



**Joyful  
Pentecostarion**  
The Journey Continues  
amidst the Light of the Resurrection  
towards the Glory of the Last Times



■ † Sunday of the Paralytic

## Sickness of Soul and Body\*

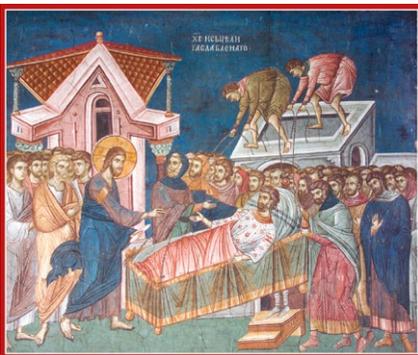
“Bodily illnesses always stem from sin”

“**B**ehold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee” (St. John 5:14). Sin does not harm only the soul, but the body as well. In some cases this is perfectly clear; in other cases, even when it is not so obvious, the truth remains that bodily illnesses always stem from sin.

A sin committed in the soul directly makes it sick; but since the life of the body comes from the soul, life coming from a sick soul is of course not healthy. The darkness and sorrow produced by sin act adversely on bodily health.

When one recalls that sin separates man from God, the Source of life, and places him in disharmony with all the laws acting in himself and in nature, then one must marvel how a sinner remains alive after sinning. Such is the mercy of God, Who ever awaits our repentance and conversion.

Hence, a sick person must first of all hasten to be cleansed of his sins and be reconciled with God in his conscience. This



paves the way for the beneficial effect of medicine. They say that a certain distinguished physician would not begin treatment until the patient had confessed and received the Holy Mysteries; and the more serious the disease, the more urgently he insisted upon this. □

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(\*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God.*