

The Doctor's Orders

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Matt. 9:12

Have you ever been sick and had to call a physician? Have you not at some time said, "Those are the doctor's orders"?

Few people have not at some time been attended by a physician because of illness. Thousands of people are daily attempting to follow the doctor's orders, because they know their lives depend upon it.

Perhaps the order is immediate surgery to prevent death. Or, perhaps, the doctor has ordered a special prescription of medicine which means life or death. Sometimes the patient has replied, "I had rather die than follow the doctor's orders," when the order seemed displeasing to him.

Most people would resolve to follow the doctor's orders in every minute detail, regardless of the distastefulness of the medicine, or its cost, because it's still better than the consequences of not following the doctor's orders.

Today, the world is sick. The souls of men are sick because of the deadly disease of sin.

The plague of sin

In Old Testament times, the term "plague" was usually applied to the disease of leprosy. In modern times the term generally applies to a deadly and infectious disease.

The most infectious and deadly of all diseases is sin, a plague of the heart. Reference is made to sin as a plague in 1 Kings 8:38.

1 Kings 8:38, "*What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house.*"

Ever since the Garden of Eden the plague of sin has been the great separator. Eve caught the plague of sin, and Adam immediately was contaminated with it. Thereafter, their firstborn son became the murderer of his brother.

The dreadful disease spread as man populated the earth.

Then God surveyed the state of mankind and pronounced:

Gen. 6:5-6, "*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart*

was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”

Paul emphasized the seriousness of the plague of sin when he wrote that men were “*under sin...*”:

Rom. 3:9-18, “What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

What an indictment against man! What a description of the tragic results of the plague of sin!

Every soul of man has been infected with the deadly disease of sin.

The effects of sin.

The effects of sin may be fatal.

Sin wrecks the mind, wrecks the body, and will destroy the soul of man. It wrecks the home, wrecks the community, and can destroy a nation. It eats away like a cancer on the soul of man. Sin entices, then ensnares. Its wages is death.

Rom. 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Let us remember the words of Paul to the Galatians, Gal. 6:7-8, “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*”

Sin is incurable through human agency

No man is capable of curing himself of the fatal disease of sin. Human reason, in opposition to faith, has tried and failed.

All the infidels, atheists, agnostics, and skeptics in the world have failed to give relief to a sin-sick soul. Human systems of religion have tried and failed.

Man, himself, has never been able to restore even one plague-stricken soul.

The remedy of the great physician

There is a remedy for this plague. There is a cure, if we will follow the doctor's orders.

The remedy is not prescribed in terms of street demonstrations, or by the commandments of men. The remedy comes by the one physician who is capable of issuing orders which will completely effect a cure of the sin-sick soul. That physician is the one Great Physician, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who once declared:

Matt. 9:12, "*...They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.*"

The physicians qualifications

If any member of our families should become seriously ill — plagued with a deadly disease — surely we would seek the services of a qualified and experienced physician, and we would be completely resigned to follow the doctor's orders.

It is not unusual for men to travel thousands of miles and spend fortunes in money just to secure relief for a diseased body, or to sustain life in the body for just a short while longer.

Under such circumstances, the sick patient resolves to follow the doctor's orders in every minute detail.

However, in committing one's life into the hands of his physician, man is definitely concerned about the doctor's qualifications. Is he experienced in the treatment of your specific disease? What is his success in this area?

Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, possesses complete supernatural knowledge. He knows all the faculties of the soul, all the ailments which might inflict it, and He knows the exact remedy and application necessary to bring about its cure.

The sin-sick soul can be completely cured if he will resign himself to follow the doctor's orders precisely.

Unfortunately, many people who are sick, nigh unto death, think they are quite well and have no need of a physician.

They will not admit the plague that is in their hearts.

Others may admit that they are sin-sick, but conclude that their maladies are not serious, thus they are indifferent toward following the orders of the Great Physician

Millions of sinners die unprepared to meet God because of indifference.

The doctor's orders perverted

Today, many sin-sick souls are conscious of their need of the Great Physician, and are even willing to consult Him about their condition and the cure, but they don't have unqualified faith in Him.

They aren't always willing to follow the doctor's orders.

No one can afford to risk the loss of his soul because of a change of the doctor's orders.

In the Lord's plan of salvation, as well as in medicine, man cannot tamper with the doctor's orders! Additions or subtractions to the doctor's orders are never made by reliable pharmacists. The laws of the land protect our bodies from unscrupulous men who might tamper with the doctor's orders, but it is up to every individual to see that every condition specified by the Great Physician is followed without addition or subtraction.

This is a matter which concerns the destiny of the souls of men. The consequences are serious.

2 John 1:9, "*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*"

It is a recognized fact that certain medicines may be used to sustain life in the body; yet the same drugs misused in the hands of unlearned and unskilled men may cause death.

The gospel of Christ, which is the divine orders of the Great Physician, is the power of God to save the believer.

Rom. 1:16, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*"

But a perverted gospel, which is a prescription tampered with by men, can only mean spiritual death.

Gal. 1:7-8, "*Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*"

The steps of safety

Every preacher must be certain that he administers the divine prescription just as the Great Physician gave it. Every person must be certain that the doctor's orders have not been tampered with.

He must examine very closely any spiritual remedy offered by religious teachers.

1 John 4:1, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*"

Every person must examine to see if the religious instructor declares as nonessential any condition prescribed by the Great Physician. Every person must beware of any person who might say, "I know the Bible says that, but I don't think it is necessary."

Watch for scriptures misquoted or misapplied. If one has no scruples about changing the doctor's orders, it could well be that souls are in jeopardy! Remember, it is your soul that is to be saved or to be lost.

Ignorance is no excuse

Ignorance on the part of the druggist will not immune the sick person from the ill effects, even death, when the doctor's orders are not followed. Ignorance on the part of the sick person is no immunity from the deadly effect of poison.

Some religious teachers may be ignorant of the scriptures, some even may be careless or dishonest. The results are the same — a mistake that cannot be changed in eternity!

A person who might drink a deadly poison through error, whether error on the part of the druggist, or the individual for whom the prescription was filled, would be just as dead as if he planned suicide.

It doesn't make a difference what a person believed. He would still be dead.

Caution

The price of being deceived may be the loss of a soul in eternity. The caution warnings are plainly displayed along with the divine orders of the Great Physician in the Bible:

- Eph. 5:6, *“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”*
- Matt. 15:9, *“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*
- Matt. 15:13-14, *“But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”*
- Col. 2:8, *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”*

The doctor’s orders

May I present to you the doctor’s orders for every sin-sick soul. You can not go wrong by following the orders of the Great Physician. You will be lost in eternity if you do not follow his orders.

Must believe.

- Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*
- John 8:24, *“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”*

Caution: Confidence in the doctor’s orders, or die!

Must repent.

- Luke 13:3,5, *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish... I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”*
- Acts 17:30, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.”*

Warning: Ignorance is no excuse. You will die if the orders are not followed.

Must confess Christ.

- Acts 8:37, “*And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*”
- Matt. 10:32, “*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*”

Notice: Allegiance to the Physician, or the cure is denied.

Must be baptized — buried in water.

- Mark 16:16, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*”
- Acts 2:38, “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*”
- Acts 22:16, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*”

Baptism is most positively included in the divine prescription dictated by the Great Physician.

Conclusion

No man, nor group of men, has the right or liberty to change, alter, or substitute in the divine prescription for man’s salvation.

Yet, it is not uncommon for men today, who claim to have been called by God to preach His word, to deliberately eliminate, modify, and substitute for God’s divine remedy for sin.

We must closely observe every instruction given us by the Great Physician.

- Matt. 28:20. “*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world... .*”
- John 4:24, “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*”
- 2 John 1:9, “*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*”

- Col. 3:17, “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*”
- 1 Pet. 4:11, “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever...*”

The divine prescription is simple and easily understood. It is the only prescription under heaven that is perfect and is guaranteed to cure the sin-sick soul of man.

