

a sermon:

BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED!

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I. A PRAYER

“Most sacred, most loving Heart of JESUS... O make my heart beat with Your Heart! Purify it of all that is earthly all that is proud and sensual, of all perversity, of all disorder. So fill it with You, that neither the events of the day, nor the circumstances of the time, may have the power to ruffle it; but in Your love and Your fear, it may have peace! Amen.”¹

II. A PROPOSITION

The blessed Saviour bares the sins of our souls upon Himself, and places His righteousness over us, that we may have His peace and be healed!

III. A SCRIPTURE - I PETER 2:21-25 – BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED!

21: For even hereunto were ye called: because CHRIST also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps:

22: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:

23: Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously:

24: Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.

25: For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.²

IV. INTRODUCTION

I PETER 2:21 begins with the words, “For even hereunto were ye called.”³ To what are we called? Surely it is not the lostness of the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil which so many today are forever stumbling after! Rather, we are called to The Cross of The Saviour JESUS CHRIST, that His atonement for our sins might bring us His righteousness and deliver our souls into His peace and healing! Rather, we are called to the pastures of our Lord in both this world and the next, that we might be reconciled to GOD and receive His blessings both now and forever! And it is often said that we may find The Witness of all these things in The First Letter of Saint Peter. It is said of I PETER that it “presents all the foundational truths of the Christian Faith, with

¹ 1, Catholic Family Prayer Book, Prayer To The Sacred Heart of JESUS, V. John Henry Newman, p 187.

² 2, KJV, I PETER 2:21-25.

³ 2, KJV, I PETER 2:21a.

special emphasis on The Atonement.”⁴ So let us consider together what GOD calls us to in I PETER 2:21-25!

V. CHRIST SUFFERED FOR US

I PETER 2:21 continues, “...CHRIST also suffered for us.”⁵ This is “the personification of Divine love” for mankind by GOD.⁶ The Son’s suffering on behalf of mankind is motivated by a love for us that is beyond our mere human understanding and so glorious that we must fall humbly on our knees before our Maker in thankfulness. CHRIST “suffered for us, in our stead [or place] and for our good.”⁷ GOD’s love for us is so great that He came Incarnate - fully GOD and fully Man but without sin - paying the price under The Law for our sinful souls so that we might be reconciled to Him! So Saint John declares in JOHN 3:16 “ For GOD so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life!”⁸

VI. CHRIST GIVES US AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

I PETER 2:21 ends by declaring, “leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps.”⁹ We as Christians “are called to follow CHRIST, [and] to emulate His character and conduct.”¹⁰ This is so even when we suffer unjustly for doing good. Saint Paul declares what this example of CHRIST in our lives should look like in I TIMOTHY 4:12 “...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”¹¹ Following in our Lord’s steps is often difficult, and even seemingly impossible. But GOD gives us The Grace necessary when we walk with Him through the storms of this life. He is there with us, and when necessary, supporting us and even carrying us through life’s battles.

⁴ 3, Scofield KJV Bible, general comments on I PETER, p 1311.

⁵ 2, KJV, I PETER 2:21a.

⁶ 4, Wycliffe Bible Commentary, re I PETER 2:21-25, p 1448.

⁷ 5, Matthew Henry’s Commentary, I PETER 2:13-25, II., 2., (1.), [2.], p 2427.

⁸ 2, KJV, JOHN 3:16.

⁹ 2, KJV, I PETER 1:21b.

¹⁰ 6, Bible Knowledge Commentary, I PETER 2:21-22, p 848.

¹¹ 2, KJV, I TIMOTHY 4:12.

I PETER 2:22 says, “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth.”¹² As CHRIST is holy, so He calls us to be holy like Himself. For He “was made like... us in all things, [except] sin... from which He was clearly void, both in His flesh, and in His spirit.”¹³ And it is because CHRIST is holy that His death on The Cross atones for our sins when we are His. And The Almighty, having come Incarnate in The Person of JESUS CHRIST, knows what we experience. He knows both our sorrows and our joys, both our trials and our triumphs, both our troubles and our victories! So we read also in HEBREWS 4:15, “For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”¹⁴

VII. CHRIST SUFFERED TO REDEEM THE SAINTS

I PETER 2:23 begins, “Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not;”¹⁵ When our Lord’s wicked persecutors “blasphemed Him, mocked Him, called Him foul names,” He remained silent! And when they showered upon Him “real injuries, beatings, buffeting and crown[ed] Him with thorns,” CHRIST issued no threats against those evildoers!”¹⁶ It is The LORD, and not we, who in the end repays evil for evil to the unrepentant sinner. Saint Paul calls us to follow CHRIST’s example of His Passion and suffering in ROMANS 12:19: “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith The Lord.”¹⁷

I PETER 2:23 ends by declaring, “but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously:”¹⁸ CHRIST, The “One Who could have destroyed His enemies with a [mere] word patiently endured the pain and humiliation of The Cross.” Why? Because The Father “was justly judging our sins which His Son bore” for us!¹⁹ And in the place

¹² 2, KJV, I PETER 1:22.

¹³ 7, 39 Articles of Religion, Article XV. “Of CHRIST alone without Sin.”

¹⁴ 2, KJV, HEBREWS 4:15.

¹⁵ 2, KJV, I PETER 1:23a.

¹⁶ 5, Matthew Henry’s Commentary, I PETER 2:13-25, II., 3., (2.), p 2428.

¹⁷ 2, KJV, ROMANS 12:19.

¹⁸ 2, KJV, I PETER 1:23b.

¹⁹ 6, Bible Knowledge Commentary, I PETER 2:23-25, p 848.

of the sins over our souls, CHRIST places His righteous over us, that we might be made acceptable to The Father and receive eternal life. So Saint Paul declares in II CORINTHIANS 5:21, “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of GOD in Him.”²⁰

VIII. CHRIST TAKES OUR SINS AND PLACES HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS OVER US

I PETER 2: 24 begins with these words: “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree,”²¹ For CHRIST “came to be The Lamb without spot, Who, by sacrifice of Himself once” upon The Cross, designed that He should “take away the sins of the world.”²² The Messiah saves our souls from separation from GOD by receiving the just punishment under The Law which we His saints deserve for our iniquities. This is exactly what The HOLY SPIRIT reveals to us through the prophet in ISAIAH 53:5: “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”²³

I PETER 2:24 continues, “we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:”²⁴ Scripture makes clear that “we are accounted righteous before GOD, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST by [our] Faith” in Him.²⁵ CHRIST’s sacrificial death “makes it possible for believers to be free from both the penalty and the power of sin and to live for Him.” And thus CHRIST makes it possible for us “to follow His example, both in [enduring] suffering and in righteous living.”²⁶

Such a gift of Divine Grace should make we who are healed by our Lord’s stripes should cause us to rejoice in thankfulness and to keep gratefully keep ourselves in the righteousness of The LORD. Saint Paul declares exactly this to us in ROMANS 6:13, “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield

²⁰ 2, KJV, II CORINTHIANS 5:21.

²¹ 2, KJV, I PETER 2:24a.

²² 7, 39 Articles of Religion, Article XV. “Of CHRIST alone without Sin.”

²³ 2, KJV, ISAIAH 53:5.

²⁴ 2, KJV, I PETER 2:24a.

²⁵ 7, 39 Articles of Religion, Article XI. “Of the Justification of Man.”

²⁶ 6, Bible Knowledge Commentary, I PETER 2:23-25, p 848.

yourselves unto GOD, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto GOD.”²⁷

IX. CHRIST HEALS OUR SOULS FROM DEATH AND DAMNATION

I PETER 2:24 concludes, “by Whose stripes ye were healed.”²⁸ So CHRIST’s sacrifice for us on The Cross secures “the salvation of every individual who trusts Him as his Saviour.”²⁹ The suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord at The Cross “was more than an example” of righteous endurance of suffering! For in “sharing His Cross... [we] will share His triumphant life” in both this world and the next!³⁰ If we are in CHRIST’s humiliation, we shall share also in His exaltation!

If our Lord suffered for us, shall we not suffer for Him? If our Lord died for us, shall we not die to ourselves and the things of the world for Him? For then we shall also have His peace and healing in our lives now, that we may enter into eternal life with Him Above in the next! This is precisely what the prophet declares in ISAIAH 53:4-5, “Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of GOD, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed!”³¹

X. CHRIST CALLS US INTO HIS PASTURES

I PETER 2:25 begins, “For ye were as sheep going astray;”³² It is by his own choice that man “goes astray” into sin, thus cutting himself off “from the pasture, from The Shepherd, and from the flock” of GOD.³³ Where then is our only hope of receiving the blessings of The Almighty in both this life and the next, if we become lost in sin and darkness?

²⁷ 2, KJV, ROMANS 6:13.

²⁸ 2, KJV, I PETER 2:24b.

²⁹ 6, Bible Knowledge Commentary, I PETER 2:23-25, p 848.

³⁰ 4, Wycliffe Bible Commentary, re I PETER 2:21-25, p 1448.

³¹ 2, KJV, ISAIAH 53:4-5.

³² 2, KJV, I PETER 2:25a.

³³ 5, Matthew Henry’s Commentary, I PETER 2:13-25, II., 5., (1.) & (2.), p 2428.

Men seek after things of the world, the flesh and the devil to find peace and healing, but they can not bring these things to the hungry and hurting hearts of men. For “there is none other satisfaction for sin, but... [CHRIST] alone!”³⁴ This is what the prophet declares to us in ISAIAH 53:6, for which we should rejoice in humble praise of The blessed Saviour: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all!”³⁵

I PETER 2:25 concludes, “but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”³⁶ And so CHRIST’s finished work on man’s behalf at The Cross “is that perfect redemption, ...[atonement], and satisfaction, for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual;”³⁷ For through our Lord JESUS CHRIST, we who earnestly confess His Name as our Master in all things and Saviour of our souls shall lie down in green pastures of peace in both this world and the next. For it is written:

The prophet Ezekiel foresaw in The Spirit that GOD Himself is The Redeemer and Saviour of His people. This is an Old Testament picture of The Coming of The Messiah JESUS CHRIST, extending healing, peace and salvation to all those that He brings into the peace of His pastures! So we read The LORD declaring The Word in EZELIEL 34:15-16, “I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick!”³⁸

XI. IN CONCLUSION

So from a brief look at I PETER 2:21-25, we can see the foundation stone of our Christian Faith in the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord JESUS CHRIST at The Cross: First, CHRIST suffered for us. Second, CHRIST gives us an example to

³⁴ 7, 39 Articles of Religion, Article XXXI. “Of the one Oblation of CHRIST finished upon The Cross.”

³⁵ 2, KJV, ISAIAH 53:6.

³⁶ 2, KJV, I PETER 2:25b.

³⁷ 7, 39 Articles of Religion, Article XXXI. “Of the one Oblation of CHRIST finished upon The Cross.”

³⁸ 2, KJV, EZELIEL 34:15-16.

follow. Third, CHRIST was without sin. Fourth, CHRIST endured all His undeserved suffering without complaint. Fifth, CHRIST placed Himself for judgement in the hands of our Father in Heaven. Sixth, CHRIST took upon Himself the sins of all humanity at The Cross. Seventh, CHRIST makes us as righteous before our Father in Heaven. Eighth, CHRIST heals our souls from the consequences of our sins, which is eternal damnation. Ninth, CHRIST calls us back from sin to Himself. Tenth, CHRIST, saving our souls, thus restores us to communion with our Father in Heaven in both this life and in eternity.

See how we are blessed with so much knowledge of our salvation in CHRIST from such a small slice of Holy Scripture in I PETER 2:21-25! Let us keep in mind then how much blessing, peace and joy in CHRIST we are called to receive! And of all these many glorious gifts of GOD that He showers upon us His people, let us hold most firmly to the One Who atones for our sins at The Cross! O LORD, may we see more deeply every day that You, O blessed Saviour, bare the sins of our souls upon Yourself, and place Your righteousness over us, that we may have Your peace and be healed! For truly, as it is written in ISAIAH 53:5b, "...[by Your] stripes we are healed!"³⁹ In The Name of GOD The Father, and The Son and The Holy Ghost. AMEN!

³⁹ 2, KJV, ISAIAH 53:5b.

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