

FOLLOW HIS STEPS (PT. 3)

1 PETER 2:21-25

Text: 1 Peter 2:21

1 Peter 2:21

²¹ *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*

Introduction:

To review what we have looked at the last couple of weeks we considered:

The Priority of the Saved

And the:

Purity of the Saviour

As we consider our Lord and the expectation for us to follow His example, it can seem a bit overwhelming. How is it possible for us to do such a thing? Well we can't within ourselves. It will take the presence and power of God working in our lives to accomplish such a task. That brings us to the last point in our study. The only way we can Follow His Steps is by:

1. THE PROVISION OF THE SAVIOUR (VS. 24-25)

1 Peter 2:24-25

²⁴ 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. ²⁵ For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

These two verses reveal much concerning the provision that Christ made for each of us as He died there upon the cross. Were it not for Calvary and the blood that was shed to atone for our sins, we would all remain hopelessly lost.

Often we think of the cross around the Easter season, but it was the single event that forever changed history and humanity. That was the defining moment in time. It is good for us

It is good to be reminded of the events that took place as well as the provision that was made.

Notice what the Lord provided as He gave His life for you and me:

A. Our Substitute (vs. 24a)

1 Peter 2:24

²⁴ *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.*

Calvary was a personal experience for our Lord and it must be a personal experience for each of us. The Lord bore our sins in His own body.

This wasn't something that He oversaw or sent another to provide for us.

Hebrews 2:9

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

1 John 2:2

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

The word propitiation means "to be a sacrifice; the covering, satisfaction, payment, and appeasement for sin."

The Lord's sacrifice turned away the wrath of God and brought reconciliation.

We could never have achieved that within ourselves.

The Lord became our substitute!

Not only did He become our Substitute but also He provided:

B. Our Salvation (vs. 24b)

1 Peter 2:24

²⁴ *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.*

Beginning with the first of God's creation, sin entered into the hearts of mankind. Because of that initial sin, all are born in sin, being dead through sin unto God.

Romans 5:12

¹² *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

The Lord was the only One who could make salvation possible.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

²¹ *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Dead men can't follow after anyone. If we are to follow the Lord and serve Him we must be alive in Him.

C. Our Settlement (vs. 24c)

1 Peter 2:24

²⁴ *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.***

The healing that is spoken of literally means “to cure; to make whole; to free from error and sin.”

The suffering and death that Jesus endured brought about our healing. It brought about the cure for sin. It set a captive race free from bondage.

All that sin had damaged and the hindrances that it had caused were made right and justified as Christ hung upon the cross.

Isaiah 53:5

⁵ *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.*

Notice not only did He become our Substitute, Provide Our Salvation and Provide Our Source of Power Over Sin but also He is:

D. Our Shepherd (vs. 25)

1 Peter 2:25

²⁵ *For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto **the Shepherd** and Bishop of your souls.*

Peter portrays us as sheep that have gone astray, those who have wandered from the safety and provision of the flock, and are no longer under the care and protection of the Shepherd.

In the Lord sheep can be restored unto the fold.

We can find the comfort of a loving, providing Shepherd who watches over His sheep.

Illustration:

Sheep are among the dumbest animals that God created.

Without a shepherd to guide them they will not find the green pastures; they will not seek out a source of water, and in danger they will flee the safety of the fold.

We may not like to admit, but we are just like sheep.

God created us and He knows the similarities that we share.

God knew that we too need a Shepherd if we are to survive in this world in which we live.

Close:

The Lord desires that we live our lives as He lived His. It is no accident that Peter concludes with these thoughts.

If we are to imitate the life of Christ, then we must be led by Him.

It is hard to pattern your life after one that you are never around or know nothing about.

If we are to live for the Lord, in a way that pleases Him, we must allow Him to guide our lives.

We must allow Him to be the Shepherd of our souls and heed His voice.

Our only hope is to keep our eyes up on the Shepherd and follow Him.

