

Health and Healing Lesson 1 2Q 2010

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

This quarter we are going to study about healthful living – why is this important? Can we eat our way into heaven? Can we eat our way out of heaven?

What is the primary purpose of healthful living on earth today? Is it to live 10 or 20 years longer in sin? Is it because every organ system of the body has as its primary purpose to serve the brain, and if the organs are diseased the brain is less efficient? And if the brain is less efficient then our ability to commune with God is impaired, our ability to grow, develop, achieve, and minister is impaired. And if our body is diseased we have less freedom to carry out God's purposes for our lives?

Is there some aspect of character development that is connected to healthful living? Does it require some aspect of self-control to live healthy lives, does this self-discipline help us in other areas of living?

Read top paragraph in the introduction page 3, "Of course it makes perfect sense..." – thoughts?

Have you considered the idea that Adam and Eve were physical, fleshly, beings with bone, muscle, tendons, neurons, brains, chromosomes and genes before they sinned?

What does this mean? God created Adam and Eve as physical beings with the ability to create beings in their image – what would that entail?

Did Adam and Eve have the ability to grow, develop, adapt and change themselves based on the choices they made? If they were to make choices to change themselves and then had children would that change be passed along to their children? How? Genetically?

When Adam and Eve sinned did they change themselves? Did they change in character? In heart motive? Did they change genetically? Did their physical bodies change?

What does it mean that God would not allow them to have access to the tree of life lest there be an immortal sinner? Does this mean they couldn't die from any cause?

- Would access to the tree of life have prevented Cain from smashing Abel's head with a rock?
- Would access to the tree of life prevent decapitation?
- Would access to the tree of life change the laws of physics on planet earth and a nuclear explosion such as Hiroshima would have no effect?
- Or would access to the tree of life merely prevent natural aging?
- God said to them "in the day you eat of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, dying you will die."
 - What does that sound like?
 - You will slowly die, you will decay away unto death, you will deteriorate until you die, you will age and die?
 - The tree of life would prevent physical aging, nothing more.
 - And in a world filled with self-centered sinners what would have happened if God had left the tree of life on earth? Would everyone have access at any time? Or would the greatest wars have been fought over it?

Recently a new theory has begun to circulate that the tree of knowledge contained a biotoxin which infected Adam and Eve with alien, viral, DNA and caused genetic changes and this is what brought death from sin, and salvation is a matter of fixing our DNA. In other words, some are arguing that the sin problem is primarily a physical problem from actual biotoxin rather than change in heart, mind, motive, and therefore Christ came to fix our DNA, not our characters. Thoughts?

What are the problems with such a theory?

- It removes the character of God from the center and diverts the mind to other themes
- Warfare between Christ and Satan is no longer a battle over truth and love versus lies and selfishness for the hearts/minds of intelligent creatures, but is a physical war with bioweapons
 - If this is true how weak does such a theory make God?
- It obstructs the truth about the law of love
- It fails to recognize God's design in creation, that our choices and thinking actually changes our biology, including gene expression
- It fails to recognize the consequence to our biology of sin since the fall (eating meat, loss of solar protection at the flood, ingestion of toxins, etc.)
- It fails to recognize the meaning of "dominion" given to Adam and surrendered to Satan at the fall.
- It makes the plan of salvation not about the character and heart and motives but about the biology
- It undermines Christ's accomplishment at the Cross

If the sin problem is primarily a physical problem, a biological infection of our DNA then why did Adam and Eve have to choose to partake the Tree? Why couldn't Satan just launch a bio weapon?

When we consider the plan of salvation what is God trying to heal or fix in us? What can we experience now? Can we experience a new heart and right spirit, a change in motive, freedom from fear and selfishness and live a life of love? Do we get new bodies now? Will we one day get new bodies?

Is it difficult for the creator God to fix biological defects? Did Christ do this constantly on earth? Did Christ when healing the lepers, the blind, the deaf, the lame make biological fixes including changes in DNA? Yes, did this fix the sin problem? No! Don't get caught up in this distraction, keep your mind fixed on Christ!

SABBATH

Read first two paragraphs, “As the Hubble...” thoughts What does it mean? Does it mean we cannot know anything about God or that there will always be more to learn?

John 17:3 - life eternal is to know God, then what is the point the lesson is trying to make? That we couldn't go find God other than God has chosen to reveal Himself to us?

Given that God has chosen to reveal Himself can we find Him?
What about Jeremiah 29:13:

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Can we find God?

Read last paragraph, “As if all...” thoughts? Is there a difference from bearing our humanity and bearing our sins? Or is our humanity infected with sinfulness and when Christ chose to bear our humanity He took our sinfulness upon Himself and this is what the scripture means by Christ bearing our sins or becoming sin for us?

Ray van den Hoven, one of our online class members, emailed me this quotation what do you think?

And in order to elevate fallen man, Christ must reach him where he was. He **took human nature, and bore the infirmities and degeneracy of the race. He, who knew no sin, became sin for us.** He humiliated Himself to the lowest depths of human woe, that He might be qualified to reach man, and bring him up from the degradation in which sin had plunged him (RH July 28, 1874). {5BC 1081.7}

Here is another similar quotation:

What a contrast the second Adam presented as He entered the gloomy wilderness to cope with Satan single-handed. Since the fall, the race had been decreasing in size and physical strength, and **sinking lower in the scale of moral worth, up to the period of Christ's advent to the earth.** In order to elevate fallen man, Christ must reach him where he was. **He took human nature, and bore the infirmities and degeneracy of the race. He who knew no sin became sin for us.** He humiliated Himself to the lowest depths of human woe, that He might be qualified to reach man and bring him up from the degradation in which sin had plunged him. {Con 32.3}

Thoughts? Does it sound like taking our fallen humanity is synonymous with becoming sin for us? Does it make more sense than some idea of transfer of behaviors? Can behavior be transferred?

Ray noticed how the New Testament writers interpreted Isaiah 53:

Isa 53:4: **Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;** yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. (RSV)

Matt 8:16-17:

That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. **This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."** (RSV)

How does Matthew apply Isaiah's prophecy about Christ carrying our sorrows and griefs? Does Matthew apply it as Jesus paying a legal penalty, or Jesus healing us and actually taking away our infirmities and diseases, ultimately taking away our sinfulness through His victorious death?

Yet, notice Isaiah's prophecy, we would misunderstand and consider it was God who struck Him and killed Him – have we done this?

Isa 53:5: But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being {fell} upon Him, and **by His scourging we are healed.** (NAS)

1 Pet 2:24-25: and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, **that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.**
25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. (NAS)

How does Peter interpret Isaiah? That He bore our sin (or sinfulness) in His body, what does that mean? Could it mean that He took our sinful condition upon Himself, He took our humanity, our fallen nature? And for what purpose? So “that we might die to sin and live to righteousness!” Notice, it wasn't for legal payment or appeasement of God, but for actual transformation of humanity from sinful to righteous through Jesus!

Thoughts?

SUNDAY

Read top paragraph – thoughts? What is the gospel?

Jim Norton, one of our online class members, emailed me this week commenting on last class, but his comments fit here. This is what he said:

When I am in dialog with others, I often mention that three key terms in Christianity are corrupted.....>>> gospel, grace, and salvation.

I was listening to SSL #13 where you were presenting a competent segmented study of the word "mystery" and moving on to "gospel"...

I heard the definition of the gospel being >> "GOD is love" come from the audience. (after you mentioned that the gospel was **eternal**) I will not challenge that input at face value, yet because of NEH 8:8 and 1 Cor 14:3 the definition begs elaboration.

When I look in the bible and SOP for clues as to the definition of gospel, I take note of the equivalent word>>> "is".

One in the bible is ROM 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the **gospel** of Christ: for it **is** the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

“The gospel **is** the **good news of grace**, or favour, by which man may be released from the condemnation of sin, and enabled to render acceptable obedience to the law.” BEcho 1894

“We should lay hold on His promise, and pray for the manifestation of His power. The very essence of **the gospel is restoration**, and the Saviour would have us bid the sick, the hopeless, and the afflicted take hold upon His strength.” DA 824

What led me to do more searching years ago was the erroneous emphasis on static/positional doctrine to the diminution of dynamic/ experiential/sanctifying truth.

Thoughts? I like the idea of the gospel being dynamic, experiential, sanctifying – don't you? What about it being eternal?

Revelation 14:6

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the **eternal gospel** to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.

Is the gospel eternal? Does eternal mean only future or does it mean always was and always will be? In other words is the gospel true in eternity past as well as eternity future?

What is the good news, the gospel? Is it restoration? How is restoration eternal? Was the death of Christ needed through all eternity past?

Is the good news that we can live forever with God? Would that be good news if God is the kind of being Satan alleges?

Is the good news the good news about God Himself, and life eternal is knowing God John 17:3? If life eternal is knowing God, then would returning to a genuine unity with God be restorative? Would such a intimate knowledge of God result in healing?

Many who claim to believe and to teach the gospel are in a similar error. They set aside the Old Testament Scriptures, of which Christ declared, "They are they which testify of Me." John 5:39. In rejecting the Old, they virtually reject the New; for both are parts of an inseparable whole. **No man can rightly present the law of God without the gospel, or the gospel without the law. The law is the gospel embodied, and the gospel is the law unfolded.** The law is the root, the gospel is the fragrant blossom and fruit which it bears. {COL 128.2}

Thoughts? How do you see the law and the gospel connected? What law? The royal law of scripture, the law of love which originates in the heart of God – thus the gospel is the truth about God which has always been He is love and always will be He is love!

- The first words of the Conflict of the Ages Series:
 - "God is love." 1 John 4:16. **His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be.** PP 33
- The last words of the Conflict of the Ages Series:
 - From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that **God is love.** {GC 678.3}

Isn't this the eternal good news? And does this good news have power, power to heal, change, transform? Is it dynamic?

Bottom pink section says, "To love unconditionally is alien to the human heart." Was it always alien? How did it become alien? What is the consequence to love being alien? What took love's place in the human heart? And what happened? What is the only solution?

One of the definitions of the gospel was good news of grace – let's turn to Monday's lesson to explore that idea.

MONDAY

What is grace? The lesson suggests the definition as "unmerited favor." How do you like that definition? Would grace included unmerited favor? But is that definition a complete definition? If we leave it at that does it cause some narrowing of our understanding?

Would Jesus merit God's grace or would God's grace to Jesus be unmerited?

Luke 2:52: And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

The Greek work translated "favor" is charis, which is the same word translated 130 times as "grace." Did Jesus not deserve God's favor? Can grace be merited?

5485 χάρις [*charis* /*khar·eċe/*] n f. From 5463; TDNT 9:372; TDNTA 1298; GK 5921; 156 occurrences; AV translates as “grace” 130 times, “favour” six times, “thanks” four times, “thank” four times, “thank + 2192” three times, “pleasure” twice, and translated miscellaneously seven times. **1** grace. **1A** **that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech.** **2** good will, loving-kindness, favour. **2A** **of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues.** **3** what is due to grace. **3A** the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace. **3B** the token or proof of grace, benefit. **3B1** a gift of grace. **3B2** benefit, bounty. **4** thanks, (for benefits, services, favours), recompense, reward.

Does grace describe the party receiving it or the one rendering it? Can you have grace without a gracious being? Could we say God’s grace is God’s work for His creation, His work to sustain those in loyalty and His work to redeem those in rebellion? In other words, grace is love in action, God acting?

Then do we find that the gospel, or good news, is here again the good news about God which has always been true and which will always be true?

Read last paragraph, “Sometimes though...” and then read bottom pink section. Thoughts?

What about Adam, as God created him, what had Adam done to deserve eternal life? What about Gabriel? What about the beings in other worlds? What makes them worthy of eternal life? Upon what is eternal life based? Is eternal life for any creature based on

n n: noun or neuter

f f: feminine

TDNT Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

TDNTA Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume

GK Goodrick-Kohlenberger

AV Authorized Version

something the creature earned or did? Do any of God's creatures earn eternal life?

John 17:3 "this is life eternal that they might know you..." When did any of us choose to be separate from God, to be sinners? Does God blame us for the condition into which we were born?

What makes us worthy of eternal life? Would it be that we are God's creation and He created us to live eternally in union with Him? Yet, God's purposes were interrupted by an enemy who caused Adam and Eve to break trust with God, to believe lies and no longer "know" God.

For God so loved the world He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but live eternally! What does this say? Why do we merit or deserve eternal life? Because God loves us! Because of who we are, God's children, the object of His love! Therefore, He sent Jesus to accomplish God's purpose in healing us, restoring us, bringing us back from death to life eternal!

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, "Think of the incredible..." thoughts? Well said!

Read next paragraph, "Indeed, if the most important...." Thoughts?

How would you describe love? Certainly, love is relational, but is that enough? Should love have a qualitative aspect?

I have many patients who are in relationship, domineering, controlling, abusive, dependent, some even call this love, but would the relationship be "love"? Is "relationship" enough to define love?

How would you define it? Is it a principle? And what is that principle? And how does that principle impact relationship?

WEDNESDAY

Middle of the lesson asks, "Whatever your struggles right now, what are things that you have to praise God for?"

Let's take a moment and answer that question, what do you have to praise God for?

THURSDAY

Read top Bible verse, "I beseech..." thoughts? What do you think Paul means by reasonable service?

Read last paragraph, "Scientists..." Is it reasonable to avoid toxins, to make choices that bring health and avoid disease, pain, suffering? Is this part of worship?

FRIDAY

Questions 1 and 2 read and answer