

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord May Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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God's Diagnosis of Humanity

Among the many places most people seek to avoid until necessity or circumstances force otherwise, is a doctor to possibly hear unpleasant news or to a courtroom when going to be accused of an incident in life. It is from both these perspectives that the Roman epistle was written. In it every individual is seen getting a spiritual diagnosis, or of standing in the criminals box and listening to the accusing arguments and evidences. Several observations can be clearly seen. For a true diagnostic evaluation the physician must have the correct qualifications for my ailment. That is, I would not go to a doctor of theology to determine if I had cancer! He does not have the right qualifications. Again if I want righteous judgment the evidence presented must be done in truth, the summations must be accurate and the judge impartial.

The question presented in life is: "Where can I get a true spiritual diagnose or an accurate account of my moral record?" In Romans, the Physician who does the diagnose and the Judge who adjudicates my case is God Himself. My first questions are:

- a) Is He truthful? This the Holy Spirit answers by saying: "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Rom. 3:4). He is the true God (1 Jn. 5:20).
- b) Is He unbiased? This is answered by the Holy Spirit when He caused to be written: "There is no respect of persons with God" (Rom. 2:11).

Thank God I have such a Physician and Judge.

How could man, who himself must stand in the criminals box and be found guilty of the same crimes as me, judge me; or how could he, who also needs a spiritual physician, diagnose my condition for we all have spiritual disfigurements? Often spiritual advisors tell their flock to: "Keep the golden rule"; "get baptized"; or take communion". At times they might inform folk that man cannot know if he/she will go to heaven or not until the judgment when God puts all our "good" deeds on one side of the balance and our sins on the other". My Grandma used to talk about "turning over a new leaf". God, speaking through Paul, informs us that such is preaching "another gospel", and for such to be accursed! (Gal. 1:9) In other words, "They be blind leaders of the blind" (Matt. 15:14), and they also are under the condemnation of God. The Lord tells us we do not have to wait until the judgment to know what is going to happen, for in unmistakable language He has already given the divine verdict:

- a) "The axe is laid unto the root of the trees" (Matt. 3:10)
- b) "He that believeth not is condemned already" (Jn. 3:18)
- c) "The wrath of God abideth on him" (Jn. 3:36) (The word him is a generic word encompassing ladies as well)

What is God's diagnosis of my spiritual condition in the Roman epistle?

He detects three ever deepening degrees of spiritual sickness:

- a) The first spiritual problem is twofold. It deals with my attitude (unthankfulness, ch. 1:21), and what I do (ch. 1:21-2:5)
- b) He then moves into a deeper problem showing that I am condemned already because of my heredity, that is what I have inherited from my ancestor, Adam (ch. 5:12-19).
- c) He then moves to the inner core and points out that the reason I am the way I am is because the disease of "sin" is in me. Like a cancer that has spread and permeates every vital bodily part, so sin has spread affecting my thinking, my judgment, and my affections.

Seeking for some way to help myself my spiritual physician informs me that there is something I could try. He warns that it has never worked before, but if I want I can try. Then I am told: "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life" (ch. 2:7). The problem is this must have been my way of life since birth, no lies, no living for now without thinking of eternity. In other words, living a life as holy as God Himself! That does not help me.

Not that there is any comfort in it, but I am informed that I am the same as everyone else. Summarizing, the Great Physician tells me: "There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10-12). This is the words of the God of truth who says: "There shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth" (Rev. 21:27).



My spiritual Physician and Judge then speaks and says: "I am going to offer you a gift, full spiritual health and complete clearing of your record"; "I have found a way, it is not by what you have done, but I and my Son have done". On the cross at Calvary, My Son swapped place for you, He bore the wrath for you, and there is available for each individual full spiritual health and clearance from all guilt! Read this carefully: "The gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Salvation is by the acceptance of my Son as your personal Saviour!

How do I accept a person as something?

I have officiated at many weddings and I say to the young man: "Will you take Mary-Jo to be your lawfully wedded wife?" Did you see he was accepting her as his wife? Salvation is the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour, **not** Christ and my works, **not** Christ and my sincere endeavors, but all dependence goes on Christ and **His** work on the cross. God does not give me salvation for my faith, it is a transference of faith. For years individuals have faith in the words of their pastors, in that which they can do to obtain peace with God. Now God tells humanity, have faith in my words, have faith in what my Son has done, transfer your faith from them to me, and blessing is yours.

How do I know I am going to Heaven?

There was a night when I recognized that I was a sinner and could do nothing, and that Jesus paid it all. I believed "Christ died for me, He bore the penalty for my sins in His own body, he satisfied the justice of God, God is satisfied with the work of Christ", then not saying a word, but in my heart I took three spiritual steps:

- a) I acknowledged "God, I can do nothing"
- b) I confessed "Jesus died for me"
- c) And then I took the all important step, I told God as if He was standing beside me: "I accept your Son as my Saviour".

Salvation is not believing a doctrine, but an act of dependence on Christ and His work. As the old hymn says:

“Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling
Naked come to Thee for dress, helpless look to Thee for grace
Foul I to the fountain fly, wash me Saviour lest I die.

That was 55 years ago, and from that day the great Judge informs me: “No condemnation”, my criminal record has been cleared, I’m justified, “*just-as-if-I’d-never-sinned*”. Even more, the great Physician tells me: “Cleansed, through the blood of Jesus Christ His Son” (1 Jn. 1:7-9).

. . . . Rowan Jennings



www.scripturaltruths.org

e-mail: scripturaltruths1@shaw.ca

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