

LIVING IN EXILE

1 Peter 2:22-25 – The Heart of the Gospel

April 10, 2016

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. **-1 Peter 2:24**

I. THE MAN WHO KNEW NO SIN

- The example Jesus left us (from verse 21) is the example of suffering, and the suffering of a perfectly innocent man (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15).
- To be without sin is a really big deal! It is the example we shoot for and the reality that we live in (Matt. 5:48; 19:21; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Phil. 3:12; Col. 1:22; Heb. 10:1-3; 10:14; 1 John 5:18).
- The example of Jesus is suffering unjustly but not responding in kind and trusting in the perfect and timely justice of God (Deut. 32:35; Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30).

II. THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

- Vs. 24: “He himself bore our sin in his body on the tree...” One of the great “gospel in a sentence” verses in the Bible (Isa. 53:5-6; Jonah 2:9; 2 Cor. 5:19, 21; Rom. 8:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:18).
- Christ died that we might also die to sin and be raised into a new life of righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21).
- Christ is our sin-bearer. His death was a vicarious* death, and it led to the propitiation** of our sins (Isa. 53:5; Rom. 3:25; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:4, 3:13; Heb. 2:17; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 John 2:2; 4:10).

*Vicarious = substitution; in the place of.

**Propitiation = taking away sin and appeasing God’s wrath.

III. BACK HOME WITH THE SHEPHERD

- The initiative of God and the response of humankind. We stray, God seeks, we return (vs. 25; Luke 15).

KNOW: Jesus was/is our sin-bearer. He carried our sin in his body that we might stand before God justified. This is the heart of the gospel.

DO: Consider the great work of Christ on your behalf.

Suggested Reading:

The Heart of the Gospel, by Robert Coleman

The Work of Christ, by Robert Letham

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 2:22-25

1. What thoughts/emotions come to mind when you consider all that Christ did in order to accomplish our salvation?
2. Looking back at our passage from Sunday, how does Jesus’ example as a sufferer help us to suffer injustice ourselves?
3. In 1 Peter 2:24, Peter quotes from Isaiah 53. Read Isaiah 53. What light does it bring to your understanding of 1 Peter 2:22-25?
4. When Peter says, “By his wounds you have been healed,” what is the healing that he has in mind here? What kind of healing?
5. When have you found yourself “straying like sheep”? What did God do about that in your life?
6. Is it right then, to say that Christ died for us both as an illustration of how we should “die” and as a substitution for our sin?