

Duties are ours; events are God's

"...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"--2 Corinthians 3:17

The Baptist Examiner™

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

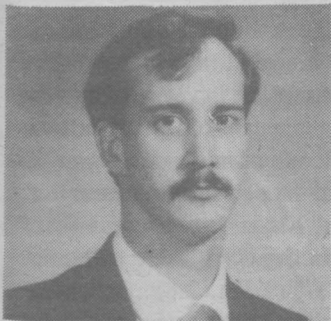
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"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is not light in them"--Isaiah 8:20

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TREATING THE WELL INSTEAD OF THE SICK

By Pastor Rick Presley, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio



"And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice; for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance". (Matt. 9:10-13).

What do you think it would be like if you went to a doctor all covered in huge purplish-red blotches, your eyes were yellow, you had a racking cough that made your breath come in gasps and wheezes and when the physician shows up he takes one startled look at you and says, "I can't treat you. You're sick! Get out of my office at once!" We would consider such a medical practitioner to be woefully misguided about his role in the health care field. Jesus ran into a similar problem with the religious leaders of His day in the text cited above. He was seen associating with people who were spiritual hotbeds of contagion. Their lives were infested with parasitic depravity and their bodies racked with the effects of a debauched

lasciviousness. Their spiritual health was abominable. When the Pharisees criticized Him for associating with such people He responded with rebuke that contrasted their hypocrisy with His own submissive humility and compassion. Jesus told them that these were exactly the people He came to this world to save.

Imagine attending the office of a doctor who only treats the well. A visit to his office would allow you to sit in comfort and safety knowing that you wouldn't catch some horrid, debilitating disease from his patients. The clientele would be much more pleasant and attractive than a waiting room full of people struggling with sickness and infirmity. Most emergency room waiting areas are not cheerful places where people gather cheerfully for social intercourse. In an office of well people the atmosphere would be

much more upbeat and positive than a typical emergency room. The working conditions for the doctor would be more pleasant and attractive for him too. His patients would be much more socially acceptable inside and out of the office. Not only that, but they would also be much easier to get along with and would be more sympathetic to the doctor's needs.

Sick people are generally more concerned with their own feelings than the doctor's feelings. They tend to be insensitive toward the doctor and are quite demanding of his time and require his undivided attention to their every little complaint. They expect him to listen patiently and carefully to their list of symptoms. Illness makes people cranky and critical of the doctor if he doesn't give them what they consider to be the proper amount of care. All in all,

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt



SPIRITUAL DIAGNOSIS

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (2 Cor. 13:5). Webster's dictionary defines the word, Diagnosis as; 1) The art of identifying a disease from its signs or symptoms, 2) Investigation or

analysis of the cause or nature of a condition. Perhaps the more common thoughts on this word are associated with the medical diagnosis of a person relative to his state of physical health or maybe the mechanical diagnosis of an automobile to determine why its not running right.

In our text verse another kind of

diagnosis is implied when it says: **"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith."** This examination has to do with the spiritual state of man. In comparison to the other two mentioned, it has by far a greater need in heeding and a far greater benefit to all who would seriously

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FOLLY OF MORTAL UNBELIEF

Part I

By Ray Waugh, Sr.
(Now with the Lord)



First of all, we can know that any of the so-called "Churches that array themselves against the plain teaching of the Holy Infallible Word of God have never been, are not now, and never will be Churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. Second, those who align themselves as members of the so-called "Churches" and whose faith has never been placed in the Lord Jesus Christ have never been saved, are not now saved, and unless they place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ while they live in their mortal bodies, they never will be saved.

The Scriptures are very plain, and they are most exact that, **"It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment"** (Hebrews 9:27). Therefore, anyone who supposes that there is something they can do or something any one else can do for the deceased after the mortal breath of a person has ceased and the blood no longer flows quite obviously does not understand the Word of God. We need to realize that according to the Word of God, anyone who has died already has determined his or her destiny to be eternity in "Heaven" with God and the Lord Jesus Christ, or in "Hell" that was **"prepared for the devil and his angels"** (Matt. 25:41).

Our President of these United States may come on national radio

and television and ask the people of America to pray for those who have died in the explosion in Oklahoma. We can know, however, that his words are unscriptural, and that they really are "wasted air." In the face of the tragedy that has transpired, he may suppose that with such words he is providing a measure of personal comfort for many. Our President may be most sincere in attempting to lead those who have survived this tragedy to presume that there is something they can do or that there is something that others can do for them after they have died.

God's Holy Infallible and Immutable Word, thankfully, assures us that only while we abide in our fleshly mortality can we do anything that will effect our eternal destiny. The Word of God is absolute, and as we already have noted, it is truth that is forever unmistakable, **"It is appointed unto man [or woman] once to die, but after this the judgment"** (Heb. 9:27).

Amazingly, but understandably, Satan, even now is **"the prince and the power of the air"** (Eph. 2:2). Therefore, though we may look for and find some mortal culprits upon whom we may lay blame for such tragedy, we can know that Satan always is involved in all such tragedies. Too, we learn in the Word of God that as **"The god of this world,"** Satan **"hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"** (2 Cor. 4:4). Therefore, Satan has been able to take advantage even of the Oklahoma terrorist tragedy and the mind of our President of these United States for his own evil purposes.

By his use of the words of an
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