

“But for you who fear My name,
the sun of righteousness will rise
with healing in its wings; and
you will go forth and skip about
like calves from the stall.”

Malachi 4:2 NASB1995



Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com

A Health Care Reality Check

It's easy to get caught up in the political and social issues of our time. Currently, you can't turn on the TV or radio, or pick up a newspaper without being bombarded with news on the health care debate going on in Washington. Most of us probably have our opinions about the issues involved. Some might like more government control and financing of health care, and some might want less. Some might prefer that health insurance be mandatory for all, while other might like a choice in the matter. No matter what our feelings are on these and related issues, Christians need to remember to allow their thinking to be directed by their faith in God and the truths found in His word. Whatever Washington decides about healthcare, certain things will remain true.

Clean living leads to good health. The best health care plan in the world is to live like God says. He created us and surely knows what is best for us! "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones." (Proverbs 3.7-8).

Listening to wise parents promotes a long healthy life. Solomon said "My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart, for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh" (Proverbs 4.20-22). "Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6.2-3). ...

Health is a gift from God. It is the Lord who blesses people with good health and well being.

As was mentioned earlier, we can certainly do things to promote our health. And the Scriptures indicate that doctors and pharmaceuticals also have roles to play in keeping us healthy (cf. Matthew 9.12; 1 Timothy 5.23; Luke 10.34; Jeremiah 51.8). But ultimately it is God who blesses us with health and healing. Let's not forget that! "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases" (Psalm 103.2-3). We may have all the money in the world, but the health and strength to enjoy it is a gift from God. Solomon observes, "As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor — this is the gift of God" (Ecclesiastes 5.19).

No health care program is going to keep us from dying. We talk about health care as if it is going to prevent people from dying. It will not. You can take all the pills you want. Exercise, eat right and avoid risky behavior, and you will still die anyway! In the end, it won't matter what health care program our nation adopts. "No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, and no one has power in the day of death. There is no release from that war, and wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it" (Ecclesiastes 8.8).

If our thinking is right, we'll be much more concerned about what happens after death than we are about what to do to prolong life — for "it is appointed for man to die once, but after this the judgement" (Hebrews 9.27)

Written by; Steve Klein

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The Problem of Postmodernism

Postmodernism is not a new philosophy, but remains one of the more dangerous lines of thought. It is the idea of no objective truth, instead opting for relativism which believes there is no single truth that is true for everyone. If truth is relative to each person, then each person is free to determine their own right and wrong. You can begin to see the danger of this line of reasoning.

Doy Moyer in his book, *Mind Your Faith, Essays In Apologetics* has this to say about postmodernism.

"To the postmodernist, truth can not be proved in any objective way because we are essentially trapped in our language prisons, able only to express subjective feelings... Feeling and intuition tell us more than reason or evidence, so we need to go with what we feel. Since there is no absolute truth, then everything, including our morality, is relative and person-dependent. There are no objective standards by which to judge anyone or anything; all ethical views should be tolerated (and that is, ironically, seen as absolute). In the postmodern view, traditional morality is seen as oppressive. Because the Bible is expressed in such absolute terms, postmodernist reject its fundamental principles. They may have some interest in spirituality as long as they can define it on their own terms. It's okay to be religious as a postmodernist, but it is not good to teach that your religion is the only way. All religious views are equally valid — except the one that claims to be the one right way." (Pg. 170)

Of course this philosophy is false because there is an absolute truth and standard by which all will be judged, the word of God. Through God's word we can know right from wrong, we do not determine it based on our feelings. John 17.17 says, "Sanctify them in the truth, Your word is truth." Also, John 8.31b-32 says, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Not only did God give us truth, but we can know the truth, and be saved by obedience to it.

Written by; Derek Steen