

# **“The Balm of Gilead”**

## **Jer. 8:18-22**

### Introduction

- I. Throughout their history, God has cared deeply for Israel.
- II. Unfortunately, Israel did not always remain faithful to God.
- III. Even sadder is the fact that Israel often could have done things to make things better, but sometimes did not (Jer. 8:18-22).
- IV. Today, the church of Christ is the Israel of God, and we must make sure that we seek out that which will help us (Gal. 6:16).

### Discussion

- I. There is a spiritual “balm” for the soul.
  - A. Mankind has a need for a “balm” (Rom. 3:10, 23).
  - B. God's Word instructs us how to care for our souls (John 8:32; Rom. 6:17-18; 8:2; 2 Pet. 1:3).
  - C. Without applying the “balm”, man's soul will suffer (2 Tim. 3:16-17; cf. 1 5:23).
- II. There is a spiritual “Physician” for the soul.
  - A. Jesus knew the need for a good doctor (Mark 2:17).
  - B. Why would one seek out a “physician”, but then refuse the treatment that will help (Matt. 11:28-30; Acts 22:12-16; Acts 2:37-38; John 4:13-14; Rev. 22:17-18; cf. Mark 2:1-12)?
- III. Once we are “healed”, we must keep ourselves spiritually “healthy”.
  - A. Continuous “exercise” is key (1 Tim. 4:7-8).
  - B. Constant “self examination” is needed (James 1:25; 2 Cor. 13:5).
  - C. If we become spiritually “sick” again, then we need to do what is necessary to be “whole” again (1 John 1:6-10; Acts 8:22).

### Conclusion

- I. It is sad that so many reject that which will make their souls saved.
- II. May we have the determination that we will not squander our opportunities to be spiritually “healthy”.