

# Ryan Clarke: 27 February pm

‘The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.’ (Isaiah 53:5)

## “Healed by His Stripes”

### (Sermon Summary)

Augustine called this prophecy of Isaiah ‘the fifth Gospel’. Though it was written around 700BC, it reveals profound Gospel truths as it speaks of Christ bearing the penalty for the sins of His people.

The preceding verses (Isaiah 52:13-14) describe how the suffering Servant will succeed in what He comes to do (“My Servant shall deal prudently”). He shall save His people from their sins, and then be highly exalted - every knee shall bow to Him. Then in chapter 53 we read the account of His humiliation. Jesus was scorned, mocked, despised, and rejected. Crucifixion was a brutal execution which totally humiliated its victims, but something more than this vile brutality was taking place: “it pleased the Lord to bruise Him”. This was propitiation, Christ bearing the wrath of His father.

The Lord’s own people rejected Him (John 1:11) and chose Barabbas instead. People have always hated God and loved darkness rather than light.

The words “By His stripes we are healed” are often misinterpreted to mean that Christians are entitled to physical health in this life. However, this verse needs to be read within the overall context of chastening, healing and its outcome.

### **Chastening**

Mankind deserved to be chastened: the wages of sin is death. However, Christ took this chastening on our behalf. We should never pass over this wonderful truth through over-familiarity. Christ is the sin-bearer, the perfect sacrifice who became a curse for us. This is penal substitution - He took our penalty.

## **Healing**

The chastisement has accomplished healing: our peace is our healing. We have peace with God; Christ is our peace. Through forgiveness of our sins, we can now be right with God. “Christ was in pain that we might be at ease” (Matthew Henry). Though we still live with some of the consequences of our past sins, in glory that will cease, and we will be like Him.

God has transferred Christ’s righteousness to us: you have in your account the imputed righteousness of Christ. Justification is instantaneous: those who have believed on Him are declared righteous.

## **The outcome**

A justified, healed person will now be sanctified. Sin is now their enemy, and we should see them changing. The healed person now loves to seek to be righteous and live for Christ. We should be a thankful people, praising God.

The healed person does not fear death and judgement. The certain hope of eternity awaits us, when we shall see Him as He is.

What a Gospel this is! Have you believed that Christ came, died, and rose again to redeem a people to Himself? Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” It’s imperative that we find rest for our souls through believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, then call others to be healed by the stripes of the Saviour.