

TRY MY PHYSICIAN

TEXT: Isaiah 53:5 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.

THESIS: To show that Christ's sufferings qualified Him to be the Great Physician with a cure for man's most deadly malady - sin.

INTRO.: A. Whenever I have any kind of physical problem, I am sure to have several people who want to help me, say: **"TRY MY PHYSICIAN."** This morning I want to turn the tables on folks & say to them: **"TRY MY PHYSICIAN."**

B. Faith (fake!) healers use this passage **"...with His stripes we are healed"** to teach the unbiblical doctrine of "healing is in the atonement." They teach that since believers accept the atonement of Christ, that they must also accept physical healing since that is included in His death on the cross, thus they say, no Christian in God's will should be sick (unfortunately even those w/the N.T. Biblical gift of healing got sick & died - along w/all the fake healers!).

ILLUS.: When a "healer" gets sick it is hushed up. (Physician heal thyself!) A.A. Allen one of the best known healers in the Pentecostal movement claimed to be able to cast out the "demon of alcoholism" & was secretly being treated for chronic alcoholism before his death! Oral Roberts built a **hospital** on the campus of ORU. Oral Roberts Jr's marriage got sick & died & he got a divorce & is remarried! Jimmy Swaggart cast out the demons of lust from others, but succumbed himself!

B. The passage, according to the Apostle Peter, has nothing to do w/physical healing, but is speaking of salvation & spiritual health!

1 Pet.2:24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

C. No one has the "gift of healing" today. But God still heals the sick thru intercessory prayer, confession of sin, the use of means & medicine & thru miracles. Jesus never had a "misfire" when His purpose was to heal & He is still the Great Physician, but His purpose today is primarily spiritual healing. So why don't you **"TRY MY PHYSICIAN?!"**

I. THE DISEASE: SIN!

A. It Is a Chronic Condition:

1. It weakens us; so that we cannot do the things we would & we do the things we would not. **"Oh wretched man that I am...!"**

Rom.5:6 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

2. It causes pain or deadens sensibilities; the more sinful a man is the less conscious of his sin he becomes.

ILLUS.: We have all watched w/disbelief as the Ted Bundys, the Jeffrey Dahmers, the Charles Mansons, etc. sit w/a smirk or display no emotion or remorse for their mass murders! Habitual sin paralyzes the conscience. Those who lie again & again soon have difficulty distinguishing the truth from the lie.

3. It pollutes us; so that unless it is dealt with we can have no fellowship w/God.

1 Cor.6:9-11 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

B. It Is a Heredity Condition:

Rom.5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

1. To see how awful sin is we need to compare Adam before the fall & after.
2. We need to see what sin cost him & us!

ILLUS.: Before the fall, there was paradise; a beautiful garden to live in (not polluted cities), a pleasant task to keep the garden (not work by the sweat of labor & fatigue), no pain, sickness or aging (instead of Drs., Hospitals, morticians & cemeteries), perfect climate

(no snow, rain, hurricanes, lightning, etc.). Sin is a monster which devours all in its path, a hideous thing which God cannot look upon & which pure eyes detest. Spurgeon said: *"A flood of tears is the proper medium through which a Christian should look at sin."*

B. It Is a Fatal Condition:

1. Sin is eternally fatal for the unbeliever; ***"the wages of sin is (eternal) death," "the soul that sinneth, it shall die, "sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death..."***
2. Sin is potentially fatal for the believer; ***"be sure your sin will find you out," "there is a sin unto death..." "he that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed & that w/out remedy."***

II. THE REMEDY: SUFFERING!

A. His Stripes Heal:

1. Those ***"stripes"*** were not just the lashes on His back, nor the wounds in His hands, feet & side, but included the wrath of His Father against the sin He was bearing on the Cross.
2. They included the bruises left on His holy Person as men brutalized Him, they compass all the physical & spiritual sufferings of our Savior as He bore ***"our griefs...our sorrows...our transgressions...our iniquities..."***
3. Is there "healing in the atonement" - YES! - but not the healing spoken of by the fake healers, the Pentecostals, Charismatics, et.al., but a spiritual healing that removes our sin-debt to God thru His sacrificial, substitutionary death!

B. His Stripes Save:

ILLUS.: LOOK AT HIM as He agonizes in the Garden & sweats "as it were, great drops of blood; look at Him as He is mocked, scorned & smitten by Roman soldiers & Jewish religious leaders alike; look at Him as they beat His back w/the whip; look at Him as they press the thorns into His forehead; look at Him as they spit in His face & tear out handfuls of His beard; look at Him as they make Him carry His own cross thru the streets; look at Him as they drive spikes through the flesh of His hands & feet; look at Him as they drop that cross into the earth; look at Him as blood spurts from His side they have pierced, look at Him as His body heaves for every breath & His lungs fill w/fluids which don't belong there, look at Him as He cries out to His Father & to those around Him; but NOW LOOK AT HIM as He speaks to the repentant thief "Today thou shalt be with Me in paradise!" His stripes began saving on that in-famous day!!!! And they continue to save today.

1. They can save the lost sinner by removing the curse of original sin & paying the debt of personal sin.
2. They can save the saint from heartache & heartbreak & a life of misery.

ILLUS.: Spurgeon, in dealing w/the effects of sin in the believer speaks of the *mania of despair, the stony heart, the paralysis of doubt, the stiffness of the knee joint of prayer, the fever of pride, the leprosy of selfishness, the cancer of covetousness, the consumption of worldliness.*

We have been saved not only from our past & present sins, but from the dark future we would have had w/out Christ. By going to a church like this think of all the problems you have been spared. By growing up in a Christian home, think of all the grief you have avoided. Yes, ***"by His stripes we are healed."***

III. THE RESTORATION: COMPLETE!

ILLUS.: It is possible to be healed, but not restored to health. You may have had heart surgery & are able to function & live, but w/many restrictions & the possibility of another heart attack. You may have been healed of cancer, but you can have a recurrence. Thank God His ***"stripes"*** heal completely!

A. Character: 2 Cor.5:17

1. A person cured of leprosy would be a fool to stay in the leper colony.
2. A person cured of sin needs to stay away from "diseased company"!

B. Conscience:

Ps.139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

C. Countenance:

1. If you have been cleansed on the inside, it will show on the outside.
2. If you have become a new creature, your sadness will turn to joy, your attitude will be reflected on your face.

ILLUS.: In John R. Rice's booklet, "Trailed By A Wild Beast (sin)" he writes about how sin leaves its tracks on the faces as well as the lives of the lost. There ought to be a softness in the countenance of God's people...& there will be if they have been healed!

CONCL.: I heartily recommend my Dr. to you. Why don't you **"TRY MY PHYSICIAN?"** He is a world renowned heart specialist who will give you a heart transplant & you won't have to be placed on a waiting list. Also you will never suffer a relapse, have to seek other help & the best thing is there is *never any charge for the treatment!*