

GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



I have been reading through the book of Exodus lately. I was drawn there after our Wednesday evening Bible Study on the Names of God. One of those names is Jehovah Rapha. The God who heals. Literally it would be transliterated, I AM who heals. Sometimes we call Him the “Great Physician.” In the book of Exodus, you will recall that the children of Israel had just crossed the Red Sea and escaped the Pharaoh from Egypt and his army. After collecting themselves on the eastern side of the sea, Marion, the sister of Moses wrote a wonderful song to honor Jehovah in Exodus 15. After that, they walked toward the east and couldn’t find water for 3 days. You guessed it, they grumbled. They came to a body of water called “Marah” which means bitter, and sure enough the water there was undrinkable. You remember the story, the children of Israel started complaining to Moses. So Moses cried out to Jehovah and He had Moses pick up a piece of wood and throw it into the water. The water became sweet and drinkable.

Then God said to them, “If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His eyes, if you pay attention to His commands and keep all His decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, Who heals you.” You even know the story in the next chapter, they complained again, this time about food.

However, before the next chapter, they came to a place called Elim, “where there were 12 springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.”

With this portion of the story of the children of Israel, I was impressed how many times in our lives God uses different means and graces to meet our needs. The word “Healer” is used here in the sense that Jehovah healed the bitter waters and promised to keep the Israelites free from the diseases that were brought upon the Egyptians. Then He brought them to a wonderful oasis in the desert where they could re-group and simply take in what Jehovah had just done for them.

I want to share a couple of thoughts about healing that seems to match this story. Sometimes the Lord is very generous and gracious to us and literally heals us from what is going on. You know, we pray to the Lord for one another and God graciously heals us. Other times He has given the medical professionals the wisdom to be able to learn about the body and all of its inner workings. I am also reminded that with all the doctors and medical personnel can do, it is God who heals us. I’m

afraid that most medical professionals say, “the body now must heal itself.” But we know, don’t we, It is the working of Jehovah Rapha.

As I think of the several procedures that I have had lately, I realize that the doctors that I have seen are so smart and know about the human bodies so well. However, I am also well aware that if we heal, it is because God has intervened on our behalf.

James says in Chapter 5, “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

I realize that here, there seems to be sin involved and the sickness is a result of that sin. However, there are some great theological truths here that are applicable to us in Greenvine.

This is the precise reason that we often call the ones who are sick or need surgery or have disease to come to the front of the sanctuary and we pray over them. It is so very important to confess to the Lord and to the person who needs healing that is, in fact, the Lord who heals.

Michael Card wrote a song that is called “The Gentle Healer.” That song goes like this:

The Gentle Healer came into our town today
He touched blind eyes and the darkness left to stay
More than the blindness, He took their sins away
The Gentle Healer came into our town today
The Gentle Healer came into our town today
He spoke one word that was all He had to say
The One who had died just rose up straight away
The Gentle Healer came into our town today
Oh, He seems like just in ordinary man
With dirty feet and rough but gentle hands
The words He says are hard to understand
And, Yet, He seems like just an ordinary man
The Gentle Healer, He left our town today
I just looked around and found He'd gone away
Some folks from town had followed Him, They say
That the Gentle Healer is the Truth the Life the Way

What a wonderful truth that the God of the Bible is Jehovah Rapha, not only to the children of Israel, but to us as well.

July 26, 2021 V:73

The great truth of praying for everything. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16, “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” That is precisely why he writes in another place, “Pray without ceasing.” By the way, when those are written in the Bible, they are not a good suggestion. They are in command form. It is imperative that we would pray all the time.

It is only through our realization that God is sovereign in all that He does, and is completely in control of all things, we can call upon Him for any and everything. He is the great Physician. We can call on Him to heal us any way He chooses, whether by a miraculous event, or by medical intervention and healing us that way.

God is good. He desires what is good for you and me.

As I think of my upcoming procedure on my right kidney, I pray that God would miraculously take those stones away; however, I also realize that He may allow my doctor to perform the surgery and then heal my body afterward. Either way, I know that He is in control and that I don't need to worry; just trust Him.

We can pray the same thing for Byron in his upcoming surgery in August as well. His procedure is 2 days prior to mine. Let's agree together and pray that God will be honored and praised no matter how He heals Byron as well.

There are several folks on our prayer list for illness. Pray, Pray, Pray.

Blessings upon you and your families. God is good all the time; all the time, God is good.

Jack & Karen

Announcements

- Wednesday Night Bible Study -Wednesday nights @ 6pm
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday July 28, @ 7am
- Burton Bridge meal - Friday August 6 - Church serves and provides desserts
- Women's Ministry - 2nd Tuesday of each month @6pm - Next meeting August 10 @ 6pm
- Women's Ministry White Cross Workday - Saturday August 21 @ 9am

Prayer Requests

Jack - Surgery for removing the kidney stones - August 11

Byron Rutland - Having issues with Diverticulitis - He is scheduled for surgery August 9, 2021

Carol Witte - Recovering from 2 infections. 1 infection has cleared and they are working on the other one. Jim says she is starting to feel better.

Dorothy and Ben's grandson Rinn recovering from dental surgery

Debbie Reed - Recovery on her wrist

Cliff and Debbie Reed (and their family) in the loss of Cliff's dad.

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Colin Smith - 18 yr old with a Traumatic Brain Injury. (Patient of Karens)

Gerri Smart's daughter Terri has been diagnosed with cancer. She has started her chemo treatments. Please pray for strength as she walks through this and prayers for Gerri as well as she she helps Terri through this process.

Joe Durrett - Stomach cancer and heart attack - home on hospice care

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Prayers for those working in health related jobs, for protection. Especially those from our own families:
Karen at St Joseph - Susan - State School - Zella Johnson