

# MADRID CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017

2017 ANNUAL THEME:

## PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD



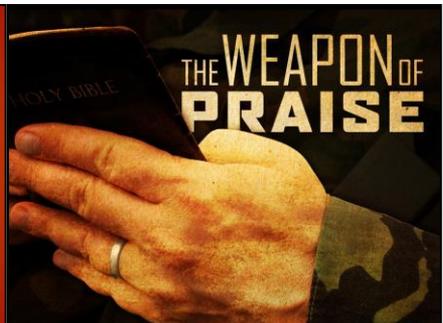
EPHESIANS 6:10-20

**"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL" (EPHESIANS 6:11).**

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

**9AM**

**11AM**



**"NO SOLDIER GETS ENTANGLED IN CIVILIAN PURSUITS, SINCE HIS AIM IS TO PLEASE THE ONE WHO ENLISTED HIM" (2 TIMOTHY 2:4).**

## LEPROSY AND SIN

*"The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp" (Leviticus 13:45-46).*

No disease could have been worse than leprosy in ancient Israel. It was very painful, at least until it started killing nerves in the affected area(s). Lepers saw their skin discolor and sores develop. Portions of their bodies would become numb, and muscles would waste away. When reaching the hands or feet, some forms of leprosy would cause ulceration and deterioration of the fingers and/or toes, resulting in them becoming useless. This disease kept the victim restless, miserable, and frustrated as they felt the shame of the disease. And to make things worse, if they left their living quarters, they had to cry out, "unclean, unclean" so people knew to stay away from them so they would not get the disease. This surely added the shame felt by those who had the disease.

Having this disease was like living in anticipation of death. It was a slow and certain death sentence. But it was more than that. To the Israelite, leprosy was loneliness. It forced you to live in a leper colony (where you would be surrounded with other dying people like yourself). It took you from your community, your friends, and your family. They were to be separated from God's people and from where God dwelt. Indeed, it was a fate worse than death, and it could not be cured by medicine. Only the power of God could cleanse leprosy.

You may be surprised though that leprosy is not the deadliest "disease" in the Bible. There is a worse one: sin. There are some amazing parallels between these two "diseases" in scripture:

- Sin is painful. It hurts you and those you love.
- Sin can "numb you". It doesn't kill your nerves, but it sure does make one's heart, calloused, hardened, and numb to what God says.

- Sin is contagious. Others can get wrapped up in your sin, following your bad example.
- Sin makes you unclean. It stains, pollutes, and makes you loathsome to God.
- Sin makes you lonely. Sin does alienate us from those we claim to love, but ultimately, sin separates us from God.
- Sin is deadly. It takes away your life.

Sin is the deadliest and worst disease ever known to men whenever we consider its consequences. Only it has physical AND spiritual consequences. Only it can have ETERNAL consequences.

One final parallel between these two dreaded diseases: Whenever someone got leprosy in ancient Israel, the Jews would view that person as “stricken by God.” The Hebrew word used for leprosy in the Old Testament is a word that means “to be stricken.” Whether it is the case that God gave the person the disease cannot be known for sure, but in regards to the disease of sin, we are told in scripture that one was considered “stricken by God” so we could receive healing.

*“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed” (Isa 53:4-5).*

These words of prophecy, speaking of Jesus Christ, show us how Jesus would be stricken by God, pierced, and afflicted for OUR disease of sin. He “bore our iniquities” (Isa 53:11). Jesus came to touch and heal sinners. No matter how disgusting or terrible the disease, He is willing to show compassion. He touched the leper that NO ONE would touch and brought healing to him (Mark 1:40-42). He is willing to show the same compassion to those who have the deadly disease of sin. Praise God!

He can take away our disease, and He can give life to our mortal bodies through the Spirit (Rom 8:11). He cleanses us and reconnects us with the family of God, and best of all, He brings us back into fellowship with God.

## **VISITORS:**

### **THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY!**

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or contact us using the information below. We would be happy to schedule a time to sit down with you and to answer your questions from God's word. If there is anything we can do to help you spiritually, please let us know. We are here to serve!

Call or text Jason @ 412-999-4837 or email him @  
preacher@madridchurch.com

---

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- 02/26 - Shed potluck after services @ Larry & Franki's
- 03/05 - Song Service
- 03/19-03/22 - Gospel Meeting w/ Mike Richardson (Resisting the Attractions of the World)
- 03/19 - Shed potluck after services @ Larry & Franki's

*If there is an event you are planning that you want put in the bulletin, let Jason know!*

---

### **DAILY READING:**

- 02/20 – Num 33-34; Psalm 51
- 02/21 – Num 35-36; Psalm 52
- 02/22 – Deut 1-3; Psalm 53
- 02/23 – Deut 4-6; Psalm 54
- 02/24 – Deut 7-9; Psalm 55
- 02/25 – Deut 10-12; Psalm 56
- 02/26 – Deut 13-14; Psalm 57



*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

*-Psalm 119:105*