

# **SICKNESS & DISEASE – SIN, HEALING & ATONEMENT**

**MP3: SICKNESS & DISEASE – SIN, HEALING & ATONEMENT**

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

The subject of healing is problematical to the ministers of many Christian denominations, especially Pentecostal people. Almost universally, they, and even the average non-religious person may believe that sickness and disease is the result of sin. When they pray for healing, or go to be anointed and healing does not eventuate, they frequently put failure to be healed down to a lack of faith on the part of the individual.

The root of the problem is that it is very rare for anyone to have a clear understanding of the information the Bible says about sickness, disease and healing to us today. This especially applies to those who are in the 'religion' business, since few have ever made an in depth study of the Scriptures, but have simply accepted what they were told the Scriptures say and mean by what they say, by others in the 'religion' business, who themselves have never properly studied them.

Hence there are as many versions of each topic or dogma as there are denominations and 'theologians', and total confusion is the result. If ever the Bible appears to be imperfect, it is our understanding of it that is at fault!

Firstly, let us understand who wrote the Bible, and acknowledge its Divine Authority.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

"The Word" was the God who created all things. It was He. It was He who inspired His servants to write the Old Testament Law, Prophets, and the Writings.

John1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

God the “Word” became Jesus Christ who wrote the New Testament through His Apostles. There is only one witness we need and that is Christ. In order to know what the Bible says, and what it means by what it says, the true Christian will ask Jesus Christ, our Elder Brother to guide us via the Holy Spirit into all the truth. The Holy Spirit is the Power of God, and is not a separate ‘person’, the ‘Trinity’ is another false doctrine.

John 16:13 Howbeit when it, the Spirit of truth, is come, it will guide you into all truth: for it shall not speak of itself; but whatsoever it shall hear, that shall it speak: and it will shew you things to come.

So what does the Scripture have to tell us about the matter of sin, sickness and disease? Are sickness and disease the result of sin? Here are a couple of instances where sin was involved in sickness, as in the case of the man sick of the palsy, the answer appears to be yes.

Matthew 9:2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. 3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? 5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? 6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. 7 And he arose, and departed to his house.

Only God can forgive sin, and Jesus was God in the flesh, Emmanuel.

John 5:5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. Verse 8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

John 5:13 And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. 14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

So again, it appears that sin was somehow involved in this man’s infirmity. Sinful mental and physical actions can and do cause some illnesses.

Here is an example where Jesus Christ makes it clear that sin was not the cause of his blindness.

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

God does many things that He will use to further His glorious purpose that people might find strange. To some it might appear that God is unfair and heartless. He is not, and anyone who feels that way needs to take their attitude to God and get it sorted out. God is the Potter and we are the clay, and He can.

What about criminal acts by other people, and accidents, do they only happen to people who are sinners?

Luke 1:3 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

So Pilate had been killing certain Galileans when he was sacrificing to his gods, were they worse sinners than others? What about the tower that fell on eighteen people and killed them? Were they worse sinners than others? Christ said, "No! But repent, (or change your attitude) or you will likewise perish."

What did Christ mean by that? Well, that they would die, but that comes to all men anyway. And all men are called upon to repent of their sins, but that was not the reason some got sacrificed, or had a tower fall on them. Christ's disciples, like people religious or not, think that there is a connection between sin and sickness. No, there is not always a connection at all.

When Paul was bitten by a venomous snake, the first thing the crowd thought was that Paul must be a murderer or a criminal of some kind.

Acts 28:3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. 4 And when the barbarians (those who did not speak Greek!) saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. 5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

The crowd was wrong in their assumption. Bad things do happen to good people, that is just part of life. Even righteous people suffer, although any sin they may commit is not the reason for their suffering.

This is plainly evident in the case of Job and his terrible sufferings which had nothing whatsoever to do with any sin on his part. He was an upright, righteous God-fearing and respecting person.

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Not many people are referred to in these terms in the Holy Scriptures! People think that Job was self-righteous, he was not, he was human and a sinner, but he was a very righteous person, and certainly had done nothing to merit or deserve what was about to happen to him.

Job 1:7 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. 8 And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? 9 Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? 10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. 11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. 12 And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

Notice that God is very much in charge of Satan, and places strict conditions on what he is allowed to do and what he is not allowed to do.

The horrific story of what Satan did to Job, his possessions and his family continues in the first chapter. Job gets a message that his servants, his oxen, his flocks and herds have been slaughtered, and then a tornado has blown down the house and killed his sons and his daughters. Poor Job, what an unbelievable set of tragedies for him to bear all at once? Yet not a word spoke Job against God.

Job 1: 20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, 21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 2:2 And the Lord said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. 3 And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Notice that God had allowed all this to happen to Job without just cause.

Job 2:4 And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. 5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. 6 And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

Notice again that God is limiting Satan's actions, so that Job's life is not threatened.

Job 2:7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. 8 And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

So Satan now has permission to smite Job with the worst affliction he can come up with. So he does, agonising boils from head to foot.

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. 10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

It is not self-righteous to maintain one's integrity if one is truly blameless. If someone is sitting at a red traffic light and is rear-ended, he is right to explain that he did nothing to cause the accident.

Job's three 'comforters' all were convinced that Job must have committed some awful sins against God, secret sins and wickedness that Job was not owning up to. But no, this was not the case.

42:1 Then Job answered the Lord, and said, 2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. 3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. 4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. 5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

What was his sin? Job had compared himself to God, so God showed Job His limitless power, and Job was mortified.

James 5: 13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. 14 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: 15 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.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with praying for healing when one is sick, in fact it is a good thing to do, to apply for God's mercy. God does heal some people, some of the time, but God is not obligated to do so.

What is wrong is for people to expect or even demand of God to heal the sick as a matter of course. That, clearly He does not do.

"Healing ministries" need to adjust their programs more in line with Biblical revelation! Why? This is not the time when the Atonement of Christ applies universally.

Atonement does operate now in the sense that all our sins are forgiven, and that we have Grace and can look forward to eternal life, but not in regard to everything that happens in this world now.

But Atonement is not fully in effect now and will not be until the second coming of Christ, the judgment, and the setting up of the Kingdom. Then those who have been 'changed' into Spirit Beings will enjoy the full effects

of total Atonement and be with God and Jesus Christ at the right hand of the Father.

Animals and plants cannot sin, but they get sick. Cows get Mad Cow's and Foot and Mouth Disease, Chickens get 'Bird 'Flu', plants get blight and all manner of diseases.

When humans sin, there are frequently penalties. David sinned and as a direct result 70,000 men died, who presumably had not done anything to warrant the death penalty at that time.

2 Samuel 24:14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the Lord; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man. 15 So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.

Is God unfair? No! Of course He is not. Paul says that all the stories in the Scriptures were put there by Christ and are there for our admonition in this day and age.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Christians need constantly to remind themselves of the practical value of the Biblical examples.

This event in 2 Samuel does show the huge responsibility that Kings, rulers, Governments have in the manner in which they conduct themselves. This story is a dramatic example of how the sins rulers commit can and do have disastrous results on their subjects. War in this era is a modern example. The rulers, the politicians, the Generals, are usually in a safe place while they commit their forces into battle to die at their behest in the pursuit of their plans for 'peace'.

Again, Churchianity's 'sanitised' view of God rejects the idea that God creates and uses evil to forward His purposes. This fact revealed in the pages of the Bible offends many who have an almost completely false view of God, and an attitude that does them no good and no credit. Certainly God is love, and God is good and merciful, and full of tender mercies, and He can also use 'evil' to progress His purpose and His amazing ultimate plan for humankind.

True Christians know very well that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose as Paul says in Romans 8; and that the sufferings of this present world are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed in us. As a result, they trust God to know what He is doing, and we can rely totally on the fact that He does!!

If anyone leads an intemperate life due to ignorance of the laws of health, or because their lifestyle and diet are inappropriate for them, then the chances are that they may get sick, diseased, and even die. The sickness does not come because they have 'sinned' spiritually, but the result of breaking physical laws is automatic.

If another person leads an exemplary life, eats all the right things, gets an appropriate amount of exercise, and leads a Godly righteous life to the best of their ability, they may still get sick and even die from disease. This is not because they sinned necessarily, but because sickness and disease is a part of this present evil world.

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Paul in Romans 14 is talking about 'live and let live' and do not be fanatical about what you do, or be judgmental of others who live differently from you. Be too careful, do all the right things, be self-centred, and you may still get sick! Paul had infirmities which were not healed.

2 Corinthians 12:5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. 6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto



me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

2 Timothy 4:20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

Galatians 4:13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. 14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. 15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

Did Paul have an eyesight problem, perhaps after he had been stoned? Whatever, there is no stigma attached to being sick! We should want to help them, not denigrate them, or consider them as 'sinners'!

Paul (actually Christ) takes space to talk about his helpers in spreading the Gospel who were working themselves very hard and got sick. Notice that God had mercy on Epaphroditus and gave him sufficient healing to continue his work with Paul. But Paul had to soldier on with his infirmities. Healing is not a right, it is a gift from God under certain circumstances.

Philippians 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. 26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. 27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: 30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

Some denominations preach that you need to avoid doctors and only rely on God to heal, otherwise you are showing a lack of faith, or worse, committing idolatry putting the 'gods' of the priests of On before God. Sadly a lot of good, earnest and sincere people have died that way. Paul had no problem with Luke who was a doctor!

Colossians 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

Paul speaking of gifts mentions healing as one of them, and no doubt Luke had that gift among others.

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Christ said feed the hungry, give a drink to the thirsty, visit the sick, because in doing so we are doing it to Him!

Matthew 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

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Sickness and disease is certainly not the result of sin on the part of the individual. It may be due to the 'sins' of others, like spreading poisons into the environment, or genetically modifying foods, or putting chemicals into foods, or something as simple as someone with 'flu' sneezing on a crowded bus, or a cook or waiter failing to wash their hands properly.

So when and if we get sick, we can ask for healing from God, and He may or may not extend mercy to us, and grant us miraculous healing, but it is clearly not in His plan to do so in all cases. God forgives sin when we are in a repentant frame of mind, and forgives us if we are not! But forgiveness and healing are two different things.

1. God can use sickness to fulfill His purposes.
2. Accidents can and do happen, apparently randomly to good people and evil alike.
3. Eating e.coli is not necessarily a sin if one takes all reasonable precautions and still consumes it.
4. Is it wrong to use doctors? No. The scriptures do not say so. If we put our trust in 'medicine' which might be 'good' or 'bad', we are possibly 'trusting in man' instead of trusting in God. But if we know we have a burst appendix, then we need to find a competent surgeon very quickly, or we will die.

Apparently Timothy was often sick, perhaps the water in his area was polluted and he did not realize it. Paul did not say, "Repent of the sin that is making you sick." Paul suggests a little wine to kill off the bugs.

1 Timothy 5:23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

Jesus Christ never once sinned, but he carried our sins all His life. This without doubt resulted in His suffering the effects of the type of sins that do cause disease. Did Christ know what it was like to be sick? Of course He did, otherwise it would not say that He was tempted (tested) in all points as we are.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

A tender plant not a strong one, a root out of dry ground hardly conjures up vigorous growth, but somewhat withered and frail.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

He was certainly acquainted with the grief (Greek implies illness) of sickness and deformity in others as well in Himself. It could have been that Christ was thought of as a bit of a sicky, people even hid their faces from Him. Clearly people observed someone who looked like He must be stricken and smitten of God. (So He must be a sinner!) Christ did not have leprosy however, otherwise He would not have allowed to into the Temple.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

These are hardly the comments that would be directed at someone who was an example of fitness, strength and well-being. We have the illusion from the images of 'churchianity' that his appearance was so very different from this description of Christ in the Word of God.

We perhaps need to remind ourselves that these two 'servant' chapters in Isaiah were inspired into the mind of the Prophet Isaiah by the One who became Jesus Christ and wrote the New Testament as well! So this is Christ's description of what He knew He was going to be like when in the flesh, as he could 'see' down the corridors of time from before the world was even created how the Plan of the Father and Himself would develop.

Matthew 8:1 When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. 2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

There is no suggestion from Christ whatsoever that any 'sin' was involved in the man having leprosy. Christ just healed him, he did not tell him to repent!

Matthew 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, 6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. 7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. 8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word

only, and my servant shall be healed. 9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Jesus here is working with a Gentile, one of the occupying forces in the Roman army, hated by those they had power over. Yet, Jesus shows the way forward for those who have the eyes to see, that a 'heathen', uncircumcised Gentile had a better attitude than those Jews and Israelites. Again, there is no suggestion that the man's servant had committed any sin he had to repent of. Christ just showed mercy on Him.

Matthew 8:14 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. 15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

Again, no reference is made to sickness being linked in any way to sin.

Matthew 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: 17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Here it clearly says that Christ took our infirmities, maybe that could just mean that He took them away, but it also says he bare (or bore, or suffered from) our sicknesses. This is such a different Christ from the image of Him that 'Churchianity' puts out.

Christ atoned for ALL the sins of humans from Adam to those alive now and those who will be alive in the future, so ALL sins are forgiven past, present and future. So if sickness is due to sin, and the sin has to be forgiven for healing to take place, then how come there is so much sickness and disease in the world then and now? Clearly, sickness is not always the result of sinful actions. It may be in many cases but clearly the

one is not the result of the other to the extent that many preachers insist they are.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Yes, by His stripes we ARE 'healed', but of what? We are 'healed of the penalty of eternal death with the promise of eternal life, but clearly we are not healed of all illnesses.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

We are presently in the flesh, but we know with absolute assurance that our deliverance from this earthly mortal coil is certain. Thy Kingdom come!!

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

We have absolutely nothing to fear from this future event, as because we are 'in Christ' when we appear before the Father, He will only see all the good works that Christ did for us in our stead, and maybe a few of our own as well, but there will be nothing whatsoever on the debit side of the ledger. The debit side of our personal ledger will be blank, entirely cleansed by the atoning sacrifice of our Older Brother, and so we will appear before the Father blameless and perfect. What an amazing thought. Selah.

But even knowing about our incredible future, we do groan about all the trials and tribulations of this life and also we see the 'groaning' of this amazing and incredible home, the earth as it is being used recklessly and abused so grossly by human beings.

What are the causes of illness? It took over forty centuries, over 4000 years for the population of the earth to grow to one billion. But in the last century the human population has grown from 1.5 billion to nearly 7 billion, an exponential increase of nearly four times in only one hundred years!

This has put a strain on the world's resources of water and food. Overcrowding inevitably leads to the increase in many diseases. But it is what humans have done to the planet's environment that is the main cause of sickness and disease. In a sense, 'sinful' use of our home is involved in them all. All the listed causes of sickness have increased by thousands or millions or hundreds of millions of times in the last century.

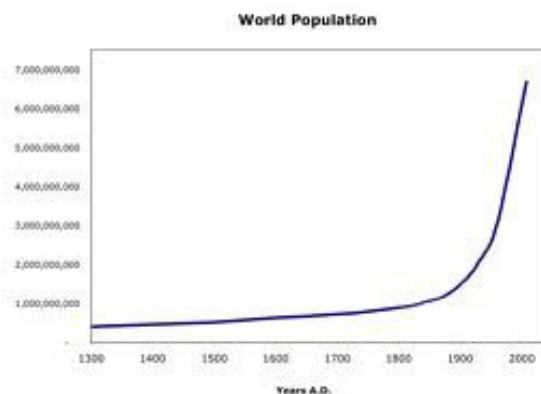
1. Nuclear radiation
2. Electromagnetic radiation from phones, tv's, radar, microwaves
3. Burning of fossil fuels, petrol, oil, diesel, gas and coal.
4. Air pollution from result of burning fossil fuels
5. Water pollution from untreated industrial and human waste
6. Chemical farming has replaced organic farming
7. Use of herbicides, pesticides and inorganic fertilizers on farms.
8. Thousands of chemicals are added in the manufacture of foods.
9. Deforestation of vast areas of trees changes balance of atmosphere

During this last century, sickness and diseases like cancer, heart disease, asthma, diabetes, AIDS, have also increased exponentially. Our exposure to all these man-made negative influences in our environment and our lifestyle has resulted in the effect of more people being sick than ever before.

This is what we are doing to ourselves, and of course when someone gets sick enough they will call out to God for healing, and wonder why God does not reach down and heal them? God is allowing humans to have their own way at this time, and part of our learning process is to face the fact that we have to live with the consequences of our actions, good and bad.

Sin is defined as the breaking of the law, any law. Breaking spiritual laws always attracts an automatic penalty to the individual committing the sin. Breaking physical laws also attracts an automatic penalty, but in too many cases, it is not the individuals or countries that are breaking physical laws that appear to suffer the results of breaking those laws, but somewhere on earth, somebody does, and many of the penalties of breaking physical laws results in sickness and disease.

The diagram below shows the astounding increase in world population from 1910-2010. This increase is causing unsustainable strain on earth's resources, and the increase in sickness and disease has followed this curve almost exactly. The use of atomic weapons, electronic devices, burning of fossil fuels, chemical farming; also the incidence of modern diseases of Cancer, Heart Disease, Alzheimer's, Diabetes, etc., also follows this curve.



This diagram is of an exponential curve.

Despite all the reckless wanton activities committed by humans and all the misery it causes, we can comfort ourselves continually by the promises in Romans 8 which describes our glorious future.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

We are to be glorified as God, with His Powers, Personality, His Life eternal, and much, much more. So when Paul says that the travail and problems of this present life are not to be compared with what it to come, of course he is more than right.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

This verse is committed to memory by many and it acts as a constant consoling reminder that this earthly life is only temporary.



Roman 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

And no matter how bad things seem, this next promise is such a comfort.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

And this verse is also committed to memory by many and it acts as a constant consoling reminder God is working out for our good everything that happens to us.

Every human being is subject to suffering of one form or another. God can and does extend mercy to His children, and some people might be healed or otherwise protected from adversity. Clearly God does not intervene in every circumstance, as we are here to learn lessons that broken laws, both physical and spiritual, do lead to inevitable consequences.

The complete Atonement provided by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ assures us all of eternal life, but of course it begun more fully when we are changed by a resurrection at the second advent, yet will not be fully implemented until all is in all, and every human being is saved.

Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being

predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Paul received the revelation of the mystery, the last final part of the Doctrine of the Gospel directly from Jesus Christ in 63 A.D. That we would be delivered by Christ's works, His birth, life, circumcision, baptism, suffering and death, resurrection, and being judged by the Father as faultless.

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

On the morning after the crucifixion, Christ was raised up to heaven, judged and found faultless, and exalted once again to be God alongside His Father. Thus the next step in the Plan they had conceived before the foundation of the world was completed. Now all who had been, and would be called of the Father could be accepted 'in Christ', and also judged faultless.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

At the time when all is in all, every human that has ever lived will voluntarily confess that Christ is Lord.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

This verse, so often quoted by 'Christian' ministers is only part of the thought that Paul was expounding, and this verse on its own suggests that we have to 'work out our own salvation'. This leaves the parishioner a completely false idea that some works by humans are necessary to be saved. The next verse is vital to complete the thought. Verse 13 clearly states that it is God who has already done, and still is doing **all** the Work of Salvation for us. Ministers should not be telling people what they have to do to be saved, but what Christ did for them so that they are already saved.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Everything, that is ALL things come from God. It is He who calls an individual, it is He who puts the desire into the person's mind. It is He who gives the gifts of belief, faith, and confidence. None of this initially comes from the individual, and cannot as they are at enmity with God. Christ said:

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Everyone will be 'saved', but not all will be in the first resurrection and the Kingdom of God. Works are definitely involved in being awarded that opportunity.

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Through the ages, 'few' have been given 'ears to hear and eyes to see', but in the final analysis, all will hear and see, and will be converted.

Christ constantly warned against false prophets, but most people today think he was talking about back then in 30 A.D., or that false prophets would have a sign on their foreheads for all to see. They do not. Church ministers, bishops, church 'authorities' and dignitaries all seem to be genuine do they not?

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For **many** shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive **many**.

Christ is not referring to sects, or groups that people consider 'oddball', he is talking about the mainstream many. Notice, Christ said that MANY would come and deceive MANY – not the few!

The billions of churchianity are all deceived to one extent or another into believing that the mixture of some truth with a whole plethora of fables, pagan and idolatrous beliefs, concepts and practices is 'Christianity'; but what the hundreds of Christian churches teach, and they all disagree on doctrines in one way or another and they all think that they are right and everyone else is wrong, are not consistent with the Word of God, and in most cases are the exact opposite.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which **deceiveth the whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Oh yes, all ministers of Churchianity appear to be proclaiming the Word of God, but are they? A person who is deceived does not know they are deceived.

How then is one to know if they are deceived or not? If you have any doubts about a banknote, to know whether it is a forgery or not, there is only one safe way to find out. You have to take that note to an authority, to those who are authorized to print banknotes, and have them examine it carefully against the strict design and parameters that determine if it is genuine or not.

How does anyone do that in respect of Christianity? There is only one authority, only one standard on the subject of Christianity, and that is Jesus Christ Himself. If anyone wants to know if what they think, believe, understand or practice is Christian, there is only one sure way to check, they have to consult the one and only authority, God's Word, the Holy Bible. There is no way one can rely on what a man or woman says any part of Christ means, we cannot even trust ourselves to extract the truth for ourselves.

1 John 1:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

How do we find out how He walked? We read, study, learn and inwardly digest what Christ says in the Holy Scriptures that He inspired for us learn from in this era.

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

John was writing this at the end of the first century, that there were **many** antichrists in his time. Christ in Matthew 24 was talking about the 'end of the age' and predicting that there would again be **many** false ministers misrepresenting Him.

1 John 4:4 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because **many false prophets** are gone out into the world.

There is only one way. There is only one connection or mediator between us as individuals and God, and that is Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Even understanding that, we have to realize that we cannot learn the truth unless our ears and eyes are 'opened' and what we are learning is actually coming from the Source, Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit of God. We have to ask for that to happen. We have to abandon the traditions of men, of 'experts' in religion, of the opinions of 'theologians', and seek earnestly Christ's help to find the truths He wants us to hold dear.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. 26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. 27 **But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you:** but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The anointing we have received is the gift of the Holy Spirit which when it dwells in us will guide us into all (the) truth.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:

There is a common lie believed now by many, which suggests that whatever we pray for, or concentrate on, we can use the 'law of attraction' and we will receive what we want. This is propagated by those who proclaim the 'Secret', and it is a complete perversion of the truth.

God does want us to pray for what we need, (not what we want!) and to consult him about our heart's desires. But one of the conditions of answered prayer is to be sure we are asking 'according to His will'. 'Thy will be done' in our lives is the crucial issue. We should not be asking God for anything to transpire in our lives that is not according to His will anyway.

We want to please God and Jesus Christ in the conduct of our Christian lives in Him. We do not want to practice or indulge in anything that does not please God. All aspects of idolatry, beliefs, practices, pagan traditions God not only does not like, He hates! Especially those idolatrous events that are the highlights of most Christian communities, like Christmas, Easter, and Halloe'en, and astrological beliefs, all of which pre-date the Christian era. Billions around the world celebrate these times, seasons, and notions with enthusiasm, not realizing just how much they offend God and Christ.

Jeremiah 10:2 Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. 3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. 4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

Amos 5: 21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

Hosea 2:11 I will also cause all her (speaking of rebellious Israel) mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.

Instead we should be learning how to please God by living our lives in the ways He wants us to. Loving our fellow man, and spreading the light of the true Gospel into the world.

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to **vanity**, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

Vanity is emptiness, pain, sickness, disease, disasters, life and death, humans are all subjected to these, they are a part of life. Whether God chooses to heal or not is not necessarily related to sin or lack of faith at all.

Ecclesiastes 1:2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

There is an absolute principle of life and death of all forms of life: Sickness, disease, blight, pests attack a human, animal, bird, fish, or plant life-form that is not well, sickly, or somehow deficient in the first place.

Why are these organisms lacking the vitality and the immune system strength? Usually because of bad diet or lack of exercise, poor living conditions, bad farming practices, the use of adulterated foods, bad water, all of which may well involve forms of physical or spiritual abuse or 'sin'.

This is why there are such things happening as babies being born dead or diseased, Cancer, Heart Disease, Foot and Mouth Disease, Mad Cow's Disease, Bird 'Flu', and so on.

Jeremiah 17:10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

God in His Infinite Wisdom created a most efficient clean-up crew to take care of all sickly, dying and dead life-forms. The clean-up crew moves in as soon as any sign of decay or deterioration is detected. If this were not the case, the world would be inundated with the dead and dying.

When anything is sick or dying the first course of action should be: Where did we go wrong? What could we have done to prevent this happening? Sadly that is not the case. Humankind proceeds to poison, cut, drug,

irradiate, or use any means they can in attempts to 'cure' the situation, with very sad results indeed in most cases.

'Healing' ministries would do well to modify their programs, they are not Biblically sound, and are in conflict with God's Purpose and Plan. If we are sick by all means pray and even get anointed, but it is not in God's Plan at the moment to heal everyone who asks for it. We need to pray for His mercy and understanding, and for His will to be done in our lives, as God uses all kinds of trials and adversity in the advancement of His Glorious Purpose for each of us.

So sickness and disease are not always the result of sin on the part of an individual, but may be the result of living an unhealthy life, or the actions or lack of action on the part of others.

Christ died to save us from our sins against God. Christ did not die the 'first death' which all humans must experience because of inherent sinfulness. Christ died to save us from the second death, and ensure that we would inherit eternal life in the Family of God.