

Morning Sermon May 10, 2020
"Christ's Cross is Our Cure" Isaiah 53:5

⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)

In the first verse of Isaiah 53, our Lord Jesus is called in Isaiah's prophecy, "the Arm of the Lord." The questions are asked -
53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? Isaiah 53:1 (NKJV)

By the Arm of the LORD, Isaiah means Jesus is the POWER of God! In the context of Isaiah 53, and the entire Book of Isaiah, and even in the context of the entire Bible ... Jesus, especially as He takes up and dies on the cross, is the Arm of the LORD, the Power of God, for us, for our salvation, for our healing!

1. What do we need to be healed of? The sickness of sin! Sin is the real disease of which all else is but symptoms -

⁴ Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward. ⁵ Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints. ⁶ From the sole of the foot even to the head, *There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment. Isaiah 1:4-6 (NKJV)*

Israel in Isaiah's day was a "sinful nation" ...

- 1. They were sick in their head - :5, their thinking*
- 2. They were sick in their heart - :5, their living, or life*
- 3. They were sick from head to toe, or toe to head, an in the worst way - :6*

Yet, as sick and sinful as they were, they were not without hope -

¹⁸ "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. - Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

4. Sickness is mentioned throughout Scripture:

A. It is something God has power over, something He can take away -

²⁵ "So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. Exodus 23:25 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay *them* on all those who hate you. Deuteronomy 7:15 (NKJV)

B. But just as He can take it away, He can also bring it on us -
⁵⁹ then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses. ⁶⁰ Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. ⁶¹ Also every sickness and every plague, which *is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed. Deuteronomy 28:59-61 (NKJV)*

C. Not only sickness but poverty is in God's hands -
¹³ "Therefore I will also make *you* sick by striking you, By making you desolate because of your sins. Micah 6:13 (NKJV)

D. However, though sickness and poverty are punishments for sin, they do not necessarily mean that the sick or poor person is more sinful than the healthy or wealthy person -

¹⁹ "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. Luke 16:19-25 (NKJV)

II. *Jesus has the power to save us from sin and sickness –*

²³ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴ Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. **Matthew 4:23–24 (NKJV)**

Some may question, yes, Jesus went about miraculously healing everyone, even raising the dead, but...

I would say, the miraculous might not still be here, but the saving / healing power is –

1. *It is Christ's cross which is the power of God for salvation –*

¹⁸ **For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)**

A. *The message is foolish to some –*

- *They believe it has no power, definitely not healing or saving power!*
- *These are the same kind of people as those who count attending church non-essential; but abortion clinics and liquor stores essential...*

B. *Too us who are saved it is the power of God ..*

2. *How does Jesus heal and save still today?*

- #### A. *God's Word has sanctifying power, God heals and saves through the ministry of the Word –*

¹⁷ **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17 (NKJV)**

Question 35 W.S.C. What is sanctification?

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

B. *Church attendance has steady, stirring and staying powers power connected to it –*

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting one *another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy *on the testimony of two or three witnesses.* ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? **Hebrews 10:23–29 (NKJV)**

(1) *Wavering should be avoided – Hebrews 12:23*

(2) *Love and good works can be stirred – Hebrews 12:24*

(3) *Not forsaking the ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER is the key to not wavering and stirring – Hebrews 12:25*

(4) *These things keep us from sinning willfully and falling away – Hebrews 12:26-29*

No number of days of missed church is given before a certain downfall, it is not like that. But it is a continuing in the faith that is needed - ³⁰ **As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.** ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." - **John 8:30–32 (NKJV)**

C. *The Lord's Supper helps us REMEMBER the saving power of Christ's Work on the cross –*

²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**"

²⁵ In the same manner *He* also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. **This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**" ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. **1 Corinthians 11:24–26 (NKJV)**

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