

I Peter 2:21 For 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: 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.

In this passage Peter explains to the believers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (I Peter 1:1) how the death of the Lord Jesus impacted on their Christian behaviour, as their *Example*, For even hereunto were ye called (v.21). In a similar way Paul explained it to the Philippians, Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus ... Of course, no matter how we try, while we seek to follow Him as faithfully as we can, we know we falter for His walk on earth was unique. Nevertheless, we *try* ... and the evidence of our salvation is that we shall keep on *trying* until He calls us home ... and only then shall we be perfect, even as *our* Father which is in heaven is perfect (Mt. 5:48).

At the cross only one of the disciples was present, - John. However, Mt. 26:58 Peter followed him *[the arrested Jesus]* afar off ... to see the end. He, the writer of this epistle, observed from a distance what was happening to the Saviour.

**THE PERFECT SAVIOUR,** 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. The Lord Jesus was impeccable, sinless. He never acted contrary to His Father's will. He was devoted to His work on earth, Phil. 2:8 in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death. In His own words, Jn. 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

When He entered this world, He did not abandon His Heavenly standards or His Divine holiness. He did not adopt or comply with our sinful nature ... not that He was not able to sin, but sin had no attraction, dominion, or power over Him. He had no desire to sin, to flout His holiness, as He submitted in perfect and loving obedience to His Father's will, not my will, but thine, be done (Lk. 22:42). To achieve our salvation, He retained His oneness in the Trinity, guarding it with an impenetrable protection, so He would be *our perfect Saviour*.

Indeed, to allow for salvation anywhere else is to deny Him as the perfect Saviour for there is no salvation in any other name (Acts 4:12). Once we start to permit salvation alongside or apart from Christ, - if we lend credence to other religions or philosophies, - we detract from His glory, Jn. 10:30 I and my Father are one. ... The glory is His alone, and we dare not stray from the truth of His words, Jn. 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**THE PERSECUTED SAVIOUR,** <sup>23</sup> Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not. The writer to the Hebrews wrote, **Heb. 2:9** 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*.

He laid down His life (I Jn. 3:16) ... “He took my sins and my sorrows, He made them His very own”. He bore the punishment of my sins when I did not or could not realise their enormity. I never would have recognised the depths of my depravity were it not for the Holy Spirit making known how Jesus “was reviled” for me. He suffered the reproach of evil men, intent on denying Him. They railed against Him, and yet He did not reply in kind. He was despised, and they, - with great obstinacy, - judged Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted (Is. 53:4). There was nothing about Him which caused a tenderness in their hearts ... only hatred and rejection, **Lk. 19:4** We will not have this man to reign over us.

On the cross when He wept and cried in agony, they laughed and mocked Him. They had already beaten Him, spat on Him, pulled the beard on His face. They had laid Him out on the ground, stretched Him on top of a wooden cross, and hammered the nails through His hands and feet, they made Him wear a crown of thorns ... and still, He was as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth (Is. 53:7). Such solemnity was the mark of *the persecuted Saviour*.

**THE PROVEN SAVIOUR,** <sup>23</sup> ... but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously. Many ‘messiahs’ had come and gone but there had been nothing about them which demonstrated the truth of God. Their attempts were merely to attract the attention of misguided people. The emphasis of the Lord Jesus though, was in that He ‘committed’ Himself to the will of His Father, to die on the cross. He died because His Father sent Him to die. He could have called twelve thousand angels to save Him from the marauding crowds which came to arrest Him in Gethsemane (Jn. 18:10). However, He said to Peter who drew the sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, the high priest’s servant, **Jn. 18:11** Put up thy sword into the sheath: *the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*

Had He been a false messiah, He would have absconded at the first sign of trouble, with all His disciples as they speedily exited the garden ... but He remained alone and was given over by His Father into the hands of wicked men, **Acts 2:23** Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. ... He proved Himself to be true, the only One good enough “to pay the price of sin” Who “only could unlock the gate of Heaven and let us in. ... Saved by His precious blood.” ...

Even before His enemies could deliver Him to Herod and to Pilate, He had already handed Himself over to the righteous Judge, - His life was in the hands of the Father ... and for His Father's plan in the salvation of His people, He endured the cross and despised its shame (Heb. 12:2). *The proven Saviour.*

**THE PROMISED SAVIOUR,** <sup>24</sup> Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree. ... That is the truth of the Gospel, for "in Christ alone my hope is found", "all other ground is sinking sand", **Ps. 40:2** He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock ... <sup>3</sup> And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God. ... He is the promised Saviour upon Whom our Heavenly Father laid all our iniquity (Is. 53:6), - all our past sins, present sins, and future sins ... Jesus died as the sacrificial Lamb of God to cleanse us from our sins eternally. ... Nothing on this earth lasts forever, except what was done at Calvary for our full and complete redemption ... "Jesus paid it all", even after "sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow".

To His startled mother, - when He was soon to enter her womb, - the angel from God declared, **Lk. 1:31** behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: <sup>33</sup> And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

The perfect Saviour, the persecuted Saviour, the proven Saviour, the promised Saviour ... **THE PURPOSE OF THE SAVIOUR,** <sup>24</sup> ... that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. The payment for our sins required His death. His sacrifice was the 'lamb upon the altar', atoning for the sins of His people for time and eternity. He alone did it because only He could do it. "He gave His life on Calvary" ... and the victory in Jesus is the consequence of His victory on the cross for us. When He saves us He changes us, and He keeps us, and He shapes us for sin no longer has dominion over us (Rom. 6:14), - we are a new creation (II Cor. 5:17), - so that when He calls us home to Glory or we meet Him in the air, we shall be ready to be presented before His Father as a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:27). ... And He is looking to that great day too when He gathers unto Himself His redeemed and beloved Bride, **Mal. 3:7** they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels. ... "All His jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own". ... That is when we shall be completely dead to sin and thoroughly alive in Him, **I Peter 3:18** For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.

“Great is the Gospel of our glorious God, where mercy met the anger of God’s rod; a penalty was paid and pardon bought and sinners lost at last to Him were brought” ... the conclusion of which is glory itself. ... **THE PROMOTED SAVIOUR**, when **Phil. 2:10** at the name of Jesus every knee *lshall* bow ... **11** And ... every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ... **I Peter 5:4** when the chief Shepherd shall appear, *land we* shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. ... That will be when King Jesus is sitting upon His holy hill in Zion (Ps. 2:6), Jerusalem, when the LORD (God the Father) will instruct His Son, **Ps. 110:1** Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool ... and He will declare the decree, **Ps. 2:7** Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. **8** Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. **9** Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. ... As Isaac Watts wrote, “His Kingdom will stretch from shore to shore ... Blessings abound where’er He reigns” ... From the dying Saviour on the tree to the all-victorious Sovereign on the throne!

Tell me the story of Jesus,  
Write on my heart every word,  
Tell me the story most precious,  
Sweetest that ever was heard.