

The Southeast Sower

S O U T H E A S T C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

The Southeast
church of
Christ meets
at:

35 Walnut Ct.
Mogadore, OH
44260

Phone:
330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm

P R A Y E R O V E R M E D I C I N E — E d H o l c o m b

An article in a recent edition of the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported: "A pastor defended his church's reliance on prayer over medicine and urged his parishioners to fight fear after four congregation's children died in a measles epidemic. 'We're accused as a cult,' he said, 'but we're only following what God directed in his word.'" The article goes on to state, "Faith tabernacle believes in divine healing and opposes all forms of medical care, including immunization and medication." Amazingly, this article also quotes one of the fathers of two girls who died of measles as saying, "God has allowed the authorities to be so considerate toward the family...we believe that that glorifies God."

What tragic and absolutely pitiful ignorance this is! The horrible consequences resulting in

misguided beliefs that divine healing, miracles, etc. continue among believers, is incredible to me. When such tragedies occur, such is the will of the Lord, according to the twisted thinking of folks whose faith is not based on the word of the Lord.

Where does the Bible teach "that God's people rely solely upon prayer to the exclusion of doctors and medicines?" Churches believing and teaching current divine healing and opposing all forms of medical care, including immunizations, blood transfusions, operations, and all medication, claim they are 'only following what God directed in his word.' Let me ask, "what saith the scriptures? How readest thou?" Where does the Bible teach this is God's will for us today?

Jesus said: "It is not those that are healthy

who need a physician, but those who are sick." (Matt. 9:12) He also taught, and therefore approved, the scenario of that good Samaritan who "came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them and brought him to an inn and took care of him." (Lk. 10:34) Not only did the Lord endorse and commend that good man's actions but ordered "Go thou and do likewise," v. 37. Paul spoke of Luke as, "the beloved physician." (Col. 4:14) But why, if physicians are all discredited or not to be relied upon? When Paul prescribed the use of wine medically, for Timothy's stomach and frequent ailments, were both guilty of sinning if the "home remedy" was used? Probably there is a hint in this that continued reliance upon divine healing by miracles was

to cease, especially when you compare it with his statement in 2 Tim. 4:20 which states, "but Triophimus I left sick at Miletus."

If when asked for Bible proof for their claim that God told us not to consult or rely on doctors or medicines 2 Chronicles 16:12 is cited, "His (Asa's) disease was severe, yet even in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians." What is implied as being wrong was a reliance solely upon physicians, and not seeking the Lord's blessings. Keil & Delitzsch comment on this passage. "Of superstitious trust in the physicians. Consequently it is not the mere inquiring of the physicians which is here censured, but only the godless manner in which Asa trusted in the physicians 2 Chr. 16:12." Other noteworthy commentators could be offered support, but suffice it to say, this passage gives no authority or support for their erroneous claim. The passage is part of the Old Covenant that tutored the Jews toward the day of the Messiah. It is no longer in force, since Christ has ushered in and ratified the New with His own blood!

Those ill need to consult a doctor, taking medicines prescribed by him, and all the while praying for both the doctor and the treatment, as well as for himself. I certainly feel sorry for people so badly misled as to allow little children to die of diseases that could have been prevented in the first place, had only good com-

mon sense and reason been used; and all the more pitiful because of perversion of the scriptures. They will have to answer for their terrible and tragic deeds.

(Note: Article taken from, "Southeast Sower," Vol. III, Number V, April 1991)

Making Vows

Vernon Teagarden

Once again, the end of the year is upon us and the ushering in of a new year is less than three weeks away. It's the time of year when resolutions are commonly made. A "resolution" is simply a promise, generally made to oneself. We are prone to make resolutions at the beginning of each new year.

There is nothing inherently wrong with making promises or resolutions. However, do we make them and really intend to keep them? Especially those promises we make to God! "I'm going to read the Bible everyday." "I'm going to get more involved, attend the worship services more, and be more active in the work of the local church." Sound familiar?

Solomon said, "When you make a vow to God, do not delay in paying it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed—Better not to vow than to vow and not pay" (Eccl. 5:4-5).

God expects us to keep the promises we make to Him. Better to not promise Him anything than to promise Him something and not follow

through. How often does this happen? Do you really want to face Him in judgment having made a promise to Him and not kept it?

Some Things God Is Not

Vernon Teagarden

God is not what many people think He is:

1. *God is not a respecter of persons* (Acts 10:34-35). Therefore God demands the same from all men.

2. *God is not a man* (Jn. 4:24; Lk. 24:39). Therefore God does not think as man does (Isa. 55:8-9)

3. *God is not mocked* (Gal. 6:7). God has spoken His will and He will not allow man to get out of reaping what he sows. God means what He says!

4. *God is not the cause of confusion* (1 Cor. 14:33). The confusion that exists in the religious world is not God's fault. God wants unity among believers (Jn. 17:20-21).

5. *God is not the God of the dead but of the living* (Matt. 22:32). Therefore God is not dead but alive!

6. *God is not one to forget*. Some think that as time passes, God will forget their sins. Others fail to work hard in the kingdom thinking God will forget their labor. He will not (Heb. 6:10; 1 Cor. 15:58).

7. *God is not ashamed to be called our God*. Not if we come to Him through obedience to His word (Heb. 5:8-9; 11:16; Rom. 8:16-17).