

Think about it! (10)

What do you think of the Christian message? I'll give you six options: (1) I think the Christian message is really good; (2) I think the Christian message is interesting; (3) I think the Christian message is O. K.; (4) I find the Christian message boring; (5) I couldn't care less about the Christian message; (6) I think the Christian message is nothing more than a pack of lies.

Now, supposing one day it were to be announced in all the media that some scientists had found a definitive cure for cancer? What would you think? What would you feel? I'm sure that the vast majority of people would be celebrating, that millions of people would feel that they had recovered a hope that they had long since lost, and that there would be more than a few tears of relief and joy.

Now, try to apply the six options in the first paragraph above to the subject of the second paragraph. Where it says, 'the Christian message', put the phrase, 'the news about a cure for cancer'. I don't think any of the six options would really do justice to how you would react to that kind of news, and most of the options would be completely out of place, right?

Well, the fact is that the Christian message is precisely the news of a cure for cancer! The only difference is that the cancer in question in the case of the Christian message is spiritual cancer, which, when you think about it, is infinitely worse than even the worst kinds of physical cancer, for the simple reason that it involves, on top of all the pain, suffering, worry and other terrible consequences of physical cancer, the additional curse of a felt, eternal punishment, called 'hell'. And the Christian message, 'the gospel', is the good news that God has had compassion on us spiritually ill people, and has given us the definitive cure for our universal spiritual illness (sin): his own Son!, who, out of his sheer love for us, came here from heaven to live, die and rise again, in order to achieve in that way our spiritual healing! And all that we have to do – the only treatment that we need, the only medication that we have to take, the only operation that's necessary – is to believe, to trust in the cure that God has provided for us through his Son!

But do you know what the problem – our problem – is?: it's that we haven't realized either how serious our spiritual condition really is, or how wonderful and how perfect the remedy is that our loving Creator has provided for us; and our foolish pride finds it so hard to humble itself, acknowledge the only cure that there is and take the 'miraculous' medicine that is able to save our lives.

Isn't that what Jesus, the Lord, meant when he said while he was here in this world, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Gospel according to Mark, chapter 2, verse 17).

*Andrew Birch
pastor@iglesiapalma.com*