

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



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~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

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George L. Faull, Editor

Dear Brother Faull,

I heard a TV evangelist quote **Isaiah 53:4-5** claiming that Jesus' redemption is two-fold and therefore Christians should never be sick or diseased as His work on the cross heals us of all our sicknesses. Do you agree?

ANSWER:

Of course not!! Though the passage is Messianic and does refer to Jesus, it must be looked at carefully. Let's look at **Isaiah 53:4**, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted." (KJV)

When was this fulfilled? **Matthew 8:16-17**, "16 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. 17 *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases." (NASB)

Matthew shows that this refers to Christ's earthly healing ministry **before the cross**. He Himself bore the sicknesses that He was healing. After all, we are told that He felt power, or virtue, go out of Him when the woman touched His garment. This, too, was before the cross.

Luke 8:46 But what did the Jews think of Him? "Yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted." (NASB) Wycliffe's version has it, "We reckoned him like a leper and struck by God and abased or made low."

So in His healing ministry He was bearing their sicknesses, pain, and diseases. They thought Him being plagued of God. However, in verse 5 He is not predicting what He did on the cross for our physical sicknesses, but rather with our sin sickness.

Peter interprets **Isaiah 53:6-7**, "6 All we like sheep have **gone astray**; we have **turned every one to his own way**; and the LORD hath laid on him **the iniquity of us all**. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

Peter makes plain of which healing He speaks. **1 Peter 2:24-25**, "24 Who his own self bare our **sins** in his own body **on the tree**, that we, being dead **to sins**, should live **unto righteousness**: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep **going astray**; but are **now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls**."

So **Isaiah 53:4** is interpreted by **Matthew 8:15-17** to refer to His ministry **before** His death. But **Isaiah 53:5-12** is interpreted by **1 Peter 2:24-25** which speaks of **His work on the cross** in healing our souls. Note Isaiah speaks of our iniquities (vs 5-6), transgressions (vs 8), sin (vs 10), iniquities (vs 11), sin (vs 12) and making intercession for the **transgressors**. To infer that all sick people lack faith in Christ, or are at odds with God, or should lack the security of salvation because they're sick, is ludicrous.

The Book of Acts and the epistles show many New Testament saints sick, afflicted, or having physical ailments. Those who tell people they need to repent to be healed error greatly. They totally ignore God's rebuke of Job's friends for assuming his sickness was for personal sin. We must not judge men's souls by the physical affliction of their bodies.

Many glorify God by their very afflictions. **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**, "9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me**. 10 Therefore **I take pleasure in infirmities**, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

Ironically the very propagators of the doctrine like A. A. Allen, Hobart Freeman, Kenneth Hagin, Katherine Khulman, Ameer Simple McPherson, John Wimber, R. W. Schambach, and Frederick Price have themselves or close family members who suffered some of the worst of sickness and even some died from their sickness.

The world mocks Christ when faith healers preach the wealth and health gospel and then end up like all other mortal men. This verse should never be quoted to prove the saved are healed physically by Christ's death for our sins. It is a shame some suffering old saint fears damnation of their soul because of their sickness!!!