**DOCTRINE OF SICKNESS IN GODS WORD**

1.The first thing to remember about sickness is that all sickness is a byproduct of Gen. 2:16- 17. In Gen. 2:17 God said “in the day that thou eat thereof thou shalt surely die.” In other words, all sickness, biological decay, biochemical decay, and cancer if it is a virus, etc. all of these things result from the disorder left by sin in the world.

2.When Adam sinned, he condemned all of humanity to suffer the consequences of that sin, one of which is sickness. Romans 8:20-22. Sin has exterior physical manifestations. The countenance of newly saved people will start to change physically after a few months of studying Gods Word. Spirituality does have physical implications (Galatians 5:22-23 internal “joy” shows in outer behavior.

3.Who administers sickness? Hebrews 2:14, here we find who it is that administers sickness, it is Satan; the one who has “the power of death, that is Satan.” He has to get permission from God to administer it.

Corollary verse, Acts 10:38 when it says Jesus Christ rebuked and healed those who were oppressed of the devil and it’s talking there in terms of physical sickness.

The term ‘spirit of infirmity’ occurs in Luke 13:11 for a demonic caused illness.

 In Luke 13 Jesus specifically speaks of Satan having bound this woman (verse 16). But, in many other cases of healing, He simply heals with no mention of evil spirits involved.

4.God hates to see believers suffer under Satan’s oppression. God does not love to see you miserable, or to torture you. Although there are scriptural indicators that God wants us to be in good health, (3 John 2), all sickness and disease are allowed by Him for His purposes, whether we understand them or not.

Mark 1:40-41, healing of a leper incident in the Gospel.

5.There is a true Doctrine of Atonement found in Scripture. It is called the Penal

 Substitution Atonement. Isaiah 53:5 “by His scourging we are healed.”

 Hebrews 2:17 “to make a propitiation…”

 Penal Substitution Doctrine taught in Scripture: “This theory sees the atonement of Christ as being a vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice that satisfied the demands of God’s justice upon sin. With His sacrifice, Christ paid the penalty of man’s sin, bringing forgiveness, imputing righteousness, and reconciling man to God. Those who hold this view believe that every aspect of man—his mind, will, and emotions—have been corrupted by sin and that man is totally depraved and spiritually dead. This view holds that Christ’s death paid the penalty for sin and that through faith man can accept Christ’s substitution as payment for sin. This view of the atonement aligns most accurately with Scripture in its view of sin, the nature of man, and the results of the death of Christ on the cross.”

There are eight (8) false atonement theories taught today:

 Ransom to Satan Theory, Recapitulation Theory, Dramatic Theory, Mystical Theory, Moral Influence Theory, Example Theory, Commercial Theory, Governmental Theory.

 Source: (“What are the various theories on the atonement?”, www.gotquestions.org)

A false application of Isaiah 53 may create a ninth false theory: the ‘Healing in the Atonement Theory’ that says Jesus has borne our sicknesses, Isaiah 53, therefore why shouldn’t we be healed when we accept Christ as Savior? “…by His stripes we are healed…” Isaiah 53:5, is then quoted in 1 Peter 2:24.

They teach that there is ‘healing in the Atonement’ and misapply Isaiah 53. The healing will take place when we receive our resurrection bodies!

The last argument for the false Atonement Theory declares that as a Christian, if you’re not healed, it’s because you don’t have enough faith. Answer: Revelation 21:4

6.God must work through our physical bodies to perform His work in us, 1 Cor 6:13, “Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food, now the body is not for fornication,” Paul said, “but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body”.

In 2 Cor. 4:10 and you’ll see a second expression of this same principle, the second principle of true healing. “Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life also of Jesus might be manifest in our flesh.”

 The life of the Lord Jesus might be manifest in our mortal flesh it says in verse 11, right now in phase two, between the day of your salvation and the day you die, the Lord is interested in using your body in His service.

7.Sickness always has purpose. What are these purposes? There are two categories; remember the categories of suffering; (1) deserved suffering; (2) undeserved suffering.

Basically we have two reasons for deserved suffering; in the area of sickness there are two things, first if we violate natural law.

Secondly, you can also earn it by chastisement for sin, here’s where God disciplines you, Heb. 12 and He spanks you, and here is suffering that you deserve. You brought this on yourself!

Because you got out of line God the Father is going to spank you and He may spank you through the means of physical sickness. Case in point, 1 Cor. 11:27-32…

Undeserved Suffering: there are also sicknesses that you don’t bring on yourself.

 First of all, to be a witness to angels, that’s Job 1 and 2.

8. Then you may have three other causes: To learn God’s Power, Love, and Trust

 (a) You may learn God’s omnipotence (power), this is what God was trying to teach Paul and he said, “My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Turn to 2 Cor. 12, Paul didn’t deserve it, it was just a sickness that came upon him.

(b)The second lesson they learn here is God’s love, that’s His grace, translated here in verse 9, “My grace is sufficient for thee,” in other words, if I am sick one of the lessons I can learn is God’s love for me, and that God is still gracious to me. He still loves me, and I am to trust that love, that He’ll provide for me.

(c) And then finally the last lesson is found in 1 Peter 1 and that’s learning how to trust, or learning to build up your faith, learning to trust the promises. Do you know why it’s a test?

9. What do we do with dealing with the sickness itself? Sickness has a purpose, our bodies are to be used for the Lord, how do we deal with sickness? There’s a procedure, James 5:14-15. “Is any sick among you? 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,” a form of medicine in that day.

Verse 15, “And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up,” let’s look at this prayer of faith so that what we understand what it is not and then what it is.

10. Possible demonic affliction.

Now we have another thing, if after you go through this whole procedure and it’s not personal sin, it’s not human good, it’s not because you violated the laws of health and it’s evidently that God doesn’t seem to be teaching you anything through it, there is nothing, absolutely no benefit whatever from this thing, then you can suspect it’s demonic and it’s caused by demonic affliction, this is covered in Eph. 6:10-18.

11. Three promises from the Word of God to claim in sickness.

 A. One starts in Deut. 33:25, these are promises that you as a believer can master, that you as a believer should remember when you are sick.

B. Isaiah 40:29,

C. Romans 8:11