

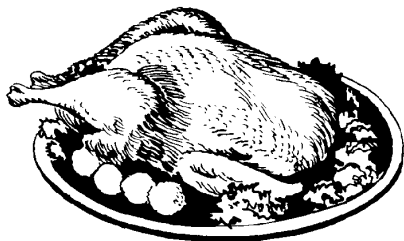
REMINDER

Volume XVI

November 14, 2010

Number 46

PLAN NOW TO BE HERE NEXT SUNDAY FOR OUR -



CHURCH FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Following the Morning Service



*We Still Need Folks To
Sign Up In The Foyer To
Let Us Know What You
Will Be Bringing.*

PLAN NOW TO BE HERE!

IS HEALING PART OF THE ATONEMENT?

by Evangelist David Cloud (continued from last week)



We've been looking at the history of the modern neo-Pentecostal movement, specifically the people who led it into prominence during in the last 150 years or so. Further, we've also talked about the fact that:

1. THE HEALING OF CALVARY IS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, SPIRITUAL HEALING

and that -

2. THE PHYSICAL ASPECT OF SALVATION PERTAINS TO RESURRECTION; IT IS A FUTURE HOPE NOT A PRESENT REALITY

Continuing - Some point to Christ's statement in the following

verse as "proof" that Christians are to do the same miracles as Christ did:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

What does this verse mean? Some today are saying it means the

greater works will be fulfilled prior to Christ's return - through the signs and wonders movement.

The fact is that, since the time of the apostles, Christians have not been able to do great sign miracles. It is a fact of history that the sign gifts ceased with the passing of the apostles. That is fact! The only "sign miracles" witnessed in church history since those days are those of spurious individuals and groups involved in strange and unscriptural doctrines. Among the faithful people of God through the centuries since the apostles, sign gifts ceased. Instead, God's people have enjoyed the power of God to live holy lives in the face of a godless generation, to withstand persecution, and to preach the Gospel. That is fact. God's people have continued to experience miracles, but not the sign gifts.

Then along comes the Pentecostal-Charismatic, claiming that God is giving sign gifts today, but it isn't true. There are **no true sign gifts** among the Charismatics. Those who claim to be healers cannot heal - at least they cannot heal any more consistently than can any faithful pastor who prays at the bedsides of his people. Those who claim to be prophets cannot prophecy inerrantly. They make all sorts of embarrassing mistakes and thereby identify themselves as false prophets. Those who claim to be apostles cannot perform the signs of an apostle of which Paul witnessed in II Cor. 12:12- ***"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought***

among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds." In other words, they have no proof of their claim.

What then? What about John 14:12? I believe the promise of Jesus Christ in John 14:12 was fulfilled in the ministry of the apostles as is recorded in the Book of Acts. Since those miracle-filled days there have been no more periods in church history of true, honest-to-God sign miracles of the same nature as those of Christ and the apostles. That, dear friends, is fact. Those who deny it are flying in the face of Scripture, of history, and of present reality.

The Happy Hunters can't heal like Christ and the apostles could. John Wimber can't heal like Christ and the apostles. Reinhold Bonnke can't heal like Christ and the apostles. Oral Roberts could not heal like Christ and the apostles. No one today can heal like Christ and the apostles did! Those who claim they can are self-deceived, or worse.

In understanding divine healing, it is crucial that we know that Christ's miracles were for the purpose of verifying his Messianic claims. This is no longer necessary and that type of miracle has ceased.

3. THE HEALING MINISTRY OF THE APOSTLES WAS UNIQUE: IT WAS TO AUTHENTICATE THEIR WORK

We've already referred to this, but to be sure that we cover all bases, let's see what Scripture says about the miracles of the apostles:

"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds" (II Cor. 12:12).

"And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils" Mark 3:14-15).

"And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles" (Acts 2:43).

"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:33).

"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people ... Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them" (Acts 5:12 & 15).

“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them” (Acts 19:12).

Note that the miracles of the apostles were special and were for the purpose of marking them as the apostles of Christ. They had miracle-working power to authenticate their unique ministries. That is what Scripture says. All Christians could not do the sign miracles of the apostles. The **only** exceptions were a few men upon whom the apostles had laid hands. There was no general miracle-working experience among the first churches. If there had been, Paul could not have pointed to his miracle-working ability as a special sign. His would have been just another miracle-working Christian ministry if all could have performed such things. But all could not. If all could have performed miracles as a matter of course, the Christians would not have called for Peter to come and raise Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:36-42). Peter’s miracle that day was the “sign of an apostle.”

It has never been God’s will for all Christians to be running around performing sign miracles and healing everyone. That has never been the case, and will never be the case in this age. ***Don’t be deceived: Don’t seek that which God has NOT promised and thereby leave yourself open to the deception of the devil.***

Jesus noted that an evil generation seeks a sign. Let’s not be identified with evil. Let us seek those humble things which God HAS promised and which He wants to do in and for and through us to the glory of Christ. Seek to live holy, gentle lives. Seek to preach the Gospel and see souls saved and lives changed for the glory of God. Seek to be looking and longing for Christ’s return. Seek to be obedient, fruitful Christians.

4. GOD DID NOT ALWAYS HEAL, EVEN IN THE FIRST CENTURY

If physical healing is to be expected as the heritage of the saints in this life, we would see this in the New Testament account of the early churches. The problem, though, is that the New Testament shows cases in which God did not heal Christians of their sicknesses.

1) The case of Timothy - ***“Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities” (I Tim. 5:23).***

I Timothy 5:23 tells us that Timothy was sick frequently, and the Apostle Paul told him to use a little wine for his stomach’s sake and his often infirmities. God did not heal Timothy supernaturally or permanently from his sickness.

2) The case of Trophimus - ***“Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick” (II Tim. 4:20).***

In II Timothy 4:20, we learn that another of Paul’s coworkers, Trophimus, was left behind in Miletum sick. He was not supernaturally healed even though an apostle, Paul, was with him when he had to be left behind because of illness.

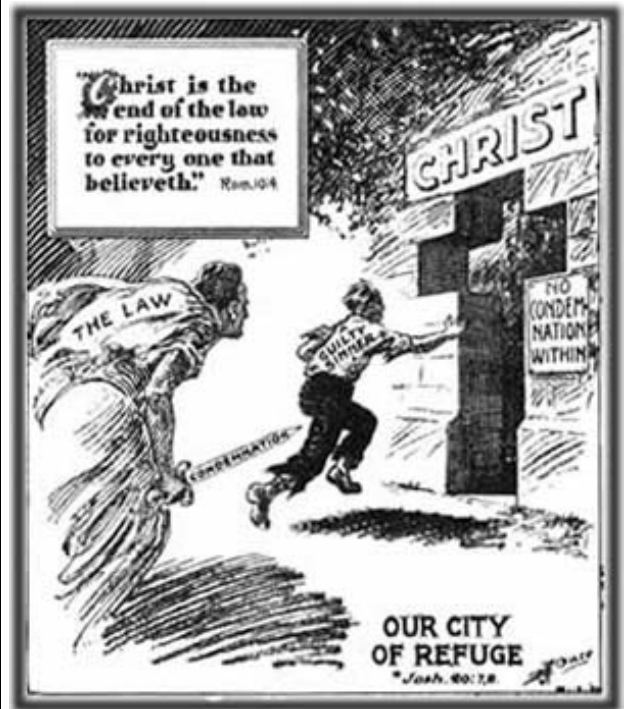
3) The case of Paul - ***“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 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. 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” II Cor. 12:7-10).***

In 2 Cor. 12:8-10 we read of a situation in which the Apostle Paul was afflicted with some sort of infirmity. Three times he asked God to take away this problem, but the Bible says God refused to do so. He was told that this infirmity was something God wanted him to have for his spiritual well-being. Upon learning this, Paul bowed to God’s will and wisely said:

“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” (II Cor. 12:10).

This is a perfect example for Christians today. We should pray for healing and release from trials, but when God does not heal, we must bow to His will and accept that sickness or trial as something from the hand of God. This is not lack of faith; it is obedience to the sovereignty of God.

- more next week



NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Brian Crawford
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
 Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Volunteers Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of November 7, 2010

Sunday School ----- 24
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 46
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 25
 Wed. Eve. Service, 11/10/10 ----- 22

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of November 7, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,123.63
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 36.00
Total Received for Week of 11/07/10: \$ 1,159.63

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT THIS MONTH:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received 11/07/10 ----- \$ 111.72
Amount Still Needed By 12/06/10: \$ 161.36

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - **OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnely, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford, Dwayne English ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White

