



**Decision Time
Practical Guides for Life Today
Church vs. State
1 Peter 2:13-25
Part 2**

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We are in the middle of instructions being given by Peter about how to make good decisions. Remember, this is coming from someone who was prone to not making good decisions at all, but then he became empowered with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. That changes everything.



Does he still make some mistakes now and then, yes. We all do. So, as he writes to us, he does so practically and not theoretically.

We listen because he is communicating God's word to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we we also know he learned it all, the hard way.

We are also examining a section of scripture that tends to be misused...a lot.

Spoilers, this is not a free pass for the government, and it is not telling us to do whatever the government says no matter what. Per Jesus:

Mark 12:17

“Jesus said to them, **“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”** And they marveled at him.” (ESV)

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he problem for 2,000 years, Caesar tends to claim those things that belong to God too.

1 Peter 2:13–25

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people. Act as free people, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond-servants of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are harsh. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person endures grief when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? **But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps,** HE WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT found IN HIS MOUTH; and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.” (NASB 2020)

Paul earlier, in his letter to the Roman church, said much the same in Romans 13:1-7

Jesus specified respect for those functions of the government that it is best suited to do, but to worship God, not Caesar. That, as an idea, had just started with Jesus as He stated it in Matthew 22, but really grew as a way of life at the same time the church was growing.

Paul made clear we are to be subject to the governing authorities, but we are not to worship them as God. Or anything else for that matter.

So, how do we make the right decision when the state crosses the line? We make use of those tools Jesus has given us. His word, His promises and the simple fact that the Holy Spirit is in us and will teach us all things, just ask.

John 14:26–27

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to**



you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (ESV)

Simple, the Holy Spirit will teach us all things. You find yourself confronting an issue, you need to make a decision. Pray first. Let Him know what it is you are dealing with and ask Him to show you and lead you to the applicable scriptures.

When we find ourselves confronting a decision such as Peter and Paul are discussing, simply lean into the Lord, claim what He has promised, and trust Him for the decision.

I used to think we, as believers in this nation, would never have to face this, but we do today. I have also learned that it isn't always the state insisting we bend, but businesses and organizations who "believe" they have control and power over you and me, attempt to do the same. So called "Pride" month every June is a graphic example of this.

Bow to the culture, or else.

To make sure you bow to the culture, they force feed their agenda to you in an effort to dull your mind and believe their lies.

We made the decision, long ago, to no longer do so. It is a volitional decision each believer must make and depending on what that decision is, you either become a happy Laodicean, or have instead, decided to have a little power and be about the Kings business in Philadelphia.

Looking further into Romans 13, Paul made clear the necessity of our obedience.

Romans 13:11–14

“And do this because we know the time, that it is already the hour for us to awake from sleep, for our salvation is now nearer than when we became believers. The night has advanced toward dawn; the day is near. So then we must **lay aside the works of darkness, and put on the weapons of light.** Let us live decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in discord and jealousy. Instead, **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to arouse its desires.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

We are living in the last days and Paul made the case even as he wrote to the church in Rome. As we look to Him for wisdom and make decisions in the light of scripture, we continue to pray for those who are in authority over us and that they would make good decisions.

Jesus is about to enter into history and begin a chain of events that the scriptures speak about when He evacuates His church in the rapture. As Paul says. The “night is almost gone, and the day is near.” That was 2,000 years ago, so how much closer are we now?

The stage today, is being set for a one world government.

Just this month one of the leaders in Israel, Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Liberman in Israel said this. "We must understand that Iran is planning an all-out attack within two years, where their entire axis working against Israel," he said at the time. "A credible and severe attack from Iran itself, from Lebanon by Hezbollah, from Gaza by Hamas, from Syria by Sh'ite militias, from Iraq and its [Iran-backed] militias, and from the Houthis in Yemen. Of course, they will also try to spark something in the West Bank." (MAARIV Online 2024)

Ezekiel 38 and the Gog Magog War anyone?



Coming soon, under the Beast, a unified world government where politics, economics, and religion are all controlled on a global scale by one man, the Beast.

We are called here in Romans 13, to live in the knowledge that it is all coming very soon, and to live with that all in mind. The time is indeed short.

How are we doing on this?

What is more important to us right now, the upcoming election or the incredibly soon return of Jesus for His church? Have we truly laid aside the works of darkness as Paul commanded us?

I get it that this is hard to do, we are to live in the light of his soon return for us and yet we are to continue to do business for Him and serve Him as BAU in the interim. But the usual is no longer there.

The shadows of the second coming of Jesus, an event over 7 years post rapture, are becoming rather deep these days.

The culture would have us ignore what is going on all around us. I have never seen more distractions designed to draw us away from reality than we have today.

The nation of Judah was surrounded by enemy troops, and they should have been repenting as they saw what it was that their sin had produced, we should be doing the same by the way.

They saw the northern kingdom attacked, destroyed and then taken away into exile. We see an actual invasion of military age young men crossing the border as “illegal immigrants.”

We see those who would destroy us, showing up offshore here in Florida. We have high altitude balloons float into our airspace and our leadership does nothing. All of the signs, globally, point to war. Yet in the west, there is more concern about “Pride Month” than there is on the moral rot and degradation taking place all around us.

Isaiah had the same concerns looking at the nation of Judah. He saw the signs and warned of them, and the culture of his day did the same as ours today.

Isaiah 22:12–14

“In that day the Lord GOD of hosts called for weeping and mourning, for baldness and wearing sackcloth; and behold, joy and gladness, killing oxen and slaughtering sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine. “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” The LORD of hosts has revealed himself in my ears: “Surely this iniquity will not be atoned for you until you die,” says the Lord GOD of hosts.” (ESV)

We are in the last few seconds of the last days and the King is standing at the door, right now, calling those who are in a church hopelessly asleep with a final call.

Revelation 3:20

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (NKJV)

Or as Paul tells us:



Romans 13:12–14

“The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don’t participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, **clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ**. And don’t let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.” (NLT)

Peter is crystal clear. His very first phrase encompasses all of this.

1 Peter 2:13–15

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people.” (NASB 2020)

As we submit to the edicts of the state, those that are not in conflict with the word of God, we are indeed in the will of God. Peter and Paul did not say we are to obey, but submit. That also implies that when the state tells us that we must cross a red line and render to them what would be God’s, we first tell them no.

Rebellion would be simply not doing what they want and then refusing to discuss it with the state when they show up with those people, they have coerced to uphold their illegal edicts. Submission would most likely look more like a list of reasons, soundly thought out and Biblically supported as to why this is a line we will not cross.

As a church, we have a statement of what we believe on our website. We clearly state there for anyone who is interested to read, what some of our red lines are.

Let me be clear, we want all to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

But because of the direction of our culture today, we have had to make some very clear statements about what we will not do. Also, because of the culture and the pressures we are already receiving from it to conform, we have already considered what this would mean and left it all up with the Lord.

There was an organization we wanted to rent space from, but after they viewed our website, they told us they would never rent to people like us.

We never got any further into it from that point and do not know if they would have required, as some other organizations do, to have us agree to and sign a document up front that we cannot sign. We want to do the will of God, but we also are aware of the ever-growing encroachment of the state to try and dictate what is and is not taught in the church. So far, so good.

Here is the thing, we submit for the Lord’s sake, not because those we are submitting too are personally worthy of our submission.

Government has valid and God-appointed purposes to exist. Just because there are those in office who are corrupt does not and should not blind us to the legitimate roles of government. There are those things that the state makes legal, that we look at and cannot agree to. But that does not mean we should intentionally go and protest the world being the world. It also does not mean we should jump up and pray blessings over what it is they have made legal either.

Our job, and we must remember this, is to make disciples. We should not get distracted from that.



We have a really clear example in the scriptures of government that crosses a red line. Those who decided to not participate in giving the government something that was only to be given to God, were respectful, yet they were clear about what they were doing. They were officials in that government after all, yet for this new edict, they could not do or follow it.

We see this in Daniel 3.

Nebuchadnezzar had a rather inflated ego that would be dealt with by the Lord, but leading up to that, he decided to make a huge statue just outside of Babylon, and then demanded that all of those who were working for him, come into town, and at the appointed moment, fall down and worship this thing he had created. Yes, he was trying to set himself up as a god.

He was clear, there would be a signal to perform the act of worship, and those who refused to do so would be burned alive. Three of those invited, were the Babylonian officials, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.

They were Jewish, and there were probably others in the crowd who were as well, but these three decided, much earlier in their lives, that they would only worship YAHWEH and no one else no matter what. Well, no matter what had now arrived. They stood when all others did not.

And of course, there were political enemies in the crowd who went running to the King to rat them out. So, the King has them brought before him and he repeats the requirements. They continued to be respectful as they submitted and came as requested. But they were also clear.

Daniel 3:16–18

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to King Nebuchadnezzar, “We do not need to give you a reply concerning this. If our God whom we are serving exists, he is able to rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he will rescue us, O king, from your power as well. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we don’t serve your gods, and we will not pay homage to the golden statue that you have erected.”” (NET 2nd ed.)

Sorry King, as you are aware, we do not serve the god of tolerance, we serve YAHWEH. We will not obey you in this and will trust the Lord for the outcome.

Of course, the King is not happy about this, and he orders them to be arrested and then immediately executed. He had his personal guard, those sworn to serve him no matter what, heat up the fire and throw them in. And they did, even though they died in the process.

Interesting how at times, government will make and enforce their edicts having no concern for any collateral damage caused by them doing so. Nazi Germany did this and many who were faithfully following orders, wound up being held accountable and were executed for doing so.

God protected these three men as they went in and then through the fire. Because of their faith, no matter what, and when no matter what took place and they remained faithful, as God showed up in their behalf, a change took place in the King.

Daniel 3:28–29

“Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, “Praised be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent forth his angel and has rescued his servants who trusted in him, ignoring the edict of the king and giving up their bodies rather than serve or pay homage to any god other than their God! I hereby decree that any people, nation, or language group that blasphemes the god of Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego will



be dismembered and his home reduced to rubble! For there exists no other god who can deliver in this way.” (NET 2nd ed.)

We must remember this as we go about living in our crazy demanding culture today.

1 Peter 2:16–17

“Act as free people, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond-servants of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.” (NASB 2020)

Because we are believers, we are free from the tyranny of Satan and in Christ, we are also free from the tyranny of the state. We clearly saw that in the example from Daniel 3. Those three men were employees of the state, yet they were not so enslaved by the state that they felt they had no other option other than to obey. They were free from that due to the Lord, just as we are free from that.

Don't allow yourself to ever fall into the pit where you begin despairing that there is no way out other than to give in when what is being asked is clearly wrong. When we submit to lawful authority, it does not cancel out that freedom. This means we can look at the situation we are being presented with and make good decisions because it is the Holy Spirit working through us. We are not to use this as an opportunity to sin.

Some might though as they go running out to protest and intentionally make a public show of their disagreement. If that is how the Lord leads though, then great.

As an employee of a corporation, I was asked to attend a two-day management meeting. No problem. But in that meeting, we were provided a motivational seminar centered around eastern mysticism and meditation and then provided the opportunity to stretch and do Yoga as relaxation. In a room of around 200 people, three of us sat down and no longer participated.

Yes, our bosses noticed and yes, we were indeed questioned about this. For me, it was an opportunity to witness to my boss who was an atheist. My position was eliminated 4 months later as were those of the others.

Here is the thing, as we do life, and if we find ourselves in a situation where we submit but disagree and will not perform the action required. We are still to honor all people. I did. But refused to obey and do the act being required. Again, it was a decision I made long ago.

There outside of Babylon, those three men still honored the King and other officials of the court. They continued to act respectfully even when they were inside the furnace having a conversation with the pre-incarnate Christ and the king asked them come out. They did. Because they continued to honor all people.

Honor though does not necessarily mean love. I worked for a man once who I did not like. He was vile, foul, an outspoken atheist, and went out of his way to denigrate Christians who worked for him. Yet I still honored the man due to his rank and position and strangely enough, he liked me.

We are then commanded to love the brotherhood. Respect all people, but if they are believers, we are to agape them. There are those times where you honor someone who is working for the government and then you discover they also love the Lord. That changes everything doesn't it.

We are to fear God. Fearing and loving God helps us keep our priorities straight, and then Peter says to honor the King. Nero? Yes, even him. But did you notice this, Peter has placed the King in the same category as all the other people we are to honor.



As a hierarchy then we move from the top to the bottom this way:

1. Fear God
2. Love our brothers and sisters in the Lord
3. Honor all people including the King

In a non-snarky way, Peter denies the alleged divinity of the Emperor and places him as just one of the folks.

Will we run into folks who are working for the government and are a bit entitled, yes. Honestly though, pride is a problem that we see everywhere and along with that, go those who feel they are entitled.

We are told to honor them, and we also need to be praying for them as well. They need Jesus.

What about the business place? I don't know about you, but the culture wars are going on there too. Companies now want you to be aware of their values as you go to work for them and there is an expectation you will fall right in line as an employee and agree.

If you are in the job market, or looking to change jobs, part of the due diligence you need to do is to find out about the firm and what it is they may want you to agree with. There are companies today that are all in with the woke culture. Some even change their logo during June each year to "support" pride. Are they requiring new employees to agree up front to that? Probably. What if you don't agree, then I doubt that a job offer has been made to you as they probably asked for and reviewed your Facebook and Instagram accounts, or tried to and discovered that you are not fit for their corporate culture. That is HR speak for, we are discriminating against you.

Peter though moves to discuss how we as believers, should deal with our employers.

1 Peter 2:18–20

"Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are harsh. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person endures grief when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God." (NASB 2020)

In the Roman Empire, you had more slaves than free in the culture. Peter speaks to those who find themselves in that situation.

We are not in that type of environment, we have employers, and some are excellent, and then there are those who aren't.

Our views of slavery have been affected by what took place in the west of the 18th and 19th century. Those that Peter is writing to would not have that view.

1st-century slaves were generally well treated and were not only unskilled labourers but often managers, overseers, and trained members of the various professions (doctors, nurses, teachers, musicians, skilled artisans). There was extensive Roman legislation regulating the treatment of slaves. They were normally paid for their services and could expect eventually to purchase their freedom. (Grudem 1988, 132)

What we see here is indeed applicable to employer employee relationships.



The word translated “be subject to” is the Greek word ὑποτασσόμενοι (hypotassomenoi). The word means to “put in subjection, subject, subordinate; be subject, submit to, obey, be under the authority of; take a subordinate place. (Newman Jr. 1993, 190)

This word carries the idea of freedom of choice. It is something you do voluntarily. Not because you have a good boss, but because of your testimony in Christ.

Peter recognizes that is easy with a good boss, but he also tells us to do the same with a bad boss. In our culture, if need be, there are avenues available to deal with an abusive bad boss. In large corporations, there is the HR complaint avenue, but there is also the nuclear option too, get a job someplace else. As a believer, what is the appropriate avenue? Peter tells us, be subject to them.

I have had employees who were a joy to work with, and then there were those who were always looking for a way to get you. Their way to the top was to trap, enrage, gaslight, and do everything they can to belittle the boss.

Peter tells us that if you are doing that, and then complain about being persecuted for being a believer, stop acting like that. You want a good conscience, then do a good job. If you are doing a good job and then get treated like you haven't, that is a different situation then.

When I was working in Texas, one of my colleagues was the poster child for “bad boss.” If she found out you were a Christian, then you never got any good job assignments. You were ignored, marginalized and questioned about everything. I watched her fire at least three different believers.

One day, her job was eliminated, and she was told to be gone in two weeks. I got caught up in the same layoff cycle and spent the two weeks saying goodbye to all those who had worked for me. Farewell lunches were common for me for a couple of weeks.

None of her employees ever took her to lunch to say bye. She even asked me about that. How do you tell someone that their employees are preparing a huge party, to begin after she walks out the door. I remember talking with one of the folks she fired. They asked what they should do. I took them to this section of scripture.

Peter tells us this, “But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.” (1 Peter 2:20b, NASB 2020). Leave it to God to deal with the situation, He always does.

But Ken, this is not fun to go through. Yes, I know, been there, more than once. But I also know that each time I continued to maintain my integrity, the Lord dealt with the situation and that person who was the source of it.

1 Peter 2:21–25

“For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps, HE WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT found IN HIS MOUTH; and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.” (NASB 2020)

During His life here on planet earth, Jesus suffered, but for the perfect God being made man, He dealt with two kinds. Yes, He achieved our redemption, suffering on the cross, dying and then walking out of the grave three days later.



He also suffered as a person, one who chose righteousness over any other option. First there were all the rumors about His birth being illegitimate. We read “born of a virgin” and due to our culture today don’t think too much of the ramifications of that statement. But in 1st century Judea, this would make Mary a pariah and Jesus almost untouchable.

The Pharisees even brought this up in one of their discussions with Jesus which we see in John 8. They were asserting they were doing the deeds of their father, Abraham, but not really. And Jesus calls them out for this.

John 8:40–44

“But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father.” **They said to Him, “We were not born as a result of sexual immorality; we have one Father: God.”** Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came forth from God and am here; for I have not even come on My own, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.” (NASB 2020)

Christ indeed suffered for us, but He was also an example for us. We are to follow Him and do life in the same way He did life.

The example Peter gives us is just like children walking behind a parent and trying to take the same steps they did; we are to be doing that with Jesus. Are we walking in the trail He has already made for us? We are to reproduce Christ in our lives. He is our example.

He did life and didn’t sin. None of us can say that. He never said anything intended to mislead or deceive, everything He said was truth. He was insulted, over and over again, but He did not respond in kind.

In the section of scripture, we read from John 8, where the Pharisees implied, He was born of a loose woman involved in an inappropriate relationship, He did not respond. He continued with His point, they were trying to use methods they had used in the past to upset someone, but it just didn’t work with Jesus.

The example that Jesus set for us is this, He trusted God to take care of Him and the situation. He did this consistently.

How would you and I do on this?

Jesus was righteous, never lied, when insulted, did not insult in return. When suffering, He never threatened anyone in response, and He simply kept on trusting the Father to take care of Him.

On top of that, He then took all of our sins with Him to the cross in order to give us freedom from sin. Peter tells us, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. The death of Jesus on the cross separated our sins from us.

1 Peter 2:24

“and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed.” (NASB 2020)

The context of this verse up to this point is a conversation of the work accomplished by Jesus on the cross for us. What He did on the cross by taking our sins onto Himself is why we can die to sin and live to righteousness. Then we read, “by His wounds you were healed.”



I want us to examine this a bit because there are those who take it out of the context of this verse to have it mean that Jesus is saying we as believers, can claim healing from every physical ailment in this life. It does not say that. "The provision for our healing (both physically and spiritually) is made by the sufferings (stripes) of Jesus. The physical aspect of our healing is received in part now, but only completely with our resurrection." (Guzik 2013, 1 Pe 2:21-25)

Peter is indeed making use of Isaiah 53 here.

Isaiah 53:5.

"But He was pierced for our offenses, He was crushed for our wrongdoings; The punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him, And by His wounds we are healed." (NASB 2020)

In 1 Peter as well as in Isaiah, the word translated "wounds" is not in the plural in Hebrew or in Greek, but is in the singular, it is wound.

The Greek word is μῶλωπι (mōlopi). The word means "welt, wale, bruise, wound caused by blows." (Arndt, et al. 2000, 663)

The translation would be more appropriate to read, "by His wound or bruise you were healed."

Jesus was wounded once and for all when He died on the cross. That wound meant we were healed, carrying a past tense sense here. When Jesus died on the cross, He achieved salvation for all who would come to Him in belief. His wound, death, achieved our healing from sin.

But the word used for wound is the specific word for the wound received from being whipped. Who is Peter talking to? He is talking to those servants he was talking to in verse 18. They would understand this. Even the change in the tense here points back to them.

The Greek word for wounds describes a bruise or a wound trickling with blood, but more specifically the marks left on the flesh when a person is scourged. Scourging was not an uncommon experience among slaves of that day, and the Christian slaves are reminded that even Jesus suffered in the same way. But again, his suffering is vicarious; it is by his wounds that they have been healed. The healing is not limited to physical wounds, but includes moral and spiritual healing.

Wounds in this context refers not primarily to the marks left on the flesh but to the process of being wounded, that is to say, the suffering which is involved in such wounding, since this was the vicarious element producing the healing. Therefore, one may translate the last sentence of verse 24 as "you have been healed because he was wounded" or "... because he suffered wounds." (Arichea and Nida 1980, 85)

This is not a carte blanche healing card for all who are saved. God is still sovereign.

I know of sinners who have received marvelous healings and of true saints who have died of cancer. I don't believe that death from a disease is necessarily a defeat; nor do I believe that if someone had offered the prayer of faith or had held on in faith then death would have been averted. Being a Christian or serving the Lord doesn't provide us with an immunity from sickness, the natural aging process, or death. (Smith 2018, Kindle Location 343)

God is still sovereign.



Does He still heal today. Absolutely. My roommate in college was diagnosed with bone cancer. I saw the x rays and it did not look good for him. But his family read this in James and went to their local church and asked for this to be done.

James 5:14–16

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”(NKJV)

Bottom line, he was healed. Completely. I have prayed for people to be healed and they have been. I have also prayed for some and they went home to be with the Lord.

There are those would say that those who were not healed simply did not have the faith to be healed. I do not agree with that. God is sovereign and we live in a fallen world. HE still heals and we will continue to pray for that. Yet, we also know that for some, the ultimate healing might be going home to be with the Lord. He is sovereign and has an eternal perspective, but we do not, our perspective is temporal and also biased.

Here is the thing, what Jesus did for us on the cross was achievement that will take us an eternity with Him to begin to fully understand.

By Christ’s wounds believers were healed (2:24); they have in Him the answer to sin, and its freedom to live the new life. The possibility of this has its explanation (“for,” v. 25) in the change Christ has wrought in the saved. They were continually straying like sheep in the unsaved life (Isa. 53:6), “but,” as the strong contrastive particle *alla* marks out, they have returned to God! (Rosscup 2008, 2608)

Have you looked to Him for the healing required from our inherited sin problem? We are all sinners, none of us are perfect.

This is why Jesus came to this planet in the first place. Changing your eternal destination and experiencing healing from sin is simply the first step. He is indeed returning for His church very soon and you do not want to be left behind.

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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