

# *The Lord Heals*

We live in a marvelous age. We have computers as small as the palms of our hands that can access just about any information we want in a matter of moments. We have telephones that go with us anywhere we go that can call almost anywhere in the world in the blink of an eye. There is solar energy that has become accessible to most everyone. We live in a marvelous time, but it comes with a cost. The quiet lives that people lived in the past are all but gone. The technology of the age has sped up the information highway and while many, or even most, have embraced it and eagerly await for the newest advancement, mankind has been forced to come along with it, whether they wanted to or not. Many people think that is a fair trade-off, especially when we continue to look at the blessings that have also come with these advancements. The advances in medicine are astounding. Diseases and infirmities that would have not all that long ago, been fatal, are now being treated and lives saved. There are specialists in every field and disease that are able to diagnose and help. There are machines that can look into our bodies and find the source of the ailment. Karen has a friend in Boston who began to have uncontrollable tremors, slurring of speech, dizziness, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The doctors were able to operate and remove the tumor. She no longer has the shaking, the slurring, the dizziness, she is back to normal, at least as normal as she was to start with. Not that many years ago she would have died, but the doctors and technology of today were able to heal her body and add more years to her life. Some might call that a miracle.

*Ex 15:26*

**1**

**26** And He said, “If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer.”

This passage comes at the end of the story of the waters of Marah where the people had been travelling and had gone without a source of water for three days. They began to grumble and then reached Marah where there was water, but the water was bitter and not drinkable. Moses went to the Lord and the Lord had him cut a tree and put it into the water and the water became sweet and good to drink. Moses uses this event as an opportunity to again confirm to the people that The Lord will care for them, keep from disease if they will but heed His voice and keep His commandments, they needed to know that...

**2**

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There is an inherent illustration in the history of the Israelites and their interactions with the Egyptians. Note the difference in how God treated these two nations. To Israel His presence is light. He shows them the way, guides them with His presence. But to Egypt, He is darkness, He is hidden from them, and becomes an avenger to them, a source of wrath and death. Egypt ever only knew Jehovah as the Lord that plagued and destroyed those who refuse to obey Him. He overthrew their armies at the Red Sea, and drowned their hosts beneath the waves; but to His own people, God showed them the way across the sea on the dry land He provided. In terms of their mental and moral diseases, the Israelites were almost as far off base as were the Egyptians and every other nation. But

God spared the Israelites for His covenants sake. He brought the sword of justice against Pharaoh and Egypt, but turned His tender, healing hand upon His own people, to remove them from the bondage they were in by the heavenly surgery of His grace. Israel knew Him as the Lord that heals, and Egypt knew Him as the Lord that punishes.

For this lesson I want to look at some thoughts concerning this idea of The Lord Heals.

- 3) 1) God reveals His healing on the pain of our circumstances
- 2) God heals our minds
- 3) God heals our souls

One of the things that people today fail to recognize is the power that God gives to man when it comes to the things of this life. This is our first point...

- 4) 1) God reveals His healing on the pain of our circumstances

2 Cor 1:3-7

5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. 6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; 7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.

No one argues about the fact that God will give comfort to all in heaven, but that isn't what this point is about, this thought is talking about the comfort that God offers to the faithful now. Notice what Paul is saying here...

- 6) A) God is the source of all comfort
- B) God comforts us, Christians, in all of our affliction

Paul states our point very clearly, God does comfort man in his difficulties. And He does that so that we can...

- 7) C) Can comfort others who are afflicted
- D) With the same comfort that God gives us

Once again we find ourselves in a discussion of the spiritual nature of the Church versus the physical nature of the world. The difficulty that people have is relating what God does for His children spiritually to that physical world. Paul is clearly specific in his statement, God comforts His faithful in their affliction. How? If I am having financial problems does God miraculously put money into my bank account or make me the Publisher's Clearing House winner? That sounds foolish because it is. God doesn't do things like that. So then how does He comfort us?

Paul says that when we are comforted by God then we can use that same comfort to help others. What comfort does God give to Christians? We get a clue of it in...

**Acts 9:31**

**8**

**31** So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

The Church in Acts received comfort in the Holy Spirit. Paul gives us some more clues in...

**2 Thess 2:16-17**

**9**

**16** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, **17** comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

Paul tells the Thessalonians that the comfort that comes from God is eternal comfort given by grace for the purpose of easing the troubled heart and strengthening the believer to every good word and deed. The comfort offered by God is eternal.

**Titus 1:1-2**

**10**

**1** Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, **2** in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

So the comfort given by God is to be found in the eternal life that He offers through Christ. A spiritual comfort given for a spiritual kingdom, knowing that our sins have been forgiven is the greatest comfort that God gives to man. But how does that bring the comfort Paul is talking about in 2 Cor. 1? Notice what Peter says in...

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

**11**

**9** But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

God calls man out of this world "Of Darkness" to be a "Chosen Race" for His "Own Possession," what does that mean. If God has called man out of this world, what has He called man into, if not a spiritual world? Now I know that this concept can be difficult to understand, but I think it important, especially in light of what we see happening in religion today. So many congregations are beginning to follow the pattern of the world and are starting to offer the inducements of a social club to attract people to become members. The fact that the faith of those people is shallow, at best, is not relevant to what the group's agenda is. They want to have large memberships and the corresponding large contribution that goes along with that. The spiritual nature of the Church demands that we abide by the spiritual Laws of that kingdom. Yes, those Laws have a physical aspect to them; we partake of the Lord's Supper, we pray, we sing, we give, we assemble, these are all things that we do that are physical in nature, but their application is to be spiritual. They are to bring us closer to our God, and by drawing nearer to Him, He draws nearer to us.

We are getting closer to understanding the comfort that God gives us in our afflictions. The comfort is spiritual, the afflictions are physical. Question, which should carry more weight, more importance, the physical or the spiritual? Now please, please don't think that I am trying to minimize the afflictions of this world or the impact that they have in our lives, I most assuredly am not. I am trying to emphasize the nature of the spiritual comfort that is found in God, and how that the more we give ourselves to God through Christ in faith, the more comfort we find in facing our afflictions. The point being that when we have given ourselves to God as did the Macedonians, then the weight of the spiritual comfort of God becomes greater than the afflictions of the physical world. Isn't that what is seen in what Paul is saying in 2 Cor....

**12** 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our **comfort** is abundant through Christ. 6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your **comfort** and salvation; or if we are **comforted**, it is for your **comfort**, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;

While it sure doesn't seem like it when it is happening, the scriptures are pretty plain, the afflictions we experience are for our comfort. That is spiritual comfort under discussion, Our afflictions, the tests of this world do one of two things. They either...

- 13** E) Bring us closer to God  
F) Weaken our faith

That's what Paul is talking about. The comfort of knowing that God has forgiven our sins and added us to His spiritual kingdom, so far outweighs anything that this physical kingdom can ever do is what brings comfort. God will comfort man in his afflictions when man comes to the spiritual kingdom of God through faithful obedience and Jesus Christ.

The next point of discussion is...

- 14** 2) God heals our minds

The mind of man is a curious thing. We can have certain knowledge of something and still refuse to believe it. How is that possible? Yet, that very thing so often plagues many Christians, when we look back at the lives that we have lived, and the things that we have done, we often have such regret and remorse that we tend to forget that God has offered through His Son forgiveness, not the type of forgiveness that man tends to give. You know the kind I am talking about; yeah you're forgiven right up to the time when they think they need to bring it up again. No, God forgives completely and entirely forever. When we come to Christ in faithful obedience, we receive redemption through His blood and forgiveness of our trespasses, our sins.

*Eph 1:5-7*

**15**

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Now note what the Hebrew quotes from the covenant God made with the Israelites...

**Heb 8:12**

**16**

**12** "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

God's promise to them was that He would remember their sins no more if they would abide by His Laws faithfully and offer the sacrifice of atonement commanded. If God promised the Israelites that their sins would no longer be remembered, how much more so will God forget the sins of those redeemed through the blood of Christ?

Our last point then is...

**17**

3) God heals our souls

**Heb 6:19-20**

**18**

**19** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, **20** where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

When Jesus gave His sacrifice and entered through that veil that separates man from God, He potentially healed the wound that sin causes, separation from God. I say potentially because the payment for the debt of sin is not automatic. Man must choose to come to Christ and His redemption.

**1 Thess 5:23**

**19**

**23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul here gives us a precise summary of the discussion we have been having. God...

**20**

● Preserves the body

*The comfort of God, forgiveness of our sins, is the source of strength that can keep us whole in this life, preserve our body towards a life eternal*

**21**

● Sanctifies and preserves the spirit

*He sets the believer apart from the world, adds them to His spiritual kingdom that is far above the physical kingdom of this world.*

**22**

● Preserves the soul

*His plan, implemented and revealed in Jesus Christ will keep the soul from being condemned for eternity in Hell. He will preserve it in heaven with Him.*

**23**

The Lord can heal, the Lord will heal, the only question is, do we want to be?