

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Romans 8:16-18

Lesson #60

Asceticism

10/21/2018

Romans 8

“¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with him** in order that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with **the glory that is to be revealed** to us.”

2 Timothy 2:12

“If we **endure**, we will also **reign** with him;”

1

Observations

- We are “heirs” with Christ and as such **we have rights**.
- Those rights do not exempt us from **suffering in this life**.
- Our suffering is “with Christ” and **bonds us to him**.
- The suffering of this life is nothing compared to the glory **that awaits us**.
- We are called to **endure** in this life.

2

Healing, faith, and Biblical expectations



3

A popular theology of faith and healing

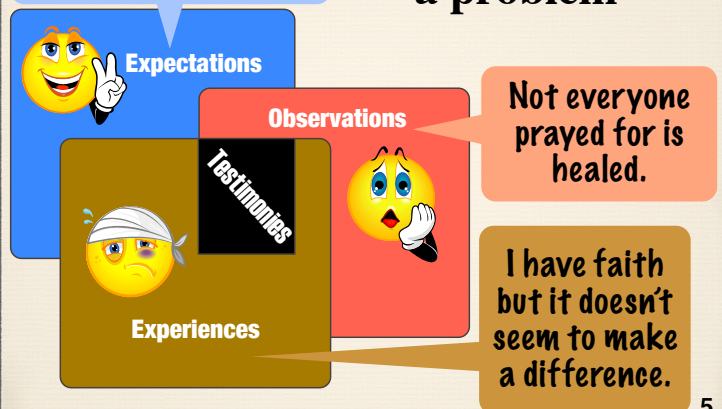


- ✓ **Death and sickness** are of Satan not God.
- ✓ God's **love** for His people assures their healing.
- ✓ God's **atonement** assures their healing.
- ✓ God's **promises** assure their healing.
- ✓ God's healing is only limited by their **faith**.

4

God said it, I believe it, and I expect it.

But we have a problem



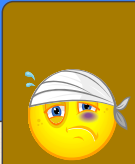
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Healing is limited to the N.T. period.

Inadequate attempts to Remove the Confusion



Expectations



Experiences

Testimonies

Observations



Healing is real even if the symptoms remain.

Healing is limited by our faith or sin.

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Some believe that faith resolves any dissonance.

1. The promises in God's Word are clear.
2. It's never a question of God's will but only of our will to believe.
3. Those who disagree with this teaching are robbing God's people of their right to promised health.

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When this does not work we are tempted to conclude:



1. God's Word cannot be trusted.
2. Our relationship with God is not real.

You may run the risk of losing more than your temporal healing!

8

Reducing the dissonance when God does not heal

1. Take a closer look at God's Word.
2. Take a closer look at the object & subject of our faith.
3. Repent of our idolatry of wanting the kingdom before its time and without its king.

9

"The risen Christ is the crucified Christ."

All who want the power of the resurrection must be willing to bear a cross to get it.

David Buttrick
(author, seminary professor)



10

The path to Resurrection Life starts and ends with a Cross.

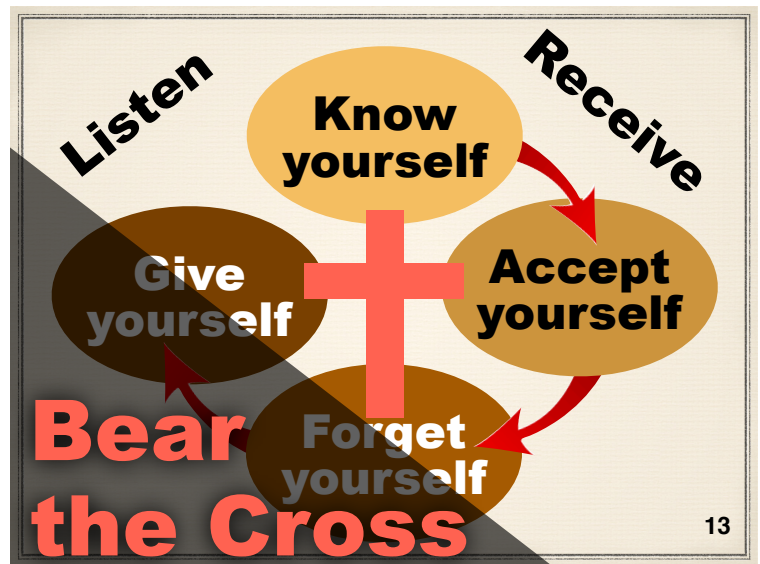
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1 Corinthians 2:2

"For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."



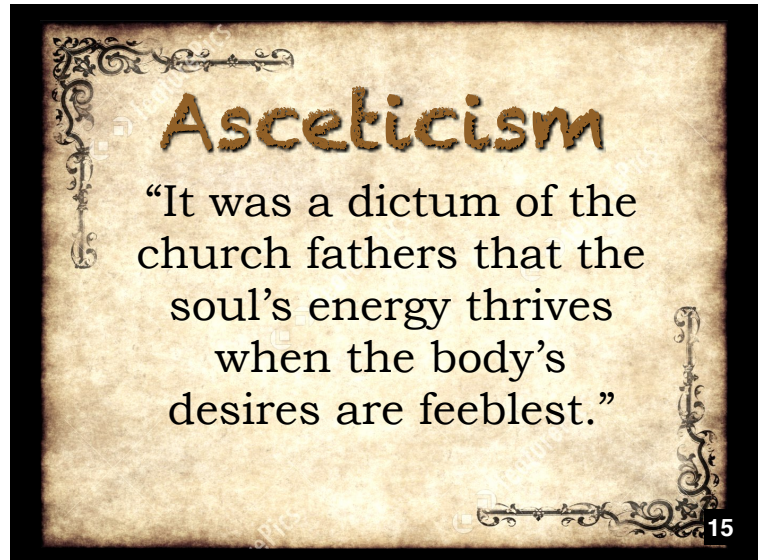
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15

Asceticism

- **Unnatural Asceticism** - mortification (denial of anything that brings pleasure to the natural senses)
- **Natural Asceticism** - simplicity

John the Baptist
Jesus
12 disciples
Paul

Origen
Jerome
Ignatius
Chrysostom
Augustine
Nazirites
Essenes

16

John the Baptist

Luke 1:15

"For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb."

Mark 1:6

"And John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey."

Luke 7:28

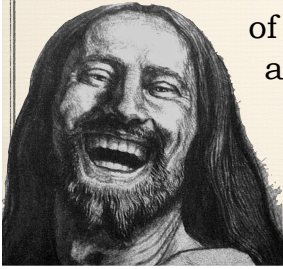
"I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John;"



17

Luke 7

“³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, ‘He has a demon!’ ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man, and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!’”



18

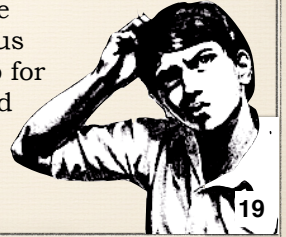
Asceticism

Hedonism

1 Timothy 6

“¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, **who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.**

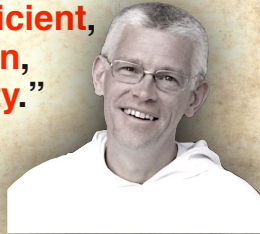
¹⁸ Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”



19

“Morality is seen in ancient theology as **asceticism**, a form of spiritual transformation, where the **simple is sufficient**, the **peace is within**, the **frugal is plenty.**”

Richard Finn
(Priest, historian)



20

1 Timothy 6:6

“But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.”

21

“Three vows made in the 12th century by St. Francis - **chastity, poverty, obedience**”

Francis of Assisi



22

Do we “get the point”?

1. Are we **too invested** in the comforts of this life as a basis for our hope and peace?
2. Do we thank God for the pleasures of this life without turning them into “**golden calves**”?
3. Do we seek dramatic spiritual experiences more than **spiritual development**?
4. Are we a **witness** to our true hope in Christ’s return by the way we respond to hardships and suffering?
5. Are we **too afraid** of suffering and dying?

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