

Our Healing in Christ's Atonement*

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ABOUT THE PREACHER

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If you do have a Bible I'd like you to open up to the **Book of 1 Peter**.

Brother Vickers, last week preached from 2 Peter. It's interesting — by way of letting you know — I actually had my message prepared last Saturday, before brother Vickers even preached from 2 Peter last Sunday. And so I already knew that I was going to be preaching from 1 Peter, while he was preaching from 2 Peter, last Sunday.

And if you remember, he preached out of a passage which emphasized the Word of God and it speaks in the passage that he preached from, "We have a more sure word of prophecy." And that more sure word of prophecy is the Scripture.

Can you imagine the apostle Peter, one of the three most inner apostles to the Lord Jesus Christ — standing on the Mount of Transfiguration — and he sees the Lord transfigured? He, himself, saw that along with James and John. Can you imagine that? None of us in this room have had an experience like that. And, by the way, no one in Christianity since those three men has had an experience on that magnitude. And he said, "We have a more sure word of prophecy," referring to the Word of God.

And yet there are people in this world today that think that they've had experiences, that don't line up with the Word of God, and I still say to them, "We have more sure word of prophecy." It's the Scripture. And that's very important.

So that's what you heard last week. This week I'd like you to really tune in to what I'm going to preach. The title of the message is, "Our healing in Christ's Atonement," or, a more fancy way to give a title to this message: "The Healing is in the Atonement."

Now, that title is kind of to catch your attention because there are some people in this world today that actually teach, they actually teach and preach that you can have physical healing based on the suffering of Christ on the cross and the shedding of His blood; that you can have healing in your body because of that atonement. And I'm here to tell you the healing is in the atonement, but their doctrine is false.

Now, I'm going to go through several different things that will convince you of that and then also I will point you to a passage in **James** that will give you some comfort. The Lord does heal. The Lord does heal our bodies according to His will, according to His timing.

Now, where do they get that doctrine? Now, you know, some of you might be wondering: Why am I preaching against false doctrine? Well, I have the privilege, I have the right and I have the responsibility to preach the Word of God. That's to preach true doctrine and I also have a responsibility to preach against false doctrine and to warn people about false doctrine. And that's some of what I would like to be able to do today. But, have no fear. The message that I have prepared today is in such a way that it is going to edify you even if you don't agree with the statements that I'll make about the healing in the atonement.

So, I'd like you to open up to 1 Peter. But as you're in 1 Peter I'm going to go to Isaiah chapter 53. And in Isaiah 53 it says in verse four: "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."

"With his stripes we are healed." That is the passage that these people like to go to and say that the healing is in the atonement. By the way, these same people like to prey — and that's P-R-E-Y and not P-R-A-Y — prey on people that are in conditions where their body is broken down. And they like to take their money and they like to take their possessions because they are using this doctrine to try and convince them that if you give to their ministry that they will be able to lay hands on you and heal you of your sicknesses because the healing is in the atonement.

But I'm here to tell you today that in Isaiah he's not talking about a physical healing. He's talking about spiritual healing. Now, how do I know that? See, we as

Baptists, we believe that the Scripture interprets the Scripture. We don't trust in commentaries. We go to the Word of God alone. And we believe that the Scripture interprets the Scripture. I'm not here to convince you through my own thinking. I'm here to convince you through the Scripture interpreting the Scripture.

And in **1 Peter** we have the interpretation of **Isaiah chapter 53**. We have it. There's no question about it. There's no need for any of us to question whether that healing that's being spoken of is a physical healing or a spiritual healing. And in **1 Peter chapter two**, starting in **verse 18** it says:

"Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently?"

In other words, you did wrong, you're punished for it. You know, what glory is that? There's no glory in that.

"But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 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. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

My friend, this is the passage that is set forth to you today to convince you. If you are in this room today and you believe that the healing in the atonement is speaking of a physical healing, then listen to the Word of God today that you can know what it's really speaking about is a spiritual healing, a healing from sins.

My friend, if you are here today and you have always rejected that doctrine, then be edified in the message that we're going to preach today, being encouraged by the salvation of the Lord and also strengthened in your faith of your spiritual healing.

So, our healing is in the atonement. Our healing is in Christ's atonement.

In verse 21 we see **Christ's Suffering — We are Called**.

Now, if I can take one more step back and give you a little context here. Each time I have come to you I have told you that the theme of Scripture is "The Eternal Redemptive Purposes of God in Jesus Christ," from cover to cover, "The Eternal Redemptive Purposes of God in Jesus Christ." Another way to say it would be, "The Eternal Saving Purposes of God in Jesus Christ." That's the message of Scripture.

In the Old Testament we have that truth in seed form. In the New Testament we have it in fully developed form. So it's more concentrated, more specific, very precise, dealing with "The Eternal Redemptive Purposes of God in Jesus Christ" in the New Testament.

In the Gospels — that's the first four books of the New Testament — we see The Purchase of Redemption or The Purchaser of Redemption. In the book of Acts we see The Proclamation of Redemption. In the Epistles we see The Explanation of Redemption. And in the book of Revelation we see The Consummation of Redemption.

1 Peter, along with **2 Peter**, that Brother Vickers preached from last Sunday, is in the Epistles. It is what we call the Epistles. They are the letters to the churches. And they give to us The Explanation of Redemption.

Some of the Epistles have a certain purpose and some have another purpose. But all are The Explanation of Redemption.

In **1 Peter**, the message of **1 Peter** is "The Pilgrim Life Test." We have, if I can kind of run you through it one more time: we see Christ Who suffered on the cross. We see the proclamation of that, that's the preaching and telling people about how Christ died on the cross and how He is risen. And now we have the explanation of what that all meant in our relationship with God in the Epistles. And part of our explanation that we need to know about is the life in Christ as the pilgrim.

You see, the Christian life is not an easy life. There are some people that try and preach that you'll have health and wealth if you trust in Christ. There's nothing further than the truth. Christ, Himself, suffered and died and bled on the cross, went through all of that for your sins. And to say that the Christian life is this ethereal pleasant thing that you have no suffering here on Earth, that's not true. The apostles themselves suffered. In fact, tradition says that the apostle Peter was actually hung upside down on a cross. He suffered on a cross as well.

YOU SEE, THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT AN EASY LIFE. CHRIST, HIMSELF, SUFFERED

Except he didn't want to suffer in the same way that our Lord Jesus Christ suffered. He didn't think that was...He didn't think he had that honor to even suffer in that way and he asked that the cross be hung upside down and he hung upside down on the cross.

The apostle John suffered many persecutions. In fact, tradition says that boiling hot oil was poured over his whole body and his whole skin was scathed with this hot oil. He didn't die that way. He continued to live. And he was on an island when he wrote many of the Scriptures that he wrote, including Revelation. He was banished to that island, suffering.

What is the pilgrim life? You know, it's this idea: We're just passing through. You know, that we're not setting our affections on this world. We're just passing through. We are children of God, if we have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ, and we're just passing through this world and we're going to have persecutions and sufferings. But that's what the Christian life really is about, is suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why? That He might be glorified because He demonstrates His power and His glory in our sufferings. It's not something that we can fully grasp sometimes, but it is a Scriptural truth.

Okay, so I gave some of that context. And we come into **verse 18** and we have "Servants, be subject to your masters." Part of the pilgrim life is a willingness to submit to others whether they are right or wrong. And that submission may mean persecution. And so we're here in verse 21. And my first point is: **Christ's Suffering — We are Called.** Verse 21, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us."

Christ suffered on the cross. He was beaten. His beard was plucked out. He had a cat of nine tails that tore flesh from His back and a crown of thorns that was forced upon His brow. And He was hung on that cross to suffer for your sins. He suffered. Christ's suffering. And because He suffered we are called. If we are a child of God and we are walking with Him, we are called to also bear some of that suffering.

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Also in **verse 21** we see **Christ's Steps — We Must Follow**, Christ's Steps — We Must Follow. Again, we read: "Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow" in "his steps."

This is often the most difficult thing for an American, especially, to do. We have such a comfortable life here in America. Just about everyone has their own vehicle. We all have, many of us have nice clothes and we have rings and we have watches and we have nice food. We have comforts in this country that no other country has experienced. And the idea of following in Christ's footsteps and following Him in such a way that you suffer for the Gospel, many times that's unheard of in this country. Some Americans have given their hearts and minds to go to the mission field and then they begin to experience some of the suffering.

THE IDEA OF FOLLOWING IN CHRIST'S FOOTSTEPS AND FOLLOWING HIM IN SUCH A WAY THAT YOU SUFFER FOR THE GOSPEL, MANY TIMES THAT'S UNHEARD OF IN THIS COUNTRY.

My wife and I are called to go to the Republic of Bénin, West Africa. It was originally a French colony and it was called Dahomey. When they gained their independence from France they changed the name of the country to the Republic of Bénin. It's in the Togo, Niger, Nigeria area of Africa.

By the way, Bénin is the birthplace of Vodooism. It's the most wicked place on Earth, if I could say that. They still take children and take them off and sacrifice them to their false gods. We're called to go to that country one day when the Lord finishes the training that He has for me.

I am commanded to follow Christ's steps. We must follow Him because He suffered for us. He's given us eternal life in Heaven. It's a small thing for me to follow His steps.

In **verse 22** it says, "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." And in this verse we see **Christ's Sinlessness — We must Separate.**

You know, when I think about the sinless life of Christ, the fact that He was on this Earth and He never once sinned, He was "holy...undefiled, separate from sinners," I'm convicted of that.

To me it's absolutely pathetic, pathetic, that Christians will not separate from the world and worldliness and sin and idolatry and filthiness when Christ died on the cross willingly and He lived a sinless life because that's the only way that He could actually save us.

It says, "Who did no sin." Do you realize that there are preachers in this country today that either directly teach or indirectly suggest that Christ sinned? They'll point to Mary Magdalene who was a harlot, but got saved. And she

loved the Lord Jesus Christ. She loved Him with all of her heart because she knew what she had been saved of...saved of her wretched wicked, wicked life of a harlot. And there are preachers in this country that will say that Christ sinned with her.

That is damnable doctrine! In NO way did Christ sin while He was on this Earth. And right here it says, "Who did no sin." If you deny that, I don't believe that you are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible! And I hope that all of us in this room trust in this. I really hope so.

IN NO WAY DID CHRIST SIN WHILE HE WAS ON THIS EARTH. AND RIGHT HERE IT SAYS, "WHO DID NO SIN." IF YOU DENY THAT, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE TRUSTING IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST OF THE BIBLE!

Next we see **Christ's Strickening — We must Remember**. Christ's Strickening — We must Remember. In verse 24 as well it says, "By whose stripes ye were healed."

And now we have come to this passage again. It says, "By whose stripes ye were healed." What is the context of "by whose stripes ye were healed?" Can anyone tell me in this passage that we're in? "By whose stripes ye were healed." What's the context here in 1 Peter?

Healed of sin. It's talking about sin and righteousness and unrighteousness. It's talking about sin in the context. Has anyone read here in this passage about anyone laying of hands to heal anyone? Has anyone seen that in this passage here? No. You haven't.

Has anyone seen anything about prayer napkins? You can write to this evangelist and you can get a prayer napkin that can come to you and if you hold the prayer napkin it's going to heal you of your physical ailments. Has anyone seen that in this passage? No.

What have we seen? We've seen that it is talking about sin and righteousness. And so the healing that we're talking about here is a healing from sin unto righteousness. That's exactly what we're talking about here. And so the apostle Peter, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, gives us an inspired interpretation of **Isaiah 53, verses four and five**. So there's no mistaking what Isaiah the prophet meant, "By whose stripes ye are healed." It's not talking about a physical healing. It's talking about a spiritual healing.

Why would we equate "spiritual healing"? Why would we put those two words together?

If you look back on your own life and your own sins and you look at the results of your own sins and your own heartaches, your own pain from your own sins; don't you think you need to be healed from that? I sure do. There are some things that I have seen that I was subjected to as a boy that I didn't want to see, but that were subjected upon me and you know what? I needed some healing from that.

And, you know, there were some things that happened in my family, wicked things that happened. And you know what? I needed some healing from that.

"By whose stripes ye were healed." You see, Christ died on the cross to save us from the penalty of our sins so that we could go to Heaven. But he also intended that His sacrifice on the cross would heal you spiritually, that you would have healing from that pain that came with the sins. It's not enough to just have forgiveness of sins. You need to have the healing that comes with it. And that repair in your heart and mind so that you can live for Christ so that you can live a life which is pure, holy, undefiled, righteous. There is no ability in me to live a righteous life unless I have been healed, healed of my sins, healed of my unrighteousness. There is no ability in me to live for Christ, to live that pilgrim life without that healing that comes from the atonement.

And, finally, we see in verse 25: "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." We see **Christ's Shepherdhood — We must Rejoice**. And this is our final point here.

I'll make one last point after this, but as far as the outline, this is the last point. Christ's Shepherdhood — We must Rejoice. Do you know what shepherd means? It means pastor. It's a metaphor here and if you look in the Greek text it actually refers to pastor.

BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PASTOR TODAY, IF YOU'RE SAVED, YOU ALREADY HAVE A PASTOR. HE'S THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HE CAN BECOME YOUR PASTOR TODAY.

Did you know that if you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, He is your Pastor? The Lord Jesus Christ is your Pastor and your Pastor and your

Pastor *if* you know Jesus Christ. If you don't know Him, He's not your Pastor. I can't imagine what it would be like to have no pastor. But if you don't have a pastor today, if you're saved, you already have a Pastor. He's the Lord Jesus Christ. And if you don't know the Lord Jesus Christ He can become your Pastor today.

I'm not spiritualizing this passage. It's right here. It says: "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." And in the context it is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. And that word Bishop is also akin to Pastor, Elder.

In **James** it says that if you need healing, first of all, to go and ask for forgiveness of your sins and then to call the elders of the church. We, as Baptists, don't believe that there is no healing. We believe that God will heal our bodies if it is His sovereign will. I don't want you to think that we don't believe in God's amazing healing, because we do.

WE, AS BAPTISTS, DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO HEALING. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD WILL HEAL OUR BODIES IF IT IS HIS SOVEREIGN WILL. I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK THAT WE DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD'S AMAZING HEALING, BECAUSE WE DO.

But we don't believe that people going around today and laying hands on the sick have any ability to heal. And we don't believe that the healing is in the atonement.

Let me make one last point 'cause I would go home feeling like I failed you today if I didn't make one last point. And this is the most precious thing that I saw this week. We are in the **Book of 1 Peter** and I just told you how the healing that's in the atonement is a spiritual healing. And did you know that these people who believe that it is talking about a physical healing believe if you don't get that physical healing then you're not saved because if you were really saved then you would have that physical healing? And I showed you from the Scripture that that's false teaching.

Well, let me read one last passage to you. It's in 1 Peter, chapter one, verses three through five. It says,

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and unde-

filed, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

It says, "Who are kept by the power of God through faith." That word "kept" is actually a term which means, "to garrison." It kind of has the idea if an army

surrounded a city and they didn't let anyone go into the city or come out of the city; that's what garrison means. Okay? And the Bible says that if you've trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then you're kept, you're garrisoned, you can't lose your salvation. If you have trusted in Him, you have no reason to fear that He'll take you home to be with Him.

AND THE BIBLE SAYS THAT IF YOU'VE TRUSTED IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR, THEN YOU'RE KEPT, YOU'RE GARRISONED, YOU CAN'T LOSE YOUR SALVATION.

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