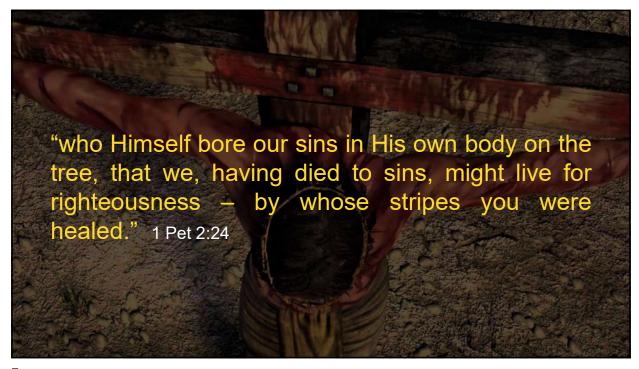




"... for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Gal 6:17

"always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body." 2 Cor 4:10





• From life – (this fallen world)

Job 14:1-2 "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. ² He comes forth like a flower and fades away; he flees like a shadow and does not continue."

Jn 16:33 "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

9

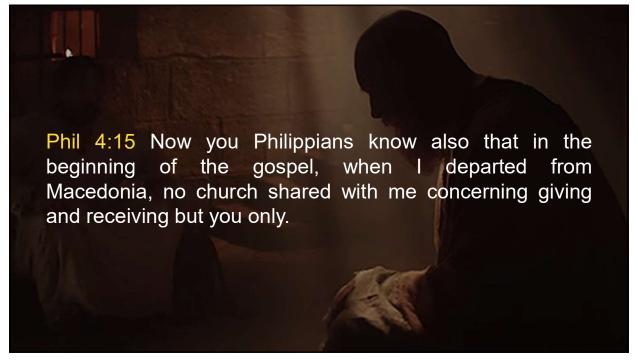
• From strife – (fallen & faulty men)

Gen 50:20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

1 Cor 15:32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus,

2 Cor 11:23-27 in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness

11



2 Tim 4:10-11,16 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica – Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. ... ¹⁶ At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

¹³ Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come – and the books, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.

13

2. Our scars are indispensable

- Scars remind us not to make that same mistake again
- Scars remind us that sin is painful
- Scars remind us of our purpose

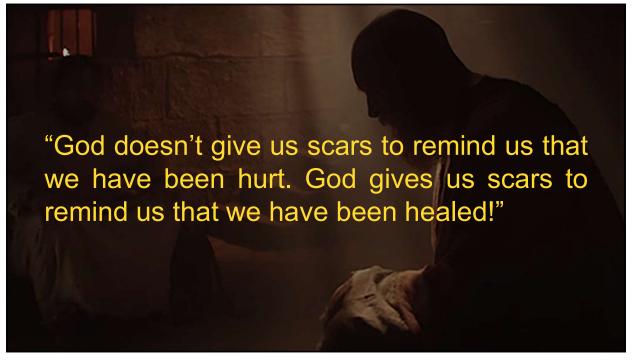
Phil 1:12-18 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: ¹⁶ The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; ¹⁷ but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

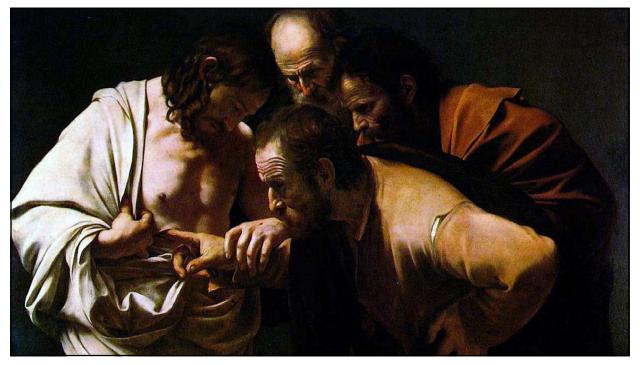
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2 Cor 4:17-18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

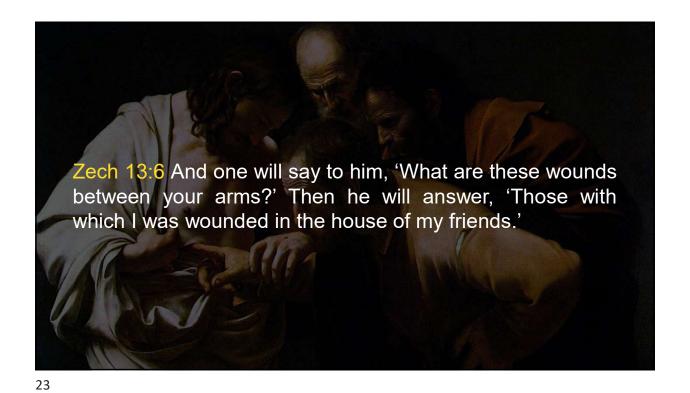
Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.



3. Our scars are indestructible



Jn 20:25-27 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." ²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."



"He wants to enlarge you, not indulge you. God is not as interested in making you happy and healthy as He is in making you holy. And so God will allow troubles to make you more like Christ. Think about the times when you have grown the most. It is when your friend 'Trouble' came along. I have grown the most in my own life in times of deepest despair. ...

