

1 Peter

Chapter 2

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1Peter 2:1-3

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

The “therefore” refers to the preceding material and specifically to 1:21 concerning their obedience to the truth of the gospel and their being purified. He states that if indeed they have tasted the kindness of the Lord they will then do all that he states. He is probably referring to their baptism when they made a public statement of their faith, declared themselves dead to their former way of life and made a new beginning of repentance in their faith. Malice is a general term that could include all evils. Their stated goal was to remove any guile that is often translated as “deceit”. They were also to put aside any hypocrisy or spiritual insincerity. Their new status as children of God is to be who they really are now and not something they are pretending to be so as to falsely receive membership in the community of believers. They are not to have any envy of others for they now have full forgiveness of sins and even have the righteousness of Jesus Christ before the Father. Of whom could any Christian be envious? Slander refers primarily to defamation of character and is commonly part of gossip.

Babies just coming out of the womb long for the pure milk of their mother and new Christians have just been born again to reality and they should strongly desire to be fed the word of God. Believers should also desire pure milk meaning the pure gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that is undefiled or uncontaminated by any false teachers. Jesus also stated that His disciples should not depend totally upon material things but to live by the word of God: “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” (Matt 4:4) Peter is not urging the new believers to teach but to learn the truth so that they will grow in salvation, referring to sanctification. As Christians spiritually mature, there will later be a time when they will need to study the Word deeper and not depend upon a basic understanding of God’s word:

Heb. 5:12-14 For when for the time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.” For every one that uses milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe . But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Peter’s teaching about Christians growing in spirituality is similar to the teaching of John in his first epistle concerning tests for whether or not one is a Christian. Christians will pursue

righteousness (1:13-21/1 John 2:3), love fellow Christians (1:22-25/1 John 2:7-1), and desire proper doctrine (2:1-3/1 John 2:18-27).

1Peter 2:4-8

And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed." This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone," and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

Jesus is referred to as a living stone meaning that He alone is the stabilizing influence for His chosen disciples. His rejection refers to the nation Israel rejecting Him (Acts 22:22-23; 3:13-15) as well as by most of the world (John 1:3-4). All Christians come to Jesus for salvation but they also are always in the process of coming to Him more fully all their lives. Jesus was choice and precious in the sight of God: "*And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" (Matt 3:17)

Paul also referred to Jesus as the chief corner stone upon which His church is being built:

Eph. 2:20-22 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

In verse 6 Peter quotes from Isaiah 28:16 and the concept is the construction of a building. Obtaining and moving the corner stone took a lot of time, money, and equipment for it was imperative that it be perfect for the remainder of the building depended upon it. History records one corner stone that was 69 feet by 12 feet by 13 feet. Peter is encouraging the people to properly build upon Jesus Christ as the corner stone Who is immovable and unchangeable. Each person must build his worldview upon this foundation for the entire understanding and works based upon it will be judged:

1 Cor 3:9-15 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any

man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

But Christians are not supposed to function only as individuals as Peter wrote that they are being built into a spiritual house. They have individual and collective functioning as the temple of God. The OT temples were shadows of the NT dwelling of God with His people. God no longer dwells in such manmade structures:

Acts 7:48 "However, the Most High does not dwell in *houses* made by *human* hands; as the prophet says:

Acts 17:24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

1Cor 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

1 Cor 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

We can then think of a new stone being added to the spiritual house of God when a person is born again. Paul called this spiritual temple the household or church of God: "*but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*" (1 Tim 3:15)

Paul also wrote that Christians are to present themselves as a living sacrifice: "*I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*" (Rom 12:1) A new order was created by God called the "priesthood of all believers" that was redeveloped during the Reformation. This priesthood means that each Christian has individual access to God as he serves Him individually and collectively and does not need a priest other than the great high priest, Jesus Christ:

Heb 4:14-16 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

With Jesus Christ as their foundation no Christian will be disappointed for all his hope will be based upon the promises and commandments of Him. However Peter issues two warnings for those who do not build upon His foundation. The first warning is from Psa. 118:22 for those who reject the corner stone since their building will be improperly constructed. The second warning is from Isa 8:14 where people are portrayed as stumbling over the corner stone due to their disobedience. Peter adds that they were appointed for this doom and he is probably referring to the Israelites who tried to obtain righteousness by works:

Rom 9:30-33 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, "behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in him will not be disappointed."

Double predestination, or preterition, is a hard concept but one that is taught in Scripture such as:

Rom 9:17-18 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "for this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth." So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

Salvation is totally by faith and God gives saving faith to those He chooses. We do not know who those people are so we are to witness to all people and leave salvation to the Lord.

1Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Peter contrasts those who were disobedient from the Christians to whom he is writing since they are obedient. He attaches descriptions to these chosen Gentiles that had previously been assigned to Israel (Exodus 19:5-6; Deut 4:20; 7:6; Isa 43:20-21). He again emphasizes that they are chosen by God and that they are also a royal priesthood so that they do not need to have an intermediate to the Father other than Jesus Christ. God had similarly chosen Israel:

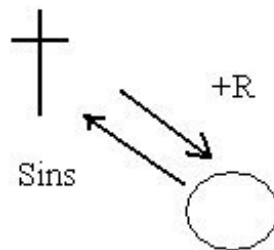
Isa 43:21 "The people whom I formed for Myself Will declare My praise."

Exodus 19:6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.

Peter also writes that they are a holy nation. The word "nation" means people as an ethnic group and such had been an OT statement of Israel. However Israel forfeited that role:

Rom 11:20-21 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either.

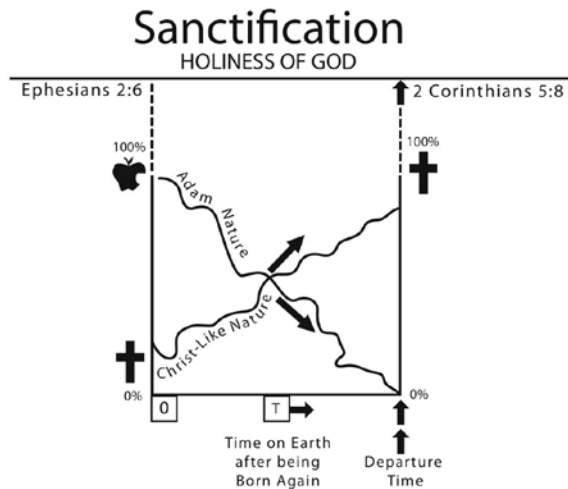
God's act of double imputation makes it possible for all of God's chosen people to be a royal priesthood and a holy nation. This act by God can be visualized by:



2 Cor 5:21
Double Imputation

All the sins of God's chosen people are placed into the account of Jesus and He took the wrath of God for all of those sins. The symbol "+R" represents the righteousness of Jesus Christ that is placed into the account of the Christian. Thus, before God, the Christian has no sins and only the

righteousness of Jesus Christ in his account. As long as the person lives he will then be working out that justification in his life as can be seen by the following diagram where the zero time represents the time when the person was regenerated (born-again). The person's sin nature is then gradually decreasing as his Christ nature is gradually increasing.



They are also God's own possession and that word means acquired with a price for the price was great:

Tit 2:11-14 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Peter then clearly states the reason for God's actions toward them was so that they would proclaim the excellences of God. There is no greater privilege than to be chosen to proclaim the gospel message to the world. The chosen people of God were called out of darkness into the light as also stated by Paul: *"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* (Col 1:13-14) Without this transfer from darkness into light people cannot understand the truth, much less apply it:

2Cor. 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1Cor. 2:14-16 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For who has known the mind of the lord, that he will instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Verse 10 verifies that Peter is writing to Gentiles for they were once without mercy but have now been included in the covenant of grace:

Eph. 2:11-13 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands-- remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

1Peter 2:11-12

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Peter identifies the recipients as beloved so he states that they are fellow believers in Jesus Christ. He also states that they are aliens and strangers meaning that they are now citizens of heaven and no longer strangers and aliens of heaven:

Phil. 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Eph. 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

The Swedish word for someone living in Sweden but who is not a Swedish citizen is "utlander" meaning someone from out of the land. He urges them to continue in the sanctification process as they consider themselves dead to their sin nature as also urged by Paul:

Rom. 6:11-13 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Col. 3:5-7 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

There is indeed a war going on within the Christian as the sin nature is still present and the devil is still working to try to make the new man fail in his walk. He tells them to demonstrate to fellow Gentiles that their character has been transformed so they can be excellent examples to them and give them no cause to slander them or call them hypocrites. The secret to abstaining from evil behavior is to walk in the Spirit: "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." (Gal 5:16) Pagans made many false charges against Christians in the first century such as being atheists since they did not worship idols (Acts 5:29), cannibalism because of a misunderstanding of their observance of the Lord's Supper, rebellion against the Roman government since they would not proclaim Caesar as Lord, and not participating in community festivals:

Col 2:16-17 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

They are to behave in good deeds that the Gentiles can find worthy of credit. The Christian lifestyle should bring praise to them rather than dishonor. Many church members seem to forget that they represent Jesus Christ in the world. The hope would be that God would use the good deeds of the Christians as a witness to the world and perhaps God would grant them repentance so they would also be able to glorify God for their salvation.

1Peter 2:13-17

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

Christians should be the best members of a society unless asked to disobey God:

Act 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

Rom 13:1-5 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

Our submission is "for the Lord's sake" meaning that we should properly represent Jesus Christ to the world. Since God is the source of every authority in the world we would be in rebellion against God if we were not in submission to those in authority. Again we should always remember that we can disobey worldly authority if it asks that we disobey God as Peter is quoted in Acts 5:29. Later in this letter Peter will deal with those who persecute those doing God's will. There is much ignorance of Christianity in the world and Christians can silence much of that talk with proper behavior. Christians are free from bondage to sin and their behavior should represent that freedom appropriately since we are also bondslaves of God.

Peter then gives four commands to help the readers behave properly in the world. They are to honor all men as creations of God and in whom God may act to grant repentance. They are to love fellow Christians who are brothers and sisters in Christ:

1Jn 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

1Jn 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1Jn 4:20-21 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Third they are to fear God. We are to honor those in authority such as a king but not fear them:

Matt 10:28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

2Co 5:11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

2Co 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Rev 14:7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

1Peter 2:18-20

Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

The NT does not argue against slavery, which was very different in the time of the apostles than in more recent times. People became slaves in various ways: through war, bankruptcy, sale of themselves to get ahead in the world, sale by parents, or by birth. They could then buy their freedom by doing extra work, doing more work than required, or someone else could buy their freedom. The Bible's emphasis is on our spiritual state and not our physical state for the former influences our eternity. Everyone is either a slave to the devil or a slave to God (Eph. 1-2) The code of behavior for slaves or masters is the same and that is to do everything as unto the Lord:

Eph. 6:5-8 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

The slave is to behave in the same Godly way toward good and bad masters. But masters also have codes of behavior toward their slaves: "And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him." (Eph. 6:9)

Today the emphasis is on people's "rights" but God is concerned with how we interact with others as noted above rather than our standing up for our "rights". There are many instances when employees are mistreated in the workplace but God can be glorified in those

situations when the Christian behaves toward the employer as though the person were Jesus Christ. The ruler over Paul was Nero when he wrote Rom 13 that we quoted earlier. It is not easy to respond properly to those who mistreat us and do not reward us as we think should be done. But Christians have to attempt to have the mind of God and His perspective.

Peter then makes it clear that there is no credit possible for someone who sins in the workplace and is properly punished. Stealing in the workplace is very common and if a Christian steals and then is caught and punished there is only shame toward him and the God that he represents. But it is very difficult to be accused of doing something wrong when you have not been guilty. This has often been a pet peeve of mine and I know that it is difficult to react properly when that happens. There are times when one needs to defend himself when falsely accused but one should do so with a Christian attitude for God has the ultimate authority and we need to trust Him particularly in such difficult situations. It always pleases God for His children to deal patiently with adversity:

2Cor. 12:9-10 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Mat 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Christians should always regard trials in the workplace as an opportunity for spiritual growth and for evangelism. God does not allow His people to remain in the world so that they will have great material successes but to glorify Him and to be used as a tool for His purposes.

1Peter 2:21-23

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

God's people have been called to the example of Jesus Christ. He suffered unjustly and showed the example for others to live as aliens and strangers in this world. Jesus committed no sins but lived a life of total submission to the Father. The purpose of His unjust suffering was so that we could be free from sin and become slaves to righteousness:

Col 1:22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--

Gal 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"-- in order

that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Gal 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Paul wrote that the world has been crucified to him and he has been crucified to the world. There then is no pull of the world affecting his attitude and he is dead to all such influences. As each of us progresses along the sanctification route in life we begin to approach this attitude also.

Jesus is then our example: "*For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;*" (Heb. 12:3-4) Peter wanted his readers to be ready to face impending tribulations with the attitude of Jesus. By focusing on the ultimate experience of Jesus the readers would be better prepared to suffer also.

There was no deceit in Him and even in His reviling He did not revile in return. Deceit is usually manifested by vocalization of sinful thoughts but Jesus was without sin so his mouth could not utter deceit. Being reviled means suffering under a barrage of verbal abuse and Jesus silently put up with such false accusations. Jesus even asked the Father to forgive His accusers: "*But Jesus was saying, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.*" (Luke 23:34) Though saints are not without sin in the world they are righteous in Christ before the Father (double imputation) and have the promise of vindication. By considering the example of Jesus saints can continue representing Jesus without losing hope: "*For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*" (Heb. 12:3) He could have called myriads of angels to help Him in His time of suffering but such was not the Father's plan so the Son meekly obeyed. His trust was totally in the Father who is the only righteous judge.

1 Peter 2:24-25

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

These last two verses are used by Peter to emphasize the reason for the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Jesus even took our sins upon His account so that, although sinless, He became sin for our sake and suffered the wrath of God for those sins. Although the physical punishment of crucifixion was horrible, the worst time on the cross was when the separation occurred between the Son and the Father: "*About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?' that is, 'MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?'*" (Mat 27:46) At this time in history the Father executed His awful wrath against the sins of every person for whom Jesus Christ died. The main application of healing is spiritual and not physical. The physical healing will occur later when there will be no sickness, pain, or death (Rev 21:1-4; 22:1-3).

Before their justification the readers were without a shepherd and continually straying from one idol to another. After justification the readers now had a Shepherd to guide them in their life here and a Guardian of their souls. As Shepherd Jesus guides His flock, feeds them, and continually restores them. The word "Guardian" translates the Greek term "episkopos", which is usually translated "bishop" or "overseer". As Guardian, Jesus is involved in teaching and protecting His people and He was involved in sending the Holy Spirit for those purposes:

John 14:16-17 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; (17) that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 16:7-11 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. (8)

"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; (10) and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; (11) and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

John 16:13-15 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (14) "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. (15) "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Thus the role of the Holy Spirit includes acting as the Guardian of the souls of those who have been justified by the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ.