

WE SHALL NOT ALL DIE

When Benjamin Franklin remarked that God heals the sick, but the doctor collects the fee, he could not have truthfully said, “this is the whole truth and nothing but the truth”

Such adjectives as ‘marvelous,’ ‘incredible’ and ‘fabulous’ are being used to describe the achievements of medical science with new scientific cures for physical diseases some of which diseases, for years, were considered incurable.

It seems to be a fact that people are living longer in the United States than ever before, notwithstanding the fact that there are ‘percentagewise’ more sudden deaths than ever before.

Whether we credit the Lord or medical science with the healing of physical sickness, the death-rate of the human race continues to be one-apiece. This is true concerning the most consecrated, spiritual saints and the most wicked, ungodly sinners. Therefore, when we learn in II Peter 3:9 and in John 3:16 that the Lord is not willing that any should ‘perish,’ we know that the reference is not to physical death. Neither is the reference to physical ‘life’ in John 5:40 and in John 3:36. “ye will not come unto Me (Christ), that ye might have ‘life’” “He that believeth not the Son of God shall not see ‘life’”

In John 11:26, John 6:50, 51 and 58 the Lord Jesus declared that believers would live for ever; would never die. The same Lord Jesus said, “except ye repent, Ye, Shall all likewise perish.” “die” and “Perish” in these declarations of the Lord do not refer to physical death, or physical life. When we read in Romans 6:23, that the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, we know that death also refers to a Divine Judgment which will take place after physical death has been experienced, and that eternal life will not cease when a saved human being has come to the end of physical life on earth. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy concerning the life that now is and that life which is to come. (I Timothy 4:8). He also wrote Timothy that eternal life and incorruptibility are linked together in God’s guarantee to believers. (II Timothy: 1:10).

Paul’s statement in II Corinthians 4:16 is true concerning the most spiritual obedient, faithful, consecrated saint, of all saved people; “Though our outward man ‘perish’ (‘rot thoroughly’), the inward man is renewed day by day.”

WILL THERE EVER BE A PERMANENT CURE FOR SICKNESS?

Some years ago I heard a very eloquent religious man ask a large audience, whom he was addressing on the subject of ‘MIND’ healing of physical diseases, a very interesting question. Many in his audience were sure that they had enjoyed some real experiences in metaphysical healing of painful and serious sicknesses which medical science had failed to cure. They were in full accord with the speaker’s explanation of ‘MIND’ healing of both sickness and sin, his statement that sin, sickness and death are unreal to those who know how to apply the principle of ‘MIND’ healing. Note his question, to which all of the people in the audience were agreed that the answer was ‘no’: “has medical science ever effected a permanent cure?” Even though you may consider the question or questioner rather stupid, you too would agree that the answer is ‘no.’

What is a permanent cure for sickness? Will there ever be a permanent cure? Neither the metaphysical scientists nor the medical scientists offer a permanent cure.

Unless and until the great event of I Corinthians 15:51 to 55 and I Thessalonians 4:16 and 17 takes place, it will continue to be true that man cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not, “man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.” (Job 14:1 and 2).

We wonder just how much the marvelous discoveries of medical science or the more perfect understanding of ‘MIND’ healing will alter the truth of Psalm 90:10, “the days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” “WE FLY AWAY.” When will you and I ‘FLY AWAY’? Where will we be after we fly away? This question is asked in Job 14:10: “man dieth, and wasteth away, yea man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?” Where are the more than twenty billion people who have said with David, “I go the way of all the earth?” (I Kings 2:2). The wise man, who wrote Ecclesiastes, answers this question in part, “then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God Who gave it.” (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

A NEWS BULLETIN

Some days ago I was jotting down some notes for this message while I was traveling on a train. I had just finished reading a Chicago newspaper, and on one page I counted about sixty-six death notices. We have all heard some radio newscaster say, “we interrupt this program to bring you an important news bulletin.” Just as I finished reading the paper some one turned on the radio in the rear of the car. Everyone on the car was shocked to hear the report that sixty-six people had met sudden death in a plane-crash in Wyoming. If the people aboard that plane were not ready to meet God before the crash, they certainly did not have much time to get ready. God’s Book tells us that “he, that being often reprov’d hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” (Proverbs 29:1). The people in this land of Bibles have been often reprov’d. Only God knows how many of the sixty-six had a hope laid up in heaven. (Colossians 1:5).

Immediately I thought of another plane crash several years ago not many miles away from the crash that took the sixty-six. The passengers on that other plane were not only spiritual Christians, But were en route to far-away mission-fields where they were going to tell heathen about the Lord Jesus and eternal life. These Christians also went to sudden death. But the latter part of Hebrews 9:27 did not apply to them: “it is appointed unto men once to die, But after this the judgment.” Christians are not to be judged with the unsaved after they leave this world. Christ said so, in John 5:24.

There was some other sad news by the radio newscaster that day. He reported 60,000 people had been made homeless and several hundred people had been killed by the tornado that hit Tampico, Mexico. The next news was the report that more people had been killed in North Africa, to add to the more than one hundred that had been brutally murdered in that same area.

Were the unfortunate people in the plane-crash, or in the path of the Mexico tornado, or in North Africa,

IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME?

I ask this question, because the newscaster, in referring to a former major disaster in which many people were killed or injured, said, “they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.” Of course he believe that those who were killed died before their time. We would all say, if those sixty people had not been aboard that plane at the time it crashed, they would not have died at the time they died and as they died. Just when would they die? How many times have we heard some person say, “if he had lived a different life and had taken care of his physical health, he would be alive today.”

Death has various and sundry ways of catching up with each and every member of the human race, and never fails ultimately to catch up with every one, whether that one is in the wrong place at the wrong time or in the right place at the right time. Some day, according to I Corinthians 15:51 to 55, death is going to fail, with Gods redeemed people.

There was nothing pleasant about the deaths of God’s martyrs, John the Baptist, Stephen, James, Peter and Paul, and the heroes of faith in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. They were all in the right place at the right time. But they died; that is, all but one (Hebrews 11:5).

Sin, sickness and death are world-wide. When we are told in I Timothy 2:4 that God will have all to be saved, and when we are told time and again, in God’s Book, that believers are saved by grace, and will be saved forever, God means that they will be saved from the penalty of sin; and ultimately from all of the consequences of sin; redemption of soul, spirit and body; redemption from sin, sickness and death.

The redemption of the body, as well as the redemption of the soul, is God’s guarantee to Christians (II Timothy 1:10). Moreover the hope of the Christian is to be numbered with those who are to remain and to be alive when Christ returns for body-redemption. (I Thessalonians 4:16 and 17). Until the realization of that Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13), all Christians, even the most spiritual and faithful, must join with the apostle Paul and say, “though our outward man ‘perish’ (‘rot thoroughly’), yet the inward man is renewed day by day.” (II Corinthians 4:16). Neither medical science nor ‘MIND’ healing can, or will, change our corruptible bodies and save any from physical death.

Christians groan within themselves, waiting for the redemption of the body. (Romans 8:23).

THE DEATH OF THE WHOLE CREATION

I am not advertising ‘LOOK’ magazine, But every one should know the truth that is published in the November Fifteenth (1955) issue, in the three articles describing conditions in Africa. The truth in these three messages certainly confirms the truth of Romans 8:20 to 23 and I John 5:19: “The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” . . . “The creature was made subject to vanity.” “The earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” “Ourselves (Christians) also groan within ourselves, waiting for the redemption of our body.” “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness (in the embrace of the evil one).”

We read in I John 3:8 that the Son of God was made manifest that He might destroy the works of the devil. We read in Hebrews 2:14 that Christ, Who was in the form of God, became a Man, that He might destroy Satan’s ‘death’ power. The Lord Jesus, in Luke 13:16, made known the truth that Satan could bind human beings in sickness, even the daughters of Abraham.

Satan is having phenomenal success in Africa where the creation is certainly groaning and travailing in pain together until now. In the ‘LOOK’ article headed “AFRICA, LAND OF

VIOLENCE,” we read, “most normal killing, in Africa, is done at night” . . . “it is then that you hear the dying screams, as one world feeds upon another.” In this article it is stated that the hyenas can not kill their own meat; but they dine off of the lion’s leavings; and in the end the hyenas eat the lions. The natives fear the hyenas, because they know when the end comes the hyena will be their tomb. “The struggle is endless.”

The writer concludes his article by stating that in the great struggles between the whites and blacks in Africa, nobody is winning. But the hyena always wins. That is why he laughs. We have quoted only a few statements to confirm the truth of Romans 8:20 to 23.

The Christian missionaries in Africa could confirm the truth of Romans 8:23, that the Christian natives have bodies of humiliation, corruptible bodies, dying of divers and sundry physical diseases.

The groaning and travailing creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. Christians are waiting for the great event of Philippians 3:20 and 21.

The natives of Africa are dying from every known disease. Many of them unnecessarily afflict their bodies and torture their minds, in their religious ceremonies. Satan is in control. Physical death in that dark country, as in India and China, is on a wholesale scale. In the three countries more than 20,000 people die every twenty-four hours.

DESTRUCTION IN OTHER LANDS

After reading the several articles concerning dark Africa I read of the awful destruction of property in the recent tornadoes, Diane, Hazel, Ione, Janet and others, and the final estimate of the number of persons who were killed.

Now one day later I am reading in the newspaper that forty-four persons were killed today in a plane-crash near Denver, Colorado. As some one has said, quite frequently death seems to be working overtime in so-called Christian lands.

Evangelical Christianity has made the United States a great nation. Here in this so-called Christian land, after nineteen hundred years of Christianity, we are enjoying the greatest material prosperity ever known. This is very largely because we are spending billions of dollars in the manufacture of defensive and offensive weapons of war. We are getting ready to keep from getting killed or to kill other human beings. How long is this to go on? Some day this will be no more, according to Isaiah 2:1 to 4 and Isaiah 11:1 to 9. In the meantime we shall continue to hear of “the survival of the fittest.” We shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.

Just at this present time there are thousands upon thousands of maimed, blind, limbless, sick and wounded ex-soldiers, who will never in this life again have sound bodies, if the great event of I Thessalonians 4:16 and 17 does not take place during this present generation, before they go the way of all the earth. However, the sad truth is, that this great event will not mean redemption bodies for those who have no hope (I Thessalonians 4:13 to 15), but for those who have been begotten into a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and that fadeth not away. (I Peter 1:3 to 9). “This corruptible shall put on incorruption.” (I Corinthians 15:53). When? When the great moment of I Corinthians 15:51 is at hand, at Christ’s coming (I Corinthians 15:22 and 23).

PASTOR RUSSELL’S LIFE AND DEATH MESSAGE

About the time the eloquent metaphysical lecturer and all in his audience (all the loyal disciples of a lady prophet) agreed that medical science had not effected a 'permanent' cure for man's physical diseases, but that the perfect understanding of 'MIND' healing would ultimately prove to be the 'permanent' cure for sin, sickness and death, the faithful disciples of another religious prophet were printing and distributing all over this land and other lands the message of their prophet, Pastor Charles T. Russell, entitled

MILLIONS NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE.

Pastor Russell was quite positive that the Lord Jesus would return to establish God's Great Theocracy in the Fall of 1914. Pastor Russell expected to be alive and not die.

Several times in the fourth chapter of Daniel we read of 'seven times.' Pastor Russell interpreted this to mean 7x360 years or 2520 years. So he taught that the King of Babylon conquered Judah and Jerusalem in 606 BC; and that this marked the beginning of 'the times of the Gentiles' (politically). (Luke 21:24). So 2520 years added to 606 BC brought to an end the times of the Gentiles in 1914 AD. But the great event mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18 and in I Corinthians 15:51 to 55 did not take place in 1914 AD. It has not yet occurred in this year 1956 AD (nor 2002 and still counting)

Although Pastor's Russell's favorite verse was Ecclesiastes 9:10, "there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest," we may be sure that he now knows the great error of his 'Millennial Dawn' and his universal 'kingdom-salvation' teaching. In part his great blunder was due to the fact that he knew not the difference between the prophesied 'kingdom of heaven' and 'the unprophesied BODY (CHURCH) of Christ.' He knew nothing of the glorious heavenly position of BODY-members, seated with Christ in the heavenlies. (Ephesians 2:4 to 6).

Pastor Russell's disciples should teach their people the truth that Millions Now Dying Will Never Live. They do not like the question of the Lord Jesus, in Matthew 23:33, "how shall ye escape the damnation of hell?" They do greatly err when they say that 'hell' in this verse and in Matthew 10:28 means the grave. They do not preach the truth concerning John 3:36: "he that believeth in the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Surely we should all know that there is a great difference between having everlasting life and being visited by the wrath of God. Unbelievers 'shall not see life,' but shall have their part with the vilest, most wicked lost sinners, according to Revelation 21:8. It therefore certainly behooves every member of Adam's race to read or repeat John 3:36 several thousands times.

The eloquent 'MIND' healer, with his unscriptural and unscientific metaphysical remedy for sin, sickness and death, as well as the lady prophet who claimed that she discovered that remedy in 1866, and also the 'Millennial Dawn' prophet, with his 1914 miscalculation, all being included with the sinners whom God saw when he looked down from heaven, according to Psalm 14:2 and 3, Psalm 53:2 and 3 Ecclesiastes 7:20, after proclaiming for many years their false 'redemption' schemes, sinned, became sick and they died. Their sin, sickness and death were indeed real.

The Lord Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, in rather a special way. Lazarus was very sick. Mary and Martha sent this message to the Saviour, "Lord, he whom Thou lovest is sick" (John 11:3). There are millions today, members of the Church loved very much by Christ (Ephesians 5:25), who are sick. Some of them may be like sick Epaphroditus, sick nigh

unto death: “because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life.” (Philippians 2:30).

More than 45,000 people on this earth die every twenty-four hours. More than one hundred die every hour in the United States. Among those who are dying daily are more than a few members of the Church, The Body of Christ, whom He loves very much indeed.

MATERIAL AND RELIGIOUS COSMETICS

There are far more than one thousand radio and television broadcasts every twenty-four hours that are sponsored by manufacturers of cosmetics for the outside of the body and drugs for the inside. There are more than one thousand religious broadcasts every twenty-four hours conducted by religious healers who insist that Jesus heals, and that sick people can be miraculously healed without physicians and medicines, just as they were healed in the days of the Lord Jesus and His apostles. There are millions of saved and unsaved people on this earth who know that physicians and medicine have restored them to health. There are at least several million saved and unsaved religious people who are sure that they were definitely healed by Christ, the Great Physician. If honest, they will all admit that there are many physical infirmities and afflictions which neither medical scientists nor Christ and Christians are healing. They will also admit that millions of faithful ‘sick’ Christians, who believed Ephesians 3:20 concerning God’s unlimited power, and who prayed fervently for Divine healing, died. They know that some of the millions were young, some old, some middle-age. They know also that Christians may be healed of sickness, once, twice, or a dozen times, but sooner or later it will be said of them, if the great event of I Corinthians 15:51 to 55 does not bring the great change, as it was said of Stephen, “he fell asleep” (Acts 7:60), or of David in Acts 13:36 and Acts 2:29: “David saw corruption” . . . “He is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.”

Christians should be able to say something even better than Psalm 23:4 and 11:65; “though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me” . . . “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” Read very carefully Hebrews 2:14 and 15 and II Timothy 1:9 and 10.

If you are a Christian, believe with all your heart Ephesians 2:4 to 6 and II Corinthians 5:8; you have been made alive in Christ Jesus; you are already sitting down in the heavenlies in and with Christ; and to be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord. Then believe Ephesians 1:13 and 14, that the Holy Spirit, Who indwells you, is the earnest and Divine guarantee, the Divine seal of assurance, that the Lord Jesus must and will return for the redemption of your corruptible body of humiliation, which will continue to ‘rot thoroughly’ (II Corinthians 4:16), until the glorious, wonderful ‘in a moment’ event of I Corinthians 15:51 to 55 takes place. There are more than two hundred plain statements in the Bible that the same Lord Jesus, who ministered on this earth, in the land of the Jews, will return first for the ‘body redemption’ of His saved ones and will then come hack to the land of the Jews.

CHRIST IS COMING TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD.

In Acts 10:42 we are told by Peter that Christ is coming to judge the quick (living) and the dead. Paul declared this same fact in II Timothy 4:1. They were directed by the Holy Spirit to write this truth. First, Christ is coming to be admired in His saints, and then to visit His wrath

upon those who are not His saved ones. This we read in II Thessalonians 1:7 to 10. "When He shall come" (in II Thessalonians 1:10) is in the Greek, "when He shall have come."

You have doubtless heard the preacher's answer to one of his members who asked the meaning of the 'quick' and the 'dead.' The pastor gave him an illustration. He said, "you go down to the outer-drive here in Chicago at the time the traffic is very heavy and try to cross the drive: if you are not 'quick,' you will be 'dead.'" "I thought of this when we heard all of the thousands of warnings to motorists who were determined to go motoring Labor Day week end. In almost all of the warnings we heard the much-used statement, "the life you save or lose may be your own." Each one thought that he or she would not be among those who were to die in an auto accident. But several hundred were killed. We say, if they had not driven in that heavy traffic, they would not have died. Some of those killed were 'quick,' but not 'quick' enough. Did they die before their time?

DID THE RICH FOOL DIE BEFORE HIS TIME?

Every person on this earth should read the Book of Ecclesiastes many, many times. After reading this Book all of us think, or should think, of a statement and a question from the heart and lips of the Son of God, "man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." (Luke 12:15). "What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

Millions are today following in the path of the rich fool. They haven't time to think about the next world. They heed not the warning, "every one of us shall give an account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12). They are too busy getting and holding on to what they get and increasing their worldly goods. Others are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. All are too busy having a good time to think about the probability or certainty of a bad time after they leave this world. The rich fool said: "I have no room where to bestow my fruits. I will pull down my barns, and build greater. I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up 'for many years'; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:15 to 20). The rich man and God did not agree as to how long the man was to live on earth. Does any person die ahead of time?

THE PASTOR TOLD ONE OF HIS MEMBERS HE MIGHT.

The young man, who was an excessive cigarette-smoker either unable or unwilling to abandon his habit, asked his pastor this question, "can a person who smokes cigarette go to heaven?" The pastor replied: "it is altogether possible and probable, and in your case the chances are that you will reach there ten years ahead of time."

As we read the account of the ministry and message of courageous, faithful Stephen, as recorded in the seventh chapter of Acts, we know that that messenger of the Lord was in the right place at the right time. Stephen was right where the Lord wanted him to be. But the self-righteous, guilty, condemned religious people to whom Stephen spoke were by no means pleased with his message. So they stoned him to death. Did Stephen die before his time, or right on time?

Stephen and Philip, the evangelist, were very spiritual, very active, very courageous servants of the Lord Jesus. They were outstanding, as we may learn by reading Acts 6:1 to 8 and

8:5 to 15 and Acts 7:51 to 60. Obviously with the same qualities and qualifications they went forth to boldly, uncompromisingly proclaim the Divine Truth committed to them.

In Acts 21:8 and 9, many years after the Lord sent forth Philip, the evangelist, he and his spiritual family were at work for the Lord. In Acts 7:51 to 60 is recorded the death of Stephen. Why did the Lord permit Philip to go on in Christian work for more than twenty years, and not permit Stephen to live twenty months after they went forth at the same time? Inasmuch as Christ had raised several from the dead, and Peter, in Acts 9:36 to 43, raised a dead woman to life, why did not the Lord raise Stephen from the dead? The Lord certainly could have used faithful Stephen for many years.

In Acts 12:1 to 12 we read the record of two other faithful servants of the Lord in jail, the apostles James and Peter. According to Herod both were to be put to death by Herod's sword. The Lord permitted Herod to murder James, in fulfillment of Matthew 20:23. The Lord sent His angel to slay Herod after His angel had miraculously saved Peter from Herod's sword. (Acts 12:23). The Lord was not yet ready for John 21:18 and 19 to be fulfilled. Peter had to write two Epistles later on. In due time Peter said, "shortly I must put off my tabernacle (body), as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me." (II Peter 1:14).

As we read the Book of Acts and Paul's Epistles we would perhaps judge that Paul's enemies, many times, tried to kill him. But they could not until the time of His departure was at hand. (Acts 14:19 . . . Acts 23:11 and 12 and II Timothy 4:6.)

Paul was indeed called according to God's eternal purpose. (Romans 8:28 and Ephesians 1:11). Are you? Can you say with Paul, "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are 'called according to His purpose'?" Can you say with Spurgeon, "not one shaft nor plague can hit until the God of love sees fit?" Can you glory with Paul in physical infirmities and in soul distresses? (II Corinthians 12:10).

It will prove of interest to read the second chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. In Philippians 2:19 and 20 Paul mentions Timothy. In I Timothy 5:23 we learn that Timothy was afflicted with 'oft sicknesses.' In II Corinthians 12:6 to 12 and in Galatians 4:13 to 15 we learn that Paul was afflicted with physical infirmities, in which he gloried. In Philippians 2:25 to 30 we learn that Epaphroditus was a very sick man, that he almost died because of too much work for the Lord. The Lord had mercy on sick Epaphroditus. Did Paul prescribe wine for Epaphroditus, as he did for Timothy? Why did not the apostle Paul bless handkerchiefs and heal both Timothy and Epaphroditus, as he did the many sick people of Acts 19:11 and 12? Why was it that Paul put hands on sick idolatrous heathen in Acts 28:1 to 9 and healed them, and he could not do the same for sick Timothy and sick Epaphroditus?

For a limited time even carnal Christians (I Corinthians 3:1 to 5 . . . I Corinthians 6:3 to 7) exercised the special gifts of healing (I Corinthians 12:8 to 11). It is interesting to note that in Paul's two Epistles to Timothy, about twenty things Timothy was instructed to do. However he was not told to heal any sickness, or to carry on with the miraculous gifts of I Corinthians 12:8 to 11. For some reason God had changed His spiritual program to a 'signless' program. Keep in mind I Corinthians 3:1 to 5 and I Corinthians 6:3 to 7 and I Corinthians 11:22 and 30, and know that the first-century Christians did not exercise the miraculous 'sign' gifts, because they were more faithful and spiritual than God's present-day spiritual, faithful saints.

THE HEALING OF EPAPHRODITUS AND KING HEZEKIAH

Every Christian knows that God is his heavenly Father; and that God is able to do for Christians exceeding abundantly above all that they can ask or think. (Ephesians 3:20). But they know also that every true and faithful Christian is called upon to suffer for Christ's sake, and to groan within himself waiting for the redemption of the body. (Romans 8:23 . . . II Timothy 3:12).

Every Christian should know what God's eternal purpose is, and should be a faithful steward of the mysteries of God (I Corinthians 4:1 to 4 . . . Ephesians 1:11 and 3:9). Moreover with this knowledge and faithful service, every Christian should most heartily believe Romans 8:28, "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

Millions of God's spiritual, faithful, fruitful, obedient children, since the days of Christ and His apostles have been blind, or lame, or deformed, or deaf and dumb, some of them limbless. Others have been paralyzed, or otherwise seriously and painfully sick. Some have starved to death. Among the more than 45,000 people who die every twenty-four hours from pneumonia, malaria, tuberculosis, cancer, polio, malnutrition, heart trouble, leprosy, in air plane and train crashes, automobile accidents, drownings, bullets and hundreds of other ways, some who are giving up the ghost are spiritual, faithful saints.

Many Christians, who have been healed physically, are more than grateful to some faithful physicians or surgeons for their restored health. Christians, who have been healed in answer to prayer, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, either with or without the ministry of a physician, do praise God and thank Him for the healing. But they know full well that they will go the way of all the earth, no matter how expert the faithful physician may be, no matter if a million faithful saints pray fervently for their healing, if the great event of I Corinthians 15:51 to 55 does not take place before they meet their death appointment.

The healing of Epaphroditus is God's 'healing' pattern for His saints in this age and dispensation of grace; special 'elective' healing. The days of Epaphroditus on earth were prolonged after he was sick nigh unto death.

Since the day the Lord raised up Epaphroditus from his deathbed He has raised up many saints and sinners from serious illness. Did Epaphroditus make a mistake by working so diligently for Christ, without regard to his own life, that he was so seriously ill? We wonder if Paul advised Epaphroditus to slow up. We wonder if Paul slowed up (Philippians 2:24 to 29).

King Hezekiah's days on earth were prolonged. He too was sick nigh unto death. He prayed and wept to be restored to health (II Kings 20:1 to 12). How many Christians have you met in your life, for whom it would have been far better, so far as their testimony for the Lord is concerned, had they died weeks, or months, or years before they died?

At the time Hezekiah was sick unto death he had a pretty good record as compared with the other kings of Judah. As Hezekiah prayed and wept for healing he reminded God of his good record. (II Kings 20:3). He wept sore. God was moved, and said unto Hezekiah, "I will add unto thy days fifteen years. I have seen thy tears. I will heal thee." (II Kings 20:6). "And he recovered."

When the added fifteen years were at an end, "Hezekiah then slept with his fathers, and Manasseh, his son, reigned in his stead." (II Kings 20:20 and 21).

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began his reign in Jerusalem. He reigned thirty-one years. He was born three years after Hezekiah received Divine healing. If Hezekiah had not been healed, his wicked son would never have been born. "The Lord turned not from the fierceness of His great wrath, wherewith His anger was kindled against Judah, because of all of the provocations that Manasseh had provoked Him withal." (II Kings 23:26 to 28)." Perhaps no

man has ever reigned as king who was worse than wicked Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah. What would be your answer, if some one should ask you whether or not it would have been far better had Hezekiah died at the time he was sick unto death?

After we read all that is recorded in the Bible concerning the apostle Paul, we must be convinced that the Lord did protect and preserve Paul, prolonging his life till his work was finished; but Paul was not healed physically.

After the apostle Paul said, "be ye followers together of me" (Philippians 3:17), he said: "I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound: I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." (Philippians 4:11 and 12). This testimony was added to II Corinthians 12:10: "I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses; for Christ's sake." How many Christians can say, "this goes for me too?" Sickness has often proved to be a blessing with Christians.

IN WHAT SENSE DID CHRIST BARE OUR SICKNESSES?

In Matthew 8:16 we read that Christ healed 'ALL' that were sick. Note, Matthew 8:17: "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." First, we observe that the Greek word translated 'BARE' in Matthew 8:17 is altogether different from the Greek word used in I Peter 2:24, where we read that Christ 'bare' our sins in His own body on the tree.

There are some very faithful, spiritual saints of God, who quote Matthew 8:16 and 17 and I Peter 2:24, together with Hebrews 13:8, to prove that the healing of physical diseases is in the atoning work of Christ, as is the salvation of the sinner's soul. They heartily and radically disagree with the healing theories of the 'MIND' healers, who reject and repudiate the teaching of evangelical Christians, that salvation from sin is by God's grace and God-given faith in the shed blood of the crucified and resurrected, eternal, omnipotent, sinless Christ, Who was God in human form.

All evangelical Christians do not agree that healing of sickness is guaranteed to saved people in the vicarious suffering of the Lord Jesus; but they are all agreed that the true and living God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, hears and answers only the prayers of believers whose sins have been cleansed by the precious shed blood of God's Beloved Son. In this sense it is true that when God does heal the sick in answer to the fervent prayer of a righteous man, it is on the grounds of the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ on the cross. But the return of Christ is a 'must' for our immortality.

CAREST THOU NOT THAT WE PERISH?

When the disciples of Christ were with Him in a boat on the stormy sea, and the water was filling up the boat, the Lord was asleep in the boat. "They awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest Thou not that we perish?" (Mark 4:38). In II Peter 3:9 we read that the Lord is not willing that any should perish. The Lord Jesus died on the cross, so that believing sinners might not perish. (John 3:16). The Lord Jesus said, "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3 to 5). "The preaching of the cross is to them that 'perish' foolishness." (I Corinthians 1:18). Israel's high-priest, although he did not understand his own words, in John 11:50, said that if Christ did not die, the whole nation of Israel would perish. In John 10:28 we have the words of the Lord Jesus, "I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never 'perish'.

Although the Lord Jesus did save from physical death (temporarily) those disciples with Him in the boat on the stormy sea, all of them did perish later on, in that they experienced physical death; absent from the body and at home with the Lord. Not one of His disciples was lost except the son of perdition, Judas. (John 17:12).

So we should see that the word ‘perish,’ when referring to physical death, means something quite different from the word ‘perish’ in John 3:16 and John 3:16:10:28 and in II Peter 3:9. In these Scriptures ‘perish’ means death and after-death Divine judgment and wrath. In Revelation 20:6 we read of those on whom the second death hath no power. In I Thessalonians 1:10 we learn that those who are trusting in Christ and His perfect work of redemption have been delivered from the wrath to come. So the word ‘perish’ in John 3:16 does not mean cessation of existence. Christ said in John 8:24, “if ye believe not that I AM, ye shall die in your sins.” But remember that the Lord is longsuffering, not willing that any should ‘perish,’ but that all should come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9 . . . John 3:16 . . . John 5:40 . . . John 10:28).

WHY WILL YE DIE?

In the very same verse in which the Lord said, “as I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live,” The Lord asked the question, “why will ye die?” (Ezekiel 33:11). The Lord knew these people would experience physical death.

When the Lord Jesus said, in John 5:40, “ye will not come unto Me, that ye might have ‘LIFE,’ He was not referring to physical life, although eternal life includes a ‘resurrection,’ incorruptible body.

In John 6:50 and 51 the Lord Jesus instructed His people how they could live forever and never die; never perish.

SHALL NEVER DIE . . . SHALL NEVER PERISH. . . SHALL LIVE FOREVER

Would you like to live forever? Perhaps your answer is, “that depends.” Would you like to be included with those who shall never die, who shall never perish? The Lord Jesus declared, in John 17:2, that His Father gave Him power to give eternal life to His disciples. Read carefully these words of the Lord Jesus, in John 10:28: “I give unto them eternal life, and they ‘shall never perish.’ “ Now John 6:51. “I am the ‘LIVING’ Bread, which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this Bread, he shall live forever.” Now John 11:25 and 26: “I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.”

In John 5:24 and 25 the Lord Jesus declared that believers pass out of death into life and shall not be judged; that believers, by hearing and believing, ‘live.’ He proclaimed the same truth in John 6:47. Every person in this land of Bibles has heard the truth of John 3:16, that believers in Christ shall not perish but have everlasting life.

WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED.

It requires neither extraordinary intellect nor a thorough knowledge of the Bible to understand the truth stated in such simple language in (I Corinthians 15:51 and 52: “we shall not all sleep (die physically), but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.”

Christians are here and now a 'changed' people. (II Corinthians 5:17). They will experience another great change.

Many saved, as well as unsaved, theologians and other church-members, do not believe that the same Lord Jesus, Who spent about thirty-four years on earth, Who went back to heaven by the way of Calvary's cross and Joseph's tomb and fifty days on earth in His resurrection body, is going to return to this earth to reign with His holy ones for one thousand years (a millennium). Those Christians, who do believe that Christ will return for such a reign, and that He must come before the beginning of the millennium, are called 'Premillenarians.'

Whether or not Christians are 'Premillenarians,' 'Postmillenarians' or 'Amillenarians,' every Christian who does not believe in the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is certainly ignorant of the plain teaching of the Word of God. The Holy Spirit does not want Christians to be ignorant of this glorious truth; the Christian's 'Blessed Hope.' (Titus 2:13 . . . I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18). "We know that when He (Christ) shall appear, we shall be like Him." (I John 3:2). "We look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body." (Philippians 3:20 and 21). A great change.

Christians are said to be, here in this life on this earth, 'alive from the dead.' (Romans 6:13). In I Corinthians 15:22 and 23 those who are here on this earth and who will die physically before the Lord Jesus appears to redeem their bodies will be 'made alive' at His coming. Those who have been made alive here in this present life, and who are to remain alive physically until the Lord Jesus appears to redeem the bodies of His saints, will not experience physical death. "We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed." And what a change! However, only those who have been changed from 'dead sinners' to 'living saints' before they die or before the coming of Christ will experience the great change of I Corinthians 15:51 to 55.

Whether or not we refer to the coming of the Lord Jesus to cause the great change of I Corinthians 15:53, "this corruptible shall put on incorruption and this mortal put on immortality," as "THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH," we know that there will be no resurrection of the bodies of the Lord's redeemed ones, if the great event of I Corinthians 15:51 to 55 and I Thessalonians 4:13 to 17 does not take place. A Christianity without a resurrection of our bodies is not Bible Christianity, but a counterfeit.

As I am writing this message on the typewriter right now I stopped to read a letter just received from a splendid Christian woman. In it this request, "my brother is dying in a hospital in Chicago. Will you please call on him?" She added, "I was just getting ready to go more than a thousand miles to see him when my dear husband fell and broke his back." The husband and the brother are in a critical condition. The fact that the wife and husband are good Christians did not prevent the broken back. Many of the Lord's most faithful, spiritual saints are on sick beds at this time. Saints, as well as sinners, have corruptible bodies. Many of these saints are limbless or eyeless or bear in their bodies scars from burns or other injuries, which neither medical science nor 'MIND' science or the fervent prayers of righteous saints, with or without oil-anointing, will heal.

Some saints live to a good old age: some die much younger. This is true also concerning the unsaved. Saints can say with Saint John; "we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness (in the embrace of the evil one)." (I John 5:19). Those who are of God are 'living saints.' Those who are in the evil one are 'dead sinners.' The second coming of Christ will bring neither joy nor blessing to 'dead sinners' who have experienced physical death or who may be numbered with those who are alive when the Lord Jesus comes. At Christ's coming, according to II Thessalonians 1:7 to 10, 'dead sinners,' all who have rejected the grace of God

and the Lord Jesus Christ and His redemptive work, will not be delivered from God's awful wrath. (I Thessalonians 1:9 and 10 . . . Hebrews 10:28 to 33).

RECEIVING CHRIST FOR SALVATION AND FOR PHYSICAL HEALING

We read in I Timothy 2:4 to 6, that God will have all men to be saved; that Christ Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all. The Lord Jesus, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man (Hebrews 2:9). He bare our sins in His own body on the tree (I Peter 2:24). "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10). If God will have all to be saved by faith in the One Mediator and His 'ransom' work, and inasmuch as Christ said, "him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out," we know that if this very day one million sinners would come by faith to Christ and Calvary and receive God's Son as Saviour, every single one of the one million would be saved from the penalty of sin, that is, from the after-death judgment.

But should one million sick, blind, lame, deformed and limbless consecrated Christians look to Christ and Calvary, in real faith, for physical healing, what percentage of them would be healed, and how long would the healing last? How many times could the same people be healed physically by faith in Christ and Calvary?

THOSE HEALED LATER DIED

In Matthew 4:23, Matthew 8:16 and Luke 7:19 to 23 we read that the Lord Jesus healed all manner of sickness and disease; "he healed 'ALL' that were sick." The Lord Jesus thereby proved that He was the prophesied 'GOD' of Isaiah 35:3 to 6. This He proved by raising Jairus, the widow of Nain's son and Lazarus from the dead. Peter and Paul, by the power of the Holy Spirit, healed all manner of sickness and disease. (Acts 5:11 to 16 . . . Acts 19:11 and 12 and Romans 15:18 to 22). Peter raised Dorcas from the dead. Paul raised Eutychus from the dead.

Later on all of the sick people and all of those raised from the dead by the Lord Jesus and Peter and Paul died and their bodies went to corruption, to await the wonderful, glorious moment of I Corinthians 15:51 and 52. And all the Christians who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord Jesus from heaven (I Corinthians 1:7) will be caught up with the Christians who are now absent from their bodies, all in incorruptible bodies; "and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18).

This is why Paul was directed by the Holy Spirit to write: "We shall not all sleep."

Job did not know the truth of I Corinthians 15:51, concerning saved people who will not experience physical death, at the time he asked and answered a most interesting question, "if a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). Job's answer, "And though, after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God, Whom mine eyes shall behold." (Job 19:25 to 27). The Lord Jesus, Who raised dead Lazarus to life, said, "the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth." (John 5:28 and 29). This statement of the Lord Jesus should be studied in the light of I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18, "the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds." So all Christians shall not die; but all Christians shall be changed. This corruptible will put on incorruption. (I Corinthians 15: 51 to 55).

SENSATIONAL NEWS

THE MYSTERIOUS, MIRACULOUS, SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE OF A 365 YEAR OLD MAN

This 365 year old man had a unique experience. First of all he was born when his father was 162 years old. Then the man who miraculously disappeared was the father of a son who lived to the ripe old age of 969 years. This man, who outlived any and every other man who ever lived on this earth, was 300 years old when his father miraculously disappeared. All that we have stated is recorded in Genesis 5:21 to 27.

Just imagine hearing some radio newscaster say today, “we interrupt this program to bring you this special bulletin.” “A 365 year old man suddenly and mysteriously disappeared.” “He did not die.” “It is reported that he went to heaven, body, soul and spirit, in a moment in the twinkling of an eye.”

If the newscaster had broadcast, or the newspaper publisher had published, this sensational news at the time it happened, in the language of the Bible, this would have been their report: “Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” (Genesis 5:24). “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him. Before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” (Hebrews 1:5). “Enoch prophesied saying, behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all that are ungodly of all their ungodly deeds, which they have ungodly committed” (Jude 14 and 15).

We have no record as to Enoch’s physical condition at the time he went to be with God. We do not know how many of our present day diseases he had suffered before he was translated. Surely there was abounding sin, and there were plenty of sinners all around him in those antediluvian days, which ended with the destruction of all flesh not in Noah’s ark. (Genesis 6:5 to 8 and Genesis 7:22 to 24.) We can well imagine that Enoch suffered persecution for righteousness sake, as he walked with God while the great multitude around him were walking according to the course of this world.

The Lord Jesus foretold some more wicked days on this earth, which will be like the days of Noah, and that only His shortening of those days would keep all flesh from being destroyed again (Matthew 24:22 and 37). Enoch knew what he was talking about when he foretold evil days and Divine judgment. It behooves every one of us to believe that we have a more sure Word of Prophecy whereunto we do well that we take heed (II Peter 1:19). According to this more sure Word, there are to be some events on this earth worse than wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes (Revelation 6).

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE AN ‘ENOCK’ EXPERIENCE?

If Christianity could guarantee to any and all persons who will sign-up that they can and will live 365 years and then be taken by God without going to death and the grave, millions would sign up. Many of them, if not most of them, would balk when told that they must walk with God, well-pleasing to Him in a life of faith and faithful service, and suffer for His Name’s sake, in order to live 365 years and leave this earth for heaven without dying. Would you sign up?

Some of the Christians mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18 are to have an experience somewhat like that of Enoch’s, although they will not live 365 years or 165. They might receive special blessing and live to be 65 or a few more years. These several verses refer to three classes

or groups of people, “those who have no hope,” referring to those who have died without faith in Christ and His perfect redemptive work, “Christians (saints) whose bodies have gone to corruption,” and “Christians (saints) who are to be on this earth alive physically when the glorious moment of I Corinthians 15:51 to 51 takes place.”

Christians cannot say just now with certainty concerning this present generation: “WE SHALL NOT ALL DIE”; but they can say. “WE MAY NOT ALL DIE.”

Enoch found the perfect, permanent cure for sin, sickness and death. When the Lord Jesus shall suddenly appear to redeem the bodies of His saints, they will find the permanent cure.

Why did the Lord say, “I would not have you ignorant of the, truth of I Thessalonians 4:14 to 18 and Romans 11:25 and 26”? Because He knew that most of the Christians would not only be ignorant of these wonderful, blessed, glorious events, but they obviously would prefer this inexcusable ignorance.

Our saved and unsaved newscasters are telling us repeatedly that if and when the next war takes place members of the human race will die several million at a time; that there will be mass destruction and death. Do you know of anything that will put an end to such wholesale slaughter or even the retail deaths, other than the coming of Christ? In His time He will show Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, Whom no man hath seen, nor can see. To Whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. (I Timothy 6: 14 to 16).

THE MAN GOD KILLED AND THE MAN GOD BURIED

In the seventeenth chapter of Matthew we have the Divine Record of the transfiguration of Christ on the mount. With Christ were three apostles, who saw the transfigured Christ and with Him Elijah and Moses. One of these apostles, Peter, in II Peter 1:16 to 18, in referring to this transfiguration, called it the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We read in II Kings 2:11 that Elijah, in a whirlwind, went up into heaven. Like Enoch, Elijah found the permanent cure for any and all physical afflictions. The man, whom God buried, was on that mount of transfiguration with Christ and Elijah. Hear the record in Deuteronomy 34:5 to 12: “Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in Moab. And He (the Lord) buried him; but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day. Moses was 120 years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses.”

We would not judge from the Record that Moses died from ‘old age,’ or that Moses was sick unto death at the time he died in the right place at the right time. Perhaps, Moses was disappointed that he was not permitted to enter into the Promised Land with the other Israelites.

We learn in Jude 9 that the devil and Michael had quite an argument concerning the body of Moses. After we read Genesis 3:14 to 16 and Hebrews 2:14 and 15, and know that Moses died and was buried and then appeared in the land of the Jews with Elijah and Christ, before Christ died, was buried and became the first-fruits of them that slept (I Corinthians 15:2 to 4 and I Corinthians 15:20), we will better understand why Satan contended for the body of Moses.

Every Christian should also understand the meaning of I Corinthians 5:5, concerning carnal, sinning Christians, “deliver such an one unto Satan, for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

THE MAN AND THE MEN THAT GOD KILLED.

We refer in this message to the death of Herod, whom the Angel of the Lord smote. In II Samuel 6:7 we read, “the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error.” Ananias and Sapphira were smitten with death, because of their error. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed with fire and brimstone, because of the many errors of the inhabitants of those cities. Pharaoh and his mighty army were buried in the Red Sea, because of their contempt for God and their sins against God’s people and God’s plan. (Exodus 14:27). The Lord did this work of destruction, as ‘a man of war.’ (Exodus 15:3 and 4).

The Lord did some wholesale slaying in the days of Noah, after He said “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth.” (Genesis 6:7 and 7:21). There are times when God becomes very angry.

When we learn in the Bible that God is the unsparing God of all grace (II Peter 2:4 to 9 and I Peter 5:10), let us never forget that He spared not His own Son, But delivered Him up for us all (Romans 8:32), so that He might be both just and merciful and that He might justify the ungodly by His infinite grace. (Romans 3:24 to 28).

Think of the meaning of the word ‘PERISH’ in John 3:16, in II Peter 3:9 and in Luke 13:3. “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” (Hebrews 2:2 to 6).

BETTER FOR JUDAS, IF HE HAD NOT BEEN BORN

The Lord Jesus said concerning Judas who betrayed Him: “good were it for that man, if he had not been born.” (Mark 14:21). With this we all are agreed. There are about fifteen men in their death-cells here in Chicago at this time waiting the day of their execution. Concerning these men under sentence of death, we all agree that it would have been better for them, had they never been born, ‘unless.’ We say ‘unless.’ Unless their great sin of murder causes some, or all of them, to realize what great sinners they are in the eyes of the human judges and of their awful crime and guilt in the presence of God; and then hearing and believing that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound, they with penitent hearts receive the Lord Jesus Christ, as did the thief on the cross and let the God of all grace save them. How many have thanked God for their prison sentences because in the prison they were saved by the infinite grace of God and by faith in the precious shed blood of God’s Spotless Lamb.

WAS THE WRITER OF ECCLESIASTES PESSIMISTIC?

The wise man, who wrote Ecclesiastes, said in Ecclesiastes 4:2 and 3: “I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive . . . Yea, better is he than both they, who hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.” Perhaps the majority of church-members do not believe the truth of Revelation 21:8, that unbelievers will be sentenced to the same awful, terrible punishment that awaits the murderers and idolaters. But every regenerated believer, who submits to the teaching of God’s Word and to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, believes the truth of Revelation 21:8 and of Hebrews 10:28 to 33, that all who reject God’s grace and God’s Son and His precious shed blood will fall into the hands of the living God, Who says, “this is a fearful thing” “vengeance is mine.”

It would have been far better, so far as at least seventy percent of the people on this earth, and more than fifty percent of the people in the United States, if they had never been born into this world. God is still saying, “as I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; why will ye

die? God will have all men to be saved through faith in the ONE MEDIATOR and His ransom work (Ezekiel 33:11 . . . I Timothy 2:4 to 6).