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*The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel*

# LIFE NEWS



## CHRIST THE HEALER

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CHILDREN'S PASTOR

"Gordon, what just happened?" That was the question that Mike asked me. Like most Christians, I believed that healing still happens today. I would pray, "God, please be with so-and-so in the hospital," but never expected much to happen. In college, that changed a little bit when I was having friends pray for people, and they were getting healed. However, when I prayed for them, nothing happened until ... Mike.

At one church where I used to serve, I was in charge of their three to five-year-olds' Wednesday night program. I had 50 kids and seven adult and teenage helpers. With that many small bodies and trying to teach them, I needed all the help I could get.

One night, one of the volunteers (Mike) came in and said he could help in our classroom activities but couldn't go downstairs for our large group time. He had injured his knee playing basketball. I needed him to help downstairs during our teaching time, so I asked if I could pray for his knee. Honestly, I didn't expect a lot to happen. I prayed some simple prayer, and he looked up at me and said, "Gordon, what just happened? I feel better." He tested his knee out by bending it and going up and down some stairs. He was completely amazed! We thanked God together, knowing that God is still healing today, as he has always done.

Christians who often talk about healing will speak of it being in the atonement of Christ. Here is a brief

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explanation of what we mean. Christ and aspects of who he was to be were prophesied throughout the Old Testament. One of the clearest descriptions comes from the beginning of Isaiah 53, **"But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; the punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds."**

Isaiah wasn't just prophesying about the atonement being for the forgiveness of sins as it is referenced in 1 Peter, **"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "By his wounds, you have been healed."** Obviously, the forgiveness of sins is a big deal.

We believe that he came as the Savior of our soul. However, Isaiah was talking about physical healing as well because it was referenced in Matthew 8:16-17,

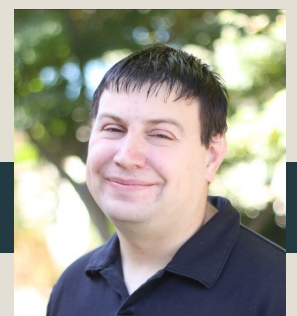
**"When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases."**

What he accomplished on the cross was atonement not just for sins (1 Peter 2:24) but also for physical sickness.

Jesus came and died in part so we can have healing in our physical bodies. If Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13) for the salvation of our souls, physical healing will be the

same for the healing of our bodies. Jesus did not just come to heal people through his earthly ministry but also by providing healing in his atonement. Therefore, healing did not stop when he died, rose again, and ascended into heaven. It continued through the disciples and through his church. (See the many healing miracles in Acts.)

We believe in Christ, the healer. This is why we still pray for people today and anoint them with oil for healing. Jesus is still in the healing business today. Therefore we pray for healing, and this is why we will have a healing service on **Sunday, January 30th**. Parkside Chapel and I invite you to our morning services at 9 & 10:45 AM, and if you want healing in your physical body, we will have elders available to pray for you. ☺



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