

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

April 3, 2023

He is the Cure

In the first recorded prophecy of Isaiah, God described the sinful condition of Israel in terms of a person stricken with disease throughout their entire body. Consider these astounding words:

“Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: **the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.**” Isaiah 1:4-6.

Sin truly is a spiritual cancer which devours a person from the within. It may seem insignificant at first, but it never stops spreading and eating away at the person it inhabits. For all human history a cure has been sought, but none was found. The Jews thought the Law of Moses was the cure, but it only treated the symptoms of the disease. It could go so far as to kill the patient, yet, it could never take iniquity out of their heart.

Every human attempt to cure this disease has ended in failure. Humanity has been like the woman *"...which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse."*

Mark 5:25-26. These "religious physicians" have vastly different treatments to contain, control, or subdue this evil thing that works in the human heart. The only thing they seem to agree on is that there is no cure. Thankfully, God does not concur!

Isaiah, the same prophet who described this horrid disease of sin and iniquity, also spoke of the cure. Most of us know his words well. He wrote, *"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."* Isaiah 53:5. The word "healed" in this passage actually means "to cure." Jesus Christ gave himself to suffer and die upon the cross in order to "cure" the incurable disease called sin. He came to do what *"the blood of bulls and of goats"* could never do. Hebrews 10:4-5. He came to *"take away our sin."* John 1:29. | John 3:5.

The Apostle Peter presented this "cure" as the true purpose of Christ's sufferings. He wrote, *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, **that (in order that) we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**"* | Peter 2:24. It is important to see and believe the reason Peter gives as to why Jesus *"bare our sins in his own body on the tree."* He does not say, "To take our punishment," "to pay a penalty," or even "pay a price." He says

it was so that *“we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:”* Christ died in order that sin in us would be destroyed through our death with Christ. This is God’s cure for sin in the human heart. Peter confirms this by quoting Isaiah, *“by whose stripes ye were healed (cured).”*

The Apostle Paul also confirms this as the purpose of Jesus’ death, saying, *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.”*

Romans 6:6-7. Can sin in you really be destroyed and you truly be made free from its presence and power? Absolutely! Jesus Christ is the cure for this incurable disease. He came to make you free!