

"A VISIT TO CHRIST'S HOSPITAL"

Psalm 107:17-22

INTRODUCTION:

It is a very profitable thing to visit a hospital. I am sure that you have been at some time or other in your lifetime to visit. Probably some of you do not go very often. Maybe now and then.

But I am sure that at sometime in your experience, you have visited or/or entered a hospital.

The sight of other's sickness tends to make us grateful for our own health. And it is a great thing to keep a thankful frame of mind. Ingratitude is a spiritual disease.

Going to the hospital for an infection - will teach us to have compassion. And anything that softens the heart is very valuable. Above all things that we strive against today, the influences, it is not easy for a man to constantly enjoy good health and prosperity - when you see the poor and the suffering. To see those that are afflicted. And those that cannot help themselves. Now, if you go to the hospital, I think you will come back with a tender heart.

You have found something that touches. So the first thing I would say is profitable - and now let me take you to a hospital. It shall not be one like the institution out

here at Chesapeake, with pleasing and plentiful surroundings. And beautiful yards.

But let me take you into Christ's hospital. And we'll walk down the wards for a few moments. And, few - some of these people. Now if you are healed yourself, you may feel gratitude. And delivered from (spiritual sickness). If you have been delivered from spiritual sickness, then this tour may be a benefit either way. But as you tour this hospital - you may be like our Saviour. He wept over Jerusalem - when he looked with eyes of compassion upon them. He saw the whole city as patients in a hospital.

Let us come to the wards of [spiritual sickness] here.

I. FIRST, LET US INQUIRE ABOUT THE [NAMES AND CHARACTERS] OF THE PATIENTS

You know, as you go in a hospital, you will have written on a little card on the head of the bed, or somewhere - the patient's name. His address. Now as you come into Christ's hospital, you will find that the patient's name, has been placed there. And also the disease. That is also the thing that amazes us. When you go to this room, and this room, and this room. And you discover that all of these in Christ's hospital are inmates and they belong to [one family]. They have the same name. The name is far from a good name of reputation. Really, it is a title that nobody covets. And many people would feel indignant to have it applied to them.

V.17A

The (name is fool). (All) who are sick here in God's hospital are fools. (Without) exception - and for this reason, that they are all sinners.

Psa. 14:1 "The Fool hath said in his heart There is no God" 53:7

Often in the Scriptures, when David means the wicked, he says - the foolish. And

in saying this, he makes no mistake for sin - his folly.

✓ Sin is foolishness clearly because it is setting up our own weakness in opposition with God's omnipotence. He who wars with the most high God commits a gross folly. It is like dry grass on a prairie trying to challenge the fire that is coming. There is no hope for the grass. There is no hope for the sinner who struggles against God. How unwise for a man to take up the weapons of rebellion.

Proverbs 10:21 Fools die for want of wisdom

God is love Shall I resist this love. He scatters blessings. Wherefore, should I be his foe. If his Commandments were grievous, if his ways were ways of misery, if his paths were paths of whoe, I might have some pretense of excuse and resist his will.

But God is good - he is so kind and boundless in kindness and grace. How can I be an enemy.

F's fool with Booye.

Besides this, the law of God is supremely beneficial. We are our own enemies when we rebell. And that means that we are warned about the dangers to come. So God has left us free to enjoy everything that is safe for us. That has only forbidden us that which is to be our hurt. If there be a law which forbids me to put my hand in the fire, well, it is a pity that I should need such a law. And therefore, it would be a pity for me to think of the law as a hardship.

I, sow wild oats

The commands of God forbid us to injure ourselves. To keep ourselves in holy

happiness and to break these laws. Why should I violate laws.

✓ 1- The sinner, the rebel, is a fool because he is told in God's Word that the path of evil will lead to destruction. And yet he pursues and with secret hope, that in the case the damage will not be very great. He has been warned that sin is like a cup that contains death and Hell. And is poison. And every sin will be and have a recompense - a reward that God is just.

Even in this lifetime, many a man feels in his bones the consequences of his youthful lust and will carry to his grave the scars of his transgressions. In Hell, alas, there are millions who will forever prove that sin is an awful, infinite curse.

2- So the sinner is a fool not only because it leads to destruction, but second, the sinner is a fool because he (doubts the truthfulness) that God will punish sin. And he imagines sin is pleasure.

nutty - eccentric - crazy Fool.

There is a certain amount of conceit that a man imagines the transgressions will yield him bitterness. Now God said it will bring bitterness and to deny this - is to be a fool and to seek pleasure in sin. Hundreds of thousands of people before have gone upon the search and have all been disappointed. And he is a fool who rushes head long and perishes in the results of this.

✓ 3- In the third place, the sinner is a fool because to remain as he is - in danger of the wrath of God, is [to abide in peril.] Now for a man to scorn the way of escape

- to love the world - to hate the Saviour. And to choose the sinking sands of the desert, is to forego the jewels of Heaven.

4- In the fourth place, there are all kinds of fools. Learned fools, unconverted fools, educated fools, ignorant fools. I think the greater of these is the learned fool. Generally who proves himself the worst of fools because he invents some new theories.

Prov. 18:7 A Fool's mouth is his Destruction''

5- Fifth, there are (reckless fools) and reckoning fools. They are both greedy with their hands. They think of a short life and a merry one. That is their motto. As fools, they live a reckless life - some of them often hoard up gold. As if it were a true treasure. There are some that are reckless like the prodigal. There are old fools as well as young fools. After an experience with sin, they burn their fingers and they are still at it.

Now the burnt child dreads the fire but the burnt sinner lovingly plays with his sin again. The gray hairs ought to teach and be a crown of glory for a man's head. But it is often a fool's cap. There are young sinners who waste the prime of life. In neglecting the strength that God has given them. They miss the early joy of religion. There are those who have one foot hanging over the mouth of Hell. And they continue to trifle with eternity.

In V. 6 - Now when you enter at the hospital - there is the name. Here is God's hospital - but permit me to add, that all of those who go there and are cured agree that this name is correct. Saved souls are made to feel that they are natural fools.

You can write it in capital letters - and you will say, well, that's mine. If there is any other man in the world who is a fool - I am. I have played the fool before the living God. Now this confession is true. When men make sport - they generally do it trifling with things. But those who make sport of God - and yet the sinner when he is taken into God's hospital, will be made to feel that he has been such a fool.

And he feels that he will die a fool unless the infinite mercy of God is applied.

II. WHAT IS (THE CAUSE) OF THEIR PAINS AND AFFLICTIONS

The Scripture here tells us that the fools - they are fools because of their transgression, and their iniquity. They are afflicted.

The Doctor today or the physician tries to find out the root of the cause of the disease. And then he will deal with it. Now when souls are brought to grief by sin, through providential dealings or through the smiting of conscience of the Holy Spirit, we are taught here that the source of their sorrow is their sin.

These sins are mentioned in the text, Fools because of their transgression. Their iniquity.

How many are or have our sins been? Who shall count them. Sins are various and are therefore /called/ transgressions and iniquities. We do not all sin alike. Nor does any one man sin alike at all times.

We commit sins by word through deeds against God, against men, against our bodies, against our souls, against the Gospel, against the law, against the week day duties, against our Sunday privileges. Sins of all sorts. Our sins are transgressions and when we (add) them up - they are iniquities. No one is more greedy than a sinner. And he is greedy after his own destruction. He is never content with revolting. He must need rebel more and more. As a (stone) rolls down hill - it's pace is excellerated. The farther it goes, the faster it moves - the sinner goes from bad to worse.

(Perhaps) you need to come to God's hospital. You are poor. You are in poverty. It may be traceable to drunkenness, laziness, dishonesty - all poverty does not come from these sources. Blessed be God - there are thousands of poor who are the excellent of the earth. And many who are serving God right nobly. But there will come people who may be in good circumstances a few years ago but they are wretched now. At the time that the disease breaks out in another sort of misery. And it is very painful. They are afflicted, they are ashamed. And there are transgressions. There are many people in this (great city) of ours -- men and women who dare not tell their condition - but whose story is a terrible one indeed. As God read it. Oh, that God may have pity upon them and take them into His house and heal them with his abundant grace.

(Another) thing about this thing, the cause and the affliction. It brings on mental situations. Many are brought by sin very low - even to despair. And conscience picks them - and there is the (fear) of death and Hell. And a man says, I remember - I was in this way. I was a poor fool because of my transgressions and iniquities. But the day I thought of the punishment of my sin, by night I dreamed about it. I woke up in the morning with the burden still on my heart. I could not carry or shake it off. And sin was at the bottom of my sorrow. My sin, my sin - has been a constant

plague. Though a man may have all the earthly comforts, and have friends to cheer him - still, if he is unconverted, it is like a horse dragging him along. And crushing him.

III. LET US NOTICE THE (PROGRESS) OF THE DISEASE

V.18
We have seen that the name has been that of a fool. And we have seen the cause of it. Now let us look at the progress. The Scripture says their soul abhorreth all manner of meat. Like persons who have lost their appetite. And eat nothing. And they draw near unto the gates of death. They are given over and nearly dead.

These words may reach some people's whose disease of sin has developed itself in fearful sorrow. And now they are unable to find comfort in anything. Somehow maybe they used to use a theatre. But not any longer. They used to be an entertainer in society. And tell jokes at the table - but now you cannot. You used to go to the place of worship - but you find no comfort even there.

The manner of meat that is served to God's saints is not suitable to you. And you cry - "I am not worthy of it." Wherever you hear a sermon thundering against the ungodly you feel - that is for me. But when it comes to you - "comfort ye, comfort ye my people". You just conclude ah, that is not for me. Even if it is an invitation to a sinner - you say. But I do not feel my sins. I am not such a one as may come to Christ. I am a cast-a-way.

Your soul (abhorreth) all manner of meat. Even that out of (God's kitchen).

Not only are you (dissatisfied) with the world's food and fattness. But the text add, they draw near unto the gates of death. The soul is exceedingly sorrowful - even unto death. And feels that it cannot bear up much longer.

I remember once reading about the bitterness of the words of Job My soul, chooseth strangling and death rather than my life. " For the wretchedness and the sin-burdened soul - it is intollerable. Now everyone does not suffer strong convictions like that. But you abhor meat that would restore your strength and would bring back from the gates of Hell and death to the gates of Heaven.

IV. THE DISEASE MUST TAKE A TURN WITH THE (INTERVENTION OF THE PHYSICIAN)

V.19

Notice here that the Scripture says, then "they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

The good physician is the true healer. Observe when the physician comes in, when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble. The physician has come. I will say because they cry - they cry because he came. For whenever a soul truly cries unto God, God has already blessed it by enabling it to cry. And when you pray to God, God is visiting your soul and healing you.

People of Dayton Ohio thought William & Orville Wright + their sister were fools insisted try to fly as Birds.

Ananias would not believe Paul was converted had he not seen him praying.

But it is a cry. You do not need to teach your children to cry. You do not have to have a schoolmaster to teach them that art. How shall I pray. Just pour out your heart, my brother. Turn the vessle up-side-down. Let the contents run out. Tell the Lord what you need to ask him. We don't feel as we should. We need to pray. Now the physician comes in. They'll see next what he did. He saved them out of their distresses. And delivered them from their destructions. An infinite mercy from our God. It reveals to us that the heart can be pardoned of sin. Is it little wonder that in that hour - there was joy. The Lord visited them in mercy. Thou wilt do so.

19B

So that the moment that you believe, just as Moses lifted up his rod, and the sea, there is one who lifts up the rod and the atoning blood flows over and your sins are destroyed. What a joy that God answers that cry.

But how is this done? The Psalms said, he sent his word and healed them. His Word - how God in nobles his language when he uses it. The Word is up-lifted in Scripture in the foremost place and put on a level with God.

V.20

The Word indicates God-like. God in person. In the beginning was the Word, it denotes God himself. For the Word was hope and was God. Our hope is in the Word. The incarnate logos, the eternal word. The same respects our salvations comes to us entirely through the sending of that Word to be made flesh and dwell among us.

When we come to God's hospital - our saving health comes by his strips we are healed. But here the expression is best understood of the Gospel - with the Word of God. Often the reading of the Scriptures prove the means of healing troubled soul. Or else the same word is made effective when spoken from a loving heart.

What might there is in the (plain preaching) of the Gospel - no power in all the world can match it.

Some people would like to have us believe that the nation has gone to Sodom and the Gospel candle has been blown out. But I am a believer in the prophesy. Leave us our Bibles, our pulpit, and our God - and we shall see and win the victory yet. We need to preach it plainly. How sharp this Gospel sword proves itself. When the Lord enables His servant to put the Gospel plain into language that is understood.

Still the Word of God is the Bible - and the Word of God preached cannot heal the soul unless God should send it, in the most emphatic sense, he sent His Word. When the eternal spirit brings home the Words of power, that what a Word it is. Then the miracles of grace wrought within us are such as to astonish friends and to confound the foes.

Hear, and your soul shall live. Faith cometh by hearing. And hearing by the Word of God.

V. THE (CONDUCT) OF THOSE WHO ARE HEALED IN GOD'S HOSPITAL

v. 21 First, they praised God for His (goodness.) That they were brought out of prison and the sweet music was heard. They were delivered from the horrible pit and the miray clay. They were just like a bird in a cage - robbed of its liberty. And think, how when that bird is set free - how it sings. Like a poor soul in a dungeon. Delivered, set free. This is the great goodness that they shall be saved. They wondered at his mercy and sang of his wonderful works.

Observed that in their praises - they ascribe all to God. They praise him for his wonderful work. Salvation is God's work from beginning to end.

V, 22 Second, they add to their praise - (sacrifice.) Let them sacrifice. The sacrifice of (thanksgiving) What shall be the sacrifice of a sinner, from going down into the pits of Hell. Shall he bring a calf. No, let him bring his heart. Let him offer himself. Let him place his talents, his substance. Let my Lord take all seeing that he has saved my soul. Will you not lay your all out for him. Who layed himself out for you. In addition to the sacrifice - they begin to offer thanksgiving. And if you have been pardoned, you certainly want to thank him.

22 B Third, these who came to God's hospital had an added gift - a decoration of joy.) At what God had done for them. Let them declare his works with rejoicing.) You, who have been pardoned, tell the church, about the Lord's mercy. Let his people discover the gladness. And if your soul has been brought to Jesus - this is our reward. I can truly say that I have never such joy as when I see people who have heard the good news personally. And they have found peace. And there is joy in those - any true minister of Christ who willingly lays down himself to die among the multitudes to save a few. But when they come out and tell their neighbors that they have been to the hospital of Jesus - and have been restored. Though you were hated for all manner of meat and drew near to the gates of death, and maybe a poor soul in that condition. But this is God's message to you.

We need to publish like the woman who slipped through the crowd, touched the hem of his garment, fainted away and would have faded away - but Jesus said, somebody touched

And she was compelled to tell the truth. I was sore. I was sick of soul but I touched Thee, oh my blessed Lord. And I was saved. And then she goes on to praise God for all of this goodness and his grace to her.

There was a medical doctor by the name of Dr. Brackett. He specialized in serving poor people. He worked in a small town in South Western part of the U. S. He would get up on the coldest night and go for miles to help a needy soul. Everybody knew his office - it was on Main Street. Over a clothing store. There was a plate on the doorway. He (never married) - he fell in love. But on the day of his wedding - he was called to the birth of a Mexican child. And his girl gave him up. She said that a man who would fail to appear at his wedding - for the sake of a Mexican child, would not be any good for a husband. Now a lot of people agreed with her. But not, I dare say, the parents of that little Mexican girl. He died a few years ago - he was over 70. It was the (biggest) funeral that had ever been had in that neighborhood. And then they began to argue over a (fitting memorial). What should be inscribed on it - how big it should be. But as often happens, it all ended up in the talk - and only the people who seemed really worried were the (parents) of the girl. Of the child that he had delivered so many years ago on the day that was supposed to be his wedding day. They settled the memorial in the end. It was the undertaker that discovered what they had done. They were (too) poor themselves to put up a stone. They went at night and took from the door of the old office the (brass plate). That had been there so many years. Passing through the cemetery, the (undertaker) noticed the plate imbedded and the mass of flowers. He read the old inscription. "Dr. Brackett. Office upstairs."

Prov 11:7 Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge But fools despise wisdom & instruction

I say again, when men and women will come to the (hospital of God) that God will bless them in caring for their sick and needy soul. And in love, and they will go out and bear his cross. This is a great need of the hour - to come to Christ's hospital. His office is upstairs.