

1 Peter 2:24,25
Hope in the storm

Healed!



There was a man who had something very important to do. It was a very big job and a very important one. He knew it would take a while and would require her to be focused upon her task. So he set about doing it. But other people came along and bothered and harassed and insulted him, and told him that he was crazy for attempting it. Then those nasty people took pictures and put it on Facebook and it went viral, and everyone in the world, it seemed, weighed in on this man and his task. But the man decided to simply not respond. In fact, he cancelled his Facebook and Twitter account. He was too busy doing what he needed to do to get the job done to be paying attention to all the nay-sayers! It took awhile, but in the end, he completed his project, and many people ended up benefitting greatly from his work. If he would have listen to all the people that told him he was being a ridiculous loser, he **NEVER** would have finished! But he **did not** listen and stuck to his plan everyday! Little by little, he simply continued to make progress until the job was done and done well. Afterward, some who had not seen the sense of what he was doing were convinced and came over to his side and defended him to the others.



That was **Noah**! That was **Joseph**! That was **Moses**! That was **Esther**! That was **Nehemiah**! And, most importantly, that was, **Jesus**! That was the apostles, and it is **you**, and **me**, and anyone who seeks to win their part of the world to Jesus! Our example is Jesus! All the people of God are tasked with the hard-to-impossible purposes of God! But we commit to it - stick with it despite the discouragement that often comes with the territory, and we let God get it done, because that is what our fearless leader did, and charged us to do also!

Vs. 23 says that the enemies of Jesus hurled insults at Him! Think of it: Jesus knew how vast the dimensions of the universe were and how small and insignificant these men were that were shooting off their mouths at Him! Really, these microscopically tiny, yet self-important men were insulting their very Creator who had fashioned the world, the solar system, the vastness of the galaxy, and of all the universe! It was ludicrous, yet the Great Lord Jesus humbled Himself, bowed His head, and let it happen – resulting in the magnificent travesty of the cross! As to human justice, it was truly a horrible miscarriage of justice, but as to the justice of God it was an immense fulfillment of His intention to be “*just and the one who justifies*”. He had to let this happen! He was in the hands of the mob,.. ***VOLUNTARILY!*** I have to point out here that one of the most terrifying of human experiences is to be caught in the crosshairs of a murderous mob! When they are in a merciless flesh-stomping frenzy, it is terrifying because the victim knows they are going to die badly and are powerless to stop it! The members of the mob have become dehumanized by their rage, and have become only the sum of their own hurts and resentments and frustrations! They are lashing out, and they have ceased to be capable of human reasoning, and have become purely predatorial in their reactionary responses! The members of the mob push each other to greater and greater depths in their acts of brutality against the ones who are unfortunate enough to be caught up in the mob’s feeding frenzy, a frenzy that rivals any hungry, agitated school of sharks with blood in the water!



Jesus was caught in a mob. It was a controlled mob, but it packed the courtroom at his trial. But they made his trial a “kangaroo court”. A kangaroo court is an unofficial court that has little evidence to make a decision on. It is a label that defines a totally biased court, where the verdict is a foregone conclusion, no matter the real evidence. Where real evidence is lacking, false evidence and hearsay will bring about the desired conclusion. The court Jesus faced was an official court, but it was still a kangaroo court in its total bias and the foregone conclusion of its findings. But Jesus just stood there and let it happen without protest. He did not defend Himself in the least. And when He was convicted, He offered no threats and pronounced no curses upon His false witnesses and His tormentors, and there was no calling out of the gutless governor, Pilot, who stood by and gave Him up to the mob! That is because Jesus knew what He was about, even, and *especially*, in the midst of that heated social storm! This is what He had come for. He had come to die at the hands of the mob! He had come to give His life. With His life He was purchasing the souls of anyone who would believe in Him! He was paying for *their* sins with His own humiliation, suffering, and death! It was all in the plan of God to win the world that was afraid of Him, who did not understand or trust Him, over to Himself.

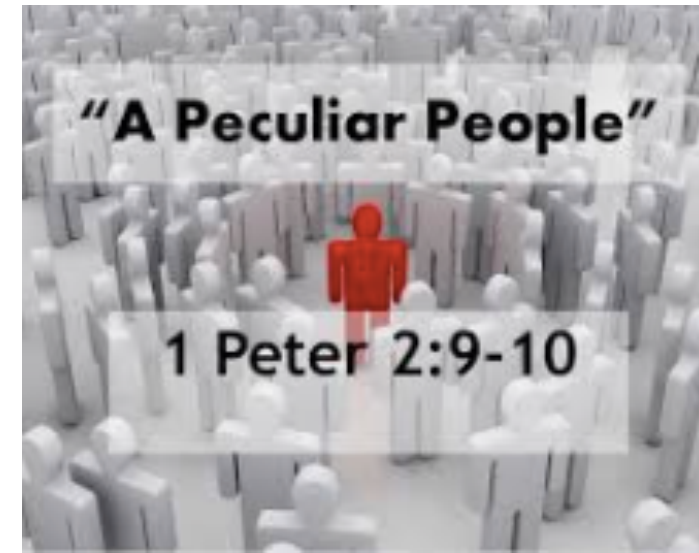
[John 12:32,33]

[Isa. 53:4,5]



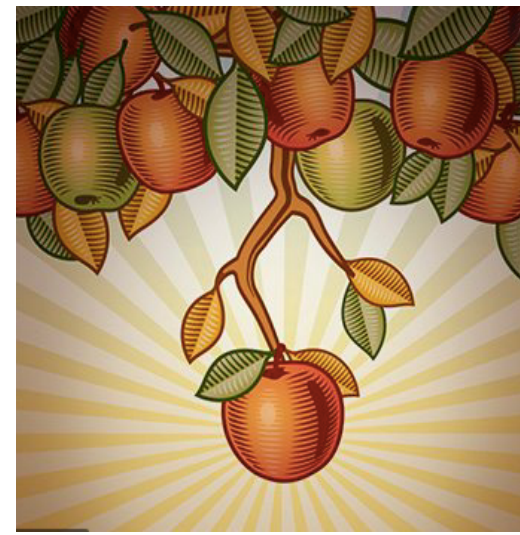
God subjected Himself to so awful and terrifying a death, so that He might have for Himself a people that were not only purified in the eyes of the courts of heaven, but were also purified in their actual behavior, in their attitudes, in their emotions, in their appetites and urges, in their instincts and impulses, in their morals and ethics, in their motives, in their values, and in their priorities!

“That we might die to sins and live for righteousness” - In all these things regarding the mob, the trial, the beating and humiliation, the cross,.. God was out to gain for Himself a people who were different from everyone else on the planet, whose hearts were completely subjugated to Himself to be divinely healed of malice, envy, jealousy, hatred, and revenge, and to be healed by divine device of love – ***agape love*** – which is a foreign element brought in from the outside, literally God-breathed - introduced and released into the mind and soul of the new believer by the Holy Spirit! It is the Holy Spirit that makes that difference - that makes the life of the Christ-follower an ongoing miracle! Of all the miracles of Christ, from the healing of the blind to the raising of the dead, this miracle of a miraculously transformed heart is the most spectacular of all!! But when Jesus subjected Himself to the tortures of the cross, He knew He was gaining for Himself a nation of ***peculiar people*** – people who were 180 degrees different from the norm of the population of the planet, who were ruled by God and not their own impulses,.. who were compliant with the Holy Spirit and not ruled by their own lusts and appetites!



“... and by His stripes we are healed”

Never has a verse been more misunderstood, misquoted, and misused than this one! This is a reference to the leadup to the cross – the stripes refer to the vicarious punishment of Christ, the beating/whipping He took for us - and we know that through the context. This whole paragraph is about the cross of Christ and all the terrible events surrounding it in which He suffered immeasurably. The meaning the author intends to convey to his or her readers is always to be seen through the meaning it is surrounded with – the contextual meaning. This is about healing from our human inclination to always do the wrong thing, or at least usually. Instead our bad and false inclinations are healed, changed around, righted, and we want to please our Savior, our Father, our Holy Spirit. He has taken our sins upon Himself and has then recreated our core being. He makes us desire to do the right thing, to BE the right thing! He hauls us out of the darkness of ourselves and this world, and into His glorious light of who He is! Then He remakes us into His own image, bit by bit, piece by piece, until our own grotesque distortions start to be smoothed out and we begin to resemble the image in which we were once made – His own! The powerful Spirit of God is given to us to make us a credit to His Name and reputation. We become involved in the business of making God famous. People don't know Him. Most of what they think they know about Him is as false as a wooden nickel! And it leads them to believe erroneously that He is not to be trusted! The only chance they have of knowing the truth of who God is, is for someone who is truly His and who has been transformed by His Spirit to show the truth of who God is by what they now are! They are the walking, talking, breathing, orchard of God, in which the fruit of the Spirit, that typify the character of God, is the low-hanging fruit – easily seen, easily identified, easily reached! Let me say it once again, and slow. ***“Love, joy, peace,.. and self-control”***



What “*and by His stripes we are healed*” *doesn’t* mean is our physical healing. The lame do not walk, nor do the blind see, and neither do the dead rise because of the suffering of Jesus. So many have misrepresented these words, making claims that are not substantiated in the text. Therefore it is made up! Christians actually do that more than I care to point out. It brings up the fact that many Christians love their myths! We don’t care about the inspired word of God and what it really says. We heard it said thus and such, and we liked it! It fits within our own hopes of what is there. So the myth gets perpetuated for generations – humans trying to help God weave a better story, or more vivid and spectacular promises. “*If I was the only one left on earth, Christ would have died for me*”. Or, “*Believe, just believe that your arthritis or your cataracts will be healed because the Bible promises that by the stripes of Jesus you ARE healed!*” **Of course** Jesus heals through prayer and , but, as you can see, this line, neither here or in Isaiah 53 (where Peter quotes it from) has anything to do with our physical healing and everything to do with the turning around of our sick heart and the transformation of our character! He gets rid of the guilt of our sin, cleansing us with His own blood, and the Holy Spirit is given the believer and follower to empower us to “*die to sin*” or rid ourselves of the habits, behaviors, that previously beset us - that held us hostage and fractured our lives. He truly changed our lives **STARTING** with the inside of us! He heals our heart – the impulses that ultimately destroy us – our errant desires and impulses, lusts and out-of-control appetites, causing and reactions that abuse both ourselves and the ones we love most. He brings these under control. These attitudes and behaviors keep us from serving Him effectively and diminish His reputation and ours, therefore they must go. This is what the stripes of Christ heal!

