

Christ The Lamb Of God Taking Away The Sin Of The World.

Text: John 1:29b

1) He bears the burden of our sins

Suggested Hymns:

2) He takes away our sins

48, 70, 52, 54, 368

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is John 1:29b ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*** (NKJV)

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth. Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

On this holy day we have come here to pray: ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*** We have come to this house of God to hear. What? ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”***

We have come to see and to look, and our text tells us, ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*** What is it that has drawn us here today? It is the magnet in this text: ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”***

Today one truth should fill our hearts, the truth of our text: ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*** Oh, that we could invite every one in the world to be with us today, not exactly here in this place of worship, but somewhere, and look with us and with us do what our text tells us: ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”***

Alas! some people will not, but we will. We now gather about this sacrificial Lamb, we will do what God tells us to do through His preacher John the Baptist. We will gaze upon *Christ the Lamb of God Taking Away the Sin of the World*. May the Lord bless our meditation.

1. Christ The Lamb Of God Taking Away The Sin Of The World He Bears The Burden Of Our Sins.

To do that as God would have us do it, we need to look upon the burden which the Lamb of God is bearing. We need to look upon the sin of the world.

Firstly, this sin of the world is an undeniable reality. Some people have undertaken to deny it, but by this very denial they testify to the fearful corruption of sin in themselves.

They are not the first who have tried to tell us that black is white and white is black. But let them cry, Peace! Peace! all they want. There is no peace, but there is sin here. We read in 1 John 1:8, ⁸ ***If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*** These very people who say that there is no sin accuse us of error and wrong and wickedness and thereby contradict themselves.

Our own conscience upbraids us, and the very fact that some people wish to deny it is merely an effort to hush this testimony. The most upright and the best people are always the most ready to confess the reality of their sin.

We read in Psalm 51:1-2, ¹ ***Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.*** ² ***Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.***

And in Isaiah 6:5, ⁵ ***So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.***

And in Romans 7:19, ¹⁹ ***For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.***

The media reveals sin when recording the crimes committed, and there is sin in many advertisements. Our courts and prisons testify to sin. All literature speaks of sin and either invites you to it, or condemns it. Every lawyer, every doctor, every clergyman, can tell about sin.

It is one of the first things that you notice in your children. Children notice it in their parents. The most godly prayer, the Lord's Prayer, in all its petitions except one deals with sin.

The Ten Commandments, the very first thing that the children learn in the Christian faith points it out. Sin — every person knows it is here, the infallible

God declares that it is here, every day the sun shines upon it, and every night is full of it.

The very crucifixion of Christ and His death, which we are commemorating on this solemn day, would never have happened if there was no sin. You know that your sins are real, my sins are real, and our sins were there upon the Lamb of God.

Secondly, sin is not only a reality, but it is the most fearful reality, because of its burden and guilt. You do not see the Lamb of God as you should if you do not realise to some extent the burden and guilt of sin which Jesus is bearing.

The most dreadful thing a person can say is, “*I have sinned.*” That does not simply mean, I have made a mistake. Oh, no! It means, I am corrupt, I am rotten. What of it if you hide your sin from the sight of man, God sees it and knows it.

People might laugh at your sin if they knew it, but still you are afraid to tell them. But God hates sin. To Him it is a stench, worse than any stench on this earth. To Him it is filth, worse than any filth of this earth. To Him it is an insult, more hateful than if you spat into the face of the Queen.

What if a man who has worked hard to leave a good name to his children, to his family, but through a severe temptation is led to take money and now it is made known, and all his friends turn from him and all the world points its finger at him as a thief? Isn't that a burden to be borne? Many people have gone with grey hair in sorrow to the grave, bowed down under such a weight of guilt.

What if an esteemed woman, who prizes her good name and reputation, is assaulted by powerful temptation, slips, falls, and is disgraced before the world and all point their finger and look at her with suspicion and disapproval? Is that not a burden? Is that not fearful guilt?

And yet this burden, not of one, or of two, but of the whole world, was upon this one single Lamb of God. Jesus felt all the shame that men and women have ever felt on this earth. He suffered all the pangs of an accusing conscience. Scripture says in Isaiah 53:6, *the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.* Therefore our text says, “***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!***”

The hymnist wrote,¹

Ye who think of sin but lightly,
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed;
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of man and Son of God.

No wonder Jesus fell to the ground in Gethsemane and His sweat became as drops of blood. If men and women languish because of the consciousness of one disgraceful sin, what must this holy, innocent Jesus have endured bearing the shame, the guilt, the disgrace, of all sins, even of those of the lowest criminal and of the most filthy sinner!

Oh, what a sad Good Friday vision to see the Lamb of God bearing the sins of the world! Made more sad because our sins were there, our sins were added; you added to the burden, I added to the burden.

Thirdly, to the reality of sin and the guilt of sin must be added the punishment of sin. ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”***

In order to take it away, Jesus had to bear the wrath of an insulted God. God turned from Him in anger. Therefore the Lamb cries out, ***“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”***² However great our trouble may be, if we can but say, “God is with Me,” “God helps me,” that supports us.

But, oh, the hell which the person suffers who knows within himself, and tells himself, God has turned against me, the Almighty has become my enemy. The most weird and chilling wail that the voice of man or woman could utter could not sufficiently express the damnation, the darkness, and the bottomless woe, of Jesus who must cry out with the Psalmist in Psalm 22:1, ***1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?***

And with it, seeing the Lamb bearing also physical suffering — thirst that could not be quenched, the ridicule of the vilest, the wounded, torn, and bleeding flesh, and the fever's inward consuming heat.

The hymnist wrote,³

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

And do not fail to see there, as you look at the Lamb, that He is punished instead of you, instead of me. He is bearing our punishment.

2. Christ The Lamb Of God Taking Away The Sin Of The World He Takes Our Sins Away.

But, let us look again. Behold the Lamb! He does not only bear this real burden of sin, guilt, and punishment; Behold, Look rightly, — He takes it away!

As we look, we hear Jesus say, *“It is finished!”*⁴ Through all that this Lamb of God is bearing, suffering, and enduring, He is accomplishing. Accomplishing what? He is taking from the world, from us, the curse and punishment of sin.

Jesus has redeemed us. We could never have done it, because in our suffering, if we had undertaken to suffer for sin, — as some people have done and are doing, — we would have sinned more, just as those who impose upon themselves suffering because of their sin only, sin so much the more.

But what was absolutely impossible for us, this Lamb of God has accomplished for us on that first Good Friday. *“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* He suffered for our sin and suffered sufficiently. We need not suffer for it. He was cursed for our sin, and we are freed from the curse. He died for our sin, and we shall not die the death of a

sinner. We were called upon to pay and could not pay, and He paid, paid perfectly, that which He did not owe, but which we owed.

All of the Old Testament types pictured when the blood of lambs and the blood of bulls and of goats flowed in streams upon the altar of the Tabernacle and of the Temple, was once and for all time, not pictured, but accomplished in reality when the Lamb of God shed His blood upon the cross.

We read in Hebrews 9:11–12, ¹¹ *But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.* ¹² *Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

And in 1 John 1:7b, *the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

This is not a dream. This is not the word of a lying, false man; this is the true and faithful declaration of the infallible and true God Himself, who cannot lie. The Lamb of God has taken away your sin!

When your conscience accuses you, then look upon this Lamb, ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*** When the devil tells you, you are his, tell Satan, you are lying, ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*** *“who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil - not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.”*

Is it possible that we look upon the Lamb of God, seeing Him taking away from us our sin, with all its guilt, shame, and suffering, and rejoice in God’s favour and forgiveness, but not feel one spark of gratitude toward Him?

No, it is not possible; for, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation.⁵ If we have looked properly at the Lamb of God, as truly repentant and as truly believing sinners, then the fruit of gratitude will also be forthcoming; for through this looking of a believer upon Jesus the Holy Spirit enters the heart.⁶ We read in Galatians 5:22–23, ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,*

longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Those who look properly will be like that repentant woman who anointed Jesus in the Pharisee's house,⁷ or like Paul, to whom so much had been forgiven and who now said in Philippians 1:21, ²¹ *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

And in and Philippians 3:8, ⁸ *Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.*

Let us inquire with Paul, *"Lord, what do You want me to do?"*⁸ What should we in our calling, at our time, and in our circumstances do to show our gratitude?

The answer is in Proverbs 23:26, ²⁶ *My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.* And in John 4:24, ²⁴ *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.* God wants the heart, and if your heart belongs to this Jesus, then you will also serve Him, glorify Him, and praise Him by your life, words, gifts, prayers, and hymns.

Let us close with the words of the hymnist,

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride. Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep our hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

¹ Hymn 70 v3

² Matthew 27:46

³ Hymn 70 v2

⁴ John 19:30

⁵ 2 Corinthians 5:17

⁶ Galatians 3:2-6

⁷ Luke 7:47

⁸ Acts 9:6