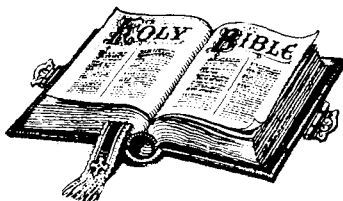


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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WHAT ABOUT RELIGIOUS DEBATES?

I have been asked to discuss the subject of religious debates. It seems that some think they are wrong in the light of Paul's statements in Romans 1:29 which say, "**Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, DEBATE, deceit, malignity; whisperers,**" and also in 2 Cor. 12:20 where the word DEBATE is again used. However, no reputable translation (if indeed any translation, since the King James was put out) translates the original word, in the two above passages, DEBATE. The original word means STRIFE and is so translated in the other translations. It is STRIFE and not DEBATES (as we understand the word **debate** - CRS) therefore, that is wrong and forbidden.

A DEBATE may be characterized by STRIFE, but DEBATE is not STRIFE and STRIFE is not DEBATE. One should be opposed to religious STRIFE but not to religious DEBATES. If a religious debate is characterized by order and decorum it can be a very profitable means of presenting opposing views and thus arriving at the truth of a proposition. Therefore, Solomon said, "**Debate they cause with thy neighbor himself: . . .**" (Proverbs 25:9).

Paul and Barnabas DEBATED the question of circumcision with false teachers in Acts 15. Jude 3 says, ". .

. . . **contend earnestly for the faith . . .**" This word **contend** means "**to dispute,**" "**maintain by argument,**" "**to debate**". In contending, disputing, arguing or debating we should not be characterized by **strife**, but religious debates are neither wrong nor condemned.

--- R. Ervin Driskill in THE PLANO PROVOKER, Dec. 25, 1966.

BIBLE SUBMISSION

"To actually and truly stand upon the Bible then is to believe and do the things that the Bible teaches, and to leave undone every thing that it does not teach. No man can allow his preference or his opinion to prevent him from doing any thing that the Scriptures require; nor can he permit them to incite him to do any thing as service to God that they do not authorize and command.

In no other way can any one rightfully say that the Bible is his guide, and that he stands candidly, and fully on Bible ground."

--- James A. Allen in APOSTOLIC TIMES, January, 1954

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Editorial . . .

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 12)

In our last study we considered the false theory that **"one church is just as good as another church"**. The fact that the majority of religious people in this country advocate such a thing does **not** change the fact that such teaching is **contrary to God's word** and all who advocate such are **false teachers** and should be marked as such!

Those who say that **"one church is just as good as another church"** are obligated to **prove** that it is taught in the Scriptures. Asserting and repeating **error** does not change it into truth! We hereby **challenge** those who teach the above mentioned doctrine to **prove by God's word** that such teaching is true! Is there anyone out there who is willing to attempt such a series of public discussions? If so, let us hear from you.

As we continue these studies, number **eight** is the next item in the list of twenty-five things that appeared in **THE INSTRUCTOR**, October, 1983, under **"Specific Wickedness"** for which **Scriptural proof** for the opposite view (than that stated in #8) has been requested. It reads as follows:

"8. Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sicknesses (physically) as well as for our sins."

COMMENTS: A number of denominational churches advocate the doctrine stated in #8. In **The United Pentecostal Church Manual**, 1964, page

19, we read: **"The vicarious suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ paid for the healing of our bodies, the same as for the salvation of our souls, for '... with His stripes we are healed' (Isaiah 53:5). Matthew 8:17 reads, '... Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses' (See also 1 Peter 2:24). We see from this that divine healing for the body is in the atonement. That being true, then it is for all who believe..."** NOTE: Ex. 15:26; Mt. 4:23-24; Heb. 13:8 and Jas. 5:14-16 are also given and a part of Mk. 16:18 is quoted.

The doctrine is expressed in the book entitled, **Church of God Polity** by R. H. Gause and published by Pathway Press, page 230 like this: **"We believe divine healing is provided for all in the atonement . . ."** In **A Contemporary Study of the Holy Spirit**, page 78, Bennie S. Triplett says: **"... The Church of God believes that divine healing is provided for all in the atonement (Exo. 15:16; Psa. 103:3; Isa. 53:5-6; 1 Pet. 2:24). This refers primarily to physical infirmity, but it can refer to body, soul and spirit. . ."**

In **"Twenty-nine Important Bible Truths"** published by the denomination called **"The Church of God of Prophecy"**, pg 6, we read: **"DIVINE HEALING ... Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross provided not only for the salvation of the souls of men but also for the healing of physical ailments . . . Divine healing is healing accomplished by the power of God without the aid of medicine or surgical skills. This healing virtue is available to all who believe, the same as salvation . . ."** NOTE: Psa. 103:3; Isa. 53:5-6; Mt. 8:16-17; James 5:14-16 and 1 Pet. 2:24 are listed as "proof-texts".

The Pentecostal Holiness Church DISCIPLINE says: **"We believe in divine healing as in the atonement. (Isa. 53:4-5; Mt. 8:16-17; Mk. 16:14-18; Jas. 5:14-16; Ex. 15:26). (1957, page 13).**

The fact that a doctrine appears in one or more denominational creeds **does not prove** that it is true!

A candid examination of the following facts and Scriptures should convince every sincere lover of truth that

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"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN"

the statement that "Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sicknesses (physically) as well as for our sins" is false."

1. The fact that a doctrine is believed and stated and so-called proof-texts are given does **not prove** that the doctrine is true.

2. Although we do not have sufficient space to discuss the "proof-texts" in much detail, let us consider each passage and see if **all** or **any** of them prove that physical healing is provided for all believers in the atonement.

A. Exodus 15:26 says: "**... for I am the Lord that healeth thee.**"

COMMENTS: This proves absolutely nothing about physical healing being in the atonement. This was spoken to the Israelites after deliverance from Egypt. God promised **not** to put upon them any of the diseases that he brought upon the Egyptians if they would obey Him. The Lord was their healer **before** the atonement.

B. Psalms 103:2-3 says: "**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.**"

COMMENTS: This passage proves nothing about divine healing being in the atonement. It, too, is a statement of fact concerning the Lord forgiving and healing **before** Jesus died on the cross. This passage neither mentions nor demands anything miraculous.

C. Isaiah 53:4-6 says: "**Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: . . . and with his stripes we are healed . . . and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**"

COMMENTS:

1. Without question the first part of verse four **was** fulfilled in Mt. 8:16-17 which states that Jesus "**... healed all that were sick: That Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**" Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy during His personal ministry here on earth! That was **before** He died on the cross! Therefore that was no part of the atonement!

2. There is nothing in verse five that demands a **physical** healing. In

Psalms 41:4 David mentioned the **healing of the soul**, hence **spiritual** healing. In Mk. 4:12 the expression, "**and their sins should be forgiven them**" is equivalent to "**and I should heal them**" in Mt. 13:15. Thus the healing of Mt. 13:15 (and also of John 12:40 and Acts 28:27) is a **spiritual**-healing! The context of the expression, "**... by whose stripes ye were healed**" in 1 Pet. 2:24 indicates that **spiritual** healing is meant.

3. There is nothing at all in verse six that indicates that **physical** healing is in the atonement!

D. We learn from reading Mt. 4:23-24 that Jesus **healed** all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. We're told that sick people were brought to Jesus and He healed them. This was done **before** the atonement and proves nothing about healing being in the atonement.

E. We have already shown that Mt. 8:16-17 specifically states that Jesus "**healed all that were sick**" that the prophecy of Isaiah (53:4) might be fulfilled. And it was! This occurred **before** and hence was no part of the atonement!

F. Mk. 16:17-18 says: "**And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**"

COMMENTS: Nothing in this passage indicates that physical healing was in the atonement. If this passage proves physical healing was in the atonement, it would also prove that casting out devils, speaking with new tongues, taking up serpents, etc. was also thus for all believers today! If not, why not? Not all believers (**as individuals**) would do these things, but believers (**as a class**) would do these things, and they did! (Cf. Acts 5:16; 1 Cor. 12:10; Acts 28:3-6; Acts 2). Thus fulfilled!

G. Hebrews 13:8 says: "**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.**"

COMMENTS: Neither the atonement nor divine healing are mentioned or implied in this passage! If this

(Continued from page 3)

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proves that Christ is still miraculously healing people, it also **proves** that He is still creating a man and taking a rib and creating a woman, turning water into wine, and walking on the water, etc. Is He still doing those things?

H. James 5:14-16 says: **“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. . .”**

COMMENTS: Relative to physical healing, the atonement is neither mentioned nor implied in the passage! The prayer of faith (by the elders) **would save the sick** and the **Lord would raise him up!** There would be no failures! Obviously the **elders** had **“the gifts of healing”** as mentioned in 1 Cor. 12:4-11. Of course, these **gifts** were temporary. See 1 Cor. 13:8-11. The healing of verse 16 is obviously **spiritual** healing.

Conclusion: None of the so-called proof-texts **prove** that “Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sicknesses (physically) as well as for our sins”.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. If miraculous healing was provided for in the atonement, why did saints in the first century like Paul, Timothy and Trophimus have infirmities and sicknesses? Paul had infirmities, (2 Cor. 12:7-9). Timothy had a stomach problem and infirmities, (1 Tim. 5:23). Trophimus was left at Mile-tum sick, (2 Tim. 4:20). Did these men lack faith?

2. If miraculous healing was provided in the atonement, the body should not die because of sickness or disease! Yet death (both of the wicked and the righteous continues till Christ comes. (See 1 Cor. 15:24).

3. If miraculous healing is provided for in the atonement, then **all** who have enough **faith** to be saved **will have physical healing of all his diseases and infirmities** or it takes more faith to **heal physically** than it takes to **save spiritually!**

When a person presumes to speak the doctrine that “Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sicknesses (physically) as well as for our sins” in the name of Christ, he is speaking **presumptuously** and is teaching **false** doctrine because such is not taught in God’s Book! The person who so speaks **is guilty of wickedness!**

We should so **“speak”** and so **“do”** as those who will be **judged** “by the law of liberty.” (See James 2:12).

(CRS)

(To be continued)

SENTENCE SERMONS

We are known by the company we keep, and by the company we do not keep.

* * * * *

He who is a Christian in little things is not little.

* * * * *

It takes a lot of faith and courage to be true to truth!

* * * * *

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