

Vaccinated?

Ponder: Vaccinations and Immunity

Scripture: "But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away" (Luke 8:13, NKJV).

Millions are being vaccinated against COVID-19. Our purpose here is not to debate the merits, or lack thereof, of being vaccinated.

A vaccination is sometimes called an immunization. Its purpose is to give you immunity from the disease, or at least make you far less likely to be infected with it. Reaching this goal requires that your immune system be exposed to the pathogen (germ) in either living or "attenuated" (weakened) form.

I wonder if some people have been "vaccinated" against Christianity. By that, I mean they've been exposed to just enough to be immune.

In His parable of the sower, Jesus likened the word of God to seed sown into various categories of soil. The hard wayside soil was exposed to the seed, but never grew. Hard hearts resist the gospel when it is presented.

Then the shallow soil covering the bedrock was like a person's shallow faith. The seed seemed to grow well until trials and temptations appeared; then it wilted and died.

And the weedy soil also was exposed to the word, but thorns and thistles choked out the plants. Only the last variety of soil successfully produced a crop.

We choose the condition of the "soil" in our hearts. We can be hard-hearted, or have shallow faith, or allow worldly concerns to prevent God's word from producing fruit in our lives. In a sense, that's like being "vaccinated" against Christianity.

Not all "germs" are bad. Were it not for certain bacteria, for example, we would all die! God's word is a good "germ." It won't make you ill. In fact, it will help you recover from the disease of sin. You cannot be saved without it. Please don't let your heart be immune to it!

Hymn: "How Precious Is The Book Divine"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Help us to have receptive hearts, and to let Your word bring forth an abundant harvest in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.