INTRO: Our text indicates that God is concerned with our problems & has made certain provision to assist us in dealing with them. Some scholars suggest that the sickness or weakness mentioned in our text is spiritual only—that the passage has no reference to physical healing. I believe it is obvious that the translators understood the passage to deal with literal, physical sickness—& I am inclined to agree with them.

I. THE TEXT PRE-SUPPOSES THAT THERE WILL BE SICKNESS.
   A. Sickness is nothing to be ashamed of, & does not necessarily suggest a faulty standing with God—tho this is sometimes a contributing factor. 1 Cor. 11:29-30

   B. Numerous illnesses are mentioned throughout the N.T. that had no direct connection with personal sin.
   
      Timothy, 1 Tim. 5:23
      Paul, 2 Cor. 12:7
      Trophimus, 2 Tim. 4:20
      Man born blind, John 9:2-3

II. GOD, IN HIS WORD, HAS MADE PROVISION TO HELP US STAY HEALTHY.

   A. When God spoke to ancient Israel, He promised temporal blessings as well as spiritual for those who would keep His commandments.
      
      If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God & do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments & keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you. Ex. 15:26).

      And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. (Deut. 6:24).

      circumcision, "ceremonial" washings, unclean foods, quarantine, disposal of human waste, etc.
B. Just as those who were obedient to God were
blessed both spiritually & temporally by
obeying those spiritual, moral & physical
laws known by us.

1. Millions of illnesses are brought on by
worry, uncontrolled anger, hatred,
mental anguish & turmoil which N.T.
principles would help us to overcome.
Ulcers, headaches, stomach disorders,
etc.

2. Sexually transmitted disease has reached
epidemic proportions in modern
society. All these diseases could be
virtually stamped out in one genera-
tion by obeying 1 Cor. 6:18.

3. There are well over 10 million alcoholics
in the U.S. plus numerous others who
sometimes bring themselves under the
influence of mind bending drugs.
Disease & injury that result is almost
unimaginable.

III. GOD HAS MADE PROVISION FOR US WHEN WE BECOME ILL.
A. Doctors & medicines.
   Prov 17:22; LK 10:34; 1 Tim 5:23; MT 9:12;
   Col 4:14

B. Prayer.
   1. John prayed for Gaius to be in good
      health, 2 JN 2.
   2. James instructs us to pray for the sick,
      Js 5:13-16.

   NOTE: Our text should not be viewed as an
   iron-clad guarantee of healing in every
case. Paul's thorn was not taken away, 2 Cor
12:8-9. Death eventually will come, Heb
9:27. But in the meantime, we pray in hope
that the blessing we seek may be in harmony
with God's will & purpose, realizing that
much of the time, "we do not know what we
should pray for..." (Rom 8:26).

C. Receiving the forgiveness of sin can lift a
load of guilt from our shoulders, give us
peace of mind & often benefit us physically
as well as spiritually.
IV. THE MIRACULOUS HEALINGS WE READ ABOUT IN THE N.T. WERE CENTERED AROUND THE INITIATION OF THE GOSPEL SYSTEM & WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE A PERMANENT FIXTURE.

A. The basic purpose of all the miraculous manifestations was to confirm the new revelations that were being made. John 3:2; MT 9:6 (power on earth to forgive...)

B. The N.T. was completely revealed & confirmed during the 1st century. READ I COR. 13:8-10.

And they went out & preached everywhere, the Lord working with them & confirming the word thru the accompanying signs. Amen. (Mark 16:20).

READ HEBREWS 2:3-4 Compare scaffolding, cast.

CONCLUSION: It is in our best interest, spiritually & physically, to
1. Obey the will of God to the best of our ability.
2. Seek the attention of doctors & medicines when we ail.
3. Pray for health & healing & continue to bring our lives into harmony with God's will.
4. Continue to serve Him even when He does not see fit to grant some petition we may have made.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

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