

Will Everyone go to Heaven?

Over the past few years, interest seems renewed in “Extreme Grace” as it is sometimes called, today. I know the teaching better by its name from the 1940's & 1950's -- “The Ultimate Reconciliation of All Things.” Some today call their teaching, “Universal Salvation.”

Whatever the name applied, the idea is this. God is love. A loving God would never send anyone to a terrible hell – certainly not permanently – if at all. Then scholars raise the questions: “Has the traditional historical church mis-interpreted scripture into a doctrine of the pious and the damned – that of a vengeful God whose Holiness demanded the bloody death of Christ on the cross?”

A few years ago, a prominent Evangelical Pentecostal broke ranks with his upbringing and the likes of Oral Roberts and Kathryn Kuhlman and the Church of God in Christ to embrace the idea that everyone – all are bound for heaven.

For years, I have served on the Board of Directors of a prominent Christian website. A few years ago, we were made aware that a couple of young people working on their staff had come to believe all will ultimately be reconciled to God.

Recently, someone close to our family sent us a copy of a new book – touted even by the venerable stalwart of faith, “Christianity Today.” The book concerns the search of its two authors. A search which led them from traditional doctrines of Christianity concerning heaven and hell – to a belief they call the real, “Good News.” -- **Everyone is going to heaven.**

My answer to the dear one who gave us the book, “I hope your right. I really do --”

What does the Bible really say? Since the advent of *The DaVinci Code* modern believers are beset with educational television concerning lost books of the Bible which may not have been included in the canon due to the exaltation and prominence of women in leadership – and view which differed from male leadership -- leadership with political aspirations.

And – is the Bible a viable authority? At least one of the authors purporting this *extreme grace* makes crystal clear he no longer believes in the inerrancy of the Bible.

Are the secrets buried somewhere in the history of the church? Have documents been consigned to oblivion in the basement of some ancient library which would give precious light? Can the church with a leadership of men be trusted? Scholars point to the Church's persecution of great men such as Galileo – consigned to a heretic's hell because his science showed all creation did not revolve around the earth and man. (And the fact that the church's apology was about 359 years too late.)

Is it simply common sense and the experience of losing loved ones who don't fit the

“saved” mold that decide the issue? Surely a loving God would not send my loved one to hell!

Like most families, the believers in our heritage have questions of the salvation of several loved ones who have passed on. Our family and circle of close friends have not escaped the tragedy of suicide and murder. When death is so sudden, was that loved one “ready” to go? Is suicide an unpardonable damnation? Would a loving God send a person to hell – who has been so tormented in his mind that a gun to his head was the only way out??

I have never pretended to have all the answers. Scholars have written volumes concerning these questions. The early fathers of “Christ-anity” faced many of these same issues under the heading of Gnosticism. There is certainly a hint of “universal salvation” in the writings of Origen of Alexandria (third century) and of Gregory of Nyssa (fourth century).

The question of authority for me – is settled. I believe the Bible to be the inerrant and infallible Word of God. Oh sure, I know all the arguments. “Perhaps the original text (called autographs) were divine – but we have only copies of copies and most of us use translations which certainly allow for the errors of men.”

In any court of law today, two phrases control actions. 1) The preponderance of evidence. 2). Reasonable doubt. In most of the World's courts, the preponderance of evidence is sufficient if it removes reasonable doubt.

Here, I suggest you obtain a copy of, “***HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE.***” By Neil R. Lightfoot, published by Baker Book House, Co. Dr. Lightfoot boils the complex history of the Bible down to a very factual, understandable – easy afternoon's read. For simplicity's sake in our discussion here the majors are thus: Jesus accepted the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, which Scholars are quite certain remains true in textual accuracy today. In matters of the early Christian writings which became the New Testament – the preponderance of evidence overwhelms reasonable doubt. And yes, there is the problem of translations. I have good friends who are Hebrew scholars and I have a friend who was born on the island of Crete. Her husband is currently the head of the language department at Baylor University. They assure me (as do the bulk of textual scholars – called “critics”) that our major translations are accurate. After all, even in my West Texas drawl, the waitresses in Peruvian restaurants understand my poor Spanish, “Mas cafe, por favor (more coffee, please).” An accurate translation. “Papas fritas” or “French fries” will get you exactly the same thing in one of our West Texas restaurants where there are English/Spanish bi-lingual staff.

If the Bible is accurate – is it the Word of God? The most compelling evidence is the fulfilled prophecy contained therein. For a full treatment of this subject, I suggest you peruse, “***Truths That Transform***” by Dr. D. James Kennedy (Fleming H. Revell Company, 1974)

“There are over 2,000 specific prophecies in the Bible which have already been fulfilled. This is particularly astounding when we recall that there are no such prophecies in the ‘scriptures’ of any other religion...

For example, the writings of Buddha are totally lacking in any sort of specific predictive prophecy about the things of the future. In the writings of Confucius, there is absolutely nothing of any predictive prophecies. In the case of the Koran, the scriptures of the Muslims, we find only the prophecy of Mohammad that he would return to Mecca, a ‘self-fulfilling prophecy,’ which he himself, of course, fulfilled.

This is quite different from the prophecy of Christ, who said that he would rise from the dead. And that is just one of several thousands of prophecies that occur in the Scriptures and which are of the most specific, concrete, and definite nature.”

—Dr. D. James Kennedy

The second compelling evidence of the Bible – is its ability to transform individuals and therefore societies. Every church and ministry where the Bible is truly read, preached, applied, and lived will have many whose very lives (the “before” and “after”) are living proof. I'll be happy to introduce you.

Here I would like to cite one fact that seems very clear in scripture – babies go to heaven.

“¹⁵And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when *his* disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁷Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.” (Luke 18:15 KJV)

2 Samuel chapter 11 recounts a terrible story – a story of adultery, murder, and death. It records the weaknesses of human flesh and the horrible sin of a man of whom the scripture says, “is after God's own heart.” It is the story of King David and Bathsheba. Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah, one of David's captains. David saw her and sought her. They had an affair and Bathsheba became pregnant. David brought Uriah in, hoping he would be with his wife and think the child was his. It didn't work out that way. David sent Uriah into battle and had his men withdraw from Uriah – leaving him to be killed. God saw it as pre-meditated murder.

2 Samuel chapter 12 records something remarkable. Murder is punishable by death (Exodus 21:12, “¹²He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.” Adultery is punishable by death under the law. (Lev. 20:10, “And the man that committeth adultery with *another* man's wife, *even he* that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.” Yet both David and Bathsheba sought God's forgiveness and received a pardon. The child conceived in adultery however – died. David sought God for the child's life – almost to the point of madness – yet the child died, as judgment for their sin (2 Samuel 12:14). When the child dies, David does something remarkable – he rises, bathes and resumes his life which astounds those who love him (2 Samuel 12:20,21). David's answer to their

astonishment is a priceless gem of scripture, “²³But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? ***I shall go to him***, but he shall not return to me.” There is no doubt that David (and Bathsheba) received forgiveness – both are directly mentioned in the lineage of Christ in Matthew 1:6! And David’s faith is secure, “I shall go to him!” The child is in heaven.

There seems to be a point at which children as they grow and mature, learn to recognize right from wrong. Many call that pivotal moment, “the age of accountability.” Most every recognized branch of Christian faith believe and teach that children and babies before that age are bound for heaven – because of King David's bold statement.

There are many scriptures which affirm the fact that God – in the form of Christ came to “seek and save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10) and “and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” (Col 1:20 NRSV) – thus the basis for the “ultimate reconciliation of all things” or “universal salvation.”

Many now believe even the work of the cross was unnecessary – and its message “unfortunate” to teach. “God never intended a vengeful judgment and wanted to save everyone all along” – sing the floppy-eared bunny brigade who want everyone to feel warm and fuzzy.

Let's begin with at the Ten Commandments – listed in Exodus chapter 20. The second commandment has this stern warning expounded. “You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; ***for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,*** ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation-of those who love me and keep my commandments.” (NRSV)

These verses in Hebrews chapter 12 tell us of the terror which accompanied the LORD appearing on Sinai and giving the Commandments, “²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) (NRSV)

Perhaps more terrifying is this verse: “²⁰The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” (Ezekiel 18:20 KJV) *Where then does that leave me?* “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23 KJV) “¹⁰As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹²They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10 KJV)

This passage beginning with Isaiah 64:6 is clear as it is translated into English, “⁶But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do

fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. ⁷And *there is* none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.” However, when we read the Hebrew word for “filthy rags” the niceties of the King James translators fade – the word is “menstrual rags.”

Galatians 3:13 gives the remedy, “¹³Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:”

The Word in fact teaches “universal damnation.” When man sinned (Jesus' half-brother, Jude, taught that there was a literal Adam, Jude v14) the entire race of descendants inherited that sin (Romans 5:12).

The Word does in fact teach “universal redemption” -- but that the gift must be received by the individual. “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” (John 4:10 KJV – Jesus to the Woman at the well.)

God's love comes without condition “⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8 NRSV)

His blessings in this life clearly come with conditions. The plethora of blessings listed in Deuteronomy chapter 28 begin with these Words, spoken by God himself to Moses, “If you will only obey the LORD your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; ² all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the LORD your God:” (NRSV)

I find it interesting that exactly twice the number of blessings -- are the curses are listed if we disobey His Word beginning with verse 45 of the same chapter, “⁴⁵ All these curses shall come upon you, pursuing and overtaking you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the LORD your God, by observing the commandments and the decrees that he commanded you. ⁴⁶ They shall be among you and your descendants as a sign and a portent forever.” (NRSV)

Are blessings and curses in life conditional? Ask the family of the alcoholic – the drug addict – the murderer – the thief in prison – the parents of a drug damaged child. I meet these in nearly every prayer service I conduct. Then sit down with the family of a moral father – a moral mother. Talk with the parents of the studious and loving teen (and yes there are still some left – I also see these in every service I conduct).

I'm thinking of one particular family as I write this. There are two fine sons – now married. One proudly in the Military serving you – his countrymen, and the other running a company giving employment to many men and women. Both of these men are in their twenties. Their father and mother own numbers of businesses. Not only is their family blessed in love and kindness, they are prosperous with enough to help others.

The father was born to an alcoholic mother and a father who quite simply had other things to do than raise a son. Both he and his wife were alcoholics by the time they married.

It wasn't luck, my friend. It was the power of the risen Lord, Jesus, and His Word applied practically to their lives and business affairs – with a good dose of “gumption” (intestinal fortitude) and hard work.

Every week I am called upon to counsel those who have either fallen or been pushed, or tripped into the black hole of disobedience to the Word of God. I see the results. Battered women and children – sometimes even battered men – poverty – households sorely lacking in love and kindness – depression – guilt, etc.

I was once called to the scene of a suicide and attempted murder. A drunken husband thought his wife was having an affair. “I was at church,” she replied fearfully. “Let's see if your @\$% God can save you from this!” he shouted as he put the nozzle of the 38mm pistol just behind her left ear and pulled the trigger. She fell into a pool of her own blood. He put the pistol to his temple and once again pulled the trigger.

He died. She, however, was quite conscious when I reached her bed in the emergency room. I could clearly see the cleaned entry wound just behind her left ear. She told me the story I just related. She was knocked unconscious by the blast and the bullet striking her skull. Her children were frantically trying to break into the locked house – having heard her screams from next door. Regaining consciousness, she managed to crawl to a door and almost had it open when the police and paramedics broke through. She underwent a minor surgery. The bullet struck the skull and burrowed between the skull and the skin and was lodged just under the skin in the back of her neck. The surgeon removed the bullet, cleaned the wound, and she went home that same day. Her enraged drunken husband's challenge to the Living God was answered – albeit posthumously.

Today the remaining family is serving God. But their family is forever broken – harmed. You and I can call that husband's drunken murderous rage a sickness (and he had undergone some professional counseling) – the Word of God calls it sin – murder. And it produces the results - “curses” - listed in Deuteronomy chapter 28.

Does God's Word also proclaim blessings and curses in the afterlife? Jesus is speaking in this passage beginning in Matthew chapter 25 verse 31. This seems to be the judgment of those who are living on the earth at the time of Jesus' return. ³¹ *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was*

*naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’⁴¹ **Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;**⁴² *for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,*⁴³ *I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’⁴⁶ **And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”** (NRSV)**

This passage beginning in Revelation chapter 20 deals with evil, unrepentant men. These having refused the “gift” of God begin to plead the “filthy rags” of their own righteousness. Books of their deeds are opened, and the implication here is “the punishment fits the crime.”¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books.¹³ And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done.¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire;¹⁵ and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.” (NRSV)

For those who plead for this lake of fire to be some sort of purifying temporary purgatory, we see it's grand opening, a thousand years before this event. In Revelation 19:20, the Beast (anti-Christ) and the False Prophet are judged and thrown into the lake of fire. Here they are 1,000 years later. (Rev. 20:10,¹⁰ And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (NRSV) The word used here for “eternal fire” - “for ever and ever” is the Greek word “aion” meaning eternal. It is used of God and Christ as Eternal in 1 Timothy 1:17.

And if I am wrong and the “universalists” are right? Well, I have lived most of my life in the blessings I previously ascribed to a friend's family. I have taught men and women to live according to those principles. I have tried to love and help those who have not known or understood.

I have friends (and loved ones) who are living every conceivable kind of life with all kinds of results – and I love them, and I pray for them. Do I pray they will find the Lord Jesus and the truth of His Word? Well, I like things that work. I like things that produce results. And I've found something that works. Why should I want it for those I love. We all tell others about some good product or place of service we have found. I work in sales for the greatest Corporation there is and on the Board of Directors sit The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit!

Will everyone be in heaven? I don't know. Only God knows. I can relate this event as it happened to my friend.

In about 1960, Aquilla Nash, was walking to the crib to pick up her newborn son. She began to hemorrhage so badly that she could not get back to the bed. Family got her to the hospital and the doctors did a D & C and thought her problem was solved.

She said, “I looked at a nurse who was working in the room and told her something was wrong.” The nurse froze when she turned to look at Aquilla – then pulled back the sheet. Aquilla was lying in a pool of blood having hemorrhaged around the packing. For the next hours doctors worked and transfusions poured into each arm. Aquilla remembers her family physician looking at her fingernails and toes. He sat down at the foot of the bed and shook his head at the other doctors. Blood was running out faster than they could put it in. She was too weak to speak – giving the appearance of unconsciousness.

In those moments she knew she was dying. She said to me, “I saw that tunnel they talk about – and a light. I saw time without end, and time without end . . . And I knew – if I had known the Lord – it would be a glorious experience – but I had always thought I'd be a Christian when I was too old to do anything else. I didn't want to be a hypocrite.” In those moments she prayed, silently, internally. She received the “gift” of God's eternal life purchased with the precious blood of His only begotten Son. His death paying the price the law demanded -- “the soul that sinneth it shall die.” Jesus' sinless, spotless, precious death paid the price for **all** who will receive.

Aquilla often recounts, if she had died (God was gracious – she lives and works for Him today) and you had asked her family of her salvation – they would have bowed in sorrow. They knew she rejected the Lord. She once told me, “They'd have said 'She went straight to hell!’” -- But in those last moments of life, the Lord in His gracious mercy reached out to her and heaven would have been her home.

I remember looking over an audience once and seeing a girl I knew in High School. I couldn't believe she was born-again! Then I noticed she was staring at me with the same disbelief and shock! She couldn't believe I was a Christian! We had a good time recounting the stories of our conversions. I think heaven will be like that.

This scripture has given many sleepless nights, “As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” (Romans 9:13 KJV)

After all – how could God “hate” someone – of his own creation. The favorite radio teacher, Dr. J. Vernon McGee, gives the following, “*This is a quotation from the last*

book in the Old Testament (see Mal. 1:2–3). This statement was not made until the two boys had lived their lives and two nations had come from them, which was about two thousand years later, and much history had been made. A student once said to Dr. Griffith Thomas that he was having trouble with this passage because he could not understand why God hated Esau. Dr. Thomas answered, “I am having a problem with that passage too, but mine is different. I do not understand why God loved Jacob.” That is the big problem. It is easy to see why God rejected Esau, friend. He was a rascal; he was a godless fellow, filled with pride, and from him came a nation that wanted to live without God and turned their backs upon Him. I can understand why God rejected Esau, but not why He chose Jacob. The Bible tells us that He made His choice according to His sovereign will.” (McGee, J. Vernon: *Thru the Bible Commentary*. Electronic ed. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1981, S. Ro 9:13)

The amazing thing is that God loves any of us!

Jesus said, “Many are called but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:14 KJV). How, then do I get to be chosen?? It's so simple most folk miss it. ***Answer the call.***

In this post-modern society in which we live, one question remains, “Do all roads lead to heaven?” Can someone follow the Buddha or Mohammad – even their own heart – or Jesus and the God of the Christian Bible with equal results? Heaven?

"Tolerance is the last virtue of a depraved society. When you have an immoral society that has blatantly, proudly, violated all of the commandments of God, there is one last virtue they insist upon: tolerance for their immorality."

-- Dr. D. James Kennedy

Jesus said, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6 KJV)

This incident beginning in Acts chapter 3 is most interesting. A miracle of healing validates the power of the Living Christ – through the use of His name, Jesus.

⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, ⁹If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; ¹⁰Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole. ¹¹This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. ¹²Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. ¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.” (Acts 4:7-14 KJV)

The scripture speaks of this beggar – that he was above 40 years of age (Acts 4:22) and that he had been laid daily at the gate by the temple to solicit alms (Acts 3:2). Everyone knew him. His miraculous healing made quite an impact.

Last September the 21st I was in the Bible city of Thessaloniki (as it is called today). Just on the outskirts of a Mediterranean resort village of Perea there is a hidden Gypsy camp. My host, Zhoro Penchev and his wife Marianna took me there. As we arrived, the leader of the camp, Yorgo, also drove up with several of his family. Having just come from Athens (8 hours drive) where his 2 month old grand-daughter had been given 8 days to live. Doctors in a charity hospital there were sending the little girl home to die from inoperable heart problems. Zhoro began telling Yorgo about a miracle working Jesus. They allowed us to pray with them. The little girl was healed and is alive today and shows no evidence of any heart problem. (Tests were repeated by the doctor in Thessaloniki who originally diagnosed her.)

If you'd like something closer to home. I'll be happy to introduce you to H. B. "Jack" Dawdy. Several years ago after suffering a massive stroke – he was also diagnosed with a large aneurysm just below the heart on the main chest artery. In Jack's weakened condition his doctor could not do surgery. His family and I prayed and asked the Lord to heal him – in the Name of Jesus. Going back for further tests, not only was the aneurysm gone but every trace of the massive stroke and the high blood pressure that caused it. Today, Jack's doctors have released him from any medication and other than an annual check-up – from further care. His doctor (in Odessa, Texas) picked him up and swung him around like a rag-doll as he exclaimed, "You are a miracle man!"

Then there's Charlotte "Charlie" McBrayer. Hers is probably the best documented case of Lupus Erythematosus in the country. Lupus is a horrible disease which attacks the bones, muscles, organs and is usually fatal through its damage to the kidneys. Charlie's case was for more than 20 years under the care of the famous John Sealy Hospital in Galveston. The papers in her medical file stack more than a foot tall. By the mid 1990's she was on dialysis for kidney failure. She wore wrist braces to keep the muscles from contracting her wrists until they would break the wrist. She took more than 27 medications just for the breakfast round of meds.

Having once been in prison during her young adulthood – she desperately wanted to go with us to speak in the nearby N5 unit in Ft. Stockton, Texas. She wanted to be a help to someone before she died. We made arrangements to take her with us.

As she was speaking to the some 500 men gathered under a tent in the Prison Yard, telling them what Jesus Christ had done for her spiritually, something happened to her physical body. The pain and weakness left. The blistering sun – which is a great enemy to Lupus patients – did not have its debilitating effect (which previously had caused her to be hospitalized). In the next few days, she realized she was healed. Doctors began taking her off her the massive medications. She no longer needed the kidney dialysis.

About 2003 she experienced some physical problems which were worrisome. She went

to a local doctor for tests – which showed her problem to be a minor infection and easily treated. She confided all her previous medical condition to him, so as a precaution, he ran complete tests on her heart, liver, kidneys, and looked for signs of the damage caused by Lupus. “There are no signs that you've ever had Lupus. Certainly there is no sign of kidney or heart damage. I'd have to see paperwork showing you had the disease.” Charlie went to her car and brought the more than ten pound stack of papers from John Sealy in Galveston – showing her 20 years bought with the disease.

If you'd like something more recent, let's go to Sunday, January 5, 2008. A friend, who is a Federal Judge in Midland, Texas, brought his friend, a prominent attorney, to our afternoon service. The attorney, Roy, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1999 and has been under constant medical care – much of which has been with Mayo Clinic. Roy is a big man – about 6' 5”. I learned that a few weeks back, Roy had fallen in his home (he had no feeling on his right side, and little use of his right leg and arm, and no sense of balance). His wife, Cindy, was increasingly unable to help as his condition progressed. Every treatment offered had shown little promise in curbing the disease. During that Sunday afternoon service when a lady near him prayed for his healing in Jesus' Name, Roy rose to his feet and found that the feeling had returned to his leg, arm and face. As he began to walk unaided up and down the platform steps (he had been unable to navigate steps for some time) he discovered his balance and coordination had returned. When he walked into the Law Offices of his employment the next day, Monday, people froze in their tracks and jaws dropped!

Roy and his wife were back with the Judge to tell some of his story the following Sunday. As he is still under the care of his doctors at Mayo Clinic, we are awaiting the results of his next visit. At this writing, people who know Roy in the Midland, Texas court system and the business community are still reeling at this wonderful miracle.

I could give you a long list of people who's very lives attest to the miracle working power of the Name of Jesus. People with medical documentation of their condition and of their miraculous healing.

I've never seen the name of Mohammad or Confucius, or Buddha, or any other name than that of Jesus, the very Son of the Living God, defeat cancer, Lupus, paralysis, stroke, drugs, alcoholism, or mental disease. I can introduce you to people who once suffered these conditions – now healed.

Peter said it, to the great crowd gathered at the healing of this man from the beautiful gate, “. . .for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 KJV)