

## **BY HIS WOUNDS**

-Ryan Parsons-

I remember once traveling an hour to a very nice restaurant. Our out-of-town friends were visiting, and we wanted to treat them to a very nice meal. Although I was utterly broke (wondering if I could even afford the gas to drive 2 hours round trip), we went. After consuming a lavish 3-course meal, I pulled out the trusty credit card (which was near maxed out), and I paid for the meal. The reality was that I hadn't paid for anything, but had only increased the amount I was still obligated to pay. I remember a question ringing in my ears: "How are you going to pay for that?"

Sometimes I think we forget how radioactive sin makes us. Truth is, it creates an incalculable debt. If we were left to pay the debt ourselves, we would be staring down an eternity of slavery to pay it off. Each grinding day of our blood, sweat, and tears couldn't even cover the interest, much less the principle of the debt. It is utterly HOPELESS. Once the magnitude of this fact hits us and we perceive the predicament we are in, we can only hope for a chance or an opportunity to be free again. If only there were a benefactor who could throw us a lifeline to climb out of the deep, dark bottomless pit. But, then we realize nothing on earth could touch what is due. No credit card can bail us out of this one.

Then, when all seems lost, someone steps onto the scene. He says, "I will pay for that!" Really? Who are you? How on earth can you cover the overwhelming debt I have created?

1 Peter 2:24

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.

His name is Jesus and he is the Son of God. He doesn't wield a credit card or stacks of cash. Through his death, burial, and resurrection he says, "By my wounds, I offer you peace." (Isa. 53:5-6). The debt is paid, you are healed, and your bondage has ended...by his wounds!

I pray you know him and are allowing him to be the Lord of your life.

Keep Studying,  
Ryan