

NONE OF THESE DISEASES - THE HIGH COST OF HOLY LIVING

PROVERBS 15:17; "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."

ANOTHER TRANSLATION OF THIS VERSE: Better is a dish of vegetables with love, than the best beef served with hatred."

DEATHS IN THE PAST DECADE

1. During this past decade 40,000 Americans died in Vietnam.
2. During the same time 540,000 Americans died on our highways. At least half of these died in wrecks the result of drinking on the part of some one.

THERE ARE MANY PHYSICAL DISEASES

1. The two leading killers today:

1. LUNG CANCER: in 1912 lung cancer was called the rarest of diseases. It is the number two killer today.
2. HEART DISEASE: Number one killer today.

TWO KILLERS AMONG CHRISTIANS SPIRITUALLY

1. Heart failure among Christians is usually sudden in matters spiritually. High blood pressure about something some one supposedly said or did. A sudden fit of anger: these are usually fatal spiritually and I might add do great damage to the physical man.
2. CANCER: it may be in the lungs, eye, esophagus, or some other part of the body. Usually a slow killer; not sudden. This disease may at times be overcome by removal of the affected area. More often cancer remains as a slow miserable killer.
 1. Most Christians die that way spiritually.

HOW IT USUALLY IS

1. One preacher said, "I took up the practice of medicine because I discovered that people will pay more to take care of their bodies than for their souls. SOME YEARS LATER: He gave up medicine and became an attorney because he found; "That people will pay more money to get their own way than they will pay for the care of either body or soul. I guess that is the way it is!

THE GRAVE DIGGER.

1. I think there is a poem somewhere entitled the GRAVE DIGGER. How do we dig graves?
 1. Some smart fellow is quick to reply: "We dig graves with the pick and shovel or power machine."
 2. We may slowly but surely dig our own graves with our teeth: (appetites). Burning with anger ETC.

DOCTOR S. I. MCMILLEN POINTED OUT:

1. Medical statistices show that it will be the whistling ditch digger who will dig the grave for the distraught business manager.

JESUS GAVE THE REMEDY FOR MAN'S DISEASES *Mat. 5:5*

1. What he said was startling then and it is today. Few believed what he said then and few believe it now. Not many took it seriously when Jesus said; "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."
 1. We are ready to believe that the meek can inherit heaven when they die but the earth: never.
2. With a little reflection we can understand why the meek inherit the earth. Let me suggest:
 1. The meek have been thoughtful and considerate of your interest.
 2. They have been slow to talk about their great accomplishments.
 3. They have been quick to congratulate you on your minor achievements that you thought to be great.

EXAMPLES OF SOME WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THIS

1. Benito Mussolini and Adolph Hitler did not believe this. They tried to take the world by force.
 1. No one ever lived unhappier lives or died more despicable deaths than they.

NOW LET ME SUGGEST:

1. The Bible focuses therapy on the cause of the symptoms: in this case the carnal nature of man.
 1. When a person is dying of meningitis it would be of little help to treat the symptom of headache with a dose of aspirin and fail to attack the evil infection itself.
2. Instead of making frequent, expensive trips to the psychiatrists couch, we are invited by the Lord to make one trip to the cross for crucifixion of the trouble maker. Drive the spikes in that old self of "ego ambition," Lustful living ETC. Gal. 5:24

