

TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CURED

I. 1 Peter 2:22-25 & 1 John 1:1-10

A. Let's pretend I'm a doctor and you come into my office with some painful and troubling symptoms and you ask me to help you. So I run a bunch of tests and exploratory procedures and I discover you have a disease that is terminal. But instead of breaking the news to you, I send you home and say you're okay. Or perhaps I'm afraid to tell you what's wrong because I don't want to upset you. Or worse yet I fail to tell you that though your prognosis is grave, there's actually a cure and the cure is expensive but the cost is completely covered. What kind of doctor would you think me to be? What could be more irresponsible, or deplorable, or sinister than a doctor who failed to tell you the truth about your condition and the available remedy?

B. I have bad news and good news for you all: First the bad news: You were born with a terminal disease. Now the Good News: there's a cure--His name is Jesus!

C. So what are the symptoms? Rebellion towards God. Hatred and anger towards Him or towards others. Pride and selfishness. Idolatry. Infidelity. Immorality. Thievery. Dishonesty. Jealousy and envy. Stinginess. Lust and greed. Slander and gossip. Vengeance and violence. Un-forgiveness. Addiction. Abuse. Self-righteousness. Judgmentalism. Hypocrisy. Condescension. Deceitfulness. Manipulation and control. In summation, your symptoms reflect darkness...

D. **1 Peter 2:22-25 (ESV) declares your cure in a few sentences:** *"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."*

1) **Listen to V24 in the HCSB:** *"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; you have been healed by His wounds."* **(Cured by His death of the cross!)**

2) **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)** *"God made Him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."*

E. So what if you have an honest and reputable doctor and instead of withholding your diagnosis, he tells it to you straight. He let's you know that you have a disease that will take your life and there is only one cure but this cure, though expensive, has been paid in full. But you decide to reject it. You choose to forego the remedy and die. What does that say about you?

F. Of course the goal is not just to get the illness healed, not just to bring remedy to the disease. The goal is something far greater than mere survival--it's wellness for Divine fellowship and God's eternal purposes. (Share the Kellan Shipman story.)

G. **1 John 1:1-10** tells us more about the cure...

1) **V1-3** *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."* **(The goal of the Gospel is not merely for long term survival away from hell! John & Co find joy in proclaiming this Good News so the Fellowship they enjoy is constantly growing, in size and depth.)**

2) **V5** *"This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."* **(God is holy, righteous, and good; He is sovereign; He is all-knowing and all-powerful; He is pure and moral and without fault; and He loves us beyond all measure! God is light! Guess how the coming city of God will be lit? Rev. 21:23 says: "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.")**

3) **V6** *"f we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."* **(If the sun is shining on the moon, the moon will not reflect darkness. "Wake up O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!")**

4) **V7-10** *"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."* **(Jesus' blood paid the penalty for our sins. God is just, He does not**

make us pay the penalty His Son has already paid. He forgives us. We confess initially when we are saved and we confess daily because we are ever dealing with indwelling sin. Confession keeps us in fellowship. Confessing sins is what genuine Christians do because His light is shining upon us, exposing and dispelling our darkness.)

H. One more time, the bad news and good news: The bad news: You were born with a terminal disease. The Good News: there's a cure--His name is Jesus!

I. To the *fellowship of the cured*, I have further news, both bad and good: There are people all around you with a terminal disease. (*Some are your family members and closest friends!*) The good news is you possess the knowledge of the cure, the complete remedy. Please don't keep it to yourselves. Let the sick be made well, let the healings come, and let the *fellowship of the cured*, grow, and grow, and grow...

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[1 Peter 2:22-25 \(ESV\)](#)

22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. **23** When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. **24** He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. **25** For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

[1 Peter 2:24 \(HCSB\)](#)

24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; you have been healed by His wounds.

[2 Corinthians 5:21 \(NIV\)](#)

21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

[1 John 1:1-10 \(ESV\)](#)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life— **2** the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— **3** that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. **4** And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. **5** This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

[Film Clips & Other Links](#)

"This Little Light of Mine" - Billy Graham, George Beverly Shea, & Cliff Barrows
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISvQzMpe5Q0>

"In The Light" This Version Performed by The Reckoning
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_O7q48BMWA

"I Saw The Light" & "I'll Fly Away" - David Crowder Band
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQck71sYxPs>

"My Lighthouse" by Rend Collective Experiment
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fiE5J_wwmY

"We Are" by Kari Jobe
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B07iK9uh9qY>

The Remedy: The Gospel of Jesus Christ - Matt Chandler (Full Sermon)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6ZdBJGOzQw>

Bonus Stuff

Isaiah 53:1-12 (ESV)

1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? **2** He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. **3** He was despised and rejected by mankind, a Man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem. **4** Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. **5** But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. **6** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. **7** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth. **8** By oppression and judgment He was taken away. Yet who of His generation protested? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He was punished. **9** He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. **10** Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the Lord makes His life an offering for sin, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand. **11** After He has suffered, He will see the light of life and be satisfied; by His knowledge My Righteous Servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities. **12** Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Quote by John Newton

"He who is duly sensible of the importance and difficulty of winning souls, will find but little leisure for sorting shells."

Quote by Dave Hunt

"Our love for God and our appreciation of His love and forgiveness will be in proportion to the recognition of our sin and unworthiness."

Quote by Erwin Lutzer

"Forgiveness is always free. But that doesn't mean that confession is always easy. Sometimes it is hard. Incredibly hard. It is painful to admit our sins and entrust ourselves to God's care."

Quote by D.L. Moody

"A holy life will produce the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine."

In Evil Long I Took Delight

By John Newton (1725-1807) Former slave ship captain & author of *"Amazing Grace."*

In evil long I took delight,
Unawed by shame or fear,
Till a new object struck my sight,
And stopp'd my wild career:
I saw One hanging on a Tree
In agonies and blood,
Who fix'd His languid eyes on me.
As near His Cross I stood.

Sure never till my latest breath,
Can I forget that look:
It seem'd to charge me with His death,
Though not a word He spoke:
My conscience felt and own'd the guilt,
And plung'd me in despair:
I saw my sins His Blood had spilt,
And help'd to nail Him there.

Alas! I knew not what I did!
But now my tears are vain:
Where shall my trembling soul be hid?
For I the Lord have slain!
A second look He gave, which said,

"I freely all forgive;
This blood is for thy ransom paid;
I die that thou may'st live."

Thus, while His death my sin displays
In all its blackest hue,
Such is the mystery of grace,
It seals my pardon too.
With pleasing grief, and mournful joy,
My spirit now if fill'd,
That I should such a life destroy,
Yet live by Him I kill'd!

The Light of the World

By R.C. Sproul

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"
([John 8:12](#)). - [John 8:12-30](#)

Many opinions about the person of Christ circulated during His public ministry. Some thought He was the great eschatological (end-times) prophet ([John 7:40](#)), while others thought He was indeed the Messiah (7:41). These opinions almost caused Jesus to be arrested because of the chaos they caused (7:41-43). But "no one laid hands on Him" because "His hour had not yet come" (7:30, 44). The second "I AM" saying of Jesus follows these events. Face-to-face with an adulteress and Pharisees, He declares, "I am the light of the world" (8:12).

Light and darkness are important motifs found throughout Scripture. Light is often used to describe God and his glory. In his epistles, John tells us that "... God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all" ([1 John 1:5](#)). Jesus, by calling Himself the light of the world, is once again making reference to His deity. Lest there should be any doubt about His claim, there are two other places in the gospels where it is clear that Jesus shares the exact same light as God the Father. The first of these is found at the Transfiguration ([Matt. 17:1-13](#)) where Jesus radiates the refulgent glory of God from within. That Jesus shares the same light with His Father is also made clear in John 1. We are told that the Word is God (1:1) and that this Word who became incarnate in Christ Jesus is the Light shining in the darkness (1:4).

Jesus' reference to darkness in 8:12 is notable because the Bible often uses darkness as a metaphor for spiritual blindness ([Ps. 107:10](#); [John 3:19](#)). Such blindness cannot subdue the glory of God in Jesus Christ because the darkness will never overcome the light ([John 1:5](#)).

Though the darkness of sin will not finally obscure Christ's glory, some men just will not see who Christ is. In [John 8:13-20](#), the Pharisees rejected Christ's testimony about Himself because they said it lacked the second witness required by the law in order to verify its truth. Jesus answered them saying that even if His witness were alone, it would be sufficient because He knows where He came from and where He is going. Jesus came to fulfill the law, and He told the Pharisees that there really are two witnesses, the Father and the Son. The Pharisees, however, missed this because they were concerned only with the details of the law and not the Person to whom the details of the law pointed.

Coram Deo

When we read the Scriptures, it can be easy to become so consumed with the details and intricacies of its requirements that we forget that the whole Bible points to Christ. As you read and study the Bible, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see how all of the details point us to Jesus.

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