

Transcript copy of
In Search of Divine Healing
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Hello and welcome. You're listening to an important and vital message produced on behalf of God's Healing Word Today ministry. My name is Jim Lynn, Director of God's Healing Word, and author of The Miracle Of Healing In Your Church Today.

It's true. A spiritual battle is underway within Christian churches in many denominations, to minimize the importance of your physical body, to separate it from your spirit and soul.

The doctrine behind this spiritual battle isn't new, only the audience. It's teaching echos the same ancient Agnostic doctrine the Apostle Paul wrestled against: That our fleshly, human body is temporal; that it is unworthy, and therefore, it is not eternal.

Modern day proponents of this doctrine like to point out that our bodies are subject to disease and suffering, which to them only underscores their argument.

If you believe or have heard about this teaching, I have some news for you. That teaching is exactly the opposite of what God's Word, the Bible, tells us. Our fleshly human body, indeed, comes under attack, but it's just as precious and eternal in the sight of God as is our human soul!

The purpose of this special message is to first make you aware of this Agnostic movement. And secondly, to help you understand that what you believe about your body has a direct bearing on what you believe about spiritual or divine healing.

Why churches teach our body is not worthy and temporal has many explanations, but they can all be boiled down to three factors: Fear, ignorance of God's Word, and lack of love to honor God's Word above all others.

Many Church leaders avoid controversy at all cost. They're motivation is fear of being ostracized by other Church leaders and the world, especially were they to teach that God actively intervenes in the affairs of man today to heal the sick. Trust my word in this. I know, because I was once there with them. I understand their hearts.

It's not easy to sidestep church doctrine. Christians who learn to trust God's Word for their faith will often times find God's Word tells them something different from what their Church teaches.

This is where conflict begins for many, and is one reason why so many Christians are leaving their faith and Church Families. Their faith is being caught in a kind of vise that squeezed their loyalty until something in them rebels. With Church doctrine on one side of the vise and God's Word on the other, the vise creates conflict rather than peace. And that's a shame.

Both the Old and New Testament hold riches we all can learn from. The more we study these documents, the more we understand God's perfect will, His nature and His plan to redeem His children from Satan. This includes our own body. Church dogma that teaches anything different will forever create conflict.

If we but accept this one truth: That the human body is just as precious and important in the sight of God as is the human soul, then it holds that whatever else we hear that teaches against divine healing today must consequently be in error. We can also state that any teaching that conflicts with this truth, is not from God, innocent though the messenger may be.

So what does God's Word tell us about the nature of our body? In the beginning we read that God created man in his own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). So that verse immediately raises another question, doesn't it? What does God's image and likeness look like?

One thing I've learned from studying God's Word is that it always answers its own questions. The Gospel Account of John provides us with the definitive answer to what God's image and likeness look like.

In John chapter 1 we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...."The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the father, full of grace and truth.

Who is the Word that John Speaks of? It's Jesus Christ.

No one has seen God, but the birth of Jesus Christ, who is both fully human and God at the same time, has made God known. (John 1:18). Jesus Christ is the Word: He is God Incarnate, or as we would say, God in the flesh.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Godhead lives in bodily form, and you have been given the fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10)

What is Paul telling us? He is telling us we have but to look in the mirror to see what the image and likeness of God looks like.

Still have doubts?

We already know the Bible says that God created Adam in His, That is, God's own image. When Adam and Eve had children, God's Word tells us they were born in Adam's own image and likeness (Genesis 5:3). That word, image, is the very same word used in Genesis Chapter one that likens Adam's image to God's image

Therefore, we can know each generation of man passes on this same image and likeness of God Himself. When God created man He instilled in him dignity, honor, glory, sovereignty, love, and gave man a body, spirit and soul, all of which are attributes of the godhead.

It's not that man has a body, spirit and soul, but rather man IS body, spirit and soul. Note carefully the following:

In Genesis 2:7 we read, "and Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground. What can we say from this verse? We can say that dust is man.

Again in Genesis 2:7 we read, "and man became a living soul." So what else can we say from this verse? We can also say that soul is man.

In Genesis 7:21 we read, "all flesh died that moved upon the earth...and every man" Therefore we can also say that flesh is man.

In Genesis 7:22 we read, "all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life." Therefore we can say spirit is man.

Taken together, the biblical doctrine of man sees man as a constituent whole made up of spirit, soul, and body. Paul confirms this teaching in I Thessalonians 5:23 where he writes: "May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless."

Man is not complete, that is he is not man, without all three aspects, body, spirit and soul dwelling together as one. That's why death, the problem caused by sin, had to be overcome.

Ezekiel 18:4 tells us that sin is the reason you and I must die. All mankind must die because all have sinned (Romans 3:23). All of us have committed sins against God that must be paid for. It's called the Law of Sin and Death and is still in effect. The penalty we must pay for violating that law is death. No one escapes from going to the grave.

The Bible also tells us that in death our body returns to dust, and our spirit returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7). What we need to understand here is that

death destroys us as human beings. Our spirit exists but we no longer exist in God's image as man, as human beings in the image of God.

That's the reason God had a plan from before the foundation and creation of the world to redeem us from the grave. That's the reason Jesus died for your sins, so you can be raised from the grave and live with God as He created you: As a human being.

A massive resurrection will happen in the second coming of Christ when he calls forth the dead from the grave (I Thessalonians 4:16). Our spirits will be reunited with our resurrected bodies. We will once again be made whole as God intended us to be.

Our body, that is our flesh and blood, in the resurrection will be changed, not exchanged. It's important you understand the difference. Our flesh will become glorified. Our flesh will become imperishable, but it will still be our fleshly body (I Corinthians 15:42).

You may have read in 1st Corinthians 15:51 that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and understood that passage to literally to mean what it says. But it's not intended to be literal. The flesh and blood Paul speaks of in verse 51 is an old Jewish expression, which means corruptible. Our flesh in the resurrection will remain our own flesh, but it will be incorruptible. Praise God Almighty!

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote about the resurrection to the Church in Corinth. The influence of agnostic teaching at the time, that our bodies are temporal, was infiltrating the Church. When you have a few minutes, read the entire chapter of I Corinthians Chapter 15.

Any teaching that sees man to be eternally without his fleshly body is not biblical. Here's why. It's vital that Jesus Christ remain as a human being, in the flesh in heaven. How do we know Jesus remains in His now glorified body?

When Jesus overpowered death in his resurrection, He also overpowered corruption of human flesh and blood, including His own. Let me explain:

When Paul wrote to Timothy, he stated, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the MAN Christ Jesus..." (I Timothy 2:5)

What many people fail to understand about that verse is the eternal nature of Jesus' flesh and blood: For he could not remain a human being without His flesh. The word "man" in Timothy 2:5 is in the present tense form, meaning Jesus remains in human flesh as a man even today, and will remain so forever.

The same understanding is found in Colossians 2:9 I read earlier. “For in Christ all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form.” That word "lives" is also written in present tense. Paul is telling you and I that Jesus Christ remains God in the flesh. God Incarnate: God as a human being with flesh and blood.

Friends, these are foundational verses. They explain why our bodies are every bit important to God, as our soul is important. For we are God's children, created in His image and likeness, beloved and cherished more than human understanding can rationalize. We could not be human without our God-given, fleshly body. We cannot remain complete or whole without our body, neither here nor in heaven.

Any attack against our body, spirit or soul is an attack against God. This is why God sent his Son to earth to forever indwell in human flesh; so He could not only save and redeem our souls, He could also heal broken and suffering human flesh: Not just in the hereafter. But in the here and now!

Let me add here that God does not operate in the confines of time like we do. God is eternal. He sees all of time, from beginning to end as though it were a snapshot in eternity. This is why healing could be accomplished before the cross. For God saw the death and resurrection of His Son completed before creation. In Eternity, Jesus has always existed in the flesh as God Incarnate.

Before continuing, I let me clarify. Our purpose here at God’s Healing Word Today is not to distract from or to diminish the work of the Church, the Body of Christ, in saving the lost. Sharing the Gospel is of first importance. The problem comes when those who would teach the Gospel omit the full extent of its teaching and meaning. That’s what drives the mission of God’s Healing Word Today. Our mission is to put God back into healing and healing back into the Church.

Throughout Scripture, one grand theme emerges—GOD HEALS!

Someone asks, “I thought the main theme of the Bible is “Jesus Saves.” Certainly, Jesus saves, but saying so is like saying Charles Lindbergh flew airplanes—it leaves out a big part of the story. The terms "God Heals" and “Jesus Saves” are one in the same, but the attention given to one, over the other, has paid a heavy toll.

Healing, that is restoring man to wholeness, has always been uppermost in God’s mind and is the whole point of the Gospel. From the foundation of creation, God had a plan to restore man back to health, to free man of unclean or evil spirits in body, spirit and soul.

The Bible records God's divine remedy for doing exactly that. But, for many Churches, God's Word is a book of salvation, not a book of wholeness or healing. It is this limiting view of God's Word that has opened the door for unclean spirits to corrupt and ravage our bodies with physical sickness. It is this same limiting view that has diminished the glory of God's Church.

Let's examine briefly why the mission of sharing the Gospel must be inclusive of healing the sick.

During Jesus' ministry He healed untold numbers of people from sickness and disease. He did so because this was part of His earthly mission. He would say to the sick, "The kingdom of God is near you. Do you want to be healed?"

The kingdom of God was indeed near them. It was physically standing inches away from them in the form of God incarnate. When Jesus used that expression, "The Kingdom of God is near you," He was declaring His deity and saying His power to heal is greater than the spiritual power that makes people sick.

When Jesus overpowered death and corruption of flesh in His resurrection, He proved His authority over all other powers: That authority and power remains with us today.

I Corinthians 6:15 tells us that we who are in Christ are members of His Body. This means our mission and purpose must mirror His mission to heal, to make whole and to save the whole of man. God entrusted this all-important mission to the Church, the body of Christ to pass on (Ephesians 3:10).

If you doubt that statement, that we are to mirror the mission of Jesus Christ, what do you suppose Jesus would do were He to walk in our midst today? Whenever He would encounter someone sick, would he shuffle him or her off to see a secular doctor, or would he say, "The kingdom of God is near you. Do you want to be healed?"

The answer to that question is so obvious. Why then should it be any different for those of us who are in Christ and members of His Body? That Jesus is behind heaven's door, physically out of sight, does not change His mission to save, or to heal the sick.

That entire churches have turned their backs to God for healing, that church leaders counsel the sick to seek secular, godless, medicine, is testimony to how far removed we are from our faith in God to heal the sick.

I do not question the legitimacy of modern medicine, but I do question why the Christian Church, the Bride of Christ, has severed divine healing from her divine calling.

As a side note: The problem with modern medicine is that there is both good and bad medicine. Any medicine that kills in the name of healing is evil. It cannot be of God. And that's a problem for many Church leaders. They would rather shuttle off Church members to see a godless physician, than pray to God for their healing or to ask Him for His Counsel.

When you or someone in your family falls ill, who is the first person you call on, God or a doctor?

My brothers and sisters, our plea must be to return to God's Word; to remove the shackles of prison caused by any dogma that hinders divine healing.

The Apostle James tells us to anoint the sick with oil for healing, because that is what Jesus taught him to do.

To save a man's soul only to leave him suffering in body, makes about as much sense as chewing a piece of meat and then spitting it out without swallowing it. We need to swallow the meat to sustain and nurture life. And so it is with the Gospel.

A Church without a healing ministry is like a restaurant without a kitchen. Neither of them is satisfying. Is it any wonder the world looking in does not see any difference between the Church and the rest of the world?

Our churches may be filled with well-meaning people, but most of them have never experienced the healing power found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And that is sad. How different their faith would be otherwise!

Thank you for listening. We hope you will share this message with Church leaders and pray for them. Pray they will renew their faith. Pray they lose their fear of what the world may say should they proclaim the name of Jesus Christ to heal the sick.

This is life-changing information. Read and study all you can on the subject. Learn to separate the meat from the bones as you read. Study God's Word and do your best to read it without wearing the filtered lens of Church doctrine. Let God's Word speak for itself.

Two other books we recommend are, "A More Excellent Way," by Pastor Henry Wright. Wright is spelled with a W, Wright. The 2nd book, "The Miracle Of Healing In Your Church Today," is authored by yours truly, Jim Lynn, spelled Lynn.

Pastor Wright's book is available from his ministry at <http://www.pleasantvalleychurch.net>

The Miracle of Healing In Your Church Today is available in paperback from the publisher at <http://trafford.com>, spelled Trafford. Trafford.com. Just click on the bookstore link when you get there, then type my name in the author search link.

You can also download a copy from our website at <http://godshealingword.org>.

You'll find many supporting articles there, and a link to our blog where you are welcome to post comments.

Let's end today's message with a Bible verse and prayer.

Jesus tells us in John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Pray with me.

Heavenly Father, May the peace of Jesus Christ be upon all who hear this message. May they know you have conquered all things that they may live their lives in peace, free of bondage. In Jesus name, Amen.