

Created Whole, with a Warrantee: Part 18:

Jesus Christ Maketh Thee Whole! Acts 9:34



BENEVOLENCE

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” Luke 6.38

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.” (Rear-Guard; protection) Isaiah 58.6-8

Here is a topic you seldom hear about in health education seminars. It is really very far reaching and has as much power to change our lives as any of the previous topics we have looked at. We have to stop looking at ourselves and our lives in fractional, broken-down pieces and realize that we are a total being, created whole. Physical, Mental, Spiritual, Emotional, Social, every part of our lives and our beings affect every other part and no part of us should be separated and treated as having no bearing on the rest.

We looked at attitudes and how they make or break us, and now we are considering our basic goals for existence. Most people do not have any concrete conception of the answers to these questions:

- Why am I here?
- Why was I born?
- What is the purpose of my life?
- Where am I going?

How we answer these questions or fail to answer them affects our attitudes and lives in every aspect.

The wide-spread brainwashing of the unproved and un-provable theory of Evolution would have us believe that the whole universe is just a big accident, the end result of millions of random accidents; such a view leads only to meaninglessness and emptiness in life. We end up believing humans are only a giant, cosmic burp.

Most people basically conclude; “My existence here is just a cosmic accident. There really is no purpose or meaning to life except to continue the species. I don’t know where I am going and might as well just have as much pleasure as I can while I am here.” This aimlessness and meaninglessness, not to mention the crime and sin that this creates is definitely harmful to our health and happiness!

It is one of God’s foundational Laws of the Universe, that to live only for self and selfish pleasure leads to misery and death. While if we sacrifice our own ease and comfort and seek to bring help and joy to others, happiness and fulfillment are welcome side-effects.

Hard heartedness and coldness, indifference and cruelty, can only separate us further and further from God, the ever-living, ever-loving, ever-giving Source of all life. And the further we are from Him the less life and joy we can experience, and the more hopelessly miserable we become.

God's Way School of Health

There is a little thought that says;

"I wept because I had no shoes; Until I met a man who had no feet."

Turning our eyes away from self can change everything for you. First turn your eyes to God; read the Bible and pray daily. Not as a "holiness or religious ritual", but to get to know "The only true God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent." Give your heart to Him and He will cleanse it and fill you with Peace and Joy. Then look around you and see those whom you can encourage and help; your family, spouse, neighbors, friends and those strangers your path crosses day by day. A smile, a kind word, graciously lending a helping hand, a small gift of remembrance to a lonely person, a thoughtful letter to an old friend, yes and even a letter of apology to someone you have wronged or who may have wronged you. There are countless ways benevolence can enter your life bring its healing balm on angel wings of peace and mercy.

We were not only created WHOLE but we were also created for a purpose. Notice the sad results of overlooking that fact.

"In the creation of man the Lord designed that he should be active and useful. Yet many live in this world as useless machines, as though they hardly existed. They brighten the path of none, they are a blessing to none. They live only to burden others. So far as their influence on the side of right is concerned, they are mere ciphers; but they tell with weight upon the wrong side. Search the lives of such closely, and scarcely an act of disinterested benevolence can be found. When they die, their memory dies with them. Their names soon perish; for they cannot live, even in the affections of their friends, by means of true goodness and virtuous acts. With such persons life has been a mistake. They have not been faithful stewards. They have forgotten that their Creator has claims upon them and that He designs them to be active in doing good and in blessing others with their influence. Selfish interests attract the mind and lead to forgetfulness of God and of the purpose of their Creator." 2 Testimonies 522.

The Bible tells us how Jesus 'went about doing good'; while sadly too many of us are content to just 'go about'. Some live only for amusement. What does the word 'amusement' mean? Well, 'muse' means to ponder or think; 'a' as used in the word means not to—so it means something we do so we don't think. That does not sound like a worthy idea, does it? What are we told about this class?

"Satan is busily at work in our crowded cities. His work is to be seen in the confusion, the strife and discord between labor and capital, and the hypocrisy that has come into the churches. That men may not take time to meditate, (think) Satan leads them into a round of gayety and pleasure-seeking, of eating and drinking. He fills them with ambition to make an exhibition that will exalt self. Step by step, the world is reaching the conditions that existed in the days of Noah. Every conceivable crime is committed. The lust of the flesh, the pride of the eyes, the display of selfishness, the misuse of power, the cruelty, and the force used to cause men to unite with confederacies and unions--binding themselves up in bundles for the burning of the great fires of the last days--all these are the working of Satanic agencies. This round of crime and folly men call "life." . . .

"The world, who act as though there were no God, absorbed in selfish pursuits, will soon experience sudden destruction, and shall not escape. **Many continue in the careless gratification of self until they become so disgusted with life that they kill themselves.** Dancing and carousing, drinking and smoking, indulging their animal passions, they go as an ox to the slaughter. Satan is working with all his art and enchantments to keep men marching blindly onward until the Lord arises out of His place to punish the inhabitants of earth for their iniquities, when the earth shall disclose her blood and no more cover her slain. The whole world appears to be in the march to death." 18MR 41

Amusement and entertainment do not satisfy the deep desires of the heart; that is clear.

I want to share a true story told by a Head Nurse in a children's hospital in 1903, of a boy who found his joy in unselfish giving.

God's Way School of Health

When little Jem was first brought to the hospital, it was in a carriage with liveried servants. His father was a mill-owner in Pennsylvania, and Jem was an only child. He had the largest room in the private ward. His parent's brought the boy fruit, flowers, and books.

"Please take them to that cripple in the next room, and to children in the free wards, with my love—little Jem Bruce's love," he would say, raising himself in bed, with flushed cheeks and shining eyes.

In two month he recovered and went away, but two years afterward Mrs. Bruce brought him back. She was dressed in black, and asked for a cheap room. Mr. Bruce, I heard, was dead, and had left his widow little money.

Jem's knee was worse than ever, but what a cheery, happy fellow he was! He soon learned the story of all the patients in the neighboring rooms, as he had done before. And when his mother brought him a bunch of flowers or a basket of apples, he would eagerly divide them.

"Maybe they will make some one feel happier just for a minute," he would say, with his rare smile.

His right leg was taken off at the knee. Then I lost sight of Jem for three or four years. Last winter he applied for admission to the free ward. His mother was dead. The disease had appeared in the other leg some months before. Jem had been supporting himself by typewriting, but was now no longer able to work.

He met me as if I had been his old, dear friend, as indeed, I was, and then hobbled round the wards to see if he knew any of the patients, stopping to laugh and joke and say some kind word at each bed.

The doctors amputated the other leg that day. It was the only chance for his life, but in a week they knew that it had failed. "Make the boy comfortable," the surgeon said to me; "it is all that can be done for him now."

Jem knew the truth from the first. But he never lost courage. This was his bed (pointing to the middle one of a long row of white cots in the great ward). He learned to know all the men, and took keen interest in each case.

When Johnny Royle died, Jem took out the few dollars remaining in his pocket, and gave them to me. "They're for his little children," he whispered. "They have nothing." And when old Peter was discharged, cured, he came to Jem's bed to say good-bye as if he had been his brother. Jem wrung his hand, and said: "Take my overcoat, Peter; yours is gone, and I'll never need mine again." He waved his hand, and cheered feebly as Peter went away.

He had nothing left to give now; I think that cut him sharply, but one day he began to sing. He had a remarkable voice, clear and tender; it would force the tears to your eyes. Every head in the ward was turned to listen. That delighted Jem. "I can sing for them occasionally," he said, "if the doctors will allow it."

So, whenever it was possible, Jem's sweet voice was heard, sometimes in a humorous song, sometimes in a hymn. I used to think he was at heaven's gate when he sang those hymns. But one morning his voice was gone, and before night everyone in the ward knew he was dying.

The patients were silent, many of them crying, for they all loved the boy. He died at sundown, sitting up in bed, leaning against my shoulder. He glanced around the ward, and they nodded, and smiled.

"Give them," he whispered, then stopped, remembering, poor child, that he had nothing to give. Then he said, suddenly, aloud, his eyes brightening, "Give them my love—Jem Bruce's love." The Youth's Instructor, January 29, 1903.

Now, here is my question to you readers; Do you think Jem would have been happier if he had only lived for himself and his own amusement? Do you think he would have had a better life if he spent his time complaining bitterly about all the sad, bad things that happened to him instead of seeking to cheer others? Jem had the best plan, and I am sure one day he will be among those who hear from Jesus, the "Well done, good and faithful servant. The kindness you showed to others, you did it to Me!"

Benevolence: Does it really matter to God and make a difference in our lives?

God's Way School of Health

"God cannot approve of the least degree of covetousness or selfishness, and He abhors the prayers and exhortations of those who indulge these evil traits. As Satan sees that his time is short, he leads men on to be more and more selfish and covetous, and then exults as he sees them wrapped up in themselves, close, penurious, and selfish. If the eyes of such could be opened, they would see Satan in hellish triumph, exulting over them, and laughing at the folly of those who accept his suggestions and enter his snares.

"Satan and his angels mark all the mean and covetous acts of these persons, and present them to Jesus and His holy angels, saying reproachfully: "These are Christ's followers! They are preparing to be translated!" Satan compares their course with passages of Scripture in which it is plainly rebuked, and then taunts the heavenly angels, saying: "These are following Christ and His word! These are the fruits of Christ's sacrifice and redemption!" Angels turn in disgust from the scene.

"God requires a constant doing on the part of His people; and when they become weary of well-doing, He becomes weary of them. I saw that He is greatly displeased with the least manifestation of selfishness on the part of His professed people, for whom Jesus spared not His own precious life. Every selfish, covetous person will fall out by the way. Like Judas, who sold his Lord, they will sell good principles and a noble, generous disposition for a little of earth's gain. All such will be sifted out from God's people. Those who want heaven must, with all the energy which they possess, be encouraging the principles of heaven. Instead of withering up with selfishness, their souls should be expanding with benevolence. Every opportunity should be improved in doing good to one another, and thus cherishing the principles of heaven. Jesus was presented to me as the perfect pattern. His life was without selfish interest, but ever marked with disinterested benevolence." Christian Experience and Teachings 173-174.

There is a promise we all love to quote, Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." I realized the other day that this promise only applies to those who are giving from the heart to support God's work of benevolence. Read the chapter through and you will see that this is true! The Lord offers us the opportunity to help Him, not because He needs our help, but so we can be blest. The cheerful giver will have the blessing! Here are some quotes from the book "Life of Paul" that talk of the importance of people supporting God's work and workers:

"The Philippians did not hold their small earthly possessions with a tenacious grasp, but considered them as theirs only to use in doing good. They thus experienced the truth of the words of Christ, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." They felt that the cause of Christ was one everywhere. They therefore, in their poverty, felt called out to help other churches more needy than themselves.

"This spirit of unsectional liberality should characterize the churches of today. They should continually keep the burden on their souls for the advancement of the cause of God in any and every place. Benevolence is the very foundation of the universe. God is a benefactor of the human family. He is a being of inexhaustible goodness and love. The love of the Father for man was expressed in the gift of his beloved Son to save the race from ruin." LP 175.

As an old song says:

"You've got to prime the pump, you must have faith and believe
You've got to give of yourself 'fore you're worthy to receive."

(‘Priming the pump’ refers to needing to pour some water into the mechanical water pump before you could get it to pump out water from the well.)

The Gifts of the Poor

As poor folk we sometimes think we can be blessed without giving any material things ourselves. We think the gifts we can bring to the altar are too small, yet it's the only way we can be blessed. That the poor can give yet is so plain in the scriptures; think of the widow that fed Elijah, or the poor widow lady that brought a gift of

God's Way School of Health

two coins; little is much when God is in it. James 2:5 "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"



Home Sweet Home?

There is an old saying that 'Charity begins at home'; this is very true. If you really want to know someone's true character, don't look at how he acts in church, or in public, or on the job, look as see how he acts at home when no one is around but his family.

"The daily acts of life tell the measure and mold of our disposition and character. Where there is a lack of home religion, a profession of faith is valueless. Then let no unkind words fall from the lips of those who compose the home circle. Make the atmosphere fragrant with tender thoughtfulness of others. Only those will enter heaven who in probationary time have formed a character that breathes a heavenly influence. The saint in heaven must first be a saint upon earth. That which will make the character lovely in the home is that which will make it lovely in the heavenly mansions. The measure of your Christianity is gauged by the character of your home life. The grace of Christ enables its possessors to make the home a happy place, full of peace and rest. Unless you have the Spirit of Christ, you are none of His and will never see the redeemed saints in His kingdom, who are to be one with Him in the heaven of bliss. God desires you to consecrate yourself wholly to Him and represent His character in the home circle." {CG 481.1}

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days? But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into our work than into our own family; an unwise investment indeed, don't you think?

"Above all things else, let parents surround their children with an atmosphere of cheerfulness, courtesy, and love. A home where love dwells, and where it is expressed in looks, in words, and in acts, is a place where angels delight to manifest their presence.

"Parents, let the sunshine of love, cheerfulness, and happy contentment enter your own hearts, and let its sweet, cheering influence pervade your home. Manifest a kindly, forbearing spirit; and encourage the same in your children, cultivating all the graces that will brighten the home life. The atmosphere thus created will be to the children what air and sunshine are to the vegetable world, promoting health and vigor of mind and body." MH 386, 387.

Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do;
Do not wait to shed your light afar;
To the many duties ever near you now be true;
Brighten the corner where you are!

Up above are cloudy skies that you may help to clear,
Let not narrow self your way debar;
Though into one heart alone may fall your song of cheer,
Brighten the corner where you are!

Here for all your talent you will surely find a need,
Here reflect the 'Bright and Morning Star',

God's Way School of Health

Even from your humble hand the Bread of Life may feed,
Brighten the corner where you are!

Counterfeit Benevolence

Everything that is part of God's plan, Satan tries to have a counterfeit for it. True Benevolence is Self-sacrificing Love, and it is also described about in 1 Corinthians 13. But did you know that there is a counterfeit benevolence? Oh yes; and Jesus told us about it in His Sermon on the Mount. "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matthew 6:1.

What does this mean? There are many in this world that do good deeds and give money just so that others will see it and praise them. Jesus says the praise of men is the only reward they will ever get, because God looks at the heart of the giver, if his only reason for giving is so he can get praise from men, then there will be no reward from God because his motives were selfish.

The world puts a lot of emphasis on giving gifts to one another, but their reason for giving is so they will receive gifts in return. This again is not true benevolence. Jesus tells us more about this in Luke:

"32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." Luke 6:32-36

So just what motive is true benevolence to come from? Perhaps this story may explain help us find out.

There once was a man named George Thomas, a pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Several eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak "I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What you got there son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you gonna do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh??!!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing, they ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded

God's Way School of Health

the birds to come out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty birdcage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story.

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you get done with them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you!! You don't want those people!!"

"How much?" He asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your tears, and all your blood."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price."

The pastor picked up the cage; he opened the door, leaving the cage for all to see, and walked from the pulpit, while the congregation sat in tearful silence.

Truly Jesus, through His self-sacrificing Love has opened the door to life for us all. Let us join Him in shedding that kind of heavenly love upon all around us in kindly words, loving deeds and gracious attitudes.

For more information visit: www.hygienic-healing.com