

TAKING THE BLAME FOR SOMEONE ELSE

1 Peter 2:24

Introduction: It's not fun to be blamed for doing something you didn't do but it happens and sometimes someone deliberately takes the blame for someone else although that person is totally innocent but because of concern, love or friendship, he/she is willing to take whatever punishment might be given sparing the actual guilty person. To do that speaks of a great concern, love of that innocent person for that guilty one. Peter was explaining that precept to some people who were "servants" and often were mistreated and abused for things that they hadn't done and he spoke of Jesus and what He did, innocent as He was, He took the blame and punishment for all those who were guilty.

I. THE GREATEST EXAMPLE OF TAKING THE BLAME FOR SOMEONE ELSE

1. Who would deliberately take the blame and punishment that someone else deserved?
 - It was a man with His own flesh and blood, His body.
 - It was God in the flesh, Jesus Christ.
 - *"...Emanuel, God with us..." (Matthew 1:23)*
 - *"...who being in the form of God, and thinking it not robbery to be equal with God, yet make Himself of no reputation, and took on Him the form of a servant, and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross..." (Philippians 2:6-8)*
2. What exactly did Jesus do in taking the blame and punishment someone else deserved?
 - *"...His own self, bare our sins in His own body on the tree..."*
 - Animals were offered as sacrifices for sins and the sins of the offender were transferred to the animal by placing the hands upon the animal to be sacrificed, then the animal was killed.
 - The flesh was then consumed upon the altar and through this procedure, the sins of the guilty sinner were "forgiven."
 - Jesus came down from heaven to redeem us/mankind and had no other offering to make but His own body, therefore upon Him, the sins of man (us) were laid and the cross was the altar on which He was placed and the fire of God's wrath against sin was poured out.
3. Why did Jesus take the blame and punishment for the sins of mankind?
 - He did it to bring about our (mankind's) being reconciled (made right) with God.
 - *"...He died, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God..." (1 Peter 3:18)*
4. What happens to those Jesus took the punishment and blame for?
 - *"...by His stripes (every believing soul) is healed..."*
 - The whole world (human race) had the opportunity to be restored to God as soon as His sacrifice was offered.
 - The moment any person believes in Jesus Christ, healing and restoration to God happens.
 - *"...our sins are blotted out as a morning cloud..." "...and are put away from us as far as the East is from the West..." "...nor shall they be remembered against us any more for ever..." (Hebrews 8:12)*

- The Holy Spirit is within the believer as *"...as a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life..." (John 4:14)*

III. JESUS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL BELIEVERS TO FOLLOW

1. What Jesus went through for those who believe serves as a "balm" for any wounds and suffering one might receive wrongly.
 - What are our (any believer's) sufferings compared with those which Jesus endured for us?
 - Think about what happened to Him in Pilate's court, the thorns, the beating, the whip lashes, the crown of thorns on His head.
 - If Jesus went through all that so *"...that we (you) might be healed..."* then will we not welcome the same, if in doing so, Jesus might be glorified?
2. What Jesus went through for believers is an incentive to being active for Him.
 - What could prevent us (believers) from hesitating to receive just a tiny portion of what Jesus went through, leaving heaven, coming here and becoming a sacrifice for us.
 - Who could refuse to endure anything for Jesus, who endured so much, even becoming a curse for us and the rest of the world?
3. Jesus is the example, the pattern of caring about others.
 - Jesus *"...set you (us) an example, that you (we) should follow His steps..."*
 - Look at His steps from the cradle to the grave.
 - Look at how Jesus maintained His reason for coming, amidst the fierce opposition.
 - Let us do the same, letting nothing divert us from doing well or obeying the Lord.
 - Let us do what Jesus did to those who persecuted Him, never rendering evil for evil, never ceasing to seek to do His best for the welfare of those who were killed Him, praying *"...Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing..."*

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, you are such because of what Jesus did for you and the rest of us who are also Christians.
 - Jesus took the blame for us, for our sins, and He paid the price for us that we should be paying.
 - We have been forgiven, restored and given eternal life because of what Jesus did.
2. Jesus is the supreme example in how God wants every one of us (Christians) to live our lives.
 - Let nothing stand in your way of following Jesus' example in all things.
3. Let your life be a duplicate of Jesus' life and therefore bring Him honor in all that you do.