blind, wrote thousands of poems and hymns for the glory of the Lord.
 - (b) 2 Corinthians 1:6
 - (c) Acts 9:10-16
 - (i) Paul was told how many things he must suffer for the Lord’s sake.
 - (d) John 15:2
- (3) Purity may come through suffering and sickness.
 - (a) 1 Peter 5:10
 - (i) Sometimes our suffering is for our perfection, strengthening and settling.
 - (b) Job 23:10
 - (i) Job said that his suffering would burn out the impurities.
 - (c) Psalm 119:67
- (4) Praise often comes through suffering and sickness.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 1:27
 - (i) The Greek word for “weak” in this passage means “sickly, debilitated, without any strength”.
 - (b) 1 Corinthians 1:29, 31
 - (c) God often receives the glory through our sickness.
 - (i) John 11:4
 - (d) John 21:19
 - (i) We can glorify God in death, as well as in sickness.
 - (e) How can sickness and even death glorify God?
 - (i) It shuts the devil’s mouth.
 - 1. The devil claimed that Job only served God because God was too good to Job; that Job really didn’t love God.
 - a. Job 1:9-11
 - b. The devil is a deceiver.
 - i. In the Garden of Eden, the devil claimed that God was keeping things from Eve.
 - ii. Genesis 3:4-5

2. Job 1:12
 - a. In spite of the suffering, Job continued to serve the Lord.
 - b. Job 13:15
 3. Many people have an “if” faith: “Lord, if You do this, then I’ll do that.”
 4. We need to have a “though” faith: “Though He slay me, yet will I serve Him.”
 - a. This will shut the mouth of the devil.
 - b. There are very special people who are servants of God who have been chosen to shut the devil’s mouth.
- (ii) Nineteenth Century author and pastor Andrew Murray once noted:
1. I am here by God’s appointment.
 2. I am here in God’s keeping.
 3. I am here under His training.
 4. I am here for His time.

3) THE CURE OF SICKNESS (JAMES 5:13-15)

- a) First of all, we need to notice the problem.
 - i) James 5:14
 - (1) The word “sick” in this passage means “to be without strength”.
 - (a) This does not refer to a little headache or some small ailment, but this word refers to a genuine, terrible, awful malady.
 - b) We then need to see the procedure.
 - i) This is not the only procedure but one procedure.
 - ii) “Let them call for the elders in the church.”
 - (1) James 5:14
 - (2) The word “let” in this verse shows us that this is not a command but an opportunity.
 - (3) The word “elder” here does not necessarily mean an older man, but it refers to a leader in the church.
 - (a) This term is used in the Bible interchangeably with pastor or bishop.
 - (b) We are to call for those in the church whom God has set aside to be the spiritual leaders in the church.
 - (i) These are not self-anointed and self-appointed persons.
 - iii) “Let them anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.”
 - (1) James 5:14
 - (2) The anointing of oil refers to a special anointing.
 - (a) Some believe this refers to the use of medicine and medicinal healing.
 - (i) God does use doctors to heal.
 - (ii) God often uses physical and material means to heal.
 - (iii) There is nothing wrong with going to a doctor.

1. But there is something wrong with putting our faith in the doctor rather than putting our faith in the Lord when we do go to the doctor.
- (b) In the Bible, oil was used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit and for setting aside and sanctifying someone or something for the cause of Christ.
 - (i) Leviticus 8:10-12
 1. Anointing oil was used to sanctify something.
 2. The word “sanctified” means “to set apart”.
 - (c) The anointing of oil is a symbolic act, similar to the taking of the Lord’s Supper, the laying on of hands, or baptism.
 - (d) When someone is sick and calls for the elders of the church, those leaders may anoint that person with oil in the name of the Lord, setting that person aside for the service and the cause of Christ.
 - (i) Why should the Lord heal anyone who is not thus sanctified?
 - (ii) Why should God give us more strength to serve the devil?
- c) Then, there is the prayer.
 - i) James 5:14
 - (1) This passage says that the elders are to pray “over” him, not “for” him.
 - (2) The elders are to pray, to find and to do the will of God.
 - ii) The prayer that gets to Heaven is the prayer that starts in Heaven.
 - (1) 1 John 5:14
 - iii) We pray over the sick person to determine the will of God.
 - iv) James 5:15
 - (1) If it is God’s will to heal a sick person, then God will give us the faith.
 - (a) Everything that God has, the devil has a counterfeit; and there are those who claim to be faith healers but are not.
 - (i) When the sick person they pray for does not get well, they blame the sick person for lacking enough faith.
 - (2) This passage does not refer to the faith of the sick person, but the faith of those praying over the sick.
 - v) When the elders of the church pray over the sick person, it is God who gives them the faith; and it is the prayer of faith that will save the sick.

4) CONCLUSION

- a) When a sick person calls for the elders of the church, the elders are to anoint the sick person with oil, thus sanctifying and setting apart that person for the service of God.
 - i) They then pray over that person.
 - ii) God the Holy Spirit gives the elders faith, and they can pray in faith; and the sick person will be healed.
- b) The Lord Jesus is the Great Physician; do you know Him personally?
 - i) If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16