

eneral Branderken



1776-1993

Hereunder doth lie the victims of the dreaded AIDS disease monster.

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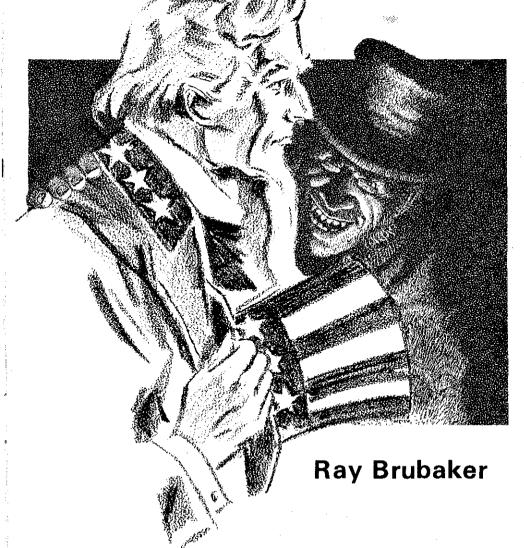
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WILL AIDS DESTROY AMERICA?

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As George Schmemann writes in a copyrighted report in the NEW YORK TIMES, "Homosexuality is a crime in the Soviet Union and rarely mentioned in print."

The Russian press has stated, "In foreign countries AIDS is primarily found among people who lead a dissolute sex life and are inclined to sexual perversions."

A Soviet reporter, commenting on the death of Rock Hudson, the movie star who died of AIDS, ridiculed the idea of a mass epidemic, saying: "The American tendency toward sensation and hypertrophied emotions is well known."

Aleksandr Lyutin wrote, "Who cares about what medics say if the television companies can attract the curiosity of viewers, and thus the advertisers with fat wallets, with naturalistic depictions of the death agonies of the victims of the virus."

It is true that the journalistic tendency is to feature something on AIDS in every newscast or in our daily papers. The result has been to keep us all aware of a disease that is spreading and for which there is no known cure.

A letter to the Russian Newspaper for youth reads as follows: "I heard that a new virus has appeared in the world. Is this true?" It relates to AIDS.

Dr. Pyotr N. Borgasov in the newspaper TRUD replies: "We have registered no instances of this disease." He went on to say, "The point is that the problem is in many ways social, since it is associated with sexual looseness. This, alas, is condoned in certain circles in the West, but in our society it is considered unnatural."

It's interesting that the Bible speaks of one of the signs of the last days ".... without natural affection." (II Tim. 3:3)

This is further explained in Romans I:26-27, where we read, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working that which is unseemly. . "

Isn't it strange that, although the Soviet government does not recognize God, they do recognize standards of morality that the West may have long forgotten.

AIDS EPIDEMIC-WORSE THAN NUCLEAR WAR?



In a forum on AIDS sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Myron Essex, chairman of the Department of Cancer Biology, warned that in the next 5-10 years, 4 to 5 million Americans could be infected with the AIDS Virus.

Declared Dr. Essex: "We need to act fast if those numbers are not to be 40 million to 50 million Americans infected and 4 million to 5 million with AIDS outright."

Similarly, Warren J. Hamerman warns: "The 100 percent lethal disease Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has hit the Western world like a bombshell. If its spread is not arrested, the experts fear, its devastation will soon be worse than that of nuclear war."

Dr. John Seale of London,has been studying the outbreak of AIDS in tropical areas, particularly Africa where it is reported tens of millions have been infected by AIDS and large numbers have already died of the disease. William Haseltine of the Harvard School of Public Health, has stated that the base line figure is at least 10 million.

Writes Dr. Seale, "If my hypothesis is correct, and we wait perhaps 20 years before we take drastic preventive action, half the population of the Western world will be wiped out."

In discussing what our reaction should be to the disease, we would quote NEWSWEEK magazine (Sept. 23, 1985) which notes: "The Rev. Jerry Falwell, who two years ago described AIDS as divine retribution on homosexuals, has become alarmed at the discovery that it is no longer confined to homosexuals." Indeed, how sad to know of the spread of this disease through blood transfusions, to those who acquired the disease through no fault of their own.

However, where AIDS is being transmitted by promiscuous or perverted sexual intercourse, there needs to be sounded forth a word of warning.

According to Dr. Harold Jaffee at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, 73 percent of those who have AIDS are homosexuals and 17 percent are drug users.

As Secretary for Health and Human Services, Margaret Heckler declared AIDS to be the No. 1 public-health problem.

A national poll found that AIDS had become the second most dreaded disease, second only to cancer, but ahead of heart disease.

The WASHINGTON POST reported that 600,000 to 1.2 million might be infected, while the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION put the number infected at 2 million and reported that as many as a third may get AIDS or some of its debilitating symptoms.

On the "CBS Morning News," a University of California doctor said that heterosexual men rarely contract AIDS from women. Then, moments later, a Harvard doctor said that was incorrect.

As yet, little is known about the disease, and what is known may be kept secret to prevent panic.

Of 13,000 Americans diagnosed as having AIDS, the large majority are male homosexuals.

The AIDS virus attacks and destroys white blood cells, stripping the body of its resistance to other illnesses.

Apparently, the Lord knew when he created man that abuse of the body would result in certain illnesses, and thus we are warned against certain practices harmful to the body.

In Romans 1:24 we read, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves."

The penalty for homosexual behaviour is seen in the result of those guilty of abusing their bodies and having acquired AIDS. AIDS victims soon fall prey to cancers, pneumonia, fevers and wasting sickness. Equally frightening, the number of AIDS cases is doubling within a time span of 10 to 12 months. Some see this resulting in everyone getting AIDS in America by 2,000 A.D., and possibly as early as 1993.

There is no known cure; with 51 percent of known victims already dead.

What should be our attitude toward AIDS?

As Pastor Moody Adams declares, "We can choose to yield our bodies to Jesus Christ and receive a power that will keep us from the diseases spread by fornication, adultery and homosexuality."

Larry Kramer, founder of Gay Men's Health Crisis, tells of his reaction to AIDS, saying "I made love the other night for the first

time . . .but I couldn't get out of the back of my mind, 'Is this the one that kills me?' " He engaged in homosexual activity knowing that it could give him AIDS and that AIDS could kill him.

Rather than repent of this sin, Gay leaders are calling for legislation that would require more funds be spent to find a remedy for AIDS.

In the Dallas Gay News (May 20, 1983) there appeared this news item. It was noted, "There has come the idea that if research money (for AIDS) is not forthcoming at a certain level by a certain date, that all gay males should give blood . . . whatever action is required to get national attention is valid." Declared this article, "If that includes blood terrorism, so be it."

However, orders have gone out that all donated blood must be screened for AIDS before use. This should eliminate people getting AIDS through blood transfusions.

Seventeen percent of AIDS victims are listed as intravenous drug users. Blood is again the means of transmission. Traces of blood from an infected person can contaminate a syringe, and if it is re-used, AIDS can claim another victim.

The highest risk group, though, remains the male homosexual community and the city of San Francisco, called the "gay" capital of the world has been living under a cloud of fear.

During the last decade of sexual freedom and gay liberation in the United States, homosexuals flocked to San Francisco in the search for an open lifestyle, readily catered to by gay bars, clubs and cinemas.

The rising number of AIDS victims, though, has had a profound effect. Now that it is known that sexual promiscuity increases the danger of the disease, there is a trend towards sexual abstinence. Or, at least there is the attempt to minimize the number of sexual contacts, and those who think they may have contracted the disease are coming forth to be tested.

While such practices are shameful, the Apostle Paul did not merely point out the sins many are guilty of committing, but showed how it is possible to find salvation from sin.

In Romans 1:16 he declares, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth . . ."

In Gal. 6:7-8 we read, "Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption: but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Dr. Donald Francis, at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, says of AIDS, "It certainly will end the sexual revolution." He adds, "You can take your chances with herpes and hepatitis B, but you can't take your chances with this."

Concerning AIDS, no one is known yet to have ever recovered once having gotten the disease. Declares William A. Haseltine of Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, "Once infected, a person is infected for the rest of his life." He adds, "Once infected, a person is infectious."

In trying to understand AIDS, Haseltine says,"We have moved from being explorers in a canoe to explorers with a small sail on the vast sea

of what we do not know."

AIDS is an example of how sowing to the flesh brings corruption, and the warning is given, "Be not deceived."

In the second place, when AIDS was first diagnosed in 1981, it was known as the Gay Plague, because it was related to those engaged in homosexual activity.

Lance Morrow, writing in TIME magazine (Sept. 23, 1985) has noted: "In many minds, AIDS is a kind of validation of Judeo-Christian morality. The virus is a terrible swift sword in the hand of God, a punishment for transgressons against his order. Thus the disease partakes, so to speak, of the prestige of the infinite. AIDS becomes a dramatically targeted refinement of the doctrine that all disease is a form of God's retribution upon fallen and sinful man."

Morrow continues, "AIDS renews in many minds, sometimes in an almost unconscious way, questions of the problem of sin: Is there sin? Against whom? Against what? Is sex sometimes a sin? Why? And what kind of sex? And so on."

To these questions we might respond with the words of the marriage ceremony where the minister usually begins by saying, "Marriage is a divine institution, instituted by God Himself in the garden of Eden." Then, from the New Testament it is noted how Jesus graced the wedding at Cana of Galilee with His presence and performed His first miracle. Paul, the great apostle, if he is the writer of Hebrews says, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." (Heb. 13:4)

In Ephesians 5:5 we're reminded, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

It is very apparent that the call of God is to purity. And, whereas it is clear from the Scriptures that "God hath not appointed us to wrath," so we anticipate the return of our Lord in the hope of escaping the day of wrath. It is likewise possible that to be found engaging in sins of fornication and adultery, we may be left behind at the rapture. For in this same context, Paul writes, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them." (Eph. 5:6-7)

In the third place, we would note that AIDS is a far worse disease than many suspect, with serious consequences.

In NEWSWEEK, (Apr. 29, 1985) we're told, "AIDS has become one of the most sinister infectious diseases of this or any other century, threatening the world's general population and assuming the proportions of what epidemiologists call a "pandemic."

Testifies Dr. James Curran, head of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, "AIDS is now recognized as a worldwide problem, with cases diagnosed on almost every continent."

Ann Landers writes, "AIDS is NOT, as some people believe, 'a punishment from God.'"

Well, in reading II Peter 2:6 we are reminded of the seriousness of the sin of homosexuality as witnessed in the days of Lot. We read that God turned the "cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly."

Sodom and Gomorrah are examples as to how God feels about this sin. It merits his ultimate, and sometimes his immediate destruction.

To the question, "Are we, as Jesus said, approaching the days of Lot?" For he related how his coming would be in Luke 17:28, "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

Some might ask, with the Gay parades in New York City and San Francisco, "Are we as bad as in the days of Lot?"

There was a time in seeking to evaluate the sinful state of the world, as someone once stated that God would have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah if he didn't soon bring destruction upon us.

I had questions whether or not our world had arrived at the zero hour until the AIDS epidemic.

In a publication by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., titled, AIDS IS MORE DEADLY THAN NUCLEAR WAR, a chapter is titled, "How AIDS Could Wipe Out All Americans in Six to Seven Years!"

We read, "The deadly pandemic AIDS, for which there is no known cure, is currently spreading at such an alarming rate that the number of confirmed victims of the disease, according to medical experts, is doubling every six months." On that basis, by January, 1993, there would be no Americans left.

We're reminded of what Jesus said of the coming tribulation, that it would be far worse than this world has ever seen. Then he noted, "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved." (Mt. 24:22)

As we see it, one reason for the rapture is to rescue the redeemed before such corruption sets in that would totally annihilate mankind. Of course, there could be destruction from nuclear war that will have the same effect on humanity by rendering it with destruction. For as in the days of Lot, it rained fire from heaven and destroyed them all. "So shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed," said Jesus.

At the same time, AIDS is spreading so fast, without hope of any preventative in sight. As Dr. Curran stated, "When such a vaccine is developed, it will probably be desirable to vaccinate all Americans."

So serious and so deadly is this disease, that we see our Lord with no other choice than to rapture the saints before the whole world is corrupted with this deadly pestilence.

Finally, we want to point out that there is no sin so dreadful but that God can bring a cure.

How many today are haunted by the sins they have committed, and many may wonder whether their sins will result in death?

Well, the scripture in Romans 6:23 answers that question, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Sin has a terrible price tag on it whenever and wherever it is committed.

But thanks be to God, there is no sin, which repented of, and confessed to the Lord, that can't be forgiven.

In I Cor. 6:9-11 we read, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

If that were God's final verdict for the human race, it would leave man without hope and without salvation. But in the very next verse we read, "And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

How thankful we are that we can announce to you that there is salvation to all who will repent of their sin and turn to Jesus Christ.

To the woman taken in adultery, caught in the very act, about to be stoned by the religious scribes and Pharisees, our Lord said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." And to the woman he said, "Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more." (John 8:7,11)

How quick we are to condemn others for their sin, and justifiably so, but in John 3:17 we read, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Then we're told how to be saved, "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."

Will you believe in Jesus as your Saviour and Lord?

The message of the Gospel is that you believe that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and rose again, and that he is coming again for all who have repented of sin to put their trust in Him.

Salvation is so simple, yet so wonderful. As we read in Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Will you believe? Will you receive him now?

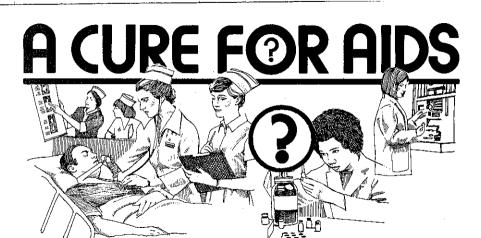
Pray this prayer. "Lord Jesus, I believe you died for my sins. I here and now receive you as my Saviour to live for you and serve you and love you until you come for me."

Pray that prayer and mean it. In the marriage relationship you must say "I will," or "I do," and mean it; so you must come to Christ and decide for Him. How many marriages are broken because they didn't fully mean what was promised? So, unless we read the Word of God, and prove faithful in our prayer life, and love for the Lord, we can fail as well to keep our promise to the Lord.

But, God is faithful. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

God grant it.

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



Researchers in Minneapolis said they had begun testing the safety of a new medicine code-named, Compound S, which they declared "can stop the AIDS virus from multiplying in the test tube."

When scientists announced the results of initial experiments with the AIDS drug, it seemed all they could say was,"The medicine seemed to do no harm."

What good did it do? This is the question.

One of the main centers of research into AIDS is in Paris. French doctors claim to have succeeded in isolating the AIDS virus early in 1983—several months ahead of American doctors. Critics say such a claim is premature.

The main work in Paris is done at the Pasteur Institute—which works within the public health sector. Research is taking two main paths—finding a vaccine, which could stop the spread of the disease through an inoculation program; and developing a drug which can relieve the painful symptoms of AIDS.

The French were the first to produce HPA-23, which it is claimed blocks out the reproduction of the AIDS virus. It can be used in conjunction with other drugs designed to boost the body's immune system. Reports of its success brought many Americans here because the drug was not approved for human testing in the United States at the time—though that ban has now been reversed.

New drugs often have unpleasant side-effects, and there is still a lot of work to be done; a point raised by researcher Simon Wayne-Hobson—who says we cannot yet speak in terms of a new wonder drug.

One of the Americans who came to Paris is Bob White. He has taken a course of HPA-23 treatment here, which he feels sure has done him a lot of good, and now he has learned that he can continue the course back in the United States.

One thing about AIDS is certain: it is spreading. With intercontinental travel so easy, infectious diseases can spread far and wide. Currently, most of the countries of Western Europe report AIDS cases, and the list is growing.

For the United States, researchers have found what they call the

"Haitian Connection." At one point, Haitians were the third largest group of AIDS sufferers. No one knows why, but a possible explanation is that Haiti is a favorite vacation spot for American homosexuals.

Amid the growing awareness and concern about AIDS, the British government has allocated one million pounds to combat the disease—while the United States government is being asked to increase its AIDS budget to 196 million dollars. So public money and private money is helping the scientists find a cure for AIDS.

In response to the AIDS crisis, more and more clinics across the United States—in cities including New York and Los Angeles, as well as San Francisco—are establishing AIDS treatment centers. These

usually include a special counseling service.

The counseling service helps victims to cope with the implication of being an AIDS victim. To protect society at large, homosexuals have been discriminated against in housing and jobs. Los Angeles took the position of ruling that such discrimination is illegal. The gay community remains under attack, for 73% of AIDS cases relate to homosexuals. For them the greatest fear is the fear of the unknown. Will new drugs be developed in time or will new victims face the probability of death within the next few years?

A growing number of sufferers are children. Some received tainted blood medically, either through blood transfusions, or through injection treatment for hemophilia—the bleeding illness. But the majority of children victims have one or two AIDS-affected illnesses. And they were born with the virus already in their blood. The younger the victim, the higher the mortality rate. Innocence is no protection from the virus.

The gay community is the main target of public information about AIDS—but the public at large, especially in the United States, is

becoming more and more concerned.

Dr. William A. Blattner of the National Cancer Institute says, "We are at the earliest stages of the AIDS epidemic." However, he noted, "Not too early... to consider long-term results such as malignancy and chronic degenerative diseases that must be monitored in the coming decades." He admits that what we've seen so far in the number of cases is only the tip of an "epidemiological iceberg."

Dr. Paul Volbreding, who heads the AIDS Clinic in San Francisco, notes that progress in the treatment of the disease has been frustratingly slow. He noted, "We are no more effective today in prolonging survival

than we were four years ago."

As the AIDS toll rises, the cost of caring for patients ranges from \$50,000 to \$250,000 each, which will soon overwhelm most local resources. Testified one local hospital official, "I can already see the whole hospital system coming apart at the edges." Major health insurance companies are seen going bankrupt.

"One of the special aspects of AIDS is the fear of dying," says Richard Dunne, Executive Director of the Gay Men's Health Center in New York. "Most patients are young and have yet to deal with their

own mortality," he lamented.

Says Dr. Michael Lange, a specialist at St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan, "If I were told that I was going to die from AIDS in two

vears, I would seek help wherever I could find it."

Doctors have been able to offer little hope. Declared Dr. Donald Abrams, "It's terrible going into room upon room of patients who ask what we can do, and to have to tell them we have nothing to offer."

Perhaps we need to hear from the clergy. The Rev. Moody Adams writes, "The ironic thing about AIDS is it is the only plague in history that could be contained immediately. Just five words give us the answer, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.'"

Although not all AIDS patients now are known to have caught the disease from sexual contacts, at least 73 percent have, and that is sufficient to consider that much of the problem could have been solved if people paid attention to the Word of God.

Declares Adams, "Our generation faces what could be the most crucial choice in history. We can choose to commit our lives to Christ and be saved from the passions responsible for the major part of the AIDS epidemic. On the other hand we can say, 'No, God, I want to go my own way' and God will let us."

Adams points out that three times in the first chapter of Romans it says God, "gave them up." God lets man choose a lifestyle that is not in keeping with his creative purpose for man, but man must then pay the consequences.

First, he notes, men risk destroying their bodies with a disease that cannot be cured. Romans 1:24, says, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves."

Alexander the Great subdued the world around him, but he was conquered by his own lusts; he died in a drunken stupor.

Through Christ, we can be more than conquerors over that which could destroy us. How important to heed this message and see our salvation assured through Jesus Christ. And, in coming to know Him, to be likewise free from the tragedies that are associated with sin.

In Romans 1:26,27 we read, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another: men with men working that which is unseemly."

We don't like to talk about the lifestyle of those given over to perverted acts such as we have described. These are what the Bible calls "vile affections."

An article in TIME magazine (Sept. 23, 1985) says of AIDS, "No one knows, for example, why it strikes women and men in about equal numbers in Central Africa, where the disease appears to have originated, while in the U.S. only about 7% of the ... victims so far have been identified as women." Some blame prostitution in Africa for the spread of the disease.

In the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, two studies were given as proof that women can spread the AIDS virus to men.

One study found that six out of 41 servicemen with AIDS or pre-AIDS condition, contracted the disease from female prostitutes. Military officials are screening servicemen in an effort to determine how great the exposure has been to AIDS and it is feared that family members of armed service personnel can also be affected by the disease.

And there is now great concern on college and university campuses for the disease that finds danger signs in its path. At the University of California, Berkeley, two students and a staff member have died of AIDS. Don't be surprised that AIDS becomes the No. 1 health issue on campus.

At least we know the danger that exists and can't help but sound a warning to heed those scriptures which warn against promiscuous or perverted sexual activity.

Finally, in Romans 1:28,29 we read, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind . . . being filled with all unrighteousness."

We believe the tragedy of teaching evolution is to destroy the knowledge of God which only helps convince young minds they need not be responsible to a creator. For some, this develops a philosophy that they can live like animals and for that reason, we have some of the problems developing in our educational system that we have today. There are those who would like to sin without any feelings of wrongdoing.

However, this is causing concern by those willing to speak out on the need for family morality, who fear their lifestyle, without good moral basis, is now the cause which results in death.

As Holly Smith of San Francisco's AIDS Foundation observed, "The social epidemic of fear is based on two cultural taboos about sexuality and death. No matter how much information is dispensed, the gay lifestyle remains a red flag to a lot of people. Society also has problems dealing with death and dying and grief. Here, in AIDS, we have all these issues rolled into one."

You can be sure a lot of serious thinking is going on by many who didn't have a care in the world for their lifestyle. As long as they felt they weren't hurting anyone, they could live as they pleased. Now, it is being discovered that people are being hurt and many are seeking to avoid AIDS that leads to death.

Testified one concerned citizen, "I do feel like we're in the center of a new plague. And I have to say I'm reading everything I can get my hands on to reassure me that I'm not going to be next."

Another testifies, "It's like that thing from the Bible where the Angel of Death went past all the doors," she says, "And some people had blood smeared on their doors, and some people didn't. So you wonder who it's going to hit."

Indeed, the Old Testament account of having blood on the doorposts when the death angel came through, is an illustration as to how the believer is protected when he accepts the blood of Jesus Christ as cleansing and covering for sin.

While many are concerned about death and dying, the AIDS hysteria should bring all of us to the realization that death is not the end. In Hebrews 9:27 we read, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die,

but after this is the judgment."

In the preceding verse we have the remedy for sin and how we can escape the judgment of perdition. For again we read concerning Jesus, how "Now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

Indeed, the Gospel is stated so well in I Cor. 15:3 "... how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

How important that you accept this gospel, believing that Jesus died for you, and rose again and is coming again for all who are ready to meet Him.

This is the message we preach from week to week. We hope it isn't like water on a duck's back, but that you will give serious consideration to your soul's condition, where you will spend eternity, and trust Christ now as your Saviour and Lord.

In view of the AIDS scare, one is heard declaring, "People's souls are now a little more important than they used to be."

Your soul is important in the sight of God. Hear our Lord in Mark 8:36 as He says, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Jesus died for you. Your soul is worth more than the entire world. Are you going to throw it away in riotous living? Or will you say with others who have come to the conclusion, "The days of wild sex are over. I am committing my life fully to Jesus Christ."

Today is still a day of salvation. You have a choice to give in to sin and face what is called dementia, with the nervous system destroyed and the body torn by pain, all because of a thoughtless, careless act of sin.

Or, repent of sin and trust the Saviour. Discover the overpowering work of the Holy Spirit whom God has given, to enable you to overcome and resist temptation. In I Cor. 10:13 we read, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Commit your life, your all, now to Jesus Christ. Allow Him to come into your heart and life. Every day pray and commit yourself to Him to protect and keep you and your loved ones in His loving care. Serve the Lord today, allowing His Word to dwell in you by listening to Bible messages and gospel music that will encourage your life of faith.

Again, as one testified of what's ahead, "It's a little scary, and I think it's kind of exciting."

It is exciting when you put yourself into Christ's loving care.

As a closing benediction we would quote I Thes. 5:23,24 where we read, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and body and soul be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." Amen.

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

ARE WE /AFE FROM AIDS?

LIFE magazine, in bold headlines, screamed forth the message, "NOW NO ONE IS SAFE FROM AIDS."

Some took the exception, suggesting there is the danger of over reacting. However, at the death of Rock Hudson, it was made known that America faces the worst plague in her history.

To fight the killer disease,a gala concert was planned in Los Angeles to which Hollywood stars were invited.

Hollywood's concern was expressed by Elizabeth Taylor who well knows that "six of the top 10 male box-office stars are gay."

One celebrity missing from the performance was 59-year-old Rock Hudson, a Hollywood and television star of over 30 years standing. It was revealed earlier that he was seriously ill from AIDS. It was this revelation that was one of the moving forces behind the Los Angeles benefit—and it also helped to make the general public aware of how widespread the AIDS EPIDEMIC has become. At the performance, Burt Lancaster read this letter from Hudson.

"People have told me that the disclosure that I have been diagnosed as having Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, helped to make this

evening a success, and that it will raise in excess of one million dollars to help in the battle against AIDS. I have also been told that the media coverage of my own situation has brought enormous international attention to the gravity of this disease in all areas of humanity, and is leading to more research, more contribution of funds, a better understanding of the disease, than ever before. I am not happy that I am sick, I am not happy that I have AIDS, but if that is helping others, I can at least know that my own misfortune has had some positive worth. Thank you, Elizabeth (Taylor), thank you to all my friends who are attending this evening, and to the thousands who have sent their prayers, their thoughts, their love, their wishes, their support. Thank you."

AIDS has been detected in 43 countries. The United States is not alone in having AIDS.

In the United States, one of the leading medical schools has publicly stated that the real number of AIDS victims may be 10 times or more the "official" figure.

Warren J. Hamerman, Chairman of the national Democratic Policy Committee notes: "A Swedish investigatory team just back from Africa has reported that a very large percentage of the population of Central Africa is carrying the AIDS virus. More than nine countries in Africa are currently being overwhelmed by AIDS epidemics. People are starving and living in crowded, unsanitary conditions where deadly diseases flourish."

Pyotr N. Burgasov, Deputy Health Minister in the U.S.S.R., says his country is free of AIDS. The disease, he wrote, "is connected with sexual decadence, which is tolerated in certain circles in the West but for our society is unnatural."

TIME magazine has listed the following nations as having reports of AIDS: Brazil, France, Haiti, Canada, West Germany and Britain.

Sergei Litvinov is coordinator for all AIDS task-force work for the World Health Organization. As a Russian, he peddles the Soviet propaganda line. As he told a journalist: "There has been a panic and exaggeration emanating from the originating country where AIDS developed—namely, the United States of America."

East Germany, too, claims to have zero cases of AIDS, according to East Berlin dermatology professor, Niels Sonnichsen.

As we have already stated, the worst AIDS 'Breakout' is in the central region of Africa and is presently estimated at 30 million. In Rwanda alone, this includes an estimated one out of five persons; in Zaire one out of six.

Concludes Dr. John Seale, a British specialist on AIDS, "The potential for the spread of AIDS in developing countries is almost unlimited." He adds, "The overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in which the bulk of the people live, combined with a high frequency of infections, injuries and sores which break the skin, make blood contact among family members practically inevitable, with the transmission of the virus likely."

Apparently, no country is free of the disease and the result for the world is that this plague could be catastrophic.

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When it comes to those having acquired AIDS, a growing number of sufferers are children. Some have received tainted blood medically, either through blood transfusions, or through injection treatment for hemophilia—the bleeding illness. But the majority of child victims have one or two AIDS-affected parents, and they were born with the virus already in their blood. And the younger the victim, the higher the mortality rate. Innocence is no protection from the virus.

One of the most distressing examples is the Burk family in Pennsylvania. The mother, Lauren Burk, is an AIDS carrier. She became infected, sexually, from her hemophiliac husband, who was

given infected blood injections.

The daughter, Nicole, is well, but her younger brother, Dwight, is seriously ill with the disease. He was born with the virus, and is not expected to live.

Dwight's mother talks about how her baby son is suffering, "Well the AIDS virus is affecting his brain, which is his major problem. He has gone from being able to stand and walk around, holding onto the table, and talking, to doing absolutely nothing. He cannot hold his head up or do things like that."

Dr. Richard Restak, a neurologist, writing in the WASHINGTON POST, argued that until we know more, the "truly humanitarian position" is to consider forms of quarantine for victims of AIDS. He noted, "Quarantines have been very effective in beating outbreaks of scarlet fever, smallpox and typhoid in this century. Indeed, by protecting the well from the ill, we will follow a long established, sensible and ultimately compassionate course... By carrying out such a policy, diseases have been contained."

In the present climate of uncertainty, many parents have been refusing to send their own children to schools where there is a young AIDS victim. This New York school was picketed—in spite of assurances by the authorities that AIDS cannot be passed on by casual contact. Local officials in other localities, though, have ruled that child victims should stay away from school, until more is known about the disease. And in Australia, three-year-old Eve van Grafhorst is at the center of a similar dispute. She contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion when she was born prematurely. Other parents want her banned from the local day-care center in Gosford, New South Wales, as her mother, Gloria, discovered at the school gates.

Eve's mother: "Would you like her there if Eve returns to school on Monday?"

Parent: "No. I don't want her to take any chance of catching anything."

Mother: "Do you think there is any chance?" Parent: "I think there is, if she has got AIDS."

Mother: "How do you know that?"

Parent: "Well, from what I have read and what I have been told."

Mother: "But the experts say the changes are, if any at all, very little

Mother: "But the experts say the chances are, if any at all, very little or no risk."

Parent: "But there is still that little bit there. I just couldn't, wouldn't."

Second Parent: "We are very concerned about your child, we care for your child. Do you think she would like to come to a center where she is going to be afraid to be touched? It will happen, it is happening, it's happening in New York today, a whole school emptied out because the same thing is happening there. Until such time as we know more about it, I shall definitely withdraw my child if she (Eve) comes back."

There is a similar dispute in Hampshire, England. Dozens of pupils have been kept away by their parents, because one nine-year-old boy, a hemophiliac, has AIDS antibodies in his blood. This means he could become a full AIDS sufferer at a later date.

A specialist has declared that risks of the disease being passed on are minimal, but the boy's mother can understand the other parents fears.

"We don't feel any animosity towards them at all. They are obviously caring parents, and are caring about their children, the same as we do about ours. The thing is, there is a risk involved in everything, and they want someone to come along and say—"No, there isn't a risk." Unfortunately, we can't do that, we would be telling them lies. All we can do is take sensible precautions, which is what we were concerned should happen. And those precautions have been taken."

The first symptoms of AIDS include a fever, swollen glands, persistent head-aches and sores on the tongue. Just how the disease is transmitted is still a matter of dispute. The virus has been found in all body fluids, including tears and saliva. But contaminated blood or semen, penetrating another person's blood stream, is believed to be the main means of transmission.

This young man, David Masterson, has been given the bad news—he has AIDS. How is he coping?

Masterson speaks SOT: "For me, I have pretty much accepted the fact that I am going to die, and I am pretty okay with that at this point. I think everything happens for a reason, whether we know the reason or not, so I am okay with that. And whatever I can do here for research will be a help."

Reporter: "Were you surprised when you were diagnosed as having AIDS, or had you kind of feared you might?"

Masterson: "I had feared it for a time, as I think everyone here in the city has."

Reporter: "So when you were finally told, how did that come to you?"

Masterson: "I was surprised at the time it came, but I was not surprised at the fact itself."

Reporter: "So how do you feel each day now? How are you feeling at the moment?"

Masterson: "Physically or mentally? Both? Physically, I feel pretty well. I think mentally is harder. It is a constant balance, reprocessing your daily thinking, your thought processes, which is what I find hardest to do."

Reporter: "What has been the reaction from your friends, your acquaintances, your family, people like that. How have they taken it? Do they not want to know you, or have they been supportive or what?"

Masterson: "A little of both. It is hard for a while. Most people associate, the first thing they think about, is death when you say AIDS. So they put more emphasis on the death than on the living, on what you have left to live. I think that is one of the harder parts to deal with."

Somehow, in the day in which we live, we have lost our sensitivity to the fallen . . to those who have fallen victim to sin, whether of homosexuality or any other act of wrong-doing that the Bible mentions.

Demonstrators carry signs which read: "God really loves homosexuals! He only hates homosexuality." (See NEWSWEEK, p. 24, Sept. 23, 1985 issue)

A morbid joke making the rounds in San Francisco: A son walks up to his mother and says, "Mom, I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that I'm gay." Distraught, the mother asks for the good news. He answers: "I'm also dying."

Some have the thought, "It serves them right!" when told of those who are dying of AIDS. We need to have our hearts examined.

We make no apology for the sin of homosexuality as worthy of death. As we read in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Regardless of the sin we may have committed, all are worthy of death as our wage for sin. And since the Bible tells us, "All have sinned," then all face death, except for the grace of God and the possibility we might be caught up in the raepture when Christ comes for His own.

I could never really understand the meaning of the message uttered by the Apostle Paul in Romans 2:1 where he writes: "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things."

Did you hear it?

The Apostle Paul goes on to say, "Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?" (Rom. 2:21b)

In Romans 3:10-12, God finds the whole world guilty, for we read, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are altogether become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

What we are saying is that God looks down upon us, regardless of who we are, and how we are brought up, in culture and refinement, God sees us as sinners in need of salvation. For that purpose, Jesus came to die for our sins and upon our repentance and acceptance of His forgiveness, we can be clean in His sight.

Many who have fallen have been comforted by the words in Isaiah, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isa. 1:18)

Perhaps we rejoice in that we have not fallen like the homosexual or the prostitute, nevertheless, in the story of the righteous Pharisee and the repentant publican, it was the latter that was accepted by God.

We read: "And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in

themselves that they were righteous, and despised others." Notice, instead of loving those who did wrong, they despised them.

Our Lord continues His story: "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess."

Can't you see this person looking down his nose on the sinner standing next to him.

But we read, "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."

Said Jesus, "I tell you, this man went down to his house jusitified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

To the religious of his day, those not outwardly guilty of committing sin but always ready to condemn others, our Lord is heard saying, "Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not; but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him."

God is today seeking to show us that wherever we are on sin's ladder, if we'll only repent, with a desire to make a clean break with our sin, then there will be forgiveness with Him.

Somehow I feel there is someone who says, I have gone too far. I have sinned away my day of grace. My sin is unforgiveable. Beloved, you are the one upon whom the Lord has mercy.

The Apostle Paul was, according to the law of the Pharisees, in keeping God's commandments, living a rather perfect life. But when he saw in the sight of God that all his righteousness was as filthy rags apart from Jesus Christ, he threw off his robes of self-righteousness and flung himself at the feet of the master, saying: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (I Tim. 1:15)

If the Apostle Paul could declare that he was the chiefest of sinners, and he found forgiveness and acceptance with the Lord, then there is hope for you.

Why not bow your head and pray this prayer.

"Lord Jesus, I'm glad you came to seek and save that which was lost. I am lost and in need of saving. Save me now, I pray, as I put my trust in you. I believe you died on the cross for my sins, shedding your precious blood that I may be forgiven. I accept the promise of your Word that your blood cleanses me from all my sin. Now help me to act upon my faith and ask forgiveness of those whom I may have wronged, and may I never return to my life of sin, but live in purity and righteousness before you all the days of my life, until you come again for me. Thank you for saving me. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it. And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in

such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

DRUG ABUSE and AIDS



U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT says, "Colombia provides 50 percent of the marijuana to 20 million American smokers and 75 percent of the cocaine supply for 5 million habitual U.S. users.

Declares one Washington official: "Colombia is the key to whether we'll be able to do anything effective to stop drug production overseas."

Cocaine and marijuana together form Colombia's second-largest export crop, trailing only to coffee.

Why could Colombian drug enforcement allow this to happen?

American officials caution against making snap judgments on corruption. Says one official: "A local judge is going to think twice when a narco-traficante tells him, 'You either cooperate or I'm going to kill your wife, you child, your mother, your maid, your dog and your parakeet.'

Vice President George Bush, head of the President's Task Force on Drugs, sees the illicit drug trade bringing in about \$100 billion a year.

Much of these drugs flowing into the U.S. from the "Columbian Connection", come in through the state of Florida. Police recently uncovered one of the largest cocain hauls ever in Miami. Complains one official, "We are putting our lives in danger to prevent drugs from

entering the United States."

Because of the money involved, the State Department sees corruption as "the main obstacle to effective (drug) enforcement" in places like Mexico.

Secretary of State George Shultz, has charged that the Marxist governments of Cuba and Nicaragua are engaged in the drug trade to make money and to undermine the United States. It is well known that the communists are behind much of the drug industry in an attempt to demoralize this country.

Sen. Paula Hawkins of Florida, calls narcotics "the single most threatening menace to civilization today." Her demand is to enforce a 1983 law that suspends foreign aid to countries that fail to cooperate in the war against drugs.

The problem of drug traffic and addiction is bad enough in the United States, but it is even more amplified when it is tied to the present AIDS scare. Seventeen percent of AIDS victims are listed as intravenous drug users and that number is growing. Traces of blood from an infected person contaminates a shared syringe and AIDS can claim another victim.

Confusion continues to cloud the issue as to how dangerous the AIDS scare really is.

In Chicago, a special AIDS Task Force, with Dr. David Ostrow, chairman, has asserted, "AIDS isn't spread through the air by sneezing. It's spread by intimate sexual contact, sharing needles and use of infected blood products."

Thus the advice was given that both children and adult school personnel infected with AIDS could continue to participate fully in all school programs.

However, in the state of Florida, examination and testing of AIDS victims tend to support a controversial theory that mosquitoes and squalor help spread the disease.

Findings of the Pasteur Institute of France reported by Dr. John Seale, also indicated the AIDS virus is carried in respiratory secretions and in the tropics it is already being spread by the respiratory route. Thus it is noted, "The French finding signifies that AIDS can spread in a manner analogous to tuberculosis under conditions of crowding and poor sanitation."

Reports Dr. Seale following examination of a 30-year-old Haitian woman with AIDS-Related Complex, "This finding may explain the observation that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) affects men and women equally in Haiti and Central Africa."

In Evanston, Illinois, Pediatrician Robert Mendelsohn, former national medical director of the Project Headstart program for disadvantaged pre-schoolers, thinks AIDS victims should be barred not only from school, but also from society at large.

Says Mendelsohn, "It's time for medical leaders to forego political pressures from civil libertarians and gay-rights advocates and call for a quarantine. We have an epidemic on our hands."

Another problem in Illinois is reported in the Chicago Sun Times. If blood donations as a free test for AIDS is given, the results must remain

secret. This is now state law.

For the hundreds of thousands of people exposed to the AIDS virus,

this poses a problem.

Dr. Mabel Stevenson, director of the Red Cross Blood Bank in West Virginia says, "I don't have to point out the implications if you label somebody as having had an AIDS positive test. You can guess what the reaction of the public will be."

The National Center for Disease Control estimates that 500,000 to 1 million people fall into this category, but only 5-to-20 percent will actually contract the disease.

The stigma surrounding AIDS can hurl the lives of even the healthy into chaos if their exposure to the virus becomes known. On the other hand, how do you protect those who may be endangered by someone having AIDS but do not know it?

The Colorado Board of Health became the first state agency to keep a list of persons exposed to AIDS. There, 124 cases of AIDS have been reported and health officials say the list is necessary, because all carriers may spread the virus and need to be counseled in ways to prevent its transmission.

In New York State, where almost 5,000 cases of AIDS have been

reported, the state isn't considering keeping such a list.

According to Dr. William A. Haseltine, connected with Harvard University's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 30 percent of New York City drug users, whose blood samples had been kept since 1979, were already infected by the AIDS virus. That's two years before the first reports of AIDS was made in American medical literature in 1981.

Haseltine reported that intravenous drug-users in New York had been misdiagnosed as having "walking pneumonia."

It was reported, however, that the spread of AIDS in the United States was from homosexuals to drug users and not vice versa.

However, in Pittsburgh, Constance Brown, running for Sheriff on the "War on Drugs" ticket, cautions, "The AIDS epidemic is going to kill every man, woman and child in this country unless we wipe out the narcotics trade." She adds, "Right now in New York City, 80 percent of the drug addicts are infected with AIDS."

Brown is demanding a full investigation into the nationally-publicized trials of cocaine pushers dealing with major-league ball players. An ongoing federal trial has uncovered the fact that the bulk of cocaine trafficking into the Pittsburgh area has been run by FBI agents and informants. Former FBI agent Dan Mitrione, Jr., has pleaded guilty to helping run millions of dollars worth of cocaine from South America and Florida into the Pittsburgh area.

Brown is also warning that if drug pushers are not put in jail, and only moved off the street into apartments and playgrounds, "we are all very soon going to be dead from AIDS."

Is it not remarkable that the Bible should predict for the endtime — the use of drugs.

At least in Rev. 9, we have reference to plagues that befall the earth as judgments that should bring men to repentance.

We read in verse 20, "And the rest of the men which were not killed

by these plagues yet repented not..." And, verse 21, "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."

It was Bishop J.C. Ryle who wrote, "We must carefully remember that without repentance no soul was ever yet saved." This is contrary to the doctrine of some who see salvation as only a matter of believing.

But, says Ryle, "We must know our sins, mourn over them, forsake them, abhor them, or else we shall never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Ryle notes, "Our salvation is all of grace, from first to last. But the great fact still remains, that saved souls are always penitent souls, and the saving faith in Christ, and true repentance toward God, are never found asunder."

It is written, "... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

Here in Revelation, it is mentioned that they repented not, and mention is made of "sorceries." This is the Greek word PHARMAKIA from which we get our word "pharmacy" or "drugs."

Dr. Kenneth Wuest, noted Greek scholar, says this "word speaks in general use of drugs."

Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, in their commentary, say this word "sorceries" refers to witchcrafts by means of drugs. And, in the last chapter of your Bible, among those who do not make it to the eternal paradise of God are "sorcerers."

When LSD was the rage, a young girl enrolled at Berkeley testified of her experiments as follows: "First, I pierced my ears. Then I went on a few marches. Then I tried pot. Then I lost my virginity. And soon I'll probably try LSD. I think after that, I will have done everything, and it'll be time to go home."

Indeed, how sad for those desiring fulfillment who have to seek thrills that leave only heartache, headache and remorse.

Knowing, for example, it is wrong and against the law to possess drugs, it is somehow ascertained as an act of freedom to be able to buy and use forbidden substances as cocaine or marijuana. And before long, there is enslavement to the habit which usually results in death as in the case of John Belushi and David Kennedy.

The Apostle James reminds us, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren." (James 1:14-16)

The Apostle Peter, likewise, writes of those who, "while they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage." (II Peter 2:19)

Three things we'd like to point out for those who think liberty means license — license to do your own thing, even to sin.

First, this kind of liberty only makes one a slave. How many begin with a cigarette, then pot, and finally become hooked on heroin or cocaine? Dr. Larry Kroll, clinical director of the LIFELINE treatment center in Chicago, says, "Every day we read about another celebrity or top athlete involved with cocaine." According to government estimates, another 5,000 Americans try cocaine for the first time every day. Think of it.

Doctors link cocaine, not only to serious addiction, but to cardiac arrests, seizures, respiratory ailments and other serious health problems.

We would ask, "Why throw your body away in the interest of a new thrill that leaves only a chill, and prepares for the kill?"

The person who is truly free is the one who has turned his life over to his creator. The Lord who made us, knows what is best for us, and by trusting Him we can be totally free. "For if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

In the second place, liberty to do as you please only brings suffering and death.

Think of the mental anguish, along with the physical pain endured by AIDS victims who seek relief but know their only remedy will be death. At a cost approaching \$150,000, it may be necessary for the tax payers to try to take care of such persons who are too ill to take care of themselves.

Does it pay?

As in the case of Esau, who threw his life away for a morsel of pleasure. We read in Heb. 12:16, "Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright."

Health, happiness and heaven are all yours if you'll trust Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

In Galations 5:1 we read, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Again, verse 13, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

Cocaine, heroin, marijuana, alcohol . . . are all Satan's substitutes to try to provide a thrill that doesn't last. Drugs are the devil's counterfeit to give you a high that is really a low down trick of Satan.

Talk about thrills. In Psa. 16:11 we read, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Why not try it and see?

Talk about going on a trip. The rapture is the most thrilling act ever conceived by God, whose plans for the redeemed are "out of this world." Heaven is one day going to be a reality.

We have only the Word of God to tell us about heaven, and yet little is written about it.

In I Cor. 2:9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

You can be sure it will be worth it all to live for Jesus every day and be ready for Him whatever day He will come.

For he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

CURE



-FOR CANCER?-

"Cancer used to be the most dreaded word to be uttered in a doctor's office," says Lance Morrow in TIME magazine (Sept. 23, 1985). "But cancer no longer means a virtual sentence of death." However, notes Morrow, "AIDS does!"

Occupying the news of late has been the news of a new treatment effective in the treating of several cancer patients.

Hundreds of telephone calls jammed the National Cancer Institute's federal center from people desperate for a cure of the disease. Testified Carol Case, the Institute's chief of public inquiries, "What they're saying is, our mother, our brother, our sister is dying at this very moment. We have nothing to lose. We want to be a candidate."

The callers are mainly interested in a new treatment called adoptive immunotherapy, that turns ordinary white blood cells into "killer cells," which go to work in attacking malignant tumors. The treatment was reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

It was reported that 25 patients were given the tests. In 11 of these, patients with advanced cancer, doctors were able to shrink tumors by at least 50 percent, and, in one case, apparently to eradicate the disease.

Dr. Steven Rosenberg of the National Cancer Institute explains, "For the first time, we can take the immune system of a patient, alter it, and use it to cause regression of a tumor."

Gloria Heppner, immunologist and senior vice president of the Michigan Cancer foundation, explains, there are certain white blood cells that normally can recognize and attack cancer cells. But their attacks are too weak to keep tumors from growing. By extracting a person's own blood and adding commercially produced interleukin-2 in a laboratory, the result can "jack up the immune response" when returned to the patient's body.

Heppner adds, "Radiation and chemotherapy destroy cancer cells, but also are likely to kill some normal cells in the process. By using the patient's own lympho-cytes — already designed to attack cancer cells, but not normal cells — the interleukin-2 treatment is better able to target tumors"

The process also uses the patient's own disease-fighting cells. She explains, "each individual patient's tumor is different, and the immune responses are different. What you're trying to do is enhance the body's ability to fight that particular cancer in that person."

The principle makes a lot of good sense and encourages the belief of some of us that if we treated our bodies better we might not succumb to cancer in the first place.

In CURRENT HEALTH magazine, there are some recommendations for improving one's health and thus help remove the threat of cancer.

The American Cancer Society suggests there are ways to reduce the risk of cancer, mainly by making some changes in our diet. These recommendations include:

Americans consume about 40% of their total calories in fat. Too much fat in the diet increases the chance of develping breast, colon, and prostate cancer.

The ACS, in a recent 12-year study, determined that people who are 40% or more overweight have a greater risk of cancer of the uterus, gall bladder, kidney, stomach and breast.

Fiber is found in foods like whole-grain cereals, fruits and vegetables. A good deal of evidence points to the relatively low rates of colon cancer in populations subsisting on diets high in fiber.

Many laboratory tests indicate that vitamin A is highly effective in preventing cancer in animals. Studies of humans show that vitamin A lowers the risk of cancer of the larynx, esophagus and lung. Foods rich in Vitamin A include carrots, tomatoes, spinach, apricots, peaches and cantaloupes. (Vitamin A pills or capsules are not recommended. Excessive vitamin A can be harmful.)

Cruciferous vegetables — including cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts, kohlrabi and cauliflower — are believed to reduce the risk of cancer, particularly of the gastrointestinal and respiratory tracts.

Smoked foods such as some hams, sausages, and fish, as well as saltcured and pickled foods are believed to increase the risk of cancer of the esophagus, stomach and digestive tract." Heavy use of alcohol, especially when accompanied by cigarette smoking or use of chewing tobacco, increases the risk of cancers of the mouth, larynx, throat, esophagus and stomach."

These suggestions are made for those who believe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

There have been other treatments, such as the use of Laetrile, a substance derived from apricot pits. The National Cancer Institute once estimated it was being used by 70,000 Americans.

In tests at four cancer centers using 156 cancer patients, Laetril was used along with a diet of vitamins, pancreatic enzymes and fruits, vegetables and whole grains—in 90 percent of the patients, their cancer got worse. In 1981 the cancer institute declared Laetrile "a failure as a cancer treatment."

In January, 1985, Florida banned Laetrile.

Concerning the new treatment which some consider as a "break-through," Dr. Arthur Holleb, senior vice president for medical affairs at the American Cancer Society, says: "I hate to be pessimistic about this. It may be very difficult to find a magic bullet that will cure all forms of cancer... I continue to feel there won't be any sudden and dramatic breakthroughs about cancer."

That's not very comforting, is it?

In all of these tests, nothing has been said about the healing power of God.

Writing in the GOSPEL HERALD, the Rev. R.W. Neighbour says, "Man may not know the cause and cure of cancer, but there is One who does know the cause and cure of cancer. That One is God." He goes on to illustrate: "One who can make a watch can mend it; and the God who made the human body can restore so intricate a thing as the metabolism of that body."

Rev. Neighbour adds this comment, "We do know that God does answer prayer, and we do know that there have been a number of cases of people dying with cancer who were delivered as a result of the prayers of people who cried out to God in their trouble, believing that He would hear them."

What is cancer? Cancer is a collective term used to describe malfunctions of normal living cells. Cancers appear in the entire plant and animal kingdom as well as 200 to 300 different kinds appearing in man.

The essential nature of cancer, however, is declared by the experts to be a growth of cells in revolt. Normally, within the body, hormones and enzymes work together in delicate harmony of checks and balances, But when these abnormal cells begin to form they soon snowball and unless destroyed by the body's chemical activity the result is cancer in one of its many forms.

According to Dr. George Moore, a cancer research chemist, "every bird, beast and man produce some such cells at all times, but the body's defenses are usually strong enough to destroy them.

I shall never forget a man who came to my office who related how he had faced an operation in the hospital. When they opened him up they discovered his body was full of cancer. A team of doctors suggested he be sewed up and left to die. However, this man was a firm believer in the Promises of God's Word. Did not Acts 10:38 relate "How God

anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil: for God was with him." Whom did Jesus heal? The answer is those "oppressed of the devil."

Some would continue to quote Hebrews 13:8 which says, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

If Jesus could heal those in his day who were oppressed of the devil, can he not heal today?

To his disciples our Lord said, "Behold, I give unto you power... over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Oh, yes, Satan will come as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. We need simply to remind him that he is a defeated foe. In Heb. 2:14 we're told that when Christ died on the cross,"that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

In I John 5:18, we are reminded that if we walk in obedience to the Word of God, and belong to Jesus Christ, that Satan has no right to afflict us. We read, "He that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

How wonderful to know that once we are saved we belong to the Lord. We are his cherished possession. As we read in I Cor. 6:29 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

If we are God's property, is He not responsible to look out for us? Can He not heal us if we are sick?

Peter, quoting from the Prophet Isaiah, writes how Christ "bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

These scriptures are our encouragement.

Earlier I mentioned a man who was on the operating table, full of cancer, and the doctors sewed him up to die. But this man took a rope and every so often he tied a knot in the rope, and with his fingers handling the rope, he would recite one of these scriptures from God's Word in an effort to believe God for His healing. His testimony was that the Lord had completely healed him with no trace of cancer.

That is why the report of doctors that a person's immune system can be fortified so as to cause regression of a tumor makes sense. After all, why can't that cancer be commanded in the name of Jesus to be destroyed? Why can't God through prayer, by our claiming the promises of God's Word, produce a cure?

After all, did not Jesus say," Which is easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee: or to say, Arise, and walk?" (Matt. 9:5) Indeed, as we read in Matt. 28:18 our Lord does have "All power... in heaven and in earth."

Today believe that Christ can forgive you of your sins if you will let him. Also, believe that he can heal you. Recite the promises of His Word and claim them for your very own... whether to be saved or healed.

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

-NOTES-

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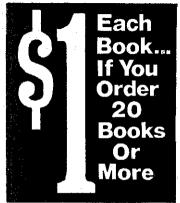
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