

Loved and Loving John's Epistles Lesson 1 3Q 2009

Jesus and the Johannine Letters

Read Memory Text – thoughts?

- What does the text mean? From what was Jesus coming to save the world?
- Satan? God or God's wrath? The penalty of the law? Death? Guilt? Shame? Responsibility?
- Do we have all types of ideas and concepts about why Jesus had to die? How do you understand it? What ideas have you heard? Are all the reasons given correct? Does it make a difference?

The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29

What does Jesus take away? Sin is translated from:

- **266 ἁμαρτία [hamartia /ham·ar·tee·ah/]** n f. From 264; TDNT 1:267; TDNTA 44; GK 281; 174 occurrences; AV translates as “sin” 172 times, “sinful” once, and “offense” once. **1** equivalent to 264. **1A** to be without a share in. **1B** to miss the mark. **1C** to err, be mistaken. **1D** to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honour, to do or go wrong. **1E** to wander from the law of God, violate God’s law, sin. **2** that which is done wrong, sin, an offence, a violation of the divine law in thought or in act. **3** collectively, the complex or aggregate of sins committed either by a single person or by many.

What is the sin of the world?

n **n**: noun or neuter

f **f**: feminine

TDNT Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

TDNTA Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume

GK Goodrick-Kohlenberger

AV Authorized Version

- Did Jesus come to take away the sinful acts people have committed?
- Did He come to take away the record of the acts?
- Did He come to take away the punishment for the acts of sin?
- Did He come to take away God's wrath toward sin?
- Did He come to take away the consequences of sin?
- Did He come to take away sin?

Christ came to take away sin!

- From where did Jesus come to take away sin?
- If we take away sin, if sin is removed from a being then what happens to that being?
- If sin is removed, totally eradicated, from a being what happens to death?

From where does death arise? From sin (Romans 6:23, James 1:15). If we remove sin what have we removed? Death!

- Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil. Heb 2:14
- but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2Tim 1:10

How does Jesus death destroy death? How is this related to removing sin? What did Jesus take upon Himself?

- Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isa 53:4,5

What does this sound like to you? What did the Isaiah text say happens as a result of his wounds? We are healed! Does it say anything about legal penalties being paid? Does it say anything about appeasing anger and wrath of His Father?

What about the “punishment” that was upon Him? Other translations use the word “chastisement” the Hebrew:

, מָסֵרָה [mowcer, mowcerah, mocârah /mo·sare/] n m. From 3256; TWOT 141f; GK 4591 and 4593; 11 occurrences; AV translates as “bands” six times, and “bond” five times. **1** band, bond.¹

What was it that banded, bonded, chastised or caused Jesus to suffer? Was it something inflicted by His Father or was it the condition of sin He took upon Himself?

When the text says “pierced for our transgressions” and “crushed for our iniquities” what does it mean “for”?

The Hebrew:

מִן (min): prep.; ≡ Str 4480; TWOT 1212, 1213e—**1.** LN 90.14-90.16 **from**, by, i.e., a marker of a source of an event or activity (Ge 17:16), see also LN 90.1–90.7; **2.** LN 84.1-84.15 **from**, away from, i.e., a marker of an extension from a source (Ge 26:16); **3.** LN 63.13-63.20

n **n**: noun

m **m**: masculine

TWOT Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

GK Goodrick-Kohlenberger

AV Authorized Version

¹Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order*. electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. H4147

prep. preposition

Str Strong's Lexicon

TWOT Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

LN Louw-Nida Greek-English Lexicon

part of, some, from, i.e., a marker of a fractional part of a whole unit of an object or event (Ex 16:20); **4.** LN 89.141-89.142 **made of**, from, i.e., a marker of the substance something is made of (Lev 11:32); **5.** LN 90.8-90.13 **by means**, from, i.e., a marker of instrument of an occurring event (Ge 9:11); **6.** LN 67.118-67.135 **since**, from, i.e., a marker of an extent of time from a point in the past (Ex 5:23); **7.** LN 89.15-89.38 **because of**, from, i.e., a marker of a reason or cause of an event (Ge 48:10); **8.** LN 64 **than**, from, i.e., a marker of comparison or contrast (Ge 3:1); **9.** LN 78.28-78.39 **more than**, i.e., a marker of a comparative degree (Ge 7:20);²

Does it make a difference if we read the text:

- Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced *because of* our transgressions, he was crushed *because of* our iniquities; the *discipline* that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isa 53:4,5

And in Corinthians Paul says:

- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Cor 2:15

What is the purpose for Christ's suffering? It was for the purpose of producing righteousness in us – which again is healing!

In other words the death of Christ was to remove sin, iniquity and restore us to righteousness. In the Epistles of John he emphasizes the importance of Christ being both God and man, why? Why was it necessary for Christ to be both?

- How did Lucifer get the angels and Adam and Eve to sin?

²Swanson, James: *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)*. electronic ed. Oak Harbor : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997, S. DBLH 4946, #9

- He lied about God and the lies were believed
- What is the remedy to the lies about God which broke trust?
 - The truth about God which restores trust.
- Could a created being reveal the true character of God?
- If an angel would have died on the Cross what would we have learned about God? That He sacrifices His creatures to protect Himself.
- What was the problem sin caused the plan of salvation is designed to fix?
- When Adam sinned did God get changed in some way? Did Adam?
- Was the plan of salvation designed to fix mankind?

Notice 1John3:8

- He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Jesus death not only destroys the devil and death but also the devil's work – what is that work? One of the founders of our church saw it this way:

- The life of Christ is to be revealed in humanity. Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to be a counterpart of God; but Satan has labored to obliterate the image of God in man, and to imprint upon him his own image. LHU 48

Satan has been working to destroy God's image in man, to make mankind demonic. Christ came to reverse all of this. Do you see a connection to why Christ had to be human, why Christ had to die and how His death heals humanity?

Christ came to fix humanity, to put God's law of love back in the living Temple He created to be the repository of that law – Man! He did this by the exercise of His human brain!

MONDAY

Read bottom green section – thoughts? Have you identified any theological errors that need to be dealt with?

In Christ's day did any theological errors enter the organized religious system? Did those errors make it hard for the people to recognize and accept Christ?

Is it possible errors are actively taught within the organized body of Christianity? What about within the SDA church? What errors have you seen?

TUESDAY

The lesson argues the purpose of John's letters was to deal with doctrinal error in the church. What happens if we teach errors? Does our concept of God change if we do? What happens to us when we believe errors, falsehoods or lies?

- Sam Shoeman diagnosed with liver cancer in the 1970's and told he had just months to live. He died within those months but at autopsy it was discovered the doctors were wrong. He had only a tiny tumor that had not spread. He didn't die of liver cancer. He died of the belief he had terminal liver cancer.
- Placebo effect versus Nocebo effect – placebo believing something positive, nocebo is believing something negative. PET scans reveal changes in brain chemistry with dopamine levels and brain opioids increasing with the placebo effect but decreasing with the nocebo effect. The cause of these brain changes – what we believe!
- Derek Adams, in aftermath of breakup with girlfriend overdosed on all the pills he had been given from the antidepressant trial he was in. But then afraid he might die he called for help and collapsed at the hospital. He was shaky, pale, drowsy, and his blood pressure dropped. Labs were normal. He was given 6 liters of fluids to try and stabilize his blood pressure but no

improvement. A doctor from the trial was contacted to find out what substance he had overdosed on – when the protocol was unsealed it was disclosed Adams was in the control group and had overdosed on harmless placebo. Within 15 minutes of finding out the news his symptoms resolved and blood pressure was normal.

Does it matter what we believe? Satan is the father of lies. He is good at it and he has filled humanity with all kinds of lies. When we believe lies we get damaged!

Last week we didn't get to explore how our concept of God is impacted by the doctrines we hold so let's explore some of those ideas this week:

- What do we learn about God if we believe man is immortal? What do we learn about God if we believe man is mortal? What impact might each belief have on us?
- What do we learn about God if we believe Christ was a created being? What do we learn if we believe Jesus is fully God as well as becoming fully man?
- What do we learn about God if we believe the wicked die in the end because God inflicts it? What do we learn if we believe the wicked die in the end as a natural result of being so out of harmony with God they cannot survive in His presence? What happens to us if we believe either of these ideas?
- What do we learn about God if we believe Jesus died to pay our legal debt, assuage the wrath of His Father, to meet the demands of divine retributive justice? What do we learn about God if we believe Jesus died to reveal the truth about the Godhead, the nature and character of sin, expose Satan as a liar and to reverse the damage sin caused humanity achieving a remedy for sin?
- What do we learn about God if we believe God doesn't know the future choices His creatures will make? What do we learn about God if we believe He does know our choices before we make them?

- What do we learn about God if we believe He predetermines all our choices, some for salvation and some for damnation? What do we learn about God if He gives us genuine freedom to choose for ourselves?
- What do we learn about God from the Bible Sabbath? What do we learn about God from Sunday sacredness? What do we learn about God if we allege the Sabbath is an arbitrary test of obedience?
- What do we learn about God from the sanctuary message? What do we learn about God if we allege Christ is pleading to His Father in heaven in our behalf? Or if we allege Christ is covering us with His robe of righteousness so the Father cannot see our wickedness? What do we learn if we teach Christ is working as His Father's agent to reveal the truth to win us to trust and then to reproduce in us Christlike character so when the Father sees us He sees the perfection of His Son?
- What do we learn about God if we teach that the genetic descendants of Abraham have a special opportunity for salvation that the non-genetic descendants don't have? What do we learn if we recognize all humanity is descended from Adam and thereby all are terminal and all in need of the one remedy procured by Christ and freely offered to all?
- What do we learn about God if we teach that He is keeping records in order to judge us by and that His judgment is what determines our eternal destiny? What do we learn if we teach God's records are there as evidence of His unfailing love and perfection in all His actions?
- What do we learn about God if we teach a secret rapture? What do we learn if we teach a literal visible appearing?

WEDNESDAY

Read last two paragraphs – thoughts? Are people trying to separate the Father and Son today? How so?

- What about the idea that Jesus died to assuage the Father's wrath?
- Jesus is in heaven pleading to His Father?
- The Father executed the Son?
- The OT God is the Father and the NT God is Jesus?
- Two dispensations, one of law and one of grace?

THURSDAY

The lesson highlights some texts for us to evaluate, lets explore some of them.

- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1John 1:7
 - What does this text mean?
 - How does the blood of Jesus purify us?
 - What does the blood represent?
 - Where did Jesus say we were to place His blood (John 6)?
 - What does it mean to drink His blood?
 - If we open the heart to Christ and internalize Him do we get cleansed from all sin?
- This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 1John 3:16
 - Thoughts?
 - What change does this text imply has occurred within the believer?
 - Is it possible for us to change our selfish nature?
 - Do those who love others more than self have a change of nature?
 - From where did that change arise?
 - Did Christ's life, death and resurrection have something to do with it? What?
 - When the Holy Spirit comes into the life does He speak on His own? Who is the Holy Spirit listening

to? From who is the Holy Spirit taking to impart life to us?

- We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. 1John 5:18
 - What does this mean?
 - What is sin? Lawlessness,
 - What law? The law of love,
 - So those born of God love God and others they don't continue to live life for self – this is what the text means!

FRIDAY

Read first two paragraphs – thoughts?

Discuss question 1