

THE BALANCE BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTHCARE

Bryan Matthew Dockens

World events in recent years, which have resulted in lasting impacts upon personal health, employment, relationships, and even whether Walmart is open 24/7, have also led to a widespread shift in public perception of the medical field. Christians need to exercise caution against extremes, neither demonizing nor lionizing the entire field of conventional medicine and neither wholeheartedly embracing nor outright rejecting every aspect of alternative treatment.

While making a much deeper and far more important spiritual point, Jesus said, *“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick”* (Matthew 9:12). Implicitly, sick people do need physicians, but preventative care for the healthy is unnecessary.

The woman who was famously healed when she touched the hem of Jesus’ garment was one who *“had suffered many things from many physicians”* (Mark 5:26). Sick people do need physicians, but their efforts to heal may fail. Indeed, physicians may cause more harm! While failing to heal and increasing their patients’ pain, physicians are usually very expensive. That same woman with the flow of blood *“spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any”* (Luke 8:43).

That physicians might do more harm than healing is not automatic proof that alternative treatments are effective. Many home remedies are encouraged on the basis that because they are natural, they must be healthy. This claim is factually absurd inasmuch as nature itself has been cursed by God! *“Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you”* (Genesis 3:17-18).

The same Holy Spirit who teaches submission to governing authorities (1st Peter 2:13-17) also teaches not to trust them (Psalm 146:3) and to expect those tasked with upholding justice (Romans 13:1-7) to subvert justice (Ecclesiastes 5:8). In much the same way, Scripture acknowledges that sick people need physicians and that physicians are very often unhelpful, even harmful.

If it is right to *“test all things”* of a spiritual sort (1st Thessalonians 5:21), then a willingness to examine both conventional and alternative healthcare, on a patient by patient and case by case basis, is a fair and balanced approach.

OBITUARY FOR JESUS OF NAZARETH

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Jesus of Nazareth, aged about 33, passed away violently Friday at Golgotha near Jerusalem. He was preceded in death by His step-father Joseph and His cousin John, and is survived by His mother Mary, His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas, and His sisters.

He was born in Bethlehem, where His first crib was a trough and His first visitors were shepherds from the fields. As a toddler, He received gifts from Magi visiting from the East. He spent a portion of His childhood as a refugee in Egypt, but grew up mostly in Nazareth of Galilee. His step-father trained Him to be a carpenter, the family trade.

His cousin John loved to call him *“the Lamb of God”*. To His friends, He was *“King”*, *“Teacher”*, *“Master”*, *“Lord”*, *“Christ”*, and *“Son of God”*.

Jesus was well traveled throughout Judah and Galilee, enjoying time on boats, on mountains, in the wilderness, and in the cities. He never met a stranger.

He was an accomplished miracle worker, first demonstrating His power at a wedding in Cana, where he transformed water into wine. More than once, he multiplied a single meal of a few fish and bread loaves into a feast for thousands. He could scold a storm and the winds and waves would obey Him. He cast out demons. He restored sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the mute, and made the lame to walk. He healed the sick and He raised the dead.

Days after a crowd in Jerusalem chanted *“Hosanna”* to welcome Him as King they chanted *“Crucify Him”* to the Governor who passed sentence that He should be executed. Strangely, Governor Pontius Pilate acquitted the Galilean prior to sentencing.

Jesus was laid to rest in a rock-hewn tomb in a garden near the cross, having been buried by prominent council member Joseph of Arimathea and his colleague Nicodemus, Joseph having donated the tomb. Burial was temporary, however, Jesus having exhumed His own body calmly, deliberately, and according to ancient prophecy.

In lieu of flowers, the formerly deceased requests that we unite with Him in death by baptism in order to die to sin and rise to live for righteousness. He further requests His body to be remembered in the breaking of bread and His blood to be remembered in the fruit of the vine, with subsequent instructions indicating this memorial is to be conducted in the church at the beginning of each week.

***"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"***

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

***"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"***

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's & Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

***"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"***

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

***"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"***

PROVERBS 25:11

"Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habit. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny."

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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WHY GOD CREATED MAN

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There is a fundamental need to know not only humanity's origin, that God made man, but also mankind's purpose for being, why He did so.

When Paul preached to the idolaters of Athens, he first informed them about the one true God who created everything, and then he explained the reason He made the human race. *"He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us"* (Acts 17:26-27). All peoples everywhere were made to seek, grope for, and find the Lord. *"All things were created through Him and for Him"* (Colossians 1:16).

Man does not exist for his own pleasure, but God's. Jehovah spoke of *"Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for my glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him"* (Isaiah 43:7). Humankind, made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), was made to glorify God.

This is not a burden imposed, but a purpose to fulfill. *"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts"* (Ecclesiastes 3:11). That a divine spark exists within each heart is motivation to pursue fellowship with the Creator who put it there.

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