

1 John v. 16, 17. These cases are far different, and are the result of a bad walk in the believer's life, and they bring down the chastening hand of the Lord, as the passages show. The Lord chastens His people in order to get them to judge certain evils that they were allowing. He even may take them away in death if the evils are not judged and corrected. He can, and does, in certain cases, restore to health; but this is not by any influence brought to bear upon the mind, for which money is received (as "Science" collects,) but by taking a true place before God, in repentance and confession to God the Father, and He restores, He raises up, He blesses, as in the examples given us in various parts of the Word of God. Yet we must remember this does not deliver or free them from the creation which groaneth.

This deliverance is yet future, and is in the hope of the believer, and will not be brought about by "Science" nor "faith" nor yet "prayer," but in a vastly different way, by the "second coming of the Lord Jesus."

Then there are other kinds of sickness and disease, not the result of unbelief nor mind depression, nor yet the chastening hand of God for failure, and these are often the lot of those most godly, and who have most faith. Sometimes a weak constitution, hereditary, and sometimes the result of neglecting or refusing to obey nature's laws in former life, or in the ancestors, and we must remember as to this the universal *law* of Galatians vi. 7, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Grace, even the grace of God, forgives and puts sin away, when truly confessed; but deliverance for the body is future. Phil. iii. 20, 21.

Then again take another case, that of the apostle Paul 2 Cor. xii. 7-10. Was the thorn in the flesh, the bodily infirmity, the result of unbelief, or careless walk? Surely

not. His faith, his devotion, his knowledge of divine things, surpasses all ever since. Yet he suffered as part of creation that groaneth, and, as the passage shows, all permitted by the Lord to keep the apostle more prayerful, more humble, and, when the apostle prayed 'thrice,' the answer he received was, "My grace is sufficient for thee;" then the man of faith immediately answers, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities." Here is a lesson that the teachers of Science, and also those of other systems of healing, have not yet learned.

Next, what event will hush all the groans of creation? One event, and only one—"the second coming of Christ;" and this comforting and blessed hope set before the church as her bright morning star is spiritualized away by the teachings of "Science." One passage we will quote in full: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thes. iv. 15-18.

Does this event take place every day? Does this take place in every case of healing, whether mind or body? Surely not. See Acts i. 11.

But now I bring this subject to a close, having followed what appears to me the main points, and my desire is now that you compare all carefully with the Holy Scriptures, and, if you do, you will without doubt learn the following important facts.

1. Your condition as a lost sinner. Rom. iii. 9-23.