

John 20:26-31

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

What you don't know can destroy!

Our medical practitioners are constantly reminding us of the importance of self examination and regular check ups for the purpose of early detection of cancer. However that word strikes such fear into hearts that many who sense something wrong still refuse to face professional examination. There seems to be a false belief that what you don't know won't hurt you. The result is the advancement of disease which might have been successfully dealt with. This fear and false belief did not commence with cancer, such careless false belief was faced by another master healer, the Lord Jesus.

As Jesus walked among men, many came to be healed of their diseases. Scripture states not only that the Lord healed many but that there was a reason for the healings: "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house." (Luke 5:24). The power to miraculously heal (and raise the dead, and walk on water, and feed the thousands) confirmed the accuracy of the message Jesus declared that through him forgiveness of sins could be found.

Despite the miracles and the message, there were always those who refused self examination for fear of the truth. In this same passage Jesus stated: "And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:31-32). The Pharisees of Jesus day could not bear to face the fact that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23), consequently, they ignored a problem that with repentance and faith could have been dealt with before eternal suffering came. The Bible is clear about that: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life... He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16,18).

"The Lord ... is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9). For this reason, even as our doctors of medicine plead physical self examination and professional help, God pleads spiritual self examination and Christ's help. Sin separates all man from God, and if left unattended, that separation will last through eternity. What you don't know (or more likely refuse to face) will not only hurt, but cause suffering forever. The master healer still pleads: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24)

What is my response:
