Prosperity - A Christian Consideration

by William Standish Reed, M.D., M.S., Founder and President of CMF.

In a recent morning quiet time, I was reflecting on the scripture, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." III John 2 Taking up Strong's Concordance, I looked up "prosper" and found that prosper, prospereth and prospered occur in The New Testament only in III John 2 and 1 Corinthians 16:2, a total of three times. There are a number of Old Testament references. The word prosper actually in the Greek is "eun" meaning good, plus "adoo" which means road (to have a good road). Literally the statement of John is, "Beloved concerning everything I pray that all will go well on your road and that you will be in health as your soul has a good journey".

In this modern era we think of prospering in the sense of having money, houses, exotic automobiles, a country club social life, gourmet cooking and all manner of personal pleasure pursuits. When this is offered as the blessing of God in prosperity, true Christianity begins to be misunderstood. Those who wrote The New Testament were far from prospering in a physical or an economic sense. Their prosperity was one of soul and spirit which brought about health and God's blessings. Affluence is producing all manner of illness of mind and body. Consider how many Hollywood stars have died of suicide, AIDS, alcoholism, lung cancer and narcotic drug use. This is also true of physicians, attorneys, politicians, clergy and now is happening even in the government subsidized areas of "poverty" in America.

In this "century of progress" thinking man has witnessed the intellectual crucifixion of Jesus and the Word of God. As a result we are sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind. The U.S. Government is attacking cigarette smoking but ignoring the much greater health problem of alcohol consumption. Many pulpits have abandoned the preaching of Christ and the winning of souls for the proclamation of social agendas which include the acceptance of the sin of homosexuality and failure to attack abortion. Latest statistics indicate that over 1,500,000 babies were destroyed in America through abortion in 1992. This is not seen as a holocaust. We could do well to re-read Exodus 23 which states in verse seven "be very careful not to condemn to death the innocent and the righteous...".

It has been on occasion a mystery to me why Christian Medical Foundation as a Jesus and Word emphasizing ministry has not prospered financially. In actuality, God's blessing on our journey has been one of souls saved as men and women are led to Jesus Christ, great numbers who have received the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and many, doubtless hundreds, healed of physical and psychologic afflictions. God is our supply and our provider - Jehova jireh, Jehova shalom, Jehova rapha, our healer, our peace. These are qualities, the symptoms of wholeness, which cannot be provided through any medication, any agency, or any physical or mental methodology. Such has been our belief and our proclamation.

The continuance of Christian Medical Foundation is in God's hands. In listening to Him you may wish to pray for this work and its ever increasing mission to Medicine and to God's people as well as the lost. You may also be prompted to give to Christian Medical Foundation financially. The present deficit is $180,000.00 which may require the sale of our beautiful headquarters in Tampa. Should this occur we shall continue on as God leads. Summer times are always critical times financially but 1994 has been exceptional.

"Let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him." I Cor 16:2
"...In the midst of an ordeal of severe tribulation, their abundance of joy and their depth of poverty has overflowed in wealth of lavish generosity." II Cor 8:2

22nd Annual International Conference
of
Christian Medical Foundation

September 28 - October 2, 1994
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(813) 932-3688
Dear Friends of the Littlest Angel,

The Littlest Angel will be part of the Shop Hop, "Christmas in July" the week of the 28th.

I'm aware when we started the Littlest Angel 14 years ago that angels were difficult to find. Today it appears the market is flooded with Angels, good and bad. However, this gives us opportunity to minister "truth" regarding these "symbol" the messengers of God, sent to minister to God's children.

The Word of God has much to say about angels and the importance of their ministry to the Body of Christ. It is imperative we rightly divide the Word of God regarding this subject.

The shop is brimming over with good books and angels galore, especially our Roman angels from Italy are outstanding. How we wish you could drop in and have a glass of punch and some of our Littlest Angel dip, chips and dressings made by Bravewell from Georgia and feel the magic of Christmas in July.

We have beautiful angel handkerchiefs in keepsake envelopes with a gift enclosure. They are priced at $10.95 and make a most unusual gift for that special person.

Also, my series of lectures on "Angels" are still available. They are numbered 1-14. Order by number or series.

Love,

Kay

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