

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

We live in a time when it is quite common to hear men (and oddly enough, women) preach about sickness and disease as though it is a condition quite contrary to the will and purpose of GOD. Both sickness and good health are conditions which are dictated and ordained for GOD's own purpose. There is no such thing as a man who is sick, contrary to the will of GOD, nor does a man ever enjoy health or the deliverance from disease or affliction except according to that same will and sovereign purpose. *" See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand."*

Lester Roloff was once asked if he believed in Divine healing. He replied, " I didn't know there was any other kind". If a man is ever healed from any malady which befalls him in this life, that man should thank the GOD of heaven and earth for that deliverance. Adam's sin which he passed on to us has produced affliction and sickness. Just as certainly as Adam's transgression did not take GOD by surprise neither does the attendant affliction which comes as a result of it. The LORD even uses it for our benefit, *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;" "For whom the LORD loveth HE chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom HE receiveth."* Far from being against the will of GOD, the LORD ordains that HIS people be ill for HIS own purpose and for their good.

The LORD's disciples assumed that tragedies befell some and not all because they were greater sinners than others, or that physical affliction was the sign of a specific sin being brought to justice. The LORD taught them that all men alike were sinners worthy of destruction and that physical ailments are not necessarily meted out as judgment. We may not always be able to discover the specific reason we are afflicted but we can be certain that GOD is bringing us along a pathway HE has marked out that we might be ultimately blessed. It would seem prudent for us then each time disease or affliction invades our body to seek the LORD not just for healing but to ask HIM to show us why HE has brought us into this condition.

All sickness is directed for HIS glory. Just as HE told Mary and Martha that Lazarus' sickness was not unto death (i.e.; destruction) but rather that GOD would be glorified. So it is when our bodies are afflicted that this too is for HIS fame and grandeur.

All sickness in the children of GOD is for their ultimate benefit. *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love GOD, to them who are the called according to HIS purpose. Therefore "though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. ".* The LORD allowed Satan to afflict Job for a season. Satan's desire and design was Job's destruction but the LORD designed Satan's activity to get Job's attention and teach him a valuable lesson. Even the devil can be a tool in GOD's sovereign hand.

Sometimes GOD gets glory in the healing of our physical bodies. When the LORD JESUS walked upon the earth HE went about healing many afflictions and maladies. HE did it for the glory of HIS FATHER in manifesting obedience to that which HE was sent to do. All true healing is a gift from the LORD. HE may choose to manifest this healing in a miraculous way or HE may use instruments of medicine, or HE may direct the use of natural means such as vitamins and herbs for such relief. But rest assured that no man can be healed of any disease, affliction, or disturbed state of mind apart from the direction and purpose of Almighty GOD.

Sometimes GOD gets glory in not healing our physical bodies. He does this in allowing our afflictions to run their course or even to remain with us until death. The LORD refused to remove Paul's thorn in the flesh yet HE taught Paul a more valuable lesson in requiring him to rest in HIS grace. We are not in error to ask for the removal of our afflictions, yet it is not always GOD's will to answer such prayers exactly as we would like.

Afflictions are a testament to the LORD's great love for HIS own. None of us delight in discomfort, yet we are greatly comforted in knowing that our SAVIOR is with us in all of our diseases, for HE was tempted in all points like as we are. When we enjoy good health let us praise HIM, for we would be suffering daily if we were to receive what we deserve. Then when we are down in the valley of affliction, remember that it is the LORD who has gone before us and marked out our pathway through that wilderness with HIS own blood. HE will be with HIS children to the very end.

Thy free grace alone,"#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**