

Sermon Title: Stripes That Save

Sermon Text: Isaiah 53:3-36

Introduction

This chapter has been called the gospel in a nutshell. It has been called the John 3:16 of the Old Testament. It is a beautiful picture 700 years before Christ of what Jesus Christ came in to the world to do.

It is a picture of Calvary 700 years before Christ is born. Isaiah saw Jesus come as the Lamb of God to lay down His life to be a propitiation, a payment, a satisfaction for the sins of the whole world, for your sins and for mine.

But we are going to find in the message today entitled "Stripes That Save" that Christ not only came to save us from sin but He came to make us whole. He came because God is interested in making us whole.

He is interested in the whole person. He is interested not only in getting us ready for heaven; He is interested in the now. He is interested in your life today.

He came not only to save us from sin; He came to save us from ourselves. And He came to make us a whole person to give us life abundantly in this life. And

I think people of our denomination have not put too much emphasis on the spiritual; we have not put too much emphasis on the salvation of the soul because it is impossible to put too much emphasis on saving souls, amen?

But we have not put enough emphasis on the fact that Jesus' death on the cross also has the power to make us a whole person. And that is what we are to look at today – Stripes That Save.

I. THE DISEASE THAT DEMANDS OUR HEALING

Notice the scripture state by His stripes we are healed. This is the language of the physician. All of us know that healthcare is one of the largest businesses in America today.

In fact it is one of the largest industries in our city, if not the largest industry in our city. Our city is growing at this particular time and one of the largest growth industries in our city is the healthcare industry.

And it is because men and women are living longer today and there is a greater emphasis on healthcare than ever before. The care of the entire person not only of the health of the body but the health of the mind, the health of the

psyche as well, as people are living longer and seeking a better quality of life. Here we have the language of the physician. He said there is a sickness that we have. What sickness is it that we need to be healed of? It is the sickness of sin.

Often in the ministry of Jesus sickness was used as an illustration of the power and the awful consequences of sin. Leprosy was a disease that often was used by Jesus to illustrate the terrible consequences of sin.

Sin is an inherited disease. They tell us that many of the diseases that people have are diseases that tend to be inherited diseases. At least we have a tendency in our genes to inherit certain kinds of diseases from our parents.

We can know that we are going to inherit these kinds of diseases so we can take precautions so that we can avoid as much as possible, the kinds of diseases that our parents and our grandparents had.

So there is a great deal of science about this today. But there is one disease that you cannot avoid that you are going to inherit from your parents, your grandparents, your great-great-great grandparents and that is the disease of sin.

There is a sin principle in our bodies. It is a sin nature that we inherited from Adam. All of us are descendants of a crooked farmer and drunken sailor. The farmer was Adam and the sailor was Noah!

And you cannot escape the fact that the day you were born you began to die. Why is that? Because God said to Adam "in the day that you disobey me, you will surely die."

God created Adam to live forever, but when Adam and Eve sinned, they caught the disease of death. And when Adam and Eve sinned they began to die physically. Immediately the death process began.

And they started to die psychologically. And they died spiritually immediately. That is the inherited disease of sin. Now if Jesus tarries fifty more years most everybody in this room will not be here on this earth.

And for sure almost everybody in this room will be gone from this earth because we have inherited a sin nature. "It is appointed unto man once to die". But it is also a disease that we choose.

There are some habits that you can pick up in life that is almost guaranteed

that they will hasten your death. There are some occupations that may hasten your death. They are very dangerous occupations. So the disease of sin will certainly cause your death.

It will cause your spiritual death for sure. What is spiritual death? Spiritual death is separation from God. Physical death is separation of the spirit and soul from the body.

Spiritual death is separation of the spirit and soul from the God for all of eternity in a place called hell. So we have a disease that demands our healing. We are created in the image of God. God is a three-fold person.

God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is one God. He expresses Himself in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Now, man is made in the image of God, therefore, man is also a three-fold person.

Paul in I Thessalonians makes it clear that we are a three-fold person. He says, "...and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Most of us know that we are body and soul that we are not just a body but we

are body and soul, right? We know that we have a soul that will live forever and ever and ever, even after this body dies. But a lot of us don't understand that we are also body, soul, and spirit.

There is a difference between the soul and the spirit. We are a three-fold person. It is important to understand this because that is the way we were made in the image of God.

God is a three-fold person and we are a three-fold person. We are a body, and then we are a soul. The word soul comes from the Greek word psyche from which we get psychological. The soul is the emotional part of us.

It is the thinking part of us. It is the personality. It is that which makes us distinct from other people. It is the part of us that if they dissect our body, if they dissect our brain, they cannot find our soul.

They cannot find our personality but it is just as real. And that part of us will live forever and ever and ever and ever in a place called heaven or a place called hell. But then man is also spirit.

And the spirit part of us is that which relates to God. And until we come to

know Christ as Savior, until we are born again, until we come to life in Christ the spirit in us is dead toward God. And we cannot relate to God. We cannot understand the things of God.

That is why if you don't know Christ you don't understand the Bible. You don't love the things of God. You don't like the church; you are not interested in the things of the church.

You don't care about prayer because you are dead in your spirit. Ephesians 2 says that before you come to Christ you are dead in trespasses and sins. It is talking about the spirit part of you.

You have a soul, you have a mind, you have a personality, you have an emotional part of you, but you don't have a spirit. But when you come to know Christ, when you are born again, you have a body, you have a mind, you have an emotional life and you have spiritual life.

With your body you relate to the world around you. With your mind you relate to the people about you and with your spirit you relate to God above you. Now sin has affected all of you.

It has affected you physically so that when you were born your body begins to die. And the older you get the weaker your body gets. And sin has affected you psychologically so that you don't always think right, so that you are wounded psychologically and emotionally.

When you are wounded physically, when you have heart trouble, when you have cancer, when you are in a car wreck it is obvious that you are wounded physically.

But when you are wounded emotionally those are hidden wounds that people cannot see. But they are there. When you go through a divorce, when you lose a loved one in death, when somebody has wronged you.

When you have been abused as a child, when somebody put you down, when you grew up in a home where you were told that you were nothing and you would never amount to anything.

When people said things about you that were lies, when you are in a job situation that is tough and constantly negative around you, your soul is wounded. Your emotions were wounded.

Your personality was wounded. And these are scars that people can't see. But you see, your emotions are subject to be wounded because of sin, not because of your personal sin necessarily it could be your personal sin but just because of the sin principle that you inherited.

And number three, sin has affected you spiritually. If you are not saved it has separated you from God. And that is why there is an emptiness within. That is why you can't feel God.

That is why you can't sense God, you can't know God, and you can't reach God. There is a hunger within that you cannot meet, that you cannot answer, that you cannot satisfy. This is the disease that demands our healing.

II. THE DEATH THAT DECLARES OUR HEALING

Then there is the death that declares our healing. He says, "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."

Let's look carefully at this Scripture because it says that Jesus Christ did something for us. It says, "Who in his own self bear our sins in His own body

on the tree that we being dead to sin should live unto righteousness, by His stripes you are healed." Notice it says you were healed - past tense.

In God's mind we have all been healed. It has already happened. You are healed. You are whole. You can praise God for it. It has happened. Jesus has already done it.

Now, look when Jesus died it was first of all a voluntary death. He said, "I lay down my life that I might take it up again. No one takes it from me, I lay it down of myself." You remember when Jesus was taken by the soldiers, Peter drew out his sword and he even cut the ear off one of the soldiers and Jesus rebuked him.

He healed the soldier's ear and He said peter put up your sword, don't you know I could call twelve legions of angels, thousands of angels, to come and rescue me. No one takes my life from me. I am not a martyr, I voluntarily give my life. Jesus voluntarily gave His life for us.

I want us to do a word study. It says that Jesus died for us on the cross and when He did, it says that He was wounded for our transgressions. That word wounded means pierced, like to be pierced with a sword. It says He was

bruised for our inequities. The word inequities mean lawlessness or rebellion or evil. It says that He was a man of sorrows. The word "sorrows" means pain, mental or physical anguish. It says that Jesus was acquainted with grief.

The word grief means sickness, mental or physical sickness. The word wounded or pierced means that Jesus Christ on the cross not only took our sin but He took our sickness. The word griefs also mean sickness.

It literally is translated sickness. When it talks about Jesus bearing our griefs it literally means sickness. And He carried away our sorrows it literally means pain.

Then verse 5 says the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him. And that speaks to our emotional needs. Jesus took our physical sins; He suffered physically on the cross.

No one has ever suffered on the cross like Jesus suffered. He died a voluntary death. He laid down His life for us. He suffered physically as no one has ever suffered. I don't know how many of you saw "The Passion".

I understand Mel Gibson has re-released "The Passion" and he has taken out

some of the bloodiest scenes so that people who didn't go to see it the first time will now go see it because many of the critics said it is too violent. Well, probably too violent for some to go see it but it could not be as violent as it really was.

They laid the lash upon Jesus and you know when the Scripture says that Jesus was bruised for our transgressions, when it says, "By His stripes we are healed," do you know what the word stripes means?

The word stripes literally means the mark caused by the lash of a whip. And when I read that I thought about that movie and the many times that Jesus was lashed by the whip in that movie.

And when I watched that movie I kept thinking oh God when are they going to stop! When are they going to stop? Traditionally they would whip a prisoner forty times save one and they considered the one that they didn't whip him a mercy, an act of mercy.

But for Jesus they didn't do the Jewish kind of whipping, they did the Roman kind of whipping which means they whipped Him as much as they wanted to. You remember they laid out there all their whips and all their instruments of

torture on that table, and they had their strongest soldiers there that you have ever seen. And they took turns one after the other, whipping the Lord Jesus until they were worn out.

Whip Him as much as they could and then someone else would take over, and continue to whip Him. They whipped Him on His back and then they turned Him over and they whipped Him on His front.

And I thought, oh God will they ever quit whipping Him? You see, Jesus took our physical suffering upon Himself. Jesus also took our psychological suffering upon Himself. When Jesus was on the cross, they criticized Him.

When Jesus carried that cross down the Via De La Rosa, they spit upon Him, they mocked Him. When He hung on the cross, they said, yea if you are the Son of God come down from the cross and we will believe you.

IF you are the King of the Jews, why don't you save yourself and us? And they laughed at Him and they called Him names and they blasphemed Him. Can you imagine what hurt that was?

If you have been hurt by lies, if you have been hurt by what people have said

to you, if you have carried hurt and wounded scars because someone disappointed you or because someone betrayed you, think about Jesus as He hung on the cross, all of His disciples had fled, except the one who came back.

If someone said I will love you forever and then they turned and loved somebody else and they deserted you and left you alone, think about Jesus. Even the Father turned His back on Him.

He suffered for you spiritually on the cross because it says that He cried out "Father why hast thou forsaken me?" No one had ever been forsaken by God, no martyr, no servant of God.

God did not even forsake David when David had committed murder and adultery. He could still cry out and be forgiven. God did not forsake Daniel when he was down in Babylon in captivity. God had never forsaken one of His servants.

And yet Jesus was forsaken because all of our sin was laid upon Him and God could not look upon sin, when it was on His Son, He bear in His own body, our sin on the cross. So Jesus experienced in a moment of time, all the hell

we would experience in eternity had we died and gone there. This is the death that declares our healing. He suffered for us physically. He suffered for us psychologically.

He suffered for us spiritually in order that we might be healed. This was the death of Jesus on Calvary. The Bible says, "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all". That word "laid on Him" means transferred.

And what that means is that He took all of our sin, all the iniquity, all the rape, all the murder, all the child molesting, all the evil of mankind of all time, He took it all and He placed it on one perfect man.

He took it all. If this Bible would represent sin, He took it all from us and He put it on Jesus on the cross. He transferred it to Him. And He bore in His body our sin upon the cross. And He suffered for us.

That is why He says, "By His stripes we are healed". By His stripes we are healed spiritually. By His stripes we are healed emotionally. By His stripes we are healed physically.

III. THE DECISION THAT DELIVERED OUR HEALING

Now, what about the decision that can deliver our healing? First of all, to be healed spiritually is the most important thing. Because to be healed spiritually is to be healed eternally, to be with God eternally.

To be forgiven of your sin, to accept the gift of God that is eternal life. And you must acknowledge that you are a sinner. You must believe that Jesus died on the cross for you and confess Him as your Lord and Savior.

Romans 10:9-10 says that if you will believe that Jesus died on the cross that God raised Him from the dead and you confess Him as your Lord you will be saved. Have you ever done that?

The Bible says God has already healed you of your sin. And all you have to do is receive your healing. It has already been done. It is a gift of God but you have to receive it. The prescription has already been written out; all you have to do is take the medicine.

If you had cancer and somebody had the prescription and all you had to do was take the medicine and you didn't take it, you would be pretty dumb. Yet a lot of people know that Jesus is the answer for their sin and they will not take the medicine.

The medicine is the free gift of God and all you have to do is take it. All you have to do is receive it by faith. Believe Jesus died for you and rose again and confess Him as your Savior and today He will forgive your sin. In His mind and heart, it is already done. He will forgive your sins past, sins present and sins future.

Then number two today if you are carrying that hidden wound, if you are carrying that wound you have been carrying a long time, if you are carrying that wound of the heart, that wound of the spirit, that wound of the soul, that wound that is with you day and night, that wound that has caused depression, that wound that has caused hurt, that wound that has caused bitterness and anger, that wound that is just as real as an open sore, there is healing for that kind of wound in the cross of Christ.

And you must receive your healing. And it means turn away from holding on to that wound, holding on that anger, and holding on to that bitterness. It means releasing that to God or that person to God or that even to God and it means receiving your healing by faith.

Just as you are saved by faith, you are healed by faith. And if your spirit, if your emotions need to be healed you receive your healing by faith when you

come to Jesus Christ and you invite Him into your life to heal you from that damaged emotion. And I am not saying you won't need counseling, you won't need encouragement or you won't need Christian prayer, but I am saying your only real healing is found in Him - "by His stripes we are healed".

Healing is not in the church, it is not in the priest, it is not in a pastor, it is not in a book, it is in Jesus this morning. If you want to be healed you can be healed! "By His stripes we are healed". Physical healing is in Jesus.

However only those who believe and receive their healing are those who will have healing. I know that a church does not believe healing will not see any miracles of healing.

But a body of believers who believe that God heals, who will expect God to heal, and who will understand that Jesus Christ carried not only our sins to the cross but He carried our sicknesses to the cross will see God heal physically.

If you are sick today, you must receive your healing by faith, just as you receive salvation by faith, you must follow the Word of God and receive healing by faith. I find in this Scripture exactly what God's Word says.

It says "He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrow." And I find these words and what they mean and they mean not only sins but they mean sickness, because sin has not only affected you spiritually but it has affected you and me physically and psychologically.

And Satan has used sin not only to bind us spiritually but he has bound us emotionally. He has hurt us emotionally; he has hurt us physically to keep us from serving God. God wants to make us whole.

He wants to make us whole both spiritually, emotionally, and physically. He is interested in not only our life being holy, but our life being happy. And God wants to make us whole in Him. That is why Jesus died on the cross.

And I believe this is where many have missed it. They have missed part of the gospel in that God wants to make us a whole. Now does that mean God heals in the way I want.

No it doesn't but it means I believe God and I receive my healing from God.

Now, the ultimate healing comes at the resurrection. The perfect healing will come at the resurrection.

If I am healed today, I may get sick again and have to be healed again, but I would rather choose healing than sickness. When I ask for God's healing, I am choosing health over sickness for today, for the rest of my life.

You see, God may want to heal me because of His mercy. God may want to heal me because He plans to use me in a greater way. God may want to heal me because it is for His praise and glory.

God may want to heal me because it is His sovereign will. God may want to heal me because it is a testimony of salvation to others. I don't have to know what the purposes of God are and if God doesn't choose to heal me, then God may want me to suffer for the extension of the gospel.

But one day when Jesus comes again there will be the perfect healing and when my body is raised or when I receive a new body at the rapture, I am going to have a perfect body and it will never get sick again!

I am looking forward to that day. I will have a body like that of the Lord Jesus when He came out of the grave. A body that can never be subject to sin, therefore it will never be subject to sickness.

When Jesus died on the cross, not only was it a voluntary death, it was a vicarious death that means He was my substitute. That means He stood in my place. But not only that, it was a victorious death.

He secured for me a life in heaven where I will have a body that will be perfect for ever and ever and ever. And it will never know aches or pains and never be subject to sickness or sorrow.

Dottie Rambo wrote these words - "I was guilty with nothing to say. And they were coming to take me away. And then a voice from heaven was heard that said, let Jeremy go and take me instead.

I should have been crucified. I should have suffered and died. I should have hung on the cross in disgrace but Jesus God's Son took my place'. The story about Big Tom!!!