

The image is a composite. At the top, a large steel arch bridge spans across the frame. Below the bridge, a waterfall cascades down a rocky ledge. In the foreground, a light-colored dog with a dark collar is running happily towards the viewer. The overall tone is warm and scenic.

FAITHFUL WARNINGS

FROM FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Echoes of Grace

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FAITHFUL WARNINGS

FROM FAITHFUL FRIENDS

On the night of May 19, 1915, Mt. Lassen in northern California was ripped apart by an enormous explosion. Massive mudflows, hot ash and gas flowed down the mountainside, swelling nearby creeks and rivers. In its path lay the sleeping residents of the little settlement of Hat Creek that had gradually become accustomed to the sounds and smells of the small releases of steam the awakening giant had been belching.

Elmer Sorahan was awakened by his dog. Not only did his dog bark loudly, but he put his paws on Elmer's chest to wake him up. After going outside, Elmer saw a thundering twelve-foot high mass of mud and logs roaring down the creek. He took off running nearly a mile downstream to warn his nearest neighbors, the Halls. Bursting through their door he yelled, "Get out! Get out! There's a flood coming."

Among other residents living down the creek was Harvey Wilcox, who also had a dog that awakened him. Harvey barely had time to grab his clothes and run to higher ground before the flood took away his house and everything in it. Others received phone

calls from the Hall family warning them to flee immediately. It is remarkable that these two dogs were given the ability by God to sense danger coming and to faithfully warn their masters. Because of the actions of these dogs and, later, the phone calls, the entire settlement escaped with their lives, though their houses were nearly all destroyed by the flood.

I'm reminded of another faithful warning given to us in the Word of God. There God **"now [commands] all men everywhere to repent: because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man [the Lord Jesus Christ] whom He hath ordained"** (Acts 17:30-31).

These people living along Hat Creek, without exception, acted upon the report of judgment coming and were all spared. Now what about *you*? For nearly two thousand years the love of God for this world has been proclaimed, and now the good news for you is that **"God [commends] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"** (Romans 5:8). Though we have all offended God by our having sinned, yet He has mercy and pardon for all who sincerely show **"repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ"** (Acts 20:21).

It is one thing to have our lives spared, like the residents along Hat Creek, but it is far more important to have our souls saved. This is not possible by our own efforts, but by taking God at His word and having a "change of mind" as to our condition before

a righteous and holy God. By believing that Jesus, the Son of God, bore the punishment we deserved while He hung on the cross of Calvary, we receive the forgiveness of sins. There He suffered and gave His life as a perfect sacrifice for sin, and then God raised Him from among the dead as a victorious Saviour.

The Lord was gracious to those people in California ninety-nine years ago, and He wants to be gracious to you today. The Lord Jesus is a wonderful Saviour, and He has room in His heart for you if you will simply put your trust in Him as *your* own Saviour. While a dog is often referred to as “man’s best friend,” how much more is the Lord Jesus like a friend that sticks closer than a brother. **“Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee”** (Job 22:21). Job also went on to say that God looks **“upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not; He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light”** (Job 33:27-28). God loves you and has a purpose of blessing in your life. He has made full provision for your eternal happiness if you will come to Christ just as you are and believe that He died to put your sins away. Won’t you trust Him now?

His loving warnings about the dangers of sin and His remedy are worth your careful consideration in the next story, *Heart Disease*. ◀



HEART DISEASE

Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death for both men and women worldwide. When a person suffers from heart disease, the small arteries that bring fresh blood and oxygen to the muscle of the heart become constricted due to plaque build-up. This eventually causes heart failure. A cold, hard fact about heart disease is that in the upcoming year it will kill over 600,000 people in the U.S.A. This number is roughly equivalent to the total number of casualties on both sides in the Civil War. Medical experts also tell us that approximately one out of every four people living today will eventually die from the condition.

The good news is that heart disease can be prevented through exercise and healthy eating habits. The bad news is that if heart disease doesn't get you, eventually something else will.

This is because we have contracted a different kind of heart disease called “sin.” **“As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”** (Romans 5:12). A disease is a lack of bodily health. Sin is a disease of our souls and a lack in our spiritual health. It is a deficiency, a breakdown in the relationship between God, the source of all goodness and blessing, and the hearts of men and women He has made.

If not addressed, the heart disease of sin will eventually bring death and ruin on every member of the human race. Death has a double aspect about it. Physical death results when a soul is separated from a body, and it is grim indeed. But spiritual death has an even greater impact and takes place when a soul is separated from God’s goodness and love forever. Souls who die in their sins will be sent away to the **“outer darkness”** of hell. **“The children of the kingdom shall be cast**

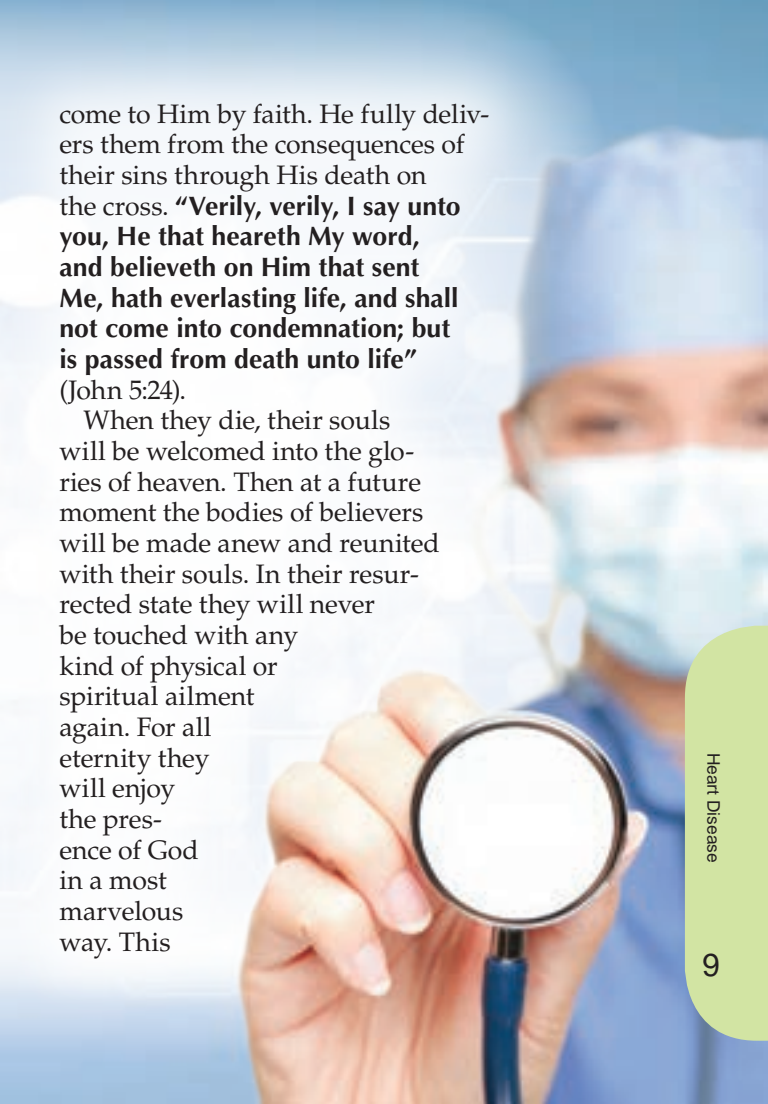


out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 8:12). The heart disease of sin is nothing to trifle with. A cold, hard fact about sin is that it causes eternal death.

But God has good news. There is a Great Physician for eternity-bound souls. The Great Physician is the Lord Jesus Christ who, so He might have a medicine to heal this most bitter of diseases, gave His life at Calvary. **“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures”** (1 Corinthians 15:3).

By His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus provided the one remedy for the heart disease of sin. He is the **“Sun of righteousness”** who arose with **“healing in His wings”** (Malachi 4:2). As the Great Physician, He gives the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life to all who come to Him by faith. **“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (Romans 6:23).

In the Bible we read how multitudes of sick, lame and diseased folks came to the Lord Jesus while He walked on earth, and He healed every one of them. **“When Jesus knew it, He withdrew Himself from thence: and great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all”** (Matthew 12:15). The same is true now for all those who realize the sinful condition of their hearts and



come to Him by faith. He fully delivers them from the consequences of their sins through His death on the cross. **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”** (John 5:24).

When they die, their souls will be welcomed into the glories of heaven. Then at a future moment the bodies of believers will be made anew and reunited with their souls. In their resurrected state they will never be touched with any kind of physical or spiritual ailment again. For all eternity they will enjoy the presence of God in a most marvelous way. This

is the truly healthy result of trusting in the Great Physician, the Saviour of sinners!

“Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). Won't you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Physician of souls, that He might be your Saviour?

“When Jesus heard it, He saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Mark 2:17).

Your heart health may appear to be good, but don't let your spiritual health slip for as long as the man in *Ben Veggors' Interrupted Meal*. ◀



BEN VEGGORS' *INTERRUPTED* MEAL

Ben Veggors was a chaplain at the Veteran's Hospital not far from his home in a Western town. Having fulfilled his duties one particular day, he made his way across town to his home to have supper with his wife and spend the evening together as they usually did.

Just as they were about to begin their nice, hot meal, the phone rang. It was the hospital calling to ask if he could come back in to see a man who had just been put on the "watch list" as one who may not live until the morning.

Being one who wanted to help men see their need of a Saviour's blood because of their ruined, hopeless condition before a holy God, he felt he should respond to their request. He left his wife and the nice meal and headed back to the Veteran's Hospital.

Upon arrival, he made his way to the area where he knew such patients were kept and looked up the man he had been requested to see, whom they felt didn't have long to live. When he entered the room and made his presence known,

there was no response from the man. He lay silently in the bed in a coma.

Ben had seen men like this before and felt pity for him, hoping he had found peace with God and was ready to enter those courts above to be with his Saviour. But not knowing if this was the case, he felt his obligation before God to tell him the way to heaven.

He didn't know if he could still hear, being in such a state of unresponsiveness, but knowing that one's hearing is often the last faculty to leave a person, he spoke in the dying man's ear the words from the Bible that tell the way for lost, hell-deserving sinners to find peace with God.

After feeling he had sufficiently covered the subject, he prayed with the man and got up to leave the room. As he got to the door, he felt something restraining him, and the words came to him, "If that was your son lying there in that state, would you only say that much to him?"

Upon this consideration, Ben turned and went back to speak more to this poor man who was undoubtedly not long for this world. He went over various other



scriptures with him and earnestly pleaded with him, as if he could hear him, that he needed to find peace with God without delay because death may be near at hand.

He prayed more fervently for him and then left him, feeling satisfied in his conscience that he had plainly and clearly explained to the man all that was needed for his salvation. Mr. Veggors then went home to supper with his wife.

A couple of days later, as Ben was making his rounds at the hospital, he passed the room where he had spoken to the man that night. As he passed by, he noticed on the chart outside the door that the man had died. He wondered, *Had the man been saved? Was he in the presence of the Lord Jesus or was he in the place for those who have refused the offer of mercy and pardon and are waiting for their final judgment day?*

As he continued on down the hallway, he heard a woman behind him call to him. He turned to find three women coming up to him with a question. "Are you the man who spoke to our brother in this room the other night?" Ben said that yes, he was. Then they began to tell him their interesting story.

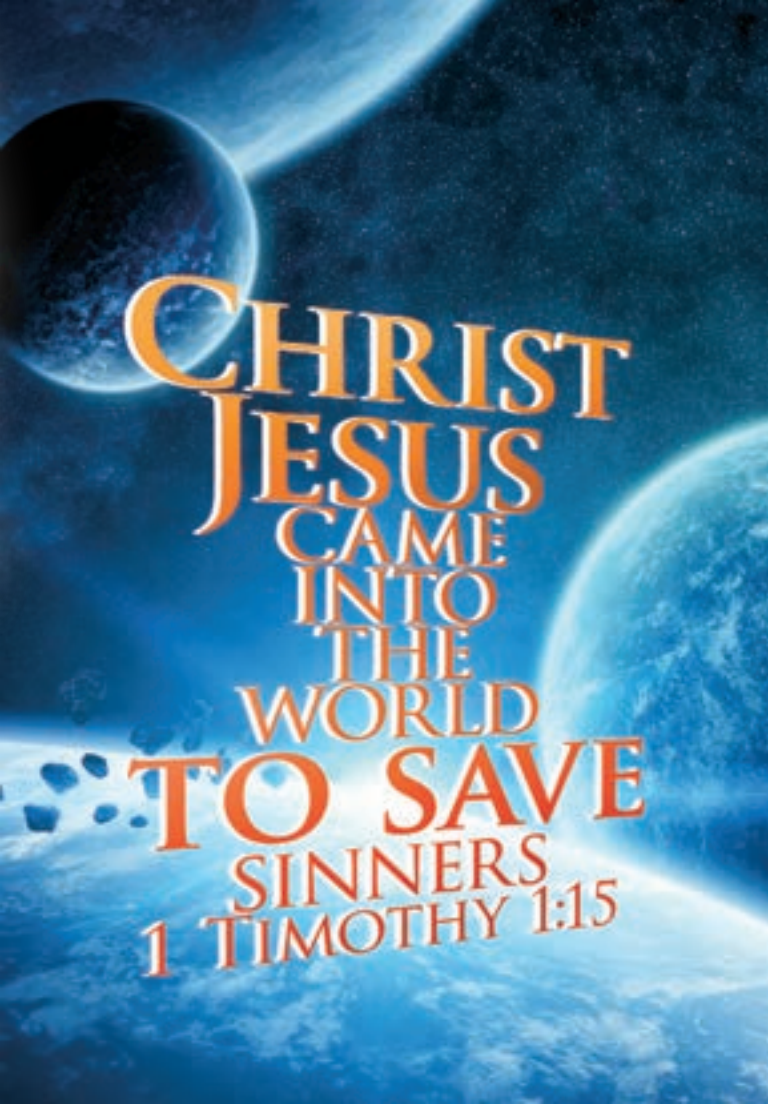
They told him they were all sisters of this man who had died. When they heard their brother was not expected to live, they all felt they should come to try to see him before he died. They further told Ben that they were all Christians and that their brother was the "black sheep of the family."

They had been praying for him and trying to reason with him for years, but it had all been worthless as far as they could tell. When they got to the hospital and found him unresponsive, they wondered if there was any hope for him, and they sat around talking and praying for their brother that God would be merciful to him.

They were suddenly very surprised to see their brother sit up in the bed and exclaim, "I'm saved!" The sisters could hardly believe their ears and very hopefully inquired of him how that could possibly be. He told them that Ben had come into his room one evening and had told him the way of salvation very clearly, that he had accepted God's offer to wash away his sins, and now he was on the way to heaven! Then he fell back on the bed and was gone! ◀

SHARE GOD'S WORD

If you know Christ as your Saviour, consider cutting out the page to the right and getting permission to post it on the community bulletin board at your local grocery store, Laundromat, community center or other public place.



CHRIST
JESUS
CAME
INTO
THE
WORLD
TO SAVE
SINNERS
1 TIMOTHY 1:15

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Jesus said: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

