My visit to the doctor’s office:

(With apologies to Lester Roloff)

Read: Titus 2:11-14;

The experience that I am about to relate involves visits to two of the most unusual doctors that I have ever met. I hope that you will get to meet them too (if you haven’t yet).

What makes them unusual is that they never ask a patient about his or her symptoms; they don’t even seem to care about them. They speak with authority and they refuse to consider the patient’s side when the patient disagrees with their diagnosis.

What makes them so appealing is that they have a 100% success rate when a patient submits to follow their diagnosis and treatment plan. It is surprising that even though their success rate is posted for anyone to see; most people will choose another doctor.

I would like to tell you about my visit to these renowned physicians.

First, the scripture: Romans 5:13 & 20-21; 7:5-18 & 24-25; 8:1-10; Galatians 2:16-21; 3:10-13 & 22-26; Ephesians 2:8-10.

I am aware that I have some severe problems so I head to the doctors’ office. This doctor has 24/7 hours so he is always in. He specializes in every problem that a patient can have so I am happy to see him.

Joel: Hello, Madam, I am here to see Doctor Law.

Receptionist: Go right in, he is waiting for you.

Joel: Hello, doctor; I have a lot of problems and I am told that you can find a cure for me, so let me begin…

Doctor Law: That is not necessary. I already know what your problem is.

Joel: How can you know? I just got here.

Doctor Law: I know.

Joel: You think you know but there is no way that you can know unless I describe my symptoms to you.

Doctor Law: No sir, I don’t have to think; I know what is wrong with you. You have heart trouble. You’re just like all the rest of my patients.

Joel: That doesn’t even make sense to me. How can every one of your patients have the exact same diagnosis? Doctor Law you just don’t understand. I’m having trouble with my hands. I can’t seem to keep them from stealing things and from forming into a fist when I am disappointed. At times they dart out and punch other people. They’ve grabbed onto books that no decent person would ever touch. What can you do about my hands for they are really giving me trouble?

Doctor Law: No, it’s your heart.

Joel: Doc, I’m going to have to argue with you. You may be a doctor but I’m also having problems with my eyes. It’s nothing for me to sit for hours with my eyes fixated on the television screen. They are unmovable even when I know that what I am watching is detrimental to my health. I am unable to look away even when what I am watching is ruining me and my family. It must be eye trouble, don’t you think?

Doctor Law: No, it’s heart trouble, just plain heart trouble.

Joel: Come on Doctor Law; be reasonable about this thing. I’m having trouble with my tongue also. It says things that are sharp and ugly. It lashes out and hurts those whom I love. Sometimes vile and smutty jokes roll off of it just like they belong there. Many times these words are unrehearsed and unplanned and I wonder where they came from.

Doctor Law: No, it’s heart trouble.

Joel: I have problems with my ears. They listen to lies and gossip and filthy jokes. They seem to enjoy hearing details about the fears and failings of others. My ears cause me to laugh at things that are hurtful to others. It’s a lot more than just my heart Doc!

My feet are also a source of concern. They take me places that I don’t even intend to go. They took me into a movie that a decent person would never go to and while there my eyes and ears were a problem as well. They have taken me to some parties that (well I’m too embarrassed to say what happened there). But my feet are really a problem.

Doctor Law: I hear what you are saying but it really is heart trouble.

Joel: You’re not listening to me doctor! There is something really wrong with my taste buds. I just love the taste of smoke even though it makes me smell bad. I seem to love the taste of alcoholic beverages even though I can’t walk straight afterwards (now it’s my feet again). Surely there must be a way to help me with my taste buds.

Doctor Law: That will be fixed when your heart is replaced.

Joel: Doctor Law, I am going to find another doctor; one who will listen to me.

Doctor Law: You can find a million other doctors but you’ll never get well until your heart is fixed.

Joel: Can you recommend another doctor?

Doctor Law: there is only one other that I would recommend but you’ll never listen to him if you won’t believe me.

Joel: (looks through phone book & talks to self) Oh Here is one: Doctor Religion. It looks like he can help me. I’ll make an appointment.

Hello Madam, I’m here to see the doctor.

Receptionist: Go on in.

Doctor Religion: Hello Joel, I’m so glad that you came to me. What brings you here?

Joel: Well Doctor Religion, I went to Doctor Law and was not happy with his diagnosis so here I am.

Doctor Religion: Well he is an old doctor, he’s ancient, he’s antique. He doesn’t accept the new ways of looking at things. Modern folks don’t go to him. He hasn’t had the proper training for this modern age. He knows nothing about the new modes of medicine.

Joel: I really don’t like him much myself. Here is a list of my symptoms. Can you help me?

Doctor Religion: well there’s nothing much here to be concerned about. You should just go to church and that will make you feel better.

Joel: Which church?

Doctor Religion: Oh just any of them will do. It doesn’t matter where you go just as long as you go.

**Three weeks later:**

Joel: Hello Doctor Religion, I’ve been going to church but I still don’t feel better.

Doctor Religion: So did you join the church and get baptized?

Joel: No, is that important?

Doctor Religion: Of course, it brings you into close union with others who are searching for good feelings as well.

**Six weeks later:**

Joel: Hello Doctor Religion, I’ve done all that you recommended and I still feel the same.

Doctor Religion: Well you need to volunteer and get a job in the church. Being busy and feeling needed is a great benefit.

**Six weeks later:**

Joel: Doctor Religion, I’ve done everything You told me to and I feel no better. I even talked to Doctor Be Good and got some ideas from him and then there was his brother Doctor Do Good but nothing has worked. They referred me to Doctor Hope So and Doctor Think So but all to no avail. None of them had any answers that helped me for more than a few days and then I was back to square one.

I think I’ll go back to Doctor Law again. At least he was certain of his diagnosis and everyone who has gone to him seems to be content.

**The next day:**

Joel: Doctor Law, I’m back.

Doctor Law: Well my findings haven’t changed. You still have a severe heart problem.

Joel: Well what do you recommend?

Doctor Law: Only one thing will do. You need to get rid of the heart that you have and get a brand new heart.

Joel: Well, when can you operate?

Doctor Law: Oh, I do the diagnosis but I don’t operate.

Joel: So you know what is wrong with me but you can do nothing about it. So what do I do, just wait to die?

Doctor Law: I didn’t say that you have to die. You certainly can live if you are willing to do what I tell you to do.

Joel: What is it doc? What is it?

Doctor Law: Come with me. (leads across the platform & knocks) Hello, Doctor Grace, this is Joel and he desperately needs your services.

Doctor Grace: Hello Joel, I am so glad that Doctor Law brought you to me. It is my great delight to remove your old heart and put a new one inside.

Joel: Will doctor Law be assisting you?

Doctor Grace: No, I operate alone.

Joel: don’t you need some nurses or technicians to help you?

Doctor Grace: No, I’ve never needed any help with what I do.

Joel: Well, will you give me a good anesthetic and put me to sleep so that I will feel no pain?

Doctor Grace: No, I never try to put you to sleep. I want you to know what I have done for you so you can tell others all about it.

Joel: well will my wife or family be allowed in so they can stand by me in my time of need?

Doctor Grace: Sorry but this is a personal experience between me and you. You will want to tell her all about it once the operation is over.

Joel: Doctor Grace, I am scared.

Doctor Grace: You don’t have to be afraid. I have never lost a case. I guarantee that this operation will be a success.

Joel: How much is this going to cost?

Doctor Grace: Not a dime to you. It has already been paid for by a very generous benefactor.

Joel: who is it? I’d like to meet him.

Doctor Grace: I’ll be happy to introduce him, to you, after the operation is over.

Joel: How long do I have to wait? Where will the heart come from?

Does someone have to die first?

Doctor Grace: Someone has already died that is the perfect match for you.

Please step into the operating room.

Joel: What is that thing that you’re cutting out of me?

Doctor Grace: It’s your old sinful heart.

Joel: Oh it is the blackest, ugliest thing that I have ever seen. Ugh what a smell. I don’t think I’ve ever smelled something so horrible. Doctor Law was right. It was my heart all the time.

Doctor Grace: Here let me toss that thing away. Here’s the new one; I’m putting it in right now. How does that feel?

Joel: It is indescribable! I feel clean! I feel new! I feel pure! It is so wonderful. Oh why didn’t I listen to Doctor Law the first time he talked to me?

When do I come back in for my checkup?

Doctor Grace: No checkup will be necessary. The operation is a success and your new heart will not fail.

Joel: What should I do now?

Doctor Grace: Just keep up your exercises each day.

Joel: What exercises do you recommend?

Doctor Grace: Do a lot of kneeling and raising your hands in prayer and praise to God, especially in privacy. Stretch out on your face. Walk through your community and tell others what has happened to you today. Exercise your vocal chords in praise.

Joel: Doctor you promised to introduce me to the one who paid for my operation.

**Door opens**

Doctor Grace: Hello Jesus, Here is Joel who has just received a new heart from you and he wants to say thanks.

Joel: Oh thank you Jesus. You are the one who died so that I could have a new heart and you are the one who paid for my operation as well. Doctor Law pointed out my need and Doctor Grace supplied my need and it’s all because of your gift that it could happen.

Dear friend, don’t fear the Law of God and don’t avoid the Grace of God; for they will lead you to the gift of God.