


Christ Our Healer

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all.”

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“Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” Romans 8:18-28



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1. Foundation

a) Fall extends from original sin to Second Coming

- creation groaning

- world stands under God's judicial sentence

- 2 Cor. 4:16-18 *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*

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- Luke 12:33 *“Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.”*

b) Deliverance and Redemption is Coming

- eager expectation – all will be set right

- Phil 3:20-21 *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”*

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- 1 Cor. 15:50-52 *“I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed”*

c) Christ Purchased our Redemption

- living example of physical and spiritual redemption
- foretaste of forgiveness and healing

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- Matthew 11:4-6 *“Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”*

- stumble? (NASB- take offense) – only 3 raised from dead, not all healed, followers persecuted

d) God Allows Suffering for His Purpose

- groan inwardly awaiting redemption of our bodies

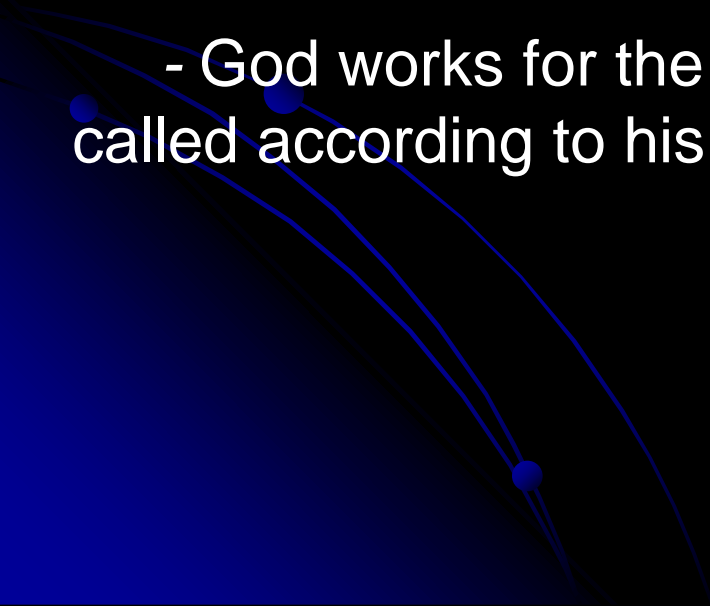
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- 2 Cor. 12:7-10 *“Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

- Psalm 119:71 *“It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.”*

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e) Faith is Essential

- trust in God's character, love and power in all situations
 - confidence in God's promises and work
 - Heb. 11:1 *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*
 - God works for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purposes
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2. Healing for Today

- James 5:13-18 *“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”*

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- Three Kinds of Prayer

- For Yourself

- taking your condition to God

- From the Elders over the Sick

- allowing shepherds to care for you

- For Each Other

- gathered together – power in God's people



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3. Prayer Offered in Faith

a) Jesus on Prayer

- Teaching – Matt. 6:10 *“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*

- Example – Luke 22:42 *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”*

• - Phil 2:5-8 *“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”*

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b) Prayer of Faith

- in the will of the father
- confident that this is consistent with God's revelation
- confident of who is able to do this

Story from Wed. Evening



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So What

1. Christ is our Healer
2. Suffering is a Part of Our Experience
3. We experience a foreshadow of what is to come
4. God Has a design and plan for our world and lives
5. There is provision for physical healing in the atonement
 - We cannot demand or conjure up feelings
 - We can humbly ask and experience for God's glory