

IDENTIFY
What it means to be a Christian

OUR "IDENTITY" - TO SEE PEOPLE SAVED, HEALED, SET FREE, DISCIPLED, EQUIPPED, EMPOWERED AND SERVING

III. The perfect remedy for the whole man - The Cross

3 John 2 - ² Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

- A. Jesus went to the cross spirit, soul and **body** to redeem man spirit, soul and body!
 - 1. Every disease known to man was included (Deut. 28:15-62 list many of the diseases)
 - 2. Consumption, fever, inflammation, the botch of Egypt, hemorrhoids, scab, itch, madness (mental illnesses), blindness, plagues, all the diseases of Egypt, also "every sickness and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law." – Deut. 28:61
 - B. Galatians 3:13 – ¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree").
 - 1. Jesus took the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.
 - C. Romans 3:25-26 – ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
 - 1. In this verse Paul is teaching that had it not been for the atonement that God would be unjust to justify the sinner. If He would be unjust to justify the sinner apart from the atonement, would God not also be unjust to heal the sick apart from the atonement?
- IV. Christ's attitude toward sickness and disease:
- A. His attitude is revealed in His redemptive name **Jehovah-Rapha**
 - 1. All six of His other redemptive names are a revelation of His present attitude in the matter of bestowing blessing.
 - 2. Studying the various names of God is more than just studying his many titles. *The names reveal and relate to the then epoch of the world and God's peoples' perspective of him at a particular point in their history.* Also, during the Old Testament era, Israel connected the divine presence or power of God to his name. The name Jehovah is the

most frequently employed name in the Old Testament. It appears 6823 times. Jehovah's names reveal His redemptive relationship to us. In the Old Testament, there are seven redemptive names of the Lord demonstrating his capability of supplying our every human need. The seven redemptive names of Jehovah are:

- i. JEHOVAH JIREH – THE LORD MY PROVIDER - *And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.* - Genesis 22:14
- ii. JEHOVAH RAPHA – THE LORD MY HEALER - *And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.* - Exodus 15:26
- iii. JEHOVAH NISSI – THE LORD MY BANNER - *And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.* - Exodus 17:15
- iv. JEHOVAH ROHI – THE LORD MY SHEPHERD - *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want* - Psalm 23:1
- v. JEHOVAH SHALOM - THE LORD MY PEACE *Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.* - Judges 6:24
- vi. JEHOVAH TSIDKENU – THE LORD MY RIGHTEOUSNESS - *In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.* - Jeremiah 23:6
- vii. JEHOVAH SHAMMAH – THE LORD IS THERE FOR ME - *It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.* - Ezekiel 48:35

B. His attitude is revealed by His definite ***promise*** to continue to heal the sick in answer to believer's faith-filled prayer. – James 5:13-15

C. His attitude is revealed in the fact that healing is a part of the Gospel of the ***Great Commission***.

1. Mark 16:15-18 - ¹⁵And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

D. His attitude is revealed by the fact that since His exaltation He has "set" in the Church through the working of the Holy Spirit the "***gifts of healing***."

1. 1 Cor. 12

E. His attitude is revealed by the fact that He has redeemed us from the ***curse*** of the "Law". Galatians 3:13

F. His attitude is revealed by His **creative** order itself.

1. Nature is, at the very least, doing her best to heal!

G. His attitude is revealed by His the purpose of His **manifestation**

1. 1 John 3:8 - ⁸ He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

H. His attitude is revealed by the meaning of the word **salvation**

1. "Salvation" is the Greek word "**soteria**". It is defined as: salvation, deliverance, preservation, **healing**, health, soundness and well-being.
2. Romans 10:9 vs. Acts 14:9 – Same word used in both cases – one translated "saved" and the other "healed"
3. Dr. Scofield, in his footnote on the word "salvation" says, "Salvation is the great inclusive word of the Gospel, gathering into itself all the redemptive acts and processes."

The logical approach

- If sickness, as some think, is the will of God for His faithful children, then it is a sin for them even to desire to be well, to say nothing of spending thousands of dollars to defeat His purpose. Thank God for the help that has come to the sick through the hand of physicians, surgeons and hospitals; but, if sickness is the will of God then every physician is a lawbreaker; every trained nurse is defying the Almighty; every hospital is a house of rebellion... If this is true we should close every hospital and stop paying health insurance!
- If the modern theology of those who teach that God wants some of His people sick for His glory is true, then Jesus, during his earthly ministry, robbed the father of His glory by healing all who came to Him. The Holy Spirit, likewise, robbed Him by healing all the sick in the streets of Jerusalem in the book of Acts. Paul robbed Him by healing the sick on the isle of Malta.
- Many today hold that God afflicts even the obedient, because He loves them, making sickness a love-token from our Heavenly Father. If this is true, why do they try to get rid of His love-token? Why don't we pray to become ill; in fact, even ask for a double portion of this blessing?
- Nature itself reveals the present attitude of Christ toward the healing of our bodies. Nature everywhere is healing, or at least doing her best to heal. As soon as disease germs enter our bodies, nature begins to do her utmost to heal, and usually succeeds. Now, has the God of nature commanded her to rebel against His own will? If sickness is the will of God for His children, then why would God even create our bodies to naturally heal themselves?