

1 Peter 2:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by
whose stripes ye were healed.

Analysis

This verse presents the substitutionary atonement with remarkable clarity. Christ "bare our sins" (anēnegken tas hamartias)—the verb means to carry upward, used of sacrifices offered on the altar, indicating Christ bore sin's penalty as our substitute. The phrase "in his own body" emphasizes the incarnation's necessity: only the God-man could satisfy divine justice. "On the tree" (epi to xylon) deliberately uses Old Testament language for crucifixion, connecting Jesus to Deuteronomy 21:23's curse, quoted by Paul in Galatians 3:13. The purpose clause reveals two-fold transformation: "being dead to sins" (apogenomenoi tais hamartiais, having died to sins) describes positional justification through union with Christ's death, while "should live unto righteousness" expresses progressive sanctification—justified believers grow in holiness. The phrase "by whose stripes ye were healed" (tō mōlōpi iathēte) quotes Isaiah 53:5, with the aorist passive indicating completed action: believers were decisively healed at Calvary, primarily referring to spiritual healing from sin's corruption, though not excluding ultimate physical resurrection.

Historical Context

Peter, eyewitness to Christ's crucifixion and post-resurrection appearances, writes with profound personal reflection on the cross's meaning. For first-century readers familiar with Roman crucifixion's horror, "the tree" carried visceral impact—a gruesome execution reserved for slaves and insurrectionists. Peter's quotation of

Isaiah 53 (the Suffering Servant passage) demonstrates early Christian interpretation of Christ's death as prophetically predicted and divinely ordained substitutionary atonement, not tragic accident or martyrdom.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Christ bearing your specific sins 'in his own body' deepen your gratitude and worship?
2. What does it mean practically to 'live unto righteousness' as one who has died to sin, and where do you most struggle with this transformation?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| οὗ | τὰς | ἁμαρτίαις | ἡμῶν | αὐτοῦ | ἀνήνεγκεν | ἐν | τῷ |
| Who G3739 | G3588 | sins G266 | our G2257 | his own self G846 | bare G399 | in G1722 | G3588 |
| σώματι | αὐτοῦ | ἐπὶ | τὸ | ξύλον | ἵνα | ταῖς | ἁμαρτίαις |
| body G4983 | his own self G846 | on G1909 | G3588 | the tree G3586 | that G2443 | G3588 | sins G266 |
| ἀπογενόμενοι | τῇ | δικαιοσύνῃ | ζήσωμεν | οὗ | τῷ | μώλωπι | |
| being dead G581 | G3588 | unto righteousness G1343 | should live G2198 | Who G3739 | G3588 | stripes G3468 | |
| αὐτοῦ | ἰάθητε | | | | | | |
| his own self G846 | ye were healed G2390 | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 8:17 (Parallel theme): That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Romans 6:11 (Sin): Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revelation 22:2 (Parallel theme): In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

1 John 2:29 (Righteousness): If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

James 5:16 (Righteousness): Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Hebrews 9:28 (Sin): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Romans 6:2 (Sin): God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Isaiah 53:11 (Righteousness): He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Galatians 3:13 (Parallel theme): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Colossians 3:3 (Parallel theme): For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.