

AFTER THE PASSION

Answering Questions People Have After Seeing
Mel Gibson's movie: *The Passion of the Christ*

Pt. 3

THE STING OF THE SCORPION

What was the Purpose of the Scourging of Christ?

Isaiah 53 "Who will ever believe this?"

Matthew 27:15-34 (v. 26 – Pilate releases Bar Abbas to them, and had Jesus scourged.)

Mark 15:15 (Ibid)

John 19:1 "So then, Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, and said, Hail, King of the Jews, and they struck him with their hands."

I. WHAT WAS THE ROMAN SCOURGE?

A. Definition

1. The Roman Scourge (flagrum or flagellum; flagellate) was "a Roman implement for severe bodily punishment. Horace calls it ***the horrible flagellum***. It consisted of a long handle, to which several leather cords or leather thongs were affixed, some of which were weighted with jagged pieces of bone or metal¹, but we'll talk about that in a moment."
2. Synonyms for the scourge are "the terror", threat, to be afflicted, to punish, a bane and curse
3. The word Excoriate comes from scourge and means to strip off flesh, or to flay²
4. A Roman flagrum/flagellum had from as few as 3, to as many as 12 leather straps.³

B. Explanation

1. The Egyptians introduced the Jews to scourging when they were slaves in Egypt, and the Syrians reintroduced true scourging into Jewish life, when Antiochus Epiphanes forced them by means of it to eat swine's flesh.
2. Later it was legalized by Jewish law and became a customary Jewish practice, but administered with a rod, and limited to the maximum amount of 39 stripes, to assure the law of Moses was adhered to (40 stripes, Deuteronomy 25:3).
3. However the Romans had no legal limitations on the number of stripes or lashes they could give a man, leading to many fatalities.⁴

¹ From *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*

² Medical Dictionary Search Engine

³ (Dakes Annotated Reference Bible 1963 Matt. 27:26)

⁴ Harper's Bible Dictionary, pg. 914) "scourging sometimes lead to the death of the condemned person."

4. Cultures who have maintained this type of punishment see far less crimes committed that warrant it, it is feared that much (and that's just with canes)
5. There were three types of scourging:
 - i. "**Fustigatio**"- A beating with rods or canes of a less severe kind accompanied by a magisterial warning for such things as accidental fires, youth gangs, etc.
 - ii. "**Flagalletio**"- A more harsh flogging with rods or whips
 - iii. "**Verberatio**"- A scourging of the most severe kind, done with a particular scourging implement known as "**the Scorpion**" which was imbedded with nails, sharp scraps of bone from the forehead of a ram, and heavy circles of bronze and lead. Often the thongs ended with metal fishhook type spurs that would catch on the skin and pull off large strips of flesh, muscle and fragments of bone. Most of the time the bare rib bones of the victim, and spine would show.
6. It usually preceded crucifixion, and the reason for this is gruesome and awful and I will tell you about it in a minute.
7. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, received the last two.

II. WHY WAS SCOURGING DONE

A. Crimes punishable by Scourging

1. In the first century A.D., it became a method of execution for certain crimes.
2. Crimes that warranted scourging included any crime that brought the death sentence; stealing, adultery, rape, murder, sedition, or military crimes.
3. One of the purposes of the scourge was to punish and frighten disobedient slaves, and AWOL or insubordinate and traitorous soldiers.

B. Those who could and could not be Scourged (Acts 22:24-29)

1. Roman citizens could not be scourged or crucified no matter the crime.
2. Reserved for non-Romans, slaves, traders, prisoners of war, etc...
3. Sycophants (lowest of the low)

C. Other reasons a person was Scourged

1. Its original purpose was not to kill, but to get information and confessions through torture, as well as to humiliate a criminal.
 - a. "**These whips were used primarily as torture instruments to extract information.**"⁵
 - b. Roman historian Livy reported "**The Romans employed scourging as torture or punishment to extract information or testimony**"⁶

⁵ Joel Donohoe, creator of the historically accurate Roman Flagellum. See www.naturesdesigns.com

⁶ (Livy x.9 from the Westminster Dictionary of the Bible pg. 538)

- c. **“Romans inflicted scourging on recalcitrant slaves or prisoners for withholding information and on criminals condemned to death by crucifixion”.**⁷
- d. **“If the victim did not tell the Romans what they believed to be true – the torture continued.”**⁸
- e. A Roman Scourging was considered a long and slow death penalty from which only the gods could save the victim. The victim usually died in 2-3 days from blood loss and infection if nothing else was done to them. The Romans were known (at times) to dip their whips into fresh goats blood to insure and hasten the infection process.

D. Why was Jesus Scourged?

- 1. It could have been an attempt by Pilate, to set Jesus free, by provoking sympathy from the crowd.
- 2. Pilate could have also been trying to get a confession from Jesus that would get him off the hook and give him a reason to crucify him.
- 3. So that the scriptures would be fulfilled (Psalm 129:3; Isaiah 50:6; 52:14)

III. HOW WAS SCOURGING DONE

A. The Post

- 1. “The victim was stretched over a scourging post, or between two posts, and tied to the post in a maximum stretched out position.
- 2. The blows were applied to the back and loins, sometimes even, in the wanton cruelty of the executioner, to the face and the bowels. In the tense position of the body, the effect can easily be imagined [the taut skin would easily burst open].”⁹ The punishment was so hideous that the victim usually fainted and frequently died from it.

B. The Lictors (multiple sets of two each, to refresh each team when they got tired)

- 1. “Getting a licking”

C. The Scourging hall

- 1. The inner court of the Praetorium, or judgment hall where Pilate very probably witnessed the whole thing (probably got blood on him). John 19:1 alludes to Pilate taking Jesus into the Praetorium himself)

D. The Flogging (Paul differentiates “stripes” from “rods” in 2 Corinthians 11:24-25 – “*I have...been **flogged** more severely...²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the **forty lashes minus one**. ²⁵**Three times I was beaten with rods...**”)*

⁷ (New Catholic Encyclopedia 2003 pg. 756)

⁸ Joel Donohoe

⁹ Ibid, medical dictionary

1. Some would think Paul suffered worse at the hands of lictors than Jesus did, but this is not true. He suffered more lashes, perhaps, but not worse lashings, for a number of reasons: *first*, Paul was beaten or scourged by Jews, and so there was a limit on how many stripes he received, where with Jesus, there was no limit – the satanic blood lust on the soldiers was most certainly “otherly” and the actual scourging, vicious, cruel, sadistic – disfiguring him more than other human being; and *two*, it wasn’t the scourge, beatings, hammer and nails or any other kind of physical torture that set Jesus sufferings apart from any body else who ever lived. That which truly set Jesus sufferings apart as unique from any other kind of suffering was "that he sustained in body and soul, the wrath of God against the sins of all mankind. He was experiencing all of His passion knowing he was coming to a point where His heavenly Father would reject Him and leave him utterly alone and abandoned. He was becoming an object of God’s scorn, righteous indignation, and outpoured wrath upon himself, as he took on himself the sins of the whole world.

E. The Scourging

1. Descriptions by historians and researchers

- i. Roman officers [3 teams of two] called lictors who were responsible for dispensing the blows to the victims. These burly lictors had previously received special training so that they knew how to wield the scourge so as to *open* bruises which had already formed from the flogging with rods. The instrument used for scourging was a short, half-whip and half- club device called a flagrum or flagellum to which was attached several braided leather thongs of variable lengths, held apart from each other in a birdcage like shape by a leather thong that went around the middle like the one I have here this morning. Lead weights, hollow in the middle with slots on their sides, were affixed to the end of each thong, and sheep bone or iron balls were inserted into the hollow of the lead tips so that their sharp edges would protrude out of the slits in their sides. The ends of each thong, when swung with full force against the neck, shoulders, back, sides, chest, abdomen, thighs and buttocks, with complete follow through, would plough 12 to 15 inch long furrows at the point of strike. The particular scourge I had especially made for me this morning was the afore-said **scorpion**. (Pass the scorpion scourge)

- ii. The person to be scourged was stripped of his clothing and his hands are tied to a post. Roman soldiers repeatedly struck the victim's back, buttocks and legs and many times would turn him over and do the same to the front of his torso as well, with their full force causing **deep contusions**. As you can

see, a 12 year old girl could cause severe injury if she scourged a grown man with the scorpion.

iii. **Lacerations** from repeated blows cut into the underlying muscles and rip the overlying skin of the back to a point where it hangs in ribbons of bleeding flesh. The capillaries and veins were often torn causing intense bleeding, at times spurting blood if an artery was cut, and not infrequently, leaving the entrails and other organs exposed. Even if the victim fainted, and the lictors could feel a pulse and detect sufficient respiration, the beating would continue with them unconscious.

iv. Once the centurion in charge determined that the prisoner was near death, only then beating was halted. As I said before, the ribs and spinal column were also, often exposed as well.

v. Josh McDowell wrote,
“The small balls of lead first produce large, deep bruises which are broken open by subsequent blows. Finally the skin of the back is hanging in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue. When it is determined by the centurion in charge that the prisoner is near death, the beating is finally stopped.”

vi. Josephus records that he himself had some of his opponents in Galilee... scourged ***until their entrails were visible***. The case of Jesus bar Hanan, the prophet of woe, whom the procurator Albinus had scourged, ***was scourged until his skeleton laid bare...***

vii. Third century Greek historian Eusebius wrote, ***“their bodies were frightfully lacerated. Christian martyrs in Smyrna were so torn by the scourges that their veins were laid bare, and the inner muscles, sinews, even entrails, were exposed”***.¹⁰

viii. Pastor and theologian John MacArthur wrote this about scourging,

“From what we understand from historians, the back of the victim was torn and lacerated to such an extent that even the deep-seated veins and arteries, and sometimes the entrails and inner organs, were exposed. The scourging resulted in a total shredding of the [the person’s torso].”

¹⁰ (Westminster Dictionary of the Bible page 538

ix. The Romans had to develop a **shorter flagrum** to prevent premature death from accidentally cutting a neck vein, major arteries, or completely disemboweling the condemned.

x. Eusebius called scourging *the intermediate death*

2. Descriptions by Medical Doctors

i. Dr. C. Truman Davis, a medical doctor, after years of studying the crucifixion of Christ through the eyes of a coroner or medical doctor, wrote,

“The heavy whip is brought down with full force again and again across the shoulders, back and legs. At first, the heavy thongs cut through the skin only. As the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles.”

ii. Another physician, Dr. Keith Maxwell, said-
“...the idea of the lead weight [and other embedded sharp objects] was to lift the [lacerated] skeletal muscle out [of the wound opening]. Imagine having a cut on your skin with an inch of muscle pulled out through the cut, exposed to the night air. We see this sometimes in stab wounds or when people are stabbed with sharp objects like sticks and the muscles are pulled back through the skin. The purpose this served in the scourging was, that as the victim hung on the cross in the heat of the day, birds could alight on him and actually peck and pull at these pieces of muscle, just like a robin trying to pull a worm out of the ground.”

iii. Medical language defines “wounds” as divisions of the soft parts of the body by a mechanical force applied externally.¹¹

iv. Webster’s dictionary says this about wounds... ***‘An injury to the body that involves laceration or breaking of the skin.’***

v. The wounds of Christ can be classified by 5 characteristics as **(1) contused; (2) lacerated wounds; (3) penetrating (4) perforated wounds; (5) and incised wounds.**¹²

¹¹ H.A. Cameron, THE WOUNDS OF CHRIST, a sermon

¹² Ibid

vi. When Isaiah foresaw and forespoke 750 years before the passion of Christ that He would be "wounded" (Isa. 53:5), there was included in that word each kind of these kinds of wounds, as we may readily see from the examination of the scriptural records concerning the sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. **The contused wound**, is a wound produced by a blunt instrument. Such would result from a blow by the rod, as foretold in Micah 5:1, "***They shall strike the Judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek,***" and fulfilled, as recorded in Matthew 26:67, "***They strike Him with rods***" (Newberry margin), Matthew 27:30, "***they took the reed, and struck Him on the head,***" and John 18:22, "***one of the officers struck Him with a rod***" (Newberry margin). These violent acts against Jesus were done with clubs, fists, and open palms, as well as, perhaps, kicks, causing ***contusions*** all over his body.
- b. **The penetrating wound**, a deep wound caused by a sharp pointed instrument. This kind of wound was inflicted upon the head of Christ by the crown of thorns. The Jerusalem thorn or Christ Thorn, bore thorns four to 6 inches long, and, as the soldiers pressed down that cruel crown upon His head (Matt. 27:29; John 19:2), a circle of wounds ensued, wounds which were deepened by the blows of the rod they used to club Jesus on his face and head (Matt. 27:30).
- c. **The perforating wound**, from the Latin word, meaning to 'pierce through,' "They pierced My hands and My feet" (Psalm 22:16). We'll go over this next week when we talk about crucifixion.
- d. **The incised wound**, A cut produced by a sharp edged instrument, such as the spear thrust into Jesus torso cavity.
- e. The whole inventory of wounds described by the medical community was included in that little word Isaiah used when he spoke of the wounds of Christ.
- f. But the **lacerated wound**, is the wound we are interested in today, which is produced by a ripping and tearing implement or weapon such as what resulted from the Roman scourge
 1. **The Scorpion** scourge with it's long wooden, cord wrapped handle, at the end of which was the leather thongs of differing lengths, each one

tipped with lead, with an opening into which was inserted pieces of bone, glass, metal, pottery, fulfilled the scriptures that spoke of the persons back as if it were a freshly ploughed field - ***"The plowers plowed upon my back. They made long their furrows"*** (Psa. 129:3).

2. As the bone/glass/pottery/ shards dug in under the surface of the skin, the skilled, trained Roman legionnaire would whip his wrist and literally gauge out pieces of skeletal muscle up through the skin, leaving small ribbons of muscle, about two inches long, and $\frac{3}{4}$ to one inch deep, hanging through the skin." To put that into medical terms, ***that's a cut that takes about twenty stitches to close.***
3. Dr. Keith Maxwell described these wounds this way:
"With one blow [from a 12 thonged scorpion scourge], one Roman legionnaire could inflict enough wounds to take two hundred forty or more stitches to close. If you multiply that times [the Jewish minimum] thirty-nine, those two Roman legionnaires inflicted enough lacerations to take about 2,880 stitches to close [and that's not accounting for the fact that the Romans probably scourged Jesus many times the Jewish minimum]."
4. This same doctor continued,
I've seen people who've gone through the windshield of a car or wrecked a motorcycle into a barbed wire fence, and I've still never seen anyone that tattered up in any of my medical experience. This gives you an idea of the amount of physical trauma that was inflicted upon Jesus just from the scourging."
5. The torture, the lacerations, and the consequent loss of blood, often resulted in the death of the victim, but scourging, while part of our Lord's sufferings, was not to be the means of His death. Thus the prophetic word of Isaiah

50:6, "***I gave my back to the smiters,***" finds its fulfillment as recorded in Matthew 27:26, and in John 19:1, where we read, "***Then Pilate therefore took Jesus and scourged Him.***" And let us remember that upon His lacerated back, the cross was laid as he went forth to the place called Calvary.

- i. ***All Roman scourging whips had either glass, nails or jagged sheep bone embedded in various size lead tips***¹³
- ii. ***A Roman flagrum had from as few as 3, to as many as 12 leather straps.***¹⁴
- iii. ***A Roman flagrum had a circular, horizontal leather-connecting strap to hold each of the 3-12 vertical straps in their proper place.*** Each strap must be variegated (different lengths) and held in place by the horizontal strap, just like the one we have here today, to keep them from becoming a tangled mess that would eventually destroy itself with every lash. Since fresh blood is very slick at first, and then sticky, if the leather thongs were not separated from one another, they would end up sticking together and begin tearing into one another. Can you imagine an expert Roman Lictor having to stop between each lash to untangle his blood soaked whip all the while trying not to cut his own fingers on the slippery, hidden glass tips?¹⁵ (pass it around)

F. The Scourging of Christ

1. John 19:1 uses the Greek word ***mastigo*** which is the general word for beating as with rods or canes.
2. Matthew and Mark use the Greek word ***flagello*** which was used for the more severe and cruel Roman scourge administered to by the "**Scorpion**"
3. Most definitely more than 39 lashes with flog and scourge were perpetrated against our Lord (the Roman guards saw it as a competition to see how long the person could endure before they confessed (spilled their guts) or passed out or died; no confession

¹³ these descriptions of the scourge have been taken from Joel Donohoe's excellent article on the Roman Scourge at www.naturesdesigns.com.

¹⁴ Ibid, quoting from Dakes Annotated Reference Bible 1963 Matt. 27:26

¹⁵ Ibid

- prolonged the ordeal and Jesus had nothing to confess which provoked the guards to be even more cruel and violent with him.
4. The previous emotional trauma of the garden further weakened him and worsened the ordeal (the Gospel writers tell us he almost had a fatal nervous breakdown)
 5. No sleep for 36 hours further weakened Christ
 6. Hematidrosis (loss of blood) and Hemahidrosis (loss of bodily fluids) worsened the trauma (dehydration); and Jesus was never given anything to drink until sour wine at Golgotha. His thirst had to be indescribable.
 7. Beatings by Jewish guards and Roman soldiers multiplied the trauma and exhaustion.
 8. Crown of thorns worsened the trauma.
 9. Beatings with rod afterwards worsened Jesus' physical state.
 10. Woolen scarlet/purple robe put on and torn off reopened wounds, worsening the trauma and caused blood to start flowing again.
 11. The mockery and spitting, and utter lack of pity of mercy by both Jewish guards and Roman soldiers further added to his emotional state.
 - 12.** Isaiah 52:14 tells us Jesus appearance after all this ***was marred beyond recognition***
 - 13.** Psalm 129:3 – ***“The plowers plowed on my back; they made their furrows long.”***
 - 14.** Isaiah also prophesied of the extent of our Lord's injuries when he said in Isaiah 50:6 - ***“I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who plucked out my beard; I did not hide my face from shame and spitting.”***

IV. WHAT AM I TO DO IN LIGHT OF THE SCOURGING OF CHRIST?

- A. Paul wrote that Christians are not properly prepared to participate in the Eucharist unless they properly discerned the Lord's supper
 1. 1 Corinthians 11:29 - *“For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing [discerning] the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.”*
 2. Paul tells us that the key to maximizing the benefits of the most important sacrament of the Christian church, the Eucharist, is to rightly estimate or esteem what these symbols represent (the wounds of Christ, the currency of our redemption)
 3. Jesus said if we are unwilling to eat His flesh and drink His blood we cannot be His (digesting, assimilating the weightiness of Him; the laying down of His very life, the breaking of His body, the pouring out of His precious blood)

B. Isaiah 53 tells us He was wounded *for* our transgressions, bruised *for* our iniquity, surely he bore our sorrows, and by His stripes we are healed. The Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all. The word “*for*” is the key to understanding the purpose of Jesus scourge.

1. The preposition “*for*” means “*on the behalf of*”
2. Romans 5:8 “***But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***”
3. 2 Corinthians 5:14 : “***One died for all.***”
4. Mark 10:45 “***For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.***”
5. 1 Timothy 2:6 “***For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all***”
6. He is suffering the penalty of our sins on our behalf and in our place. What was happening to Christ every step of the way to the cross and on the cross (made sin, was cursed) was intended for us, to be done to us, to be suffered by us in payment for our sins and offenses toward God. But what happened instead?
7. 2 Corinthians 5:21 “***For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***”
8. Galatians 3:13 “***Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us.***”
9. What he was going through each step of the way to the cross and on the cross was done **on our behalf, and intended for us, for our benefit.**
10. **The mystery of exchange** takes place in the lives of everyone who will surrender in faith to Christ: he takes your curse, you His blessing; he removes our sin from us and puts it on himself, we receive His righteousness and are put right with God.
11. Therefore, the preposition “*for*” means that **Christ voluntarily accepted the legal liability for our sins.**
12. This is “redemptive” and “substitutionary” language. **He took our place, bore our sin, became our curse, endured our penalty, paid our debt, died our death.**
13. The difference between passing by a common laborer for the city, shoulder high in a dirty ditch on a hot, humid, nasty day digging and doing back-breaking work, and passing by your father or brother or friend doing the same thing and knowing they are doing it to work off a penalty for something you did. Could you continue just walking by and say nothing? How would you feel?
14. All that you saw in the movie, *The Passion*, **was supposed to happen to you.** You were suppose to experience the dread and

horror and emotional breakdown and near fatal fear and grief Jesus experienced in the garden that night; you were supposed to have your surface capillaries burst, so that you sweat great drops of sweat mixed with blood; you should have been arrested, beaten, mocked, spit upon, humiliated, and beaten some more. You should have been taken and led into the Praetorium and stripped naked, and made to bend over and tied in a stretched out and entirely exposed position, and it was you who should have had the hide and muscle and bone flayed off of you by the Roman scorpion scourge until your bowels were exposed. You should have been made to wear the purple robe, crown of thorns, and then be beaten with a club some more, and you should have been presented before the people wet with your slick, and sticky blood mixed with the foul spit of the Roman soldiers, as you endured their mockery and sadism. If you do not know this and are humbled by it to the core of your soul, then you cannot understand or properly estimate the price Jesus paid for your unthankful, hardhearted, wicked to the core soul. No wonder you could watch zombie like, the movie *The Passion*, without so much as a wimper or gasp. You haven't properly weighed the weight of your own sins and the offense you are to God.

15. But what does the scourging of Christ tell us?

“He was wounded **for** our transgressions; He was bruised **for** our iniquity; surely he bore our sorrows, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us have turned to our own ways; but the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”
Isaiah 53:4-6

C. Therefore, in light of knowing these things, what should we do?

1. Repent of any apathy, doubt, or self-centered entitlements (Paul said he beat his body and brought it under subjection to what he knew to be true). You are responsible to bring your heart condition into careful and painful self-scrutiny. (Razor blade). In light of the sufferings of Christ and the reason for his suffering, there ought to be in every baptized Christian a radical departure from the selfish appeal of our ungodly culture that constantly attempts to goad us and sell us on newer, bigger, better, best. You'd think the world revolves around our fulfillment and happiness. But the Son of God left His Father's throne in order to take upon himself human flesh, live in poverty, and suffer sacrificially for things we have done. Christianity is not about being satisfied that Jesus suffered so we can be rich, because we are Kings Kids, etc...The early church did not have this attitude. The first Christians felt honored to live as Jesus lived, and suffer as Jesus suffered. Anything other than that was a great blessing, but they sought after something more valuable: “to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, And the fellowship of His suffering.” In light of the sufferings of Christ, scourge your own stiff neck with the word of the

living God, you double minded. Conviction is supposed to be painful. Discover the passion of Conviction. Allow yourself, even demand it of yourself, that you be cut to the quick and pierced to the very heart with these sacred things. (razor blade and finger)

2. Attach greater worth to the price Jesus paid for your redemption, forgiveness, justification, relationship with God, eternal life, etc...and walk lightly in reverential awe in light of it.
3. Grow in your understanding of the gravity of sin, and stop playing around with it, intellectualizing it, treating even the smallest offense as some light thing.
4. Grow in your understanding of the Love of God in Christ. It is indeed a bloody, gory, gaping wound of a word. It is always the color of blood! It has more than 2,880 letters in it! One for every stitch it would take to close his scourged body! My God, people!
5. Grow in your gratefulness and in the giving of thanks to the Godhead for the gift of the Son of God as the sacrifice for your sins.
6. Grow in your commitment to self-sacrifice for the cause of Christ. Demand more out of yourself in relation to ministry, service, and the mission and work of the church. No longer neglect the house of God nor the ministry of Christ.

i. Paul said, ***“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”*** 1 Corinthians 6:17-18

ii. Peter said, ***“Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. ¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*** 1 Peter 1:17-18

7. Grow in your understanding of what Paul meant when he wrote that our chief goal should be to know Jesus, ***“and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering.”*** Philippians 2:10. Stop thinking so highly of yourself. Jesus was meek and lowly.
8. Begin to build bridges of love by praying for your circle of lost friends and family, and reaching out and extending and spending your life for the cause of evangelism and the salvation of souls.
9. Have faith for healing and wholeness of mind and body, for “by His wounds you are healed.” It is in the lacerations of his body, the holes in his feet and hands, the pierced side, the crown of thorns, the swollen and beaten face, the broken heart, that you will finally lose your own

self-centered pride and entitlements, and find your true self, made in the image of God in the process.

*"It was the sight of Thy dear cross
First weaned my soul from earthly things,
And taught me to esteem as dross
The mirth of fools, the pomp of kings."*