



**Dr's Orders  
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## THE INCURABLES

by Vernon D. Anderson

"Prognosis? Terminal. . . dreaded words on any hospital ward. Medically this means; "Outlook for the patient? No recovery. " When a nurse goes to the head nurse to ask what medication is prescribed for a patient and the words come back, "T. L. C. ", immediately the nurse knows the condition is hopeless. T. L. C. is all she can give. (You see, T. L. C. means Tender, Loving Care.)

"No hope" . . . words that strike terror into any individual. Yet, on the spiritual side of life when these words are uttered, it means absolutely nothing to the average Christian. When we speak of one billion, four-hundred million souls who have never heard the name of Jesus, 1,400,000,000 souls bound to a Christless eternity, hopelessly lost, these words carry little or no weight at all. WHY?? Because our consciences have been so seared and our minds so blinded by the material things of this world that spiritual death has no sting. The fear of physical death takes on much greater meaning than the fear of spiritual death. The Christian would sooner give, and many times has, his life and material wealth to save a man from physical death before he would make the same sacrifice to save him from spiritual death.

We think of how Christ wept over Israel and pleaded for them to come unto Him. How He must be suffering today when He looks upon His Church in its indifferent attitude toward reaching those for whom He has died, yet THE INCURABLES still don't even know His name!

### THE DIAGNOSIS

You say, "Is it really that bad? Surely God would not condemn a man who has never heard!" Yes, it is that bad, and even worse, for tongue cannot describe the pangs of Hell. The heathen are lost. This is true even if all we had in the Word of God was the book of Romans. Notice:

Paul's "ALLs" of Hopelessness. . .

Rom. 3:9 - all under sin.

Rom. 3:12 - all gone out of the way.

Rom. 3:19 - all guilty before God.

Rom. 3:23 - all have sinned.

Rom. 5:12 - death passed upon all men.

Rom. 5:18 - judgment came upon all men.

Rom. 11:32 - concluded them all in unbelief.

Let us ask the question, "Were you dead in sin when you first heard the word of salvation or were you in this condition long before you heard the Word?" Romans says ALL are condemned. Only those in Christ escape this condemnation. Are the heathen in Christ before they ever hear of Christ? If so, then Paul need never have left Palestine to reach them.

The heathen are incurably lost and will never see heaven's glory!

Six American missionaries will never reach the thirty million inhabitants of Spain. One missionary in Milan, Italy, will never reach over one million residents; nor will each of the missionaries in South America reach nineteen thousand people.

The heathen faces perdition--lost--hopelessly INCURABLE.

## THE PRESCRIPTION

"Oh, it can't be impossible. There must be some hope; there has to be a remedy!" Every incurable disease has a cure. Human reasoning demands it. Otherwise, why do the scientists search on relentlessly? If there was no cure for cancer, what would it profit to keep experimenting? Yes, there is a cure for every disease and the Lord has given a perfect prescription for the sickness that plagues the world with spiritual death. The treatment is prescribed in:

Paul's "ALLs" of Hopefulness. . .

- Rom. 1:5 - faith among all nations.
- Rom. 3:22 - by faith of Jesus Christ unto all.
- Rom. 3:22 - and upon all them that believe.
- Rom. 5:18 - the free gift came upon all men.
- Rom. 8:32 - freely give us all things.
- Rom. 10:12 - the same Lord over all is rich unto all.
- Rom. 11:32 - mercy upon all.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is the cure-all for all men. There is unlimited atonement in this blood. The great Physician has given His most potent remedy --His Son.

Praise the Lord! The heathen are not INCURABLES! Wait a minute. The heathen are INCURABLES. The prescription has been filled. It is ready to be administered. But where are those who will administer? The disease remains incurable as far as practical application is concerned. Medication is of no value at all until there are those who take the prescribed dosage to the patient.

The INCURABLES do not know about the cure-all for their sin sickness. . they continue doomed to their own devices for their own destruction when one application of the true Gospel medicine could mean life and that more abundantly.

## A PLACEBO

"At least do something for the INCURABLES!" Someone might suggest a soothing syrup or placebo to relieve the distress of these doomed ones. Medically speaking a 'pla-ce'-'bo' is an inactive substance given to satisfy a patient's demand for medicine. The heathen could be made quite happy with a placebo of better education, manufactured products, democratic government, higher standards of living, brotherhood. BUT--what about that first moment "AFTER" mortality???? Yes, what about that moment? That's when the INCURABLE is unmistakably INCURABLE. No more chances then. He needs to be shown "I Corinthians 13, love" while he's here--not after he's gone. We Christians pride ourselves on dealing with the spiritual side of things. Looking at our present-day efforts to dispense grace toward the untold millions still untold, one could almost believe the Church had dispensed itself a placebo to numb the constraining love of Christ said to dwell in our hearts!!

The Christian has postponed administration of the true cure-all so long that many have already died and there is fading hope for the rest. The great Physician has filled His prescription; now the dispensing lies with us as our responsibility. We shall give an account for the dispensation that has been committed unto us!

## A PROCEDURE

How often we have understood the word dispensation as a 'filling up', when actually it is a 'giving out, an administration'. In hospital work failure to dispense medications properly means dismissal. Proper dispensation demands the right dose of the right medicine to the right patient at the right time and the right way. Scrupulous care has to be taken to see that the physician's orders are carefully carried out. Medicine labels are read three times before administration. Three times is considered safe. Three times is also considered sufficient. Not reading the label three times is bad, but what about the nurse who goes to the medicine room, reads the label three times, and then just sits down and keeps on reading the label? Sometimes Christians content themselves at just reading the labels or contents of their orders over and over and over and over. When the nurse forgets to dispense, no one receives the benefit; the patient who is in need, the physician who has ordered, or the nurse who loses the satisfaction of a job well done. Neither the appreciation of the patient nor the commendation of the physician can be expected. The application is parallel to our soul winning interest as Christians. Withholding healing medication from a dying patient would be rightly labeled murder and withholding the gospel from the lost is spiritual murder. Have we done this in a spiritual sense? Have we taken God's remedy for sin to ALL who have sin-sickness symptoms? Or have we taken the INCURABLE's portion and tried to overdose our pet patients who often care little or even refuse our administration?

A primary rule for nurses is to give every patient good nursing care. Never is it considered ethical to treat only the patients who have potential or are more pleasant and easier to understand. All alike deserve equal care and attention. Many times the nurse's greatest joy comes from the genuine appreciation of the patient 'in greatest pain and misery. So it is in spiritual 'nursing': what greater joy than dealing with INCURABLES and seeing them cured? Sin-sickness gone and new life flowing through the once feeble members! We Christian 'nurses' need to see the spiritual value of our charges, not just the physical values. It is evident that we haven't cherished men's souls enough; for the Lord's patients die daily for lack of our dispensation of the sweetness of His Word.

The Lord does not take lightly the indifferent attitude of His Church toward dispensation of the cure He has provided. Paul realized this kill-or-cure certainty as evidenced by the way he lived his life and penned his epistles. Just a few of his words are ample proof. Turn again to the book of Romans and see Paul's great responsibility.

Romans 1:5 - "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name!"

Paul could have said 'the nations', but realizing his commission, he emphatically wrote 'all nations'. PAUL HAD UNLIMITED VISION. Evidence builds up in his closing words of Romans.

Romans 16:26 - "But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:"

Not 'the nations', but again 'all nations'. Paul was not even satisfied with these notations; but as he faces the end of his 'to the ends of the earth' ministry, he pens these climaxing words for the Church, Christ's Body:

2 Timothy 4:17 - "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear..."

Paul realized that his Head, the great Physician, had prescribed a cure-all for all men. It was not up to Paul to cure the world; it was his business to dispense what was ordered. The same is true for us. We only carry the message. Whether it is accepted or rejected, Christ's blood remains the only curative to overcome sin. The Apostle doesn't say to 'save' all men, but that all men should 'hear'.

"There must be some other way!" We could sometimes wish there was another way, considering the geographical, cultural and linguistic barriers of mission fields. However, God's Word is very plain.

Romans 10:14 - "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

They won't hear, they won't be cured, until you and I go!

Romans 10:8 - "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;"

We have the Word of Salvation in our mouths. When we decide to keep our mouths closed, a sinner can slip into eternity without Christ; by speaking a few words the same sinner could be healed of his sin and have eternal life. Remember: we decide whether we want to share our gift with others. God has already told us He wants all men to be saved. In one way Christ is the only Hope; in yet another way (a very real way) we, the commissioned dispensers, are the only hope of the world. We are the living testimonials in this generation of the saving gospel of the grace of God!

Oh---if we only had the vision of Paul when he penned these words:

Romans 15:20 - "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:"

#### A PENALTY

Dear Friend in Christ, you may have the idea, "Should I go?" It is not this at all. You must go. It is your responsibility as a follower of Christ and Paul to take up the work that they have committed to you. It is not only that the heathen must hear, but remember, it is a matter of the love of Christ constraining you, a matter of a terrible loss to you if you fail to go.

Romans 1:14 - "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. "

You are a debtor also. You owe a debt; it must be paid. If you will not pay it now, then you must give an account in glory. Debts must be paid! "Owe no man anything . . ." the Bible says. The only debt that God allows is "to love one another". Don't be misled into believing the missionary program of your church will stand before the judgment seat--it's your personal missionary outreach that will be accountable there at that day. Today is the best day to begin "outreaching".

Paul, recognizing what God had given him to do, spoke these final words to the Ephesian elders: "For I take you to record this day that I am pure from the blood of all men. " Exactly how much this means is difficult to comprehend, but we do know the weight that it carried with the Apostle. Just a few verses later we read:

Acts 20:34 - "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears. "

Catch the vision of this man of God. You would not have found him a victim to the common malady of Christendom today, moneyitis or luxuryitis. Paul was in the fight! An epidemic had spread all over the world. It took all he had, and he gave all he had, to combat this sin-plague of destruction. Paul was at the front line dispensing.

We want to stop right now, Christian Friend, and bring this home. What are you doing to thwart the advances of the cancer of sin? Have you honestly become poor that others might become rich? Is your aim to have a completely Christ-centered life where you are willing to say, "Here, Lord Jesus, here is \_\_\_\_\_; take me as a dispenser of your perfect prescription to those who never had a taste before. Let me not allow your precious blood to go unknown."

If you have answered God's call to go and He needs you here, then, are you dispensing your time, and your money to reach the dark places where live the INCURABLES of this world? It is spiritual murder to allow a man to die when you can be the means of giving him the prescription for life, ETERNAL LIFE!!!

YOU have The Great Physician's orders to carry out. . . . STAT! (And that means 'right now!') Are you ON DUTY?

HE SENT HIS WORD, AND HEALED THEM, AND DELIVERED THEM  
FROM THEIR DESTRUCTIONS. PSALMS 107:20

THINGS TO COME MISSION  
745 Yampa Avenue  
Craig, Colorado