

TRUTH & RIGHT

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SPIRITUAL INFLUENZA

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23. Our world has been infected by a global pandemic and no one is immune to it. A spiritual influenza called sin has wrecked havoc both on our world and on our lives, both physically and spiritually. And for all, this virus is fatal, leading to death.

“For the wages of sin is death,” Romans 6:23. When Jesus came to this earth, He began providing hope that there could be a cure. He provided hope that there was a way to reverse the curse and the wreckage that sin had left behind. He began healing people of their diseases. “When Jesus came into Peter’s home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-

possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: ‘He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases,’” Matthew 8:14-17. Jesus provided a cure. Finally, someone who could heal us and give us life offered their blood to give us hope.

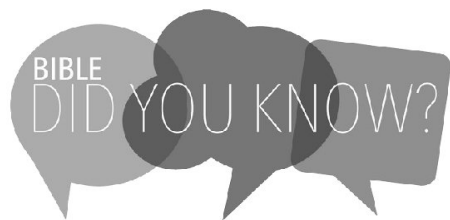
“Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood,” Revelation 1:5. The gospel which was preached and given to us by the Lord is the only way we may find spiritual life after being brought to spiritual death in our sins. “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit

that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast," Ephesians 2:1-9. Not only did the cure make us alive spiritually, but provides a way for us to overcome and be alive physically in a bodily resurrection even after death. "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His

resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him," Romans 6:4-9. "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life," John 5:28-29. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die,'" John 11:25-26. However, even after being cured, the virus infection of sin is still in the very world we live in. We may still become infected. "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if

anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world,” 1 John 1:8-2:2. So, since we may still become infected by the sin in this world even after being healed, let us practice “social distancing” of a spiritual nature and keep our distance from the sin that is in this world. “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals.’ Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame,” 1 Cor. 15:33-34. “Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you,” 2 Cor. 6:17. We must wash our hands regularly. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded,” James 4:8. We must stock pile and hoard up eternal goods. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal,” Matthew 6:19-20. Build up our

resistance with healthy food and vitamins found in the bread of life, and sanctify and strengthen our hearts with God’s Word. “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth,” John 17:15-19. – Daniel Ruegg



“And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, ‘If You are willing, You can make me clean.’

Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.”
Mark 1:40-42

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. Jesus healed Peter's Mother-in-law, who was sick with a ____.

- a) Cold
- b) Fever
- c) Rash
- d) Virus

2. Jesus once healed a leper by stretching out His hand and ____.

- a) Pointing
- b) Motioning
- c) Waving
- d) Touching him

3. A woman was healed of a hemorrhage by touching ____.

- a) Jesus
 - b) Apostles
- 1) B, Reference: Mk. 1:30-31
 2) D, Reference: Mk. 1:40-41
 3) A, Reference: Lk. 8:43-46
 4) D, Reference: Lk. 17:14
 5) A, Reference: Jn. 9:6-7
 6) D, Reference: Jn. 11:39

6. Before raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus said to ____ the stone against his tomb.

- a) Hit
- b) Place
- c) Knock on
- d) Remove

7. In answer to a royal official begging Jesus to come heal his son, Jesus said, "Go, your son ____."

- a) Dies
- b) Cries
- c) Lives
- d) Walks

8. Jesus said to a paralytic brought to Him to heal, "Your sins are ____."

- a) Bad
- b) Forgiven
- c) Many
- d) Big