

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF HEALTH
Apologetics
Žilina (on-line), 12th December 2021

<p>רָפְאֵנִי יְהוָה וְאַרְפָּא הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי וְאַנְשֵׁעָה כִּי תִהְלֹתִי אֶתָּה</p>	<p>Jer 17:14 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise</p>
<p>כִּי יְהוָה שֹׁפֵטֵנוּ יְהוָה מִחֻקָּנֵנוּ יְהוָה מִלְכֵנוּ הוּא יוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ וּבְלִיאָמֵר שָׁבֵן חֲלִיתִי הָעַם הַיֹּשֵׁב בָּהּ נִשְׂא עוֹן</p>	<p>Isaiah 33:22-24 For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us. ... ²⁴ And no inhabitant will say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity</p>
<p>הַסֵּלֶךְ לְכָל־עוֹנֵי הָרָפָא לְכָל־חַטְּחָלָאִיכִי</p>	<p>Psalms 103:3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,</p>
<p>Ἄσθενεῖ τις ἐν ὑμῖν; Προσκαλεσάσθω τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας, καὶ προσευξάσθωσαν ἐπ’ αὐτόν, ἀλείψαντες αὐτὸν ἐλαίῳ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ κυρίου. ¹⁵ καὶ ἡ εὐχὴ τῆς πίστεως σώσει τὸν κάμνοντα, καὶ ἐγερεῖ αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος· κὰν ἁμαρτίας ἦ ἢ πεποιηκώς, ἀφεθήσεται αὐτῷ. ¹⁶ Ἐξομολογεῖσθε ἀλλήλοις τὰ παραπτώματα, καὶ εὐχεσθε ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων, ὅπως ἰαθῆτε. Πολλὴ ἰσχὺεὶ δέησις δικαίου ἐνεργουμένη.</p>	<p>James 5:14-16 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.</p>

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0. INTRODUCTION

- The current WHO definition of health, formulated in 1948, describes health as “**a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being** and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

0.1. PROBLEMS WITH HEALING

- → there is no “science of healing”; → no “guaranteed methods/steps to healing”; → the healthy church ministry of healing... (each healing requires personal pastoral approach guided by the Holy Spirit...)
- **popular** → excitement → wild theories → heresies (Christian Science; health & wealth gospel...) ⇒ a need for critical thinking (healing → “a singular and prominent place in religious experience” *When Prayer Fails*)
- **disappointing** → criticism → skepticism → sarcasm (collecting money)... ⇒ a need for repentance and positive teaching
- focusing on immediate disorders (pain, fear of death, weakness, ...) ⇒ a need for the theology of the GOSPEL
- IDOLATRY of health → “only when we are healthy” attitude → dealing with the BODY-problems ONLY... ⇒ a need for holistic view of human being → being religious in order to be healthy...

[CHAMBERS] If happiness or health is a man’s main idea, let him keep away from Jesus Christ’s, for if he has any conscience at all, he will lose that health and happiness. Jesus Christ stands for holiness. At all costs a man must be rightly related to God. *The Shadow of an Agony*.

0.2. RELATED DOCTRINES

0.2.1. CHRISTOLOGY

- JESUS → the only NORMAL human being... → a MODEL of the ideal human being, a HERO for our admiration...

0.2.2. ANTHROPOLOGY

- [MURRAY] In man two natures are combined. He is at the same time spirit and matter, heaven and earth, soul and body. (*Divine Healing*)
- trichotomy/dichotomy of man (1) eternal/temporal, (2) spiritual/psychological/carnal, (3) supernatural/natural, (4) divine/human wisdom... everything under the SOVEREIGNTY of GOD
- **1Cor 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

0.2.3. SOTERIOLOGY

- Health → a part of salvation → **Isaiah 53:5** ...upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed (נִרְפָּא-לֵנוּ).
- SALVATION → What are we saved from and for?
- **Psalm 38:3** There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

0.2.4. ESCHATOLOGY

- the destiny of humans → spiritual bodies (1Cor 15)

0.2.5. DEMONOLOGY

- how do demons (and angels) influence human life?
- can demons influence a born-again Christian?

1. WHAT IS HEALTH?

- victorious battle against life threatening environment... germs; dangerous events; temptations; the devil...

1.1. ULTIMATE HEALTH

- God's perfect plan with humanity

1.1.1. ADAM BEFORE THE FALL → JESUS

- no death
- [Biblical anthropology] (1) human spirit connected to God; (2) soul transferring divine wisdom to body and environment; (3) body submitted and offered as a sacrifice of love
- transfiguration into the spiritual body without dying...

1.1.2. ADAM AFTER THE FALL

- **Genesis 2:17** ...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- "Health" = slow dying (existence in spiritual death); physical decay
- Sickness = (1) spiritual, (2) psychological, (3) physical disorder...

1.1.3. JESUS AFTER THE RESURRECTION

- immortality → **Rom 6:9** We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

1.2. HOLISTIC HEALTH

- God heals because healing, salvation, and deliverance are all the same to Him.
- → biblical anthropology

1.2.1. SPIRITUAL HEALTH

- regeneration → the human spirit alive in Christ → **John 3:3** Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- more important than physical health → **Proverbs 18:14** A man's spirit will endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear? (רוח־אִישׁ וְכִלְכֵּל מִחֲלָהוּ וְרוּחַ נִכְאָה מִי יִשְׁאָנָה)
- → LLOYD-JONES *Spiritual Depression*. "Unhappy Christians are, to say the least, a poor recommendation for the Christian Faith..."

1.2.2. PSYCHOLOGICAL / MENTAL HEALTH

- depression & anxiety – the most common mental disorders in Europe
- phobias, lying imaginations; media full of demonic thoughts...

- wise living → **James 1:5** If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him
- HEALING → **forgiveness**; **peace** with God; **meaning** in life; **hope** for the future...

1.2.3. PHYSICAL HEALTH

- normal functioning of the body at all levels

2. WHAT IS SICKNESS?

2.1. BIBLICAL VIEW OF SICKNESS

- All sickness is caused by the sin in the world. – all sickness has its origin in sin – it may be not personal but we are part of sinful humanity by (1) heredity, (2) social ties and (3) sympathy...
 - **John 5:14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! **Sin no more**, that nothing **worse** may happen to you."
- [CHAMBERS] The basis of life is **antagonism** in every domain, physical, mental, moral and spiritual, we only maintain health by fighting. (*The servant as His Lord.*)

2.1.1. LOST BATTLE

- spiritual death → lostness
- physical dying in a "healthy" way
- spiritual; psychological; physical disorder → and combinations (psychosomatic diseases)

2.1.2. WEAKNESS

- **James 5:14** Is anyone among you **sick**? & 1 Corinthians 2:3 And I was with you in **weakness**...
- PAIN →

2.1.3. DEMONIC BINDING

- **Luke 13:16** ...this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom **Satan bound** for eighteen years,...

2.2. PURPOSE OF SICKNESS

2.2.1. TEMPORARY JUDGMENT

- Egyptian plagues → "**Exodus 15:26** "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put **none of the diseases** on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer."

2.2.2. CALL TO REPENTANCE

- God's "megaphone" (C.S. Lewis)
- **Rev 2:21** I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality (**Rev 2:20** ...a woman Jezebel,)

3. WHAT IS CHRISTIAN HEALING?

- **Heb 6:5** ...and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,
- testimony to Jesus (a part of the gospel) → (1) preach, (2) heal, (3) cast out demons

3.1. THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

- removing world's sins (**Heb 1:3** ...After making purification for sins) → new life (**Heb 1:3** ...he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high)
- **Isa 53:5-6** But he was wounded for our **transgressions**; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are **healed** (נִרְפָּא לָנוּ)

וַיִּתְּבַרְתֵּהוּ).⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

3.2. THE LOVE OF GOD

- Jesus healed out of compassion (Mt 9:36, Mk 6:34)
He who has seen me, seen the father (Jn14:9)

3.3. THE LOVE FOR GOD

- **Psalm 91:14-16** "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. ¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

3.4. THE POWER OF FAITH

- **faith healing** is NOT ALWAYS CHRISTIAN!!
- **Mt 9:22** "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." (**Mt 9:20** ...a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years)
- **Mk 10:52** Go your way; your faith has made you well. (**Mk 10:46** Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus)
- **Lk 17:19** Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well. (**Lk 17:16** ...fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.)

3.5. A CHURCH MINISTRY

- gifts of healings: **1 Cor 12:9** ...to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit,

4. WHY ARE BELIEVERS SICK?

- How many Jobs are around?

4.1. A CALL HOME

- **2 Kings 13:14** Now when Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die,

4.2. SIN

- **1Cor 11:29-30** For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died (πολλοὶ ἀσθενεῖς καὶ ἄρρωστοι, καὶ κοιμῶνται ἱκανοί).
- **Mt 9:2** And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; **your sins are forgiven**."

4.3. FOOLISHNESS

- **Pro 3:7-8** Be not **wise in your own eyes**; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. → A LACK OF PHYSICAL/MENTAL DISCIPLINE
- **Colossians 3:2** Set your **minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth.
- **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things**.

4.4. DISCIPLINE

- **Heb 12:7** It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

5. METHODS OF HEALING

- → medicine (LLOYD-JONES *Healing*) ⇒ no EITHER-OR dichotomy (both medicine and healing are gifts of God)
- → psychological effects of religion: acceptance, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, empathy, and altruism.

5.1. SPOKEN WORD

- source of God's power

5.2. LAYING ON OF HANDS

- personal touch of identification

5.3. ANOINTING WITH OIL

- symbol of the Holy Spirit healing power

6. TO REMEMBER

- As Christians we can EXPECT healing but cannot CONTROL it.
- Healing of the body is a BY-PRODUCT of eternal salvation and its main purpose is testimony to the saving power of Jesus and his CROSS.
- The real and total healing is the coming resurrection of the children of God saved by the blood of the Lamb.
-