

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

No Unpleasant Side Effects

by Linus A. Mathis III

Have you ever been troubled by an allergy or hay fever? Do you get migraine headaches? Are you losing hair and/or your libido? These are compelling questions. Many people have these maladies and understandably are seeking deliverance. Cheer up, help is on the way! Yes, modern medicine has once again come to our rescue.

There is medication today that promises release from impotence. Unfortunately death is purported to be among some of the, shall we say unpleasant, side effects. You should question the wisdom of what might become "one last fling." Or perhaps seek a safer resolution. If hair loss is a problem, there's a pill for that too. Of course it might be (just a slim possibility) that sexual dysfunction follows. Don't forget now, this is just for men. If a woman uses this product there could be big problems. Especially if she's pregnant. We're warned that there's a "certain" birth defect which can be caused by simply touching a broken tablet. I don't know what "certain" means in this case, but I'm reminded of the sorrowful and tragic birth defects linked to Thalidomide back in the 50's and 60's. (No problem though, we've just been informed that Thalidomide got a bad rap back then and could provide some benefits for those poor souls afflicted with leprosy.) I don't know about you but I prefer a hat.

As if having a migraine isn't grievous enough, one drug given for relief can actually cause a stroke. Oh, I want that one! How about you? But wait, there's more. The latest allergy medicine can have side effects that include (Are you ready for this?) runny nose, eye irritation and sore throat. I'm not a medical man but aren't those the symptoms usually associated with allergies? There are others I could mention but time and space limit me.

At this point you're probably thinking how cynical I'm being. Perhaps I am. But, frankly speaking you don't solve a problem by replacing it with another. That would be a trade-off. It seems that the cure out weighs the curse in far too many instances. That being the case, a value judgement is in order. I made that call for myself a number of years ago. For me, God and His Word are my First Aid. That's right, I go to Him first. I do so in prayer and by claiming the promises of His Word. If my believing is short I ask another believer to pray with and for me. Should I still fail to receive my answer (I'm talking about healing here) I then go to a doctor. The doctor is my third aid. Not my first. It doesn't cost a dime to believe God's Word. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Should you be skeptical at this point, regarding God's desire to heal and deliver ALL who come to Him, I suggest you consider the following:

Isaiah 53:5

But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

This is a Messianic prophecy regarding what would be available through our Lord's accomplishments. Hence the healing purchased for us is phrased in the future tense; "...with his stripes we are healed".

I Peter 2:24

Who his own self 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.

Notice that I Peter recognizes this prophetic event as an accomplished reality and thus words it in the past tense; ". . .by his stripes ye were healed." This is NOT a mistake, but a grand testimony to the wonderful accuracy of God's Word. It's also noteworthy that there aren't any unpleasant side effects mentioned. Why? Because with God there are never any strings attached. He doesn't replace one problem with three more. He saves to the uttermost.

Hebrews 7:25

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

God's Word is pure and simple. It's powerful and preferable to anything

man can offer. It never has bad side effects, NEVER!

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

I Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it not as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

His Word worketh effectually! That means you get results. Moreover, you get the **DESIRED RESULTS**. This cannot be said of man made products. Have you ever used a powerful cleanser or laundry detergent? If so then, you're aware of the potential of undesirable results. I'm sure that when my beautiful wife does our wash she doesn't yearn for my shorts to turn pink. But, an effective detergent can do that. It can remove dirt AND dye. Especially if your garments aren't color-fast. When you believe God's Word you get the right results, the ones you were after, every time. And there aren't any problems attached to your solutions. If there were, they couldn't rightfully be called solutions.

There are, however, **BENEFICIAL** "side effects." But only when we are meek, humble and obedient to His Word. Some of them are:

Proverbs 22:4

By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *are* riches, and honour, and

life.

Psalms 37:11

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Psalms 25:9

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

II Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

Jude 1:2

Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Galatians 5:22,23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

These verses in no way represent ALL that His Word promises. But they do whet the appetite, don't they? Doesn't your soul just long for this wonderful Word of God? How can anything be compared to it? It's incomparable!!!

You can go to Him, freely claiming His promises daily. You can have confidence knowing that with God there are NEVER any unpleasant side effects.

The Counselor's Corner

With Rev. Linus A. Mathis III

Many people think they must use punishment as a means of getting

their children to obey. Nothing could be further from the truth. Why? Because punishment is born of anger while discipline is love's offspring. Furthermore, it takes more effort to discipline than it does to punish. Punishment is used as retribution or retaliation for the commission of an offense. We often use this term when someone is dealt with in a harsh manner. Injury and hurt are the result of punishment. In fact, both the Latin and archaic French suggest pain. Certainly we're all familiar with the term "capital punishment." On the other hand, discipline is a training that corrects while molding and perfecting the moral character. Which method do you think most suitable for raising children? I assure you that the God of the Bible does not punish His children. But, He most certainly disciplines them. Incidentally, you as the parent must maintain the oversight on privileges. They can be forfeit as a result of irresponsibility or foolishness (lack of discipline).

How, you may ask, do I go about this? It's really quite simple. But, you must stick to your guns. You dare not compromise! It's done by doctrine, reproof and correction. I've gleaned these principles from II Timothy 3:16 & 17. Read it and you'll find that the Scripture is profitable [everyone knows what that is] for doctrine, reproof and correction. The purpose being instruction in righteousness (right-living). Apply this to the training of your little ones and you'll be amazed at the results.

Doctrine is information that tells us what right believing or behavior is. Reproof informs us of our wrong behavior or practice. Correction gets us back to right believing. For example, young children play with

their food. You as the parent give the child the right doctrine, "Johnny, food is to eat and toys are for play." You then give him his very own toy to establish the difference. At the next meal there's little Johnny playing with his food and chewing on his toy. You stop him pronto and say, "No honey, remember what I said? Food is for eating and toys are for play. Now, put down the toy and eat your food." A few minutes go by and our little tyke is back at it. Now comes the correction! A little smack on the bottom or on the back of the hand (so as to get his undivided attention) and a further reminder of the proper use for food and toys. The reason you need to sting him a little bit is because young children do not understand abstract concepts. As he gets older you'll need to employ more verbal means. Yet, never do you stray from the principles of doctrine, reproof and correction. If you haven't given him the doctrine, then you dare not give him reproof or correction. Furthermore, if he doesn't adhere to the doctrine you must give him the reproof immediately. The first time, not the second or third. If you employ threats you are training your child improperly. They will learn that when you ask them to stop doing something you really mean that they can continue doing it until you ask them three or four more times. Children are smart and they learn VERY quickly!

I suppose there are some who are concerned about stinging their child on the rump. But, remember we aren't talking punishment, that would be child abuse. Discipline is the key here and that we do out of love, not out of anger. If you are angry with your child then it is you who are in need of the discipline.

You have obviously allowed things to go too far or haven't been attentive enough to properly instruct your child as to what you expect of him or her. As far as I'm concerned, if you do not discipline your child you ARE abusing them. You owe it to them, it's not an option.

The Bible clearly teaches us that godly sorrow works repentance. Godly sorrow comes when we are "stung" in a godly way and it's done by someone who loves us. But, the sorrow of the world worketh death [II Corinthians 7:9-11]. When we punish our kids we bring upon them the sorrow of the world. But, when we discipline them we bring them wholeness [Hebrews 12:4-13].

We want to teach our children how to discipline their minds and bodies. The lack of which is one of the primary causes for the ills we witness these days. We must discipline our children if we want them to respect others. The truth is, if they don't respect those who they see, how can they respect God whom they cannot see.

Ephesians 6:4

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

-The Counselor's Corner also appears in Alaska Parenting Magazine-
