

1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His footsteps:

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in His mouth." [Isaiah 53:9]

²³ When they heaped abuse on Him,
He did not retaliate;
when He suffered, He made no threats,
but entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.

²⁴ He Himself bore our sins [Isaiah 53:4 (see also LXX)]
in His body on the tree,
so that we might die to sin
and live to righteousness.

"By His stripes you are healed." [Isaiah 53:5]

²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," [Isaiah 53:6] but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Berean Study Bible

²¹ You have been called to this,
because, namely, Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example,
that you should follow in His footsteps.

²² "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth."

²³ Who, being vilified, did not retaliate with vilification;
suffering, did not threaten.

Instead, He surrendered Himself to Him who judges righteously

²⁴ Who Himself, carried up our sins within His body upon that wooden thing,
So that, being dead to sins, we can be alive to righteousness.
By whose wounds you have been healed.

²⁵ For you were wandering like sheep.
But you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

My own translation

He did no sin. 22 “committed no sin”
He had no sin. 22 “nor was deceit found”

What Jesus did on the cross for me. 2:24
He removed my sin. 24 “carried up our sins”
He replaced my sin. 24 “alive to righteousness”

Now, after the cross, it’s Jesus and me. 2:25
Jesus is my Shepherd. 25 “the Shepherd”
Jesus is my Overseer. 25: Overseer of your souls”

2

Keep your eyes open for this. 1 Peter 2:21-25

Signposts in Christ’s life. 2:22-23
Jesus was pure within Himself. 22 “committed no sin”
Jesus was pure in in relationships. 23 “did not retaliate”

Substitution in Christ’s death. 2:24
Jesus took away our sins. 24 “carried up our sins”
Jesus gave us our life. 24 “we can be alive to righteousness”

Shepherd in our journey. 2:25
My past journey was wayward. 25 “you were wandering like sheep”
My present journey is directed. 25 “you have now returned to the Shepherd”

3

A helpful way forward. 1 Peter 2:21-25

An example for seekers. 2:21-23
An exit for sinners. 2:24
An experience for saints. 2:25

4 – [Leaders devotion](#)

A good role model. 1 Peter 2:21-25

A good role model is calling to me. 2:21
A good role model takes the initiative. 21 “to this you were called”
A good role model is worth following. 21 “follow in His footsteps”

A good role model opens up the best way. 2:22-23

A good role model takes me the right way. 22 "He committed no sin"

A good role model points out the wrong way. 23 "He did not retaliate"

A good role model carries most of the load. 2:24-25

A good role model understands my difficulties. 24 "He Himself bore our sins"

A good role model benefits me. 25 "By His stripes you are healed."

5

Sing the song of salvation. 1 Peter 2:21-25

Join the choir. 2:21

Service was given to us. 21 "suffered for you" Romans 15:9

Service is given by us. 21 "you should follow" Ephesians 5:19

Sing in worship. 2:22-23

Sing Jesus' perfection. 22 "He committed no sin"

Sing Jesus' purity. 23a "He did not retaliate"

Sing in praise. 2:23b-24a

We can trust God the Father. 23b "to Him who judges justly", Revelation 15:3

We can trust God the Son. 24a "bore our sins", Revelation 5:9

Sing in celebration. 2:24b

We are free from our past. 24b "die to sin" Hebrews 2:10,12

We are free for our future. 24b "live to righteousness" Colossians 3:16

Sing in harmony. 2:25

We are sheep with a Shepherd. 25 "sheep... to the Shepherd" James 5:13

We are souls with a Guardian. 25 "Overseer of your souls" 1 Corinthians 14:15

Other possible titles

When life sux!

Are you sad, angry, lonely...?

What makes Jesus so special?

Commentary

Who Himself, carried up our sins within His body upon that **wooden thing**, 1 Peter 2:24a

The word ξύλον [Strong's 3586] means anything made of timber, including, a piece of wood, a club, staff, the trunk of a tree. This is the word used in 1 Peter 2:24.

A different word, σταυρός [Strong's 4716] specifically means the cross.

By His stripes you are healed. 1 Peter 2:24b, quoting Isaiah 53:5. Please do not make this verse an excuse for division, nor for breaking fellowship. We must “diligently maintain the unity of the Spirit” even when we disagree about interpretation.

Some believers claim physical healing on the basis of the word “healed” in this verse. Are these saints correct? It is true that God sometimes chooses to physically heal some people, but this specific verse cannot be the basis for seeking physical healing. The context of this verse, in both its Old Testament (Isaiah 53:5), and its Spirit-inspired New Testament setting (1 Peter 2:24), make it clear that the healing is specifically spiritual healing from sin and unrighteousness. And Isaiah was fulfilled in the earthly ministry of Jesus, ‘This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”’ Matthew 8:17

When we approach God for physical healing, we need to turn to different Scriptures to make a valid plea. For example:

The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health. Psalm 41:3

Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. Proverbs 3:7-8

My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. Proverbs 4:20-22

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22
For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1:37

His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God would be displayed in him. John 9:2-3

But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” John 11:4

No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments. 1 Timothy 5:23

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick. The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail. James 5:14-16

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. 3 John 1:2

We also need to accept that sometimes the Lord says 'No' to our desire for physical healing. For example:

will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. Luke 18:7-8a

You know it was because of my bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, Galatians 4:13

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

So, to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me. That is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. 2 Timothy 4:20

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Therefore, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. 1 Peter 4:19

Quotes and illustrations

Old Testament Scripture reading: Isaiah 53:1-6

Music and songs

Songs about Jesus' suffering and crucifixion

I'm not ashamed... At the cross, H 732

It's about the cross, Ot 54

Jesus keep me near the cross, H 665

Marks of the cross (Petra)

O to see the dawn... Power of the cross, Ot 62

Take me to the cross, 671
The old rugged cross, H 678

Songs about our suffering

My worth is not in what I own... At the cross (Getty)
Thank You Lord for the trials

Songs about returning to Jesus

I wandered alone... Now it is Jesus and me...

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. What is your choir experience?
 2. List some differences between Moses and Jesus. Read Revelation 15:2-3. How can the song of Moses be the same song as the song of the Lamb?
 3. Read Hebrews 2:10-12. How many things are we told about Jesus? Which of these do you find most interesting?
 4. In his speaking or writing, Peter never uses the word 'cross'. The word in 1 Peter 2:24 can describe anything made of timber. Why do you think Peter avoids using the word 'cross'?
 5. In this same verse, 1 Peter 2:24, we are told to be 'dead' and 'alive' at the same time. Explain that in terms a non-believer may grasp.
 6. Also in this same verse (and in Isaiah 53:5) is the word 'healed'. If we cannot use this verse for physical healing why do we pray for those who are unwell?
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