

1Pet 2.24-25—Redeemed by the Solitariness of Christ's Sufferings

What did Christ do?

- I. *He bore our sins, in His body, on the tree.*
 - A. Our Saviour's sufferings were *penal*, for and on account of sin.
 1. He stood before the courts of men as innocent, but He stood before the court of God as guilty, 2Cor 5.21; Rom 8.3.
 2. Hence He bore the punishment and wrath of God due to sin.
 - B. Our Saviour's sufferings were *vicarious*, i.e., for others.
 1. Having no sins of His own to bare (cf. v.22; Heb 7.26-27), He bore the sins of others as their Surety, Mt 20.28; Heb 7.22.
 2. The sins He bore were *ours*, v.24; Isa 53.4-5, 6-8, 11-12. Our sins became His debt and He became responsible for them.
 3. Thus, though His enemies dealt unjustly with Him, the Father dealt justly with Him, Gal 3.13; Isa 53.6, 10.
 - C. Our Saviour's sufferings were *expiatory*, i.e. they bore our sins, and the punishment due, *away*, cf. Lev 16.21-22.
 1. God's wrath against our sins has been exhausted and the punishment for our sins has been fully borne, Jn 19.30; Isa 27.4; Mic 7.19.
 - D. Our Saviour's sufferings *made atonement* for us and forgiveness and reconciliation are now ours, 1Jn 1.9; 2.1-2.
- II. And He did it all, by Himself.
 - A. This is His glory, that He alone is the Mediator and the Redeemer of the Father's elect. He alone is the Father's Suffering Servant, who will save His people by His suffering in their place, Isa 49.5-6; 52.13; 53.11-12; Jn 1.36.

What did Christ accomplish in us by it?

- I. *In order that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you have been healed.*
 - A. He died *for* sin that we might die *to* sin. He suffered and died for us that the power of His death and life might be worked in us.
 1. He died for our sins, not only to free us from their punishment, but to free us from their power over our life and conduct.
 - B. Thus there's a mortifying and vivifying power in Christ's death, dealing not only with sin objectively on our behalf *before God*, but also subjectively on God's behalf *in us*, Tit 2.14; Heb 10.14; Eph 1.4; 5.25-27; Rom 6.5-6.

- C. When we believe on Jesus for our salvation and atonement with God, His death for our sins automatically and inescapably works a dying to sin and a living to righteousness in our own lives, Rom 6.1-14.
- D. The death of Christ not only saves and rescues, but it sanctifies and heals. It justifies and sanctifies all who put their faith in Him.

Why did Christ do it?

- I. *We all, like sheep, had gone astray*, cf. Eph 2.1-3.
 - A. We're naturally lost, with no way back, no ability to rescue ourselves, and subject to every misery and danger—like sheep without a shepherd.
 - B. And *that's* when Christ, the Good Shepherd, came to seek and save the lost, Lk 19.10. He entered our misery, in our flesh and bore it on the cross, to save us, Jn 1.14; 36; Col 1.21-22.
 - C. That's why Jesus can say that all whom the Father gives to Him *will* come to Him (Jn 6.37), because He came *to go get them*, cf. Rom 10.20.
- II. Thus we see the *necessity* of the *solitariness* of Christ's sufferings for us: He came to save us because we could not save ourselves, and He came to seek us because we were lost with none to help.
 - A. We love Him because He first loved us, 1Jn 4.19. We believed on Him because he gave us the faith to do so, Eph 2.8-10; Phil 1.29. We came to Him because He first drew us to Himself, Jn 6.44, 65. We turned from sin to righteousness because He granted it, Acts 11.18. We chose Him because He first chose us, Acts 13.48; Eph 1.4-5; 2.10.
 - B. Our whole salvation is His work—*alone*, Jn 14.6; 8.36; Ps 103.1-5.

Our Response

- I. Here is a call to *love* Jesus Christ, because none has done what He did for you. He bore your sins away.
 - II. Here is a call to *worship* Jesus Christ, because none could do what He did for you. He alone is the Saviour of sinners.
 - III. Here is a call to *serve* Jesus Christ, because none need ever do again what He so ably and fully and finally did for you. He bore all your sins, all away, and reconciled you to the Father as a forgiven child.
- What is *your* living response to the atoning work of Jesus Christ *for you*?