

By the mouth of God's Prophet Isaiah, the Lord graciously prophesied – *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*(Isa.7:14) The Hebrew word translated "*Immanuel*" means "God with us" or an even better translation is "**with us is God**". This verse is a clearer revelation of the original promise of the eternal salvation of **ALL GOD'S ELECT** in the Lord's words to the **SERPENT** in **Gen.3:15** – *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* The way the **LORD** stated this **PROVES** that no natural son of Adam could accomplish this life or death task, i.e., "*shall bruise THY HEAD*". It would take One who is **TRULY GOD** and **TRULY MAN**. Around **700 years** after Isaiah's prophesy, God reaffirms this **PROMISE** concerning the impending birth of our Savior to Joseph – *"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just [man], and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."*(Matt.1:18-23) One of the **ESSENTIAL TRUTHS** believed and rested in by God-given faith is that Christ **HIMSELF** is **TRULY GOD** – *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."*(I Jn.4:1-3) The Gospel of John, with all the recordings of the miracles, as well as the words Christ spoke about Himself, **CONFIRMED** the **FACT** of Christ's Deity and His Power. That is **HOW** John started the Gospel of John – *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*(Jn.1:1,14) When I think of the **DEITY** and **POWER** of Christ, one stanza from a hymn we sing comes to my mind – *"Your cross, not mine, O Christ, has borne the awful load, of sins that none could bear but the incarnate God."* With that said, I want us to pick up with Christ's words and actions after He had healed this "*certain man*" who had been lame for **38 years**. Let's read **verse 1-9**.

Notice the Jews response to this **MIRACLE** – **Vss.10-13**. When I read the response of these Jews to this **MIRACLE** performed in this man's life, I can't help but think of the blind man's rebuke

of these **SAME JEWS** in **Jn.9** – “*Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear [it] again? will ye also be his disciples? Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: [as for] this [fellow], we know not from whence he is. The man answered and said unto them, **Why herein is a marvellous thing,** (the phrase “a marvelous thing” means ‘wonderful or worthy of pious admiration) **that ye know not from whence he is, and** [yet] **he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man btoe a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.***”(Jn.9:26-32) In these verses we’re looking at, surely this TOO was a “**marvelous thing**”, a miracle that was wonderful and worthy of admiration by these men, yet their **ONLY CONCERN** was that he was carrying his bed, **i.e., doing servile work**, and it was **ON THE SABBATH DAY!** In other miracles done by our Lord, as well as His personal discourses with other sinners, He pronounced those people He dealt with to be “**saved**”. Christ said to the woman who washed his feet – “*Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*”(Lk.8:50) Christ said to the blind man by the side of the road who cried out to Him - “*Jesus, [thou] Son of David, have mercy on me*” – “*Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.*”(Lk.18:42) While Christ spoke no such word to this “**certain man**” whom He healed, (matter of fact, according to **Vs.13**, Christ “**had conveyed Himself away**” which means ‘to escape or slip away secretly’), I believe that the actions of this “**certain man**” proved this was much more than a **PHYSICAL HEALING**. When Christ **SPOKE** to this man and commanded him, “*Rise, take up thy bed, and walk*”, in obedience to Christ’s **WORD**, “*immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.*” Maybe you’re thinking: “How does that action prove **HE HAD HEARD** Christ savingly?” **Listen to me:** According to the **LAW OF MOSES**, you could do **NO WORK OF ANY SORT** on the Sabbath day and the **PENALTY** for violation of the Sabbath was **DEATH** – “*Six days may work be done; but in the seventh [is] the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth [any] work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.*”(Exo.31:15) This “**certain man**” was a Jew, and as a **JEW** you can rest assured he was well aware of the penalty for violating the Sabbath Day. You can also rest assured **HE KNEW IT WAS THE SABBATH DAY** when Christ commanded him to take up his bed and walked, putting him in violation of the Law of the Sabbath and worthy of its penalty. If you’ll recall on another occasion the **JEWS** questioned Christ about His disciples plucking the ears of corn and eating them on the Sabbath. To those **JEWS** Christ made a phenomenal declaration – “*For the Son of man **IS LORD EVEN OF THE SABBATH DAY.***”(Matt.12:8) In other words, as **IMMANUEL**, it is **HIS SABBATH DAY**, and He alone has the power to dispense of it or dispose of it because of His obedience unto death! Paul put it like this: “*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*”(Rom.8:2) The law of Moses demanded the death of this “**certain man**”, but Christ would set **HIM** and **ALL GOD’S ELECT** free from this “**law of sin and death**” by His work as God-Man Mediator. What did this “**certain man**” do? **HE OBEYED HIS LORD’S WORDS**, just like all God’s elect – “*And Saul, yet breathing out*

threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest.” ; “And he said, **Who art thou, Lord?** And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: [it is] hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord [said] unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”(Acts 9:1,5&6) John wrote: “For the law was given by Moses, [but] grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”(Jn.1:17) **Here’s another action** that proved this cripple had experienced more than a just a healing of his physical body. When they charged him with **VIOLATING** the Sabbath day, he appealed to the **ONE WHO COMMANDED** Him to do so – “**He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.**” These JEWS knew nothing of grace and mercy! My stars, a whole multitude of folks were still lying around that pool and these JEWS could not and did not do anything for any of them. Miraculously, one is healed from an infirmity of **38 years** and they can’t rejoice in the miracle! **THEY COULDN’T DENY IT**, because here was this former cripple walking and carrying his bedroll. The LAW they claimed to be following and defending was to them empty words. If they were really concerned about the Law and obeying it, they would have taken this man to the Priest, charged him, and **PUT HIM TO DEATH**, just like they should have done when they brought that woman to our Lord caught in the very act of adultery. This MAN when confronted and charged by them for violating the Sabbath declared boldly – “**HE THAT MADE ME WHOLE, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed and walk.**” It’s not recorded, but don’t you think this guy was telling everyone about the miracle accomplished in his life? His response to His accusers question is similar to Peter and the Apostle’s response to the High Priest when they were asked by him - “**Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.**” Listen to Peter’s response – “**We ought to obey God rather than men.**”(Acts 5:28,29) These **JEW’S** goal was to seek a way to accuse Christ of violating the law so they could put Him to death, even though they wouldn’t put this man to death for actually **VIOLATING** their law. But here’s the thing: **CHRIST DIDN’T VIOLATE** the law. Listen to Isaiah: “**The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness’ sake; he will magnify the law, and make [it] honourable.**”(Isa.42:21) Christ had already told them: “**Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**”(Matt.5:17,18) This **MIRACLE** was another **UNDENIABLE TESTIMONY** of Christ’s Deity and Power, **leaving them without excuse!!!!**

Look at Vs.14 - After being accused of violating the Sabbath day, this “**certain man**” who had been healed goes to the Temple, the place where God had promised to meet Moses and Aaron and all those like them. He was at the temple to worship God for this unspeakable mercy that had been freely given to him. What is so interesting is that Christ **GOES** to this man and finds him at the temple, not the other way around. When Christ found him, he told him – “**Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**” **SIN** is a disease, one that originates in man (**Adam**), is natural to **ALL MEN (even God’s elect)**, and is inherited by **ALL MEN**. Sin

affects every part of man, both body and soul. The **ONLY ONE** who can cure this deadly disease in Christ Jesus, the Great Physician – “*And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? When Jesus heard [it], he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*”(Mk.2:16,17); “*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good [things; so that] thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.*”(Ps.103:2-6) John Gill wrote concerning these verses: “God’s elect are attended with sin as others, and being made sensible thereof, they come to Christ for a cure, and receive one, as this man did.” **But pay attention to Christ’s next words to this man He had healed** – “*Go and sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee.*” We all know that as sinners saved by God’s grace, Christ wasn’t implying that this man or any justified saint can live a sinless life after conversion. That would be a denial of the Scriptures – **ELABORATE**. Christ’s command is that out of grace and gratitude to Him who loved Him and gave Himself for him he **SHOULD NOT** indulge sin, or live in sin. If we know the Lord, we should not walk as others walk, **nor even as we formerly walked**. The same Apostle John wrote this verse: “*He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*”(I Jn.2:6) Paul wrote: “*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.*”(Col.1:10) Even though we have a tendency to sin and backslide from our God, the **GRACE OF GOD** still teaches us to deny sin and to live righteously in this present world. **THIS IS NOT TEACHING SALVATION BY WORKS. Notice the last phrase**– “*lest a worse thing come upon thee.*” For the child of God, one regenerated and converted, this “*worse thing*” that comes as a result of our indulgence of our remaining sinful nature is **WORSE** than bodily illness. I believe the worst thing for the child of God is for the Lord to hide His face and remove from us the “*joy of His salvation.*” For those who are mere professors of religion, the “*worse thing*” would to be found in the end ignorant of Christ’s righteousness and cast into eternal judgment.

Quickly notice **Vss.15-16** and we’ll close. This man departed from Christ and the temple, going back to Bethsaida where the miracle had occurred. He didn’t go there hoping to reward by helping the Jews to bring persecution on Christ about the Sabbath, but out of a desire to show others the miracle and direct them to Christ. He even sought out the Jews that accused him of violating the Sabbath in hope that when he told them **WHO** healed him they might be induced to admit that **THIS WAS INDEED THE VERY CHRIST**. His one desire was to **HONOR** the Physician who healed him. But these **JEWS**, instead of coming to Christ, they persecuted Christ more and sought to kill Him **OVER HIM PERFORMING A GRACIOUS ACT ON THE SABBATH DAY**. Truly the human heart is “*desperately wicked*”

