Is Illness the Result of Sin?

God placed Adam and Eve in a perfect environment in Eden. He put them into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it, saying, *'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die' (**Genesis 2:15-17**)*. Adam and Eve had everything needed for perfect health, but when they sinned, corruption, including illness, entered the world.

God told Eve, 'I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children'. And to Adam He said, *'Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground' (**Genesis 3:16-19**)*.

Adam and Eve, our ancestors, were perfect in health until their fall, but since then mankind has been subject to all sorts of maladies. When they lost access to the tree of life in the Garden, they died spiritually, and their bodies began to decay. Sin brought all these consequences into the world.

It is not the case, however, that everyone who experiences an illness does so because of his or her personal sin. Certainly many lifestyle choices open us up to disease and illness, but many illnesses come upon us despite our best efforts to live healthily and faithfully to God.

*'And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?' (**John 9:1-2**)*. The disciples expressed a common misconception of the day-that all illness, and especially one as serious as blindness, resulted from sin. *But 'Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him' (**John 9:3**). After Jesus healed him, he worshiped Jesus as God's Son (**John 9:35-38**)*.

Jesus, the Great Physician, has prepared a place for His servants *(**John 14:1-5**)* where illness will be no more. *'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away' (**Revelation 21:4**)*. There will be no need for hospitals in heaven, because all that was lost in the fall of man will be restored. Having obeyed Christ, we will be forgiven of our sins, and we will live eternally in the presence of the Lord.