

Imagine This!

Joe Slater

(Phone rings): Hello.

How are you feeling today?

I still feel awful!

Didn't you go to the doctor?

Yes, I went last week; but I still feel horrible.

What did he say you have?

Some weird disease I never heard of: Hamartia.**

Well, didn't he do anything for you?

Oh, yes, he wrote me a prescription for some high-powered medication.

Did you get it filled?

Yes, I went straight to the drug store and got the medication from the pharmacist.

I can't figure why you aren't any better.

Well, I don't know either. Maybe if I'm not better in another month or two, I'll take the medicine.

WHAT? You mean you haven't taken your medicine?

Of course not. Why would I?

Because you aren't going to get any better if you don't, that's why!

I'll be just fine. I have confidence in my doctor. He can cure me. I know he can.

But your doctor is the one who gave you the prescription! If you really have confidence in him, shouldn't you follow his orders?

Well . . . um . . . uh . . . well . . .

(continued next column)

RX OF THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

Believe (put your confident trust) in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)

Repent of all sins (Acts 2:38; 17:30). That is, let your godly sorrow for your sins move you to change your mind, resulting in a change in your behavior (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Confess with your mouth that you believe Jesis is the Son of God (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9, 10).

Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3, 4; 1 Peter 3:21).

****Hamartia** is the new Testament Greek word for **sin**.

#

Role Models

"He who walks with wise men will be wise. But the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20, NKJV).

It has been said by some professional athletes that they desire not to be role models. When I hear this, I marvel at the naiveté because each person is influential to some varying degree, and it can't be anything but this way. Thus, we can't control whether or not we are influential, but we can control what others see and hear in us. The wise one gains wisdom from the wise, and the righteous one gains righteous wisdom from One who is the standard of righteousness (John 14:6). The fool, on the other hand, is also influential, but his influence not only destroys himself—it leads to the destruction of others who follow in his footsteps

--Ron Thomas (Chillicothe, OH) via *Bulletin Gold*

APART FROM ME

"Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5b).

I sighed today as our daughter-in-law told me that my four-year-old grandson was already "into Batman, Spider Man, and all the super heroes." From the time of the Green Lantern, the Dare Devil, Superman, and even famous sports players and actors and actresses, our children have grown up with imaginary gods that cannot help them. How I wish they were "into" God and Christ.

C. S. Lewis wrote, "Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other." King David had such a relationship with God. *"I love you, O Lord, my strength"* he wrote in Psalms 18:1. Over and over he cried to God for help, and he always received what he needed.

Jesus as man relied on His heavenly Father and often spoke of his relationship with God. *"The words that I say unto you I speak not from myself: but the Father in me does His works"* (John 14:10). Jesus could not fulfill His mission without God's help.

The human race is broken, and has been since the fall of Adam and Eve. If Jesus, God's own Son from heaven, could do nothing without God, why do we try to be so independent? What makes us think we are strong enough to withstand the wiles of the devil all by ourselves? Why do we lean on ourselves and family and friends for help and sustenance? Only God can make us whole and free from our hurt and burden of sin that drags us down into the pit and imprisons us.

When we feel tired, weak, and vulnerable, God is waiting to help us. May we remember that Jesus said, *"Apart from me you can do nothing."* May we turn to Him.

--Donna Wittlif (Denver, CO)