

Alton Baptist Church e-Service 10th May 2020

It is not the healthy who need a doctor

Welcome to our service and thank you for the opportunity to share with you today through an e-service.

Psalm 72: 19 “Praise be to His glorious name for ever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen”

Song: Father, we love You (Glorify Your name)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QltVKW6wXdo>

Prayer: Father we want to honour you and glorify your name for you are the God worthy of our praise and worship. We thank you that in these uncertain times that you are the Sovereign Lord and we can put our trust in you. We acknowledge the love you have shown in sending your Son Jesus to die on a cross so that none should perish and for the power of the Holy Spirit to help us on life's journey with Him. What a joy it is to know that we can have life in all its fullness when we believe Jesus is the Son of God and entrust our lives to Him. We ask for your forgiveness that we fail to give you the praise and honour that is due to you and that so often we seek our will and not yours. We ask for your cleansing that we might live lives that reflect the Saviour so that others might come to know Him. We pray that you will meet with each one of us this day as we participate in this form of service and we ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Song: For the joys and for the sorrows - This song is helpful in the days we are currently experiencing. *For this I have Jesus*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MOS6zb3ysg>

Intercessory Prayer:

Loving heavenly Father we thank you that we can bring our petitions and requests to you for you have said, “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

With that promise, let us in the quietness of our homes; bring our requests to Him so that the Father will be glorified.

Spend time in prayer, for each one of us will have people and situations that need to be brought to the Lord.

Some focal points for our prayers: The Church that it will proclaim Christ in these difficult days, for all those in key roles, for governments having to make important decisions, for the bereaved and lonely, for our loved ones and for those in our fellowship.

Song: Before the throne of God above
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQ6QaZcPphM>

Our theme this morning is, 'It is not the healthy that need a doctor.'

Reading: Matthew 9: 9 – 13

9. As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

10. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and 'sinners' came and ate with him and his disciples.

11. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

12. On hearing this, Jesus said, "**It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.** 13. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

Prayer: Father, as we look into your Word, come by the power of the Holy Spirit to speak to us and deepen our understanding that we might have a closer walk with Thee. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

1. Let us consider our physical health and wellbeing.

It is interesting that we have the title of our message today, 'It is not the healthy that need a doctor,' at a time when there is a pandemic that threatens the health of millions of people around the world. We also find ourselves in lock down to protect our health, and that scientists around the world are trying to find a vaccine to protect ourselves. Our physical health is vital and God wants us to protect our bodies and that is why we go to a doctor when we are feeling unwell. We also seek the help of the Lord when we come to the Great Physician in prayer and ask for healing for ourselves or other folk. Our physical health is important and much of the ministry of Jesus, when he was on earth, was to heal the sick. If we do not have our health we cannot work and serve in the community.

Are we always aware that we need a doctor? Sadly there are times when people become aware of a health issue when it is too late for treatment to be effective. There are also times when people go into denial, often because of fear. They are unable to face up to the consequences that there is something wrong with their health and they leave it too late to go to a doctor. Often people adopt an unhealthy lifestyle and they think they are healthy enough to withstand the abuse they are giving to their bodies, but the time will inevitably come when they will need a doctor, by then it may be too late and sadly they die. There will be a time in our lives when our health deteriorates and we will need a doctor.

Physical health is vital but man is more than just physical body, he has a soul and a spirit.

2. Our spiritual health

God is concerned for our spiritual wellbeing and that is why he sent his Son. Our spiritual health is based on our relationship with the Lord, for it is our sin that breaks that relationship with God. Graham reminded us last week that the wages of sin is death and that 'All have sinned.' 1 John 1: 8 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." It is a bit like the person who is physically sick but goes into denial and will not seek the help of a doctor.

In the passage we see Jesus saying to a tax collector 'Follow me' and he comes. He also becomes an apostle. Yet tax collectors were despised by the Pharisees, verse 11, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus went to be with sinners and those the Pharisees despised. The Pharisees thought they were the righteous because of their adherence to the law. How wrong they were, they were not spiritually healthy but they thought they were. God sent Jesus to save sinners, in other words to save us, from the consequences of our sin, death. V 13 "For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

We deceive ourselves if we think we are spiritually healthy and we have no need for a relationship with Jesus who is the doctor who can forgive us and heal us from the consequences of our sin. 1 John 1: 9 reminds us of our need to seek cleansing and confess our sin. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." But what is our concept of sin that would enable us to recognise that we are sinners? Selwyn Hughes gave the following statement relating to sin.

“Why do good people who come into our churches have a struggle to believe they are sinners? Most probably because they consider sin as consisting of only wrong outward behaviour such as drunkenness, adultery and dishonesty. If they haven’t committed any of these behaviours they do not think of themselves as ‘sinners’. These outward behaviours are really a symptom of a deeper issue because the essence of sin is the failure to glorify God, and anyone who does not glorify God is found wanting. It’s important for our teaching to highlight and underline this, and we should make it clear that even though a person may not get drunk, commit adultery, or live dishonestly, the base line of sinfulness is living for themselves and their own glory.”

That is a challenge to all of us; do we seek His glory or our own?

Our nation had drifted away from its Christian roots and to some extent the Church is seen to be irrelevant to the majority of people in our land. Many people have little or no concept of being a sinner. Perhaps the circumstances that we are facing at this time are a wakeup call, warning us that we are not healthy spiritually; that we want our own glory. But, we do need the great physician Jesus, and to put our trust in Him, in order that our nation will be healed.

Song: Lord we long for You (Heal Our Nation)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydoiOKOxc4o>

Blessing

To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only god our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore!
Amen.