

Healed by His Wounds

1 Peter 2:24-25

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

The only “holy, innocent, unstained,” (see Hebrews 7:26) One—the only One “without blemish or spot” (see 1:19) was crushed in the place of unholy, guilty, stained sinners. See also 3:18.

The Romans’ execution cross became God’s sacrificial altar upon which Jesus became the once-for-all, wrath-removing sacrifice for all our sins. “Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many...” (Hebrews 9:28)

Jesus was **cursed** so that we could be **blessed**. See Deuteronomy 21:23 and Galatians 3:13-14. Our lives should now go in a changed (righteous) direction. We should cease from sin now that we’ve been healed by His wounds.

By his wounds you have been healed.

Physical healing **does** seem to have a connection with the cross-death of Jesus according to Matthew 8:14-17. Peter’s own mother-in-law and all who were sick who came to Jesus that evening were healed. But physical healing in this lifetime is not the norm. God can heal, but often He does not—not in this lifetime. Genuine believers in Jesus do suffer from sickness. True followers of Christ get cancer and die.

Well, what is Peter saying then as he echoes the end of Isaiah 53:5 at the end of 2:24?

Peter is saying that those who truly believe in Jesus “have been healed” of their spiritual “sickness” because, according to the beginning of Isaiah 53:5, Jesus “was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace.”

25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

There is nobody who's ever walked this earth, minus Jesus Christ, who has not wandered spiritually. And straying like sheep isn't cute. It's ugly and it's unsafe. It's not complimentary to be compared with wandering woollies.

From the start (Genesis 1-2), we were made to live in community and under authority. But all of us have chosen to opt out of living God's way as His creatures in His world. We have all committed cosmic treason by rebelling against our Maker and Owner. Jesus died to bring us back into community and under His authority.

Jesus is both the spotless Lamb (1:19) and the Good Shepherd who laid down his life (John 10:11) so that we could come Home (come back to where we belong spiritually—come back to our Creator). See 3:18.

Jesus is both our Shepherd (see also 5:4) and our Overseer. Only here is Jesus called our "Overseer" (ἐπίσκοπος/Episkopos). He deserves these titles and "all other titles of dignity that we can give him." (Dr. A. T. Robertson)

And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." -Luke 5:31-32

Have you sensed your own spiritual sickness? Are you aware of your own waywardness? Have you seen your own stubborn, rebellious heart, your own self-centeredness, and/or self-righteousness? Are you aware of your need for the forgiveness and cleansing that He died to provide? Have you recognized your sin and repented? Have you trusted in Him and been healed yet? If you have been healed, then live as one who's been forgiven.

What's the logical connection between 2:18-23 and 24-25?

A Christian slave of a cruel master who sat in a church service listening to these words about his suffering Savior, maybe with his own body throbbing with wounds from a recent beating, would find fresh grace for his hurting soul when he saw afresh both Jesus' example of patient endurance and Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice for that slave's sins (and for ours). That slave could believe the truth and then face the future with confidence knowing that although his body may be suffering now his soul is forever safe.

All Scripture taken from the *English Standard Version* (ESV).