

February 24, 2013

ONE AND THE SAME

Isaiah 53: 1-6

In the scriptures Saul of Tarsus, who sought to wipe Christianity off the face of the earth, and Paul, the Apostle, who wrote most of the New Testament, are ONE AND THE SAME. **The man** who was our pastor for over eighteen years and the man who now pastors Thirteenth Street Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky are ONE AND THE SAME.

Although there are NUMEROUS differences between believers, there is NO difference between Christ's work for them on the Cross and the eternal benefits of that work. **The** (very) ones Christ died for are the SAME ones who are (already have been) blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ. **The** (very) ones Christ died for are the SAME ones who will be finally glorified. **ONE!**

This lesson has three points, which we will look at as we come to them.

Isaiah 53 is a prophecy of the Messiah. **It is** about the Savior of sinners; **it is** about the relationship that Christ, the Representative, has to those He represented.

Look at Isaiah 53: 1 **“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?”**

Who has believed our report (our doctrine, our Gospel)? By nature NONE have believed the report (the Gospel). **But**, ALL are not left in their unbelief. **To SOME** it is REVEALED.

To whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? The arm of the LORD is all that God has engaged to bring about the salvation of ungodly sinners.

It is the Gospel (itself), which is the power of God unto salvation, and which is hid from the wise and prudent, but is revealed unto babes. **It is** Christ, Himself, by whom the heavens and the earth were made and are continually upheld in their being, by whom God has redeemed and saved his chosen people.

It is the Spirit of God who makes the Gospel effectual, giving life and faith and Godly repentance, (continually) showing sinners the things of Christ to keep them ever before God's throne of grace. **The** arm of the LORD is EVERYTHING that Almighty God has done to save His people from their sins.

And, that arm is REVEALED. **It is** REVEALED to the multitude chosen in Christ before the world began. **It is** REVEALED to those redeemed by Christ at the Cross. **It is** REVEALED to those called by the Spirit under the Gospel in each generation.

The ones who WILL BE brought to believe our report and the ones to whom the arm of the LORD WILL BE revealed are ONE AND THE SAME.

Look at Isaiah 53:2 “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

Christ had NOTHING in His appearance that would draw sinners to Him. **He** was just a carpenter’s son growing up in the lowly town of Nazareth. **His** lineage in David, the king, meant very little at this point in time. **Death** sought from birth.

Look at Isaiah 53: 3 “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

By nature, Christ is “despised and rejected” by ALL MEN (without exception). **You** can take this “rejection” all the way back to Cain. **By** nature, NONE are drawn to Christ. **By** nature, some are drawn to one LIKE Him. **But**, NONE are NOT drawn to HIM. **By** nature we ALL see “him” making sinners SAVABLE. **We** ALL see “him” making a “way” for sinners TO BE “saved”. **By** nature NONE see “him” saving anyone by His work ALONE. **NONE** see “him” fully (completely) working out the salvation of EVERY sinner He has been given by His death ALONE.

That is how WE (all w/o exception) “esteemed Him not”. **We** “esteemed Him not” with the (proper) ESTEEM of a (true/complete/successful) Savior. **By** nature NONE “esteem” the Christ of the Scriptures.

Look at Isaiah 53: 4 “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”

We will consider verses 3 and 4 in detail in the next point. **I won’t** comment on this verse now.

These next two verses in this context bring us to our FIRST point. **They** make it (absolutely) clear that the sinners Christ died for and those who will enjoy the (eternal) benefits of His death are ONE AND THE SAME.

Look at Isaiah 53: 5-6 “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.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

NOTICE: The pronouns and their connection.

Christ was “given” a multitude of sinners before the world began. **The** COMPLETE salvation of THAT multitude was conditioned on Christ ALONE. **He** was made THEIR Surety. **The** responsibility of THEIR complete salvation (including Final Glory) was given to Christ.

God, the Father, made Christ fully accountable (to Him) for the complete salvation of every sinner He was given. **Christ** was (always) aware of His responsibility to His Father and to His sheep. **He** (always) knew He came here to glorify His Father and to go to the Cross for His sheep. **He** said in John 10: 16, **“Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?”**

Go back to Isaiah 53: 5-6. **Isaiah** was looking forward to the Cross when he said, **“With His stripes we ARE healed”**.

The Apostle, Peter quoted this passage in his first letter. We will look at that passage in detail in our next point. Peter declared that by Christ's "stripes ye WERE healed". Peter is looking back on the Cross. Isaiah's language was prophetic. Peter's language is more conclusive. But, BOTH are talking about the SAME salvation, the SAME Savior.

Isaiah knew that his, (along with every O.T believer), healing (their COMPLETE salvation) was by the stripes (the death) that Christ, the Promised Messiah, would endure when He came. His prophecy was of a future work. But, like Abraham and David, his confidence was in Christ.

SOMEBODY was (always was) healed by Christ's stripes. In God's mind and purpose this healing was finished before the world began. Those of God's choosing are not waiting TO BE healed. They are not under some POSSIBILITY of being healed. They have ALREADY BEEN healed. Christ's stripes (His obedience unto death) have healed them.

"Healed" them from what? "Healed" them from their (legal) guilt; "healed" them from their (just) condemnation; "healed" them from their curse under the law.

Christ's stripes have healed them from any possibility that God's justice will ever demand any payment from them because of their sins. Their debt to law and justice has been paid in full. Christ's stripes are their ransom price. Christ's stripes are their redemption.

And, who is it that Christ's stripes have (already) healed? It is EVERY sinner whose transgressions He was wounded for. It is EVERY sinner whose iniquities He was bruised for. It is EVERY sinner whose peace with God He was chastened for. It is EVERY sinner whose sins He bore in His body on the tree. EVERY sinner Christ died for and those who have (already) been healed by His stripes are ONE AND THE SAME.

WHO these sinners are is a SETTLED issue. Their number has been fixed from eternity. God chose them in Christ unto salvation before the world began. Their names ARE (always have been) written in the Lamb's book of life.

Look at Revelation 13: 8 "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Christ encouraged His disciples with this truth. Look at Luke 10: 20 "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

Christ will say to THESE sinners at the final judgment: Look at Matthew 25: 34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"

Who are they (specifically)? I.e. How are THEY identified? That is an (entirely) different matter which I will address in the next point. But, first, I want us to look at one more context that proves the FIRST point: That EVERY sinner Christ died for and those who will be finally glorified are ONE AND THE SAME.

Look at Romans 8: 31-32 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” Explain!

(Outline) **That** is our FIRST point. **EVERY** sinner Christ died for and those who will enjoy the (eternal) benefits of His death are ONE AND THE SAME.

Let’s move to the SECOND point. **Those** Christø õstripesö have (already) õhealedö and those who have õdespised Christö and õesteemed Him notö are ONE AND THE SAME. **I.e.** **They** will be those in every generation who *acknowledge* that they have õdespised Christö. **They** will be those in every generation who ADMIT that they õesteemed Him notö.

Look back at Isaiah 53: 3-4 “**He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**”

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”

It is true that ALL (without exception) õdespise Christö. **By** nature ALL õesteem Him notö. **But**, Isaiah is not writing here about humanity in general. **He is** writing about the elect, Christø sheep, the church. See this connection in verse 4?

When Christ õhid His face from usö, **WE** õdespisedö Him. **When** Christ õhid His face from usö, **WE** did not know the Savior God sent and õwe esteemed Him notö.

WE (whose õgriefsö Christ bore); **WE** (whose õsorrowsö He carried); **WE** õdespisedö Him. **WE** (the very sheep He laid down His life for) õesteemed Him notö.

Although Christ bore the õgriefs and sorrowsö of a MULTITUDE, that MULTITUDE by nature does NOT õesteemö Him as a Savior. **Though** Christ is OUR Savior, we do not see Him that way UNTIL God delivers us to the Gospel.

BEFORE the Gospel, we saw MUCH truth about Christ. **We** saw Him wounded. **We** saw Him put to death. **We** saw Him buried. **We** saw Him raised from the dead. **We** saw MUCH truth. **But**, we did NOT see THE truth.

We did NOT see His righteousness as the ONLY ground of salvation. **We** did NOT see that the only way a just God could justify an ungodly sinner is based on Christø imputed righteousness ALONE. **We** did NOT see Christ accomplishing the salvation of EVERY sinner He was given.

That is how we saw Christ õstricken, smitten of God, and afflictedö. **We** saw Him suffering even unto the death of the Cross. **But**, we failed to see THAT death ACCOMPLISHING the eternal salvation (the õhealingö) of EVERY sinner He died for.

We saw Christø death insufficient (in ITSELF). **We** saw His work coming short of salvation without the sinner making his/her contribution (meeting some condition). **Like** the majority of Christendom today, we believed that multitudes Christ died for would perish under the eternal wrath

of God. **Such** thinking $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ espises $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ Christ. **Those** who remain under such thinking are $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ esteeming Christ NOT $\text{\textcircled{o}}$.

You would think that those sinners whose sins Christ was punished for and whose sins He put away; **those** who have (already) been $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ healed $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ by His stripes, you would think that we would not be like everyone else. **You** would think that we would be different. **But**, we are not. **You** would think that we would not $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ espise $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ Him or fail to $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ esteem $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ Him. **But**, we do. **We** are $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ by nature children of wrath, even as others $\text{\textcircled{o}}$.

Look at Ephesians 2: 1-3 “**And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**”

By nature we are NOT who we **THINK** we are. **We** are pretty moral. **We** are pretty law-abiding. **We** are reasonably kind; reasonably generous. **WE** think we are fairly $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ ecent $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ people. And, we are, compared to much of the world.

But, NONE of that has anything to do with our **STANDING** before God. **NONE** of that has anything to do with our acceptance with God. **If God** judged any of us based on any of those things, He would be forced to send us to the eternal misery we deserve.

The verses before tell us that by nature we all walk under the influence of the $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ spirit $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ that continues to work in the $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ children of disobedience $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ (which is how the Bible describes anyone not submitted to Christ $\text{\textcircled{s}}$ righteousness imputed for all of salvation).

Our natural religion encourages sinners to **DO** $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ something $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ in order to $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ get saved $\text{\textcircled{o}}$. Paul describes such encouragement as the $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ FRUSTRATION of grace $\text{\textcircled{o}}$.

Look at Galatians 2: 20-21 “**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”

The word $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ frustrate $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ means reject, disregard, bring to nothing, disannul. **It** means to thwart the efficacy of anything; to make it void. **That** is what sinners do who look **WITHIN** (and not to Christ **ALONE**) for righteousness. **That** is what I did when I taught salvation conditioned on the sinner in my former religion. **That** is what I was doing when I was $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ dunked $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ three times.

Like ALL others Christ $\text{\textcircled{s}}$ sheep $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ espise $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ Christ. **Like** ALL others we fail to $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ esteem $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ Him. **Like** ALL others, we $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ frustrate the grace of God $\text{\textcircled{o}}$. **But**, **UNLIKE** all others, Christ **WILL NOT** leave His sheep in this mind set. **He** **WILL NOT** leave His sheep $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ espising Christ $\text{\textcircled{o}}$ or $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ frustrating the grace of God $\text{\textcircled{o}}$. **Christ** will deliver His sheep from **THIS** sin that deceives us all.

And, our deliverance is one of the greatest evidences that we are among those whose sins Christ bore, (those already ðhealed by His stripesð). **This** deliverance comes with an admission (a confession, a repentance) no unregenerate sinner will make.

Everybody claims that Christ died for ðourð sins. **But**, how many will admit that for some time in my ðreligious lifeð, I ðdespisedð; I ðesteemed notð the Christ who died for my sins. **The** ones who will are the **ONLY** ones reprovèd of sin, and righteousness, and judgment by the Spirit of God.

You CANNOT be (scripturally) counted among those already ðhealedð by Christð ðstripesð and **NOT** have repented of ðdespisingð Christ. **Failure** to repent of this evil leaves a sinner with **NO EVIDENCE** that Christ died for you. **It** leaves a sinner with **NO EVIDENCE** that Christ ðbore YOUR sins in His body on the treeð. **It** leaves **NO EVIDENCE** that ðby His stripes YOU were healedð. **Not** one of Godð elect will be left among those who refuse to repent of this evil.

And, that repentance is not owing to any ðgoodð in them, but to Godð mercy and grace in Christ **ALONE**. **ðGod is not willing that any of THEM should perish. But, that all of THEM should come to repentanceð**. **ðAll that the Father giveth Me, shall come to Með**. **ðMy sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Með**.

(Outline) **Those** Christð ðstripesð have (already) ðhealedð and those who know (acknowledge/admit/confess) that they have ðdespised Christð and ðesteemed Him notð are **ONE AND THE SAME**.

Let's move on to the **THIRD** (and final) point of the message. **Those** who have ðdespised Christð and ðesteemed Him notð and those who are motivated in their walk by the knowledge of Him are **ONE AND THE SAME**.

As I told you earlier, in his first epistle the Apostle, Peter, quotes from Isaiah 53.

Look at 1 Peter 2: 21-23 **ðFor even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:**

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:ð

Paul is encouraging regenerate sinners here. **He** is encouraging those ðcalledð to suffer for Christð sake, (i.e. those who ðsufferð because of our stand in the Gospel).

Look at 1 Peter 2: 24 **ðWho 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.**

Paul is encouraging those who are **PERSUADED** that the sinners Christ died for and the sinners who will be finally glorified are **ONE AND THE SAME** (because of Christð finished work **ALONE**). **ðBore OUR sins, by whose stripes YOU were ðhealedð**.

Look at 1 Peter 2: 25 **ðFor ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.ð**

He is encouraging those who are CONVINCED that they ONCE **despised** Christ and **esteemed** Him not. **You WERE** as sheep **ö** **He** is encouraging those who (readily) CONFESS that (BEFORE the Gospel) they promoted **another gospel** and **another savior**. **But** are NOW returned **ö**

ONLY those who have been delivered from **frustrating God's grace**; **ONLY** those who have been delivered from **despising Christ** can be (will be) motivated to obedience by grace **ALONE**.

Let me summarize what I have said and close.

1. **Those** Christ died for and those who will enjoy the (eternal) benefits of His death are **ONE AND THE SAME**.

2. **Those** that Christ's **stripes** have (already) **healed** and those who **ACKNOWLEDGE** that they **despised** Christ and **esteemed** Him not are **ONE AND THE SAME**.

3. **Those** who have **despised** Christ and **esteemed** Him not and those who are motivated in their walk by the knowledge of Him are **ONE AND THE SAME**.

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