

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Cole Meador

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Jon Barry Alec Capel
Clay Morris

Prayers

Daniel Allgor Joseph Barry

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Jack Calvert

Song Leader

Clay Morris

Prayers

Bryan Garlock Cole Meador

Invitation

Joseph Barry

the weary! O how sweet to be there! At the blessed hour of prayer, trusting Him, we believe that the blessing we're needing we'll surely receive; in the fullness of this trust we shall lose every care, what a balm for the weary! O how sweet to be there! Blessed hour of prayer, blessed hour of prayer, what a balm for the weary! O how sweet to be there!" ("Tis the Blessed Hour of Prayer" Fanny Crosby, Hymns for Worship #95) BG

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry Mike Davis
Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.

Monday (Zoom)

Bible Study7:00 P.M

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

- Hear** the word of truth Romans 10:13-17
- Believe** the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24
- Repent** from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38
- Confess** the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10
- Be Baptized** in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12
- Walk** in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10



Volume XXVII

January 2, 2022

Issue 1

"Do You Want to Be Healed?"

Bryan Garlock

In John 5, Jesus approached a man who had a disability for thirty-eight years and asked him a simple but life-changing question: "Do you want to be healed?"

Many people are sick with all kinds of diseases or disabilities, while others enjoy a life of generally good health. But every human being faces a spiritual affliction known as sin. This disease and its consequences are unavoidable. The question is, "Do you want to be healed?"

Unfortunately, many do not see their need for healing. These people will never come to Jesus for forgiveness because their arrogance blinds them. (Mt 5.3-4; 1 Jn 1.8, 10)

On the other hand, some see their need for Jesus, but they feel "stuck" in sin. They fear it is too late for them and will never be able to recover. The disabled man had this feeling about his situation. However,

when Jesus asked the man this critical question, it was because "Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time." While some of us have been stuck in sin "a long time," until we face God in judgment, He extends His hand to rescue us from sin. Paul told the Romans, "All day long I [God] have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people." (10.21)

If we are serious about leaving behind a life of sin, it will take daily discipline. (Lk 9.23; 1 Co 9.24-27) But true healing comes with genuine repentance of what enslaves us, not apathy or "woe-is-me-ism" toward our sin. Though the man had been afflicted for so long, when Jesus told him to stand up and take his bed and walk, he did. Immediately. That's someone who wants and appreciates healing. *Do you want to be healed?* BG

FAMILY TALK

*Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Maxine Burnham**, and **Francine Davis**.*

Continue to remember the health concerns of **Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan**, and **Pete Rowland**.

Francine Davis has moved to the Little River Nursing & Rehab in Ashdown, AR.

Many of our number are very sick but are testing negative for Covid/flu.

Beth Ellen is dealing with many issues and has pneumonia.

Nancy Rowe is recovering from surgery this past Monday.

Pat Buls is currently living with her daughter, Laura. They are still working on her blood pressure issues, but she is doing okay.

**"Is There No Balm in Gilead?"
Jarrod M. Jacobs**

One of the saddest verses, next to Jeremiah 8:20, is the three questions asked in Jeremiah 8:22. The Lord asks, "Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?" I struggled with what was being asked until I came to understand that these

were rhetorical questions. Interestingly, Jeremiah 8:22 is written entirely differently in the NET. There, we read, "There is still medicinal ointment available in Gilead! There is still a physician there! Why then have my dear people not been restored to health?" These translators chose to forego the ambiguity of the rhetorical questions and simply state the facts. Whether or not we agree with such actions is a discussion for another time. The point is that God was emphasizing to the people (yet again) that their transgressions could be healed if they would be willing to change. This was done by pointing out a physical truth to make a spiritual point.

Using physical examples to make a spiritual point was how Jesus taught the majority of His time on earth (Matt. 13:34-35). His teachings are called "parables," but in Jeremiah, this was not a parable but instead a rhetorical question to open the eyes of the people. Is there no balm in Gilead? "Balm" was used for medicinal purposes, and Gilead, and this region, was known for having an abundant supply. "Is there no physician there?" Again, in Gilead, there would be doctors in abundance ready to apply the balm to the hurting. Since a lack of balm and a lack of doctors is not the problem, then why are His people not recovered?

The reason they had not been recovered is the same reason someone might not recover physically even if there is "balm in Gilead." What is this reason? In order to be healed physically, those people needed to apply the balm to the affected area! If one refuses the medicine, do not be surprised if this person does not recover from the illness! In like manner, if Israel (and us by application) refuses to listen and apply God's teaching, then they will never recover from the harm of sin and will die in that

condition! Remember, they have already told Jeremiah "no" in 6:16, and it does not look like they will change anytime soon. Therefore, when Babylon comes to conquer, when multitudes die, when people are enslaved, and when the land is ravaged, it is not because the people did not have "balm." It is not that they had no one to heal (physician), it is because they refused to accept God's "medicine"!

I hope that the application to Jeremiah 8:22 is apparent to us (Rom. 15:4). Though Babylon is not coming to destroy, we still face something greater than a physical threat, for we are facing a judgment day (Heb. 9:27; Acts 17:30-31; II Cor. 5:10; Ecc. 12:13-14). Sadly, there is a real possibility of people dying in their sins (Jn. 8:24; Jas. 1:14-15; II Thess. 1:6-9). If we die in our sins, who can we blame for this besides ourselves (Ezek. 18:20; Col. 3:25)? Is there no "balm," the gospel, that tells us what to do to be saved from our sins (Rom. 1:16; II Tim. 3:6-17)? Is there not a physician, a "great Physician" who is ready to heal our spiritual ills (Matt. 9:12, 11:28-30)? Then why is there a world of people not yet saved? I think I know at least part of the reason is that those who are aware of the Physician's prescription (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38) do not want to accept it! I say again, if we are sick and refuse to accept the medicine the doctor prescribes, then do not be surprised if you do not recover from the illness! While I know people can cite dozens of cases where people "wore out" their physical sickness with time and determination, there is no one who will "wear out" the spiritual sickness called "sin"! There is only one cure for it, and if you refuse the cure, nothing else will cure you!

In the long ago, God, through Jeremiah, called out to his people to tell them that there is a way to be healed if they would accept, and they said "no"! These people are dead and gone and have died with their decisions. You and I are still alive, though! What will you do? What will be your response to the Lord and His plan for healing (saving) you from your spiritual ills? Choose wisely (Heb. 3:7-8; II Cor. 6:2)!

**Prayer Is a Balm for the Weary
Bryan Garlock**

Prayer is one way God's children can receive a cure for their spiritual sickness. Consider some of the songs we sing that speak of this balm.

In one song, we read in stanza three, "When sore trials came upon you, did you think to pray? When your soul was bowed in sorrow, balm of Gilead did you borrow at the gates of day? O how praying rests the weary! Prayer can change the night to day; so when life seems dark and dreary, don't forgive to pray." ("Did You Think to Pray?" Mary Kidder, Hymns for Worship #62)

In another song, we read, "Tis the blessed hour of prayer, when our hearts lowly bend, and we gather to Jesus, our Savior and Friend; if we come to Him in faith, His protection to share, what a balm for the weary! O how sweet to be there! Tis the blessed hour of prayer, when the Savior draws near, with a tender compassion His children to hear; when He tells us we may cast at His feet every care, what a balm for