

77 – SIN vs. SINS

John 1:29 - Lo! The Lamb

The setting here is John has been baptizing and has told the Pharisees that he's not the one they're seeking, but there's one Who IS coming . . .

Page 221, start @ v24-29

I've asked several people to complete the sentence, "Lo! The Lamb of God Who takes away the _____ of the world."

To a person, everyone has said the same thing: "The Lamb of God who takes away the SINS of the world." That's the way everyone has remembered hearing it. It's the same way I recall hearing it throughout my life.

So what's the difference between taking away the SIN of the world and taking away the SINS of the world?

SINS are what we do...they are our actions, and even our thoughts, that miss the mark; that fail of the ideal. That's the definition of sin, you'll remember: sin means missing the mark, failing of the ideal. Athletes who miss the mark -- the target -- in an event, were said to have "sinned."

SIN refers to a nature -- it is our makeup, as descendants of Adam.

Now read John 1:29 again, "Lo! The Lamb of God Who takes away the SIN of the world." In other words, John declared, "There's the One Who takes away -- He REMOVES -- our sin; that is, our Adamic nature, which is itself sinful.

It is our nature that leads to our actions. It is SIN, which is the Adamic nature, which enables the conditions under which we commit SINS. Do you follow that? Jesus came to take away our Adamic nature and replace it with His own. And, clearly, He is the only One Who can possibly change someone's nature. How many of us have struggled to change our own nature by changing our behavior? How hard have you worked to DO better in order to BE better, and how often have you wound up doing something that obviously "misses the mark," and had a thought like, "Oh God! I've done it again...will I ever get this right?"

Yet, John said, "Here's the guy who takes away the SIN -- the sinful Adamic nature -- of the whole world away!

So, let me ask a question: Did Jesus do that? Jesus said, in John 19:30, just before He died, "It is accomplished." Did He get the job done?

Let's agree that Jesus would not have said "It is accomplished," unless He knew that His mission -- the thing, or things, He came for -- had been done...completed.

If we can agree that Jesus accomplished His mission, how do we account for the nature we continue to witness play out in the lives of human beings throughout history ever since...to say nothing about the struggles in our own lives.

So, watch this now...John the Baptist was prophesying when He spoke in John 1:29. Remember that John came "in the spirit and power of Elijah," according to Gabriel's revelation to Zechariah in Luke 1:17. What was Elijah? He was the most anointed prophet the world had ever seen...who never tasted death, but was taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot. So John the Baptist, who came, according to the word of the Lord through the messenger, Gabriel, "in the spirit and power of Elijah," when He saw Jesus one day, prophesied that He was the one Who takes away the SIN -- the Adamic, sinful nature -- of the world.

Yes, Jesus takes away the SIN of the world, but let's face it...the nature of man looks no different than it ever has - if anything, it is more obvious how evil it is! The struggle is even evident in those who are saved and filled with His spirit! From what I can see, in studying the scriptures, the fulfillment of John's prophetic declaration awaits its fulfillment, and it's Paul who reveals when and how the fulfillment occurs:

Ro:14-11, pg. 386 - He later clarified and strengthened the statement...

Phil 2:9-11, pg. 462

That's the "what."

1 Cor. 15:50-55 , pg. 418 --

PRAISE GOD! This is the EARLY HOW! This is what awaits the Body of Christ. THEN John's prophecy is fulfilled in us! Our nature will have been completely changed, the SIN taken away and our nature...along with our bodies...will be completely like Jesus...and the sons of God will have been unveiled Also, Jesus' words -- "it is accomplished" -- will have seen their fulfillment.

Ro:5-20-21

Yet where sin increases, grace superexceeds,
21 that, even as Sin reigns in death, thus Grace also should be reigning through righteousness, for life eonian, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Here's the How for the rest of the world:

1 Cor. 15:22-28, pg. 417 -

1 tim. 1:12-6, pg. 486

1 tim. 2:1-7, pg. 486

1 tim. 4:9-11, pg. 488

The apostles wrestled with sin...there own and the sin of those in their care. Plus they had to deal with the sin that was still in the world...which Paul called, "this present wicked eon" (Galatians 1:4).

Note what Paul warned Timothy about in "the last days..."

2 Tim. 3:

- 1 Now this know, that in the last days perilous periods will be present,
- 2 for men will be selfish, fond of money, ostentatious, proud, calumniators, stubborn to parents, ungrateful, malign,
- 3 without natural affection, implacable, adversaries, uncontrollable, fierce, averse to the good,
- 4 traitors, rash, conceited, fond of their own gratification rather than fond of God;
- 5 having a form of devoutness, yet denying its power.
- 6 These, also, shun. For of these are those who are slipping into homes and are leading into captivity little women, heaped with sins, being led by various lusts and gratifications,
- 7 always learning and yet not at any time able to come into a realization of the truth.

Paul himself wrestled as hard as anyone against his own, inherently sinful, Adamic nature:

1 John 1-2:

- 6 If we should be saying that we are having fellowship with Him and should be walking in darkness, we are lying and are not doing the truth.
- 7 Yet if we should be walking in the light as He is in the light, we are having fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, is cleansing us from every sin.
- 8 If we should be saying that we have no sin we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 9 If we should be avowing our sins, He is faithful and just that He may be pardoning us our sins and should be cleansing us from all injustice.
- 10 If we should be saying that we have not sinned, we are making Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Chapter 2

- 1 My little children, these things am I writing to you that you may not be sinning. And if anyone should be sinning, we have an Entreater with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just.
- 2 And He is the propitiatory shelter concerned with our sins, yet not concerned with ours only, but concerned with the whole world also.

Paul wrote that “we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Cor. 2:16)

Yet look with me at Paul’s discussion of the nature of SIN and our relationship -- in spite of it -- with the Father, through Jesus Christ. God is presently viewing us as if we were already complete in Him...because, to the Father, Jesus’ declaration that “It is accomplished” is a present reality. WE have to work it out until we meet the Lord face to face.

Ephesians 4:

17 This, then, I am saying and attesting in the Lord: By no means are you still to be walking according as those of the nations also are walking, in the vanity of their mind,

18 their comprehension being darkened, being estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the callousness of their hearts, **(This is all about the NATURE of Adamic man)**

19 who, being past feeling, in greed give themselves up with wantonness to all uncleanness as a vocation. **(This is all about the BEHAVIOR of Adamic man)**

20 Now you did not thus learn Christ,

21 since, surely, Him you hear, and by Him were taught (according as the truth is in Jesus),

22 to put off from you, as regards your former **behavior [sins]**, the old humanity [nature] which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires,

23 yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind, **[the Lamb of God TAKES AWAY the SIN of the world]**

24 and to put on the new humanity which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth. **[THERE is the change of Adamic NATURE -- i.e. SIN -- into Christ’s nature -- i.e. Righteousness]**

25 Wherefore, putting off the false **[Nature]**, let each be speaking the truth with his associate, **[behavior]** for we are members of one another.

26 Are you indignant, and not **sinning**? Do not let the sun be sinking on your vexation,

27 nor yet be giving place to the Adversary.

NOTE: the Adversary FEEDS off the Adamic Nature, which is vulnerable to his stratagems - remember when Jesus said, **“the Chief of the world is coming, and in Me it has not anything.”**

John 14:30

When we keep reading in v. 31, we get a picture of what a righteous nature looks like...and the utter obedience it also requires:

John 14:30

“But that the world may know that I am loving the Father, and according as the Father directs Me, thus I am doing, rouse! We may be going hence!

Here, Jesus embodies the principle of SIN versus sins: ***“Satan has nothing in Me, but that’s not why I’m going to give up my life. I’m doing that so that the world will know that, even though I’m about to be made to be Sin Who has known no sin -- in either nature or***

behavior! -- I love Papa [that's my nature] and I do what He directs [that's my behavior that accords with--agrees with--my nature]. Now, let's get on with it."

2 Cor. 5-6 -

17 So that, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the primitive passed by. Lo! there has come new!

18 Yet all is of God, Who conciliates us to Himself through Christ, and is giving us the dispensation of the conciliation,

19 how that God was in Christ, conciliating the world to Himself, not reckoning their offenses to them, and placing in us the word of the conciliation.

20 For Christ, then, are we ambassadors, as of God entreating through us. We are beseeching for Christ's sake, "Be conciliated to God!"

21 For the One not knowing sin, He makes to be a sin offering for our sakes that we may be becoming God's righteousness in Him.

Chapter 6

1 Now, working together, we are also entreating you not to receive the grace of God for naught.

2 For He is saying, "In a season acceptable I reply to you, And in a day of salvation I help you." Lo! Now is a most acceptable era! Lo! Now is a day of salvation!

Romans 5-8:all, pg. 369

Note the different uses of the words: SIN (sometimes capitalized, sometimes with the definite article (THE) in front of it; versus small s--sin, or sins)

note 6:2, we died to THE Sin, how shall we be living in it?

SIN bears within itself the seeds of its own destruction

GAL 4:31

So, the question Paul asks so far is, essentially, are you going with flesh or spirit here? Will you join yourself to Isaac or Ishmael? I believe it's the same question he would ask Christians today. Wait till you see how he follows up this startling and unprecedented revelation of whose family to whom we belong.

Galatians 5:1

1 For freedom Christ frees us! Stand firm, then, and be not again enthralled with the yoke of slavery.

“enthralled” means “hemmed in, entangled, ensnared; also to hold in or hold within” – today, we hear people talk about holding things inside, and we know the toll that takes in the spirit, soul and even in the physical body ...that’s the idea of enthralled. Notice Paul says don’t go there AGAIN! It’s like, “*You just got free from your own enthrallment with your heathen practices...now you want to go there again with Jewish ones? What are you thinking?*”

Galatians 5:2-3

2 Lo! I, Paul, am saying to you that if you should be circumcising, Christ will benefit you nothing.

3 Now I am attesting again to every man who is circumcising, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Here’s what the Concordant Commentary says about these first 3 verses of Galatians 5:

This paragraph [these first 3 verses] is the summary and conclusion of the doctrinal argument. Tersely, he puts the case. Which shall it be, Christ or circumcision! No half hearted allegiance here, no serving of two masters. Circumcision might have been a badge of privilege in the past, but now it has become a sign of apostasy. It does not lead to justification from sin, but to exemption from Christ. It is incumbent on such to keep the entire law. Grace has no room in which to operate.

A quick sidebar here: I am finding the Concordant Commentary very helpful as I’m studying. I don’t want to read it all as we go, because I prefer to let the Holy Spirit do the teaching; however, if you have a commentary, or care to look it up online through the concordant web site, I believe you will find it helpful too.

Galatians 5:4

4 Exempted from Christ were you who are being justified in law. You fall out of grace.

That’s like the final nail in the coffin, isn’t it? “*You want to be a Jew? Fine; knock yourself out, but you’ll have no part in grace.*” Where it was once held that breaking the law put one outside of God’s favor, now, in this new economy, it is “**keeping**” the law that does it! Law is all about works and earning forgiveness and favor. Grace is gratuitous – “give-gushed” is the Greek Word – it is without cause. You can’t earn through works, and it is poured out lavishly in faith, and in faith alone.

Paul is about to reinforce that point:

Galatians 5:5-6

5 For we, in spirit, are awaiting the expectation of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision is availing anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith, operating through love.

In verse 5, we can see how early we are in Paul's ministry, as he speaks of *"the expectation of righteousness by faith."*

7 You raced ideally! Who hinders you not to be persuaded by the truth?
8 This persuasion is not of Him Who is calling you.
9 A little leaven is leavening the whole kneading.
10 I have confidence in you in the Lord that in nothing you will be disposed otherwise.
Now he who is disturbing you shall be bearing his judgment, whosoever he may be.
11 Now I, brethren, if I am still heralding circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? Consequently the snare of the cross of Christ has been nullified.
12 Would that those who are raising you to insurrection struck themselves off also!
13 For you were called for freedom, brethren, only use not the freedom for an incentive to the flesh, but through love be slaving for one another.
14 For the entire law is fulfilled in one word, in this: "You shall love your associate as yourself."
15 Now if you are biting and devouring one another, beware that you may not be consumed by one another.
16 Now I am saying, Walk in spirit, and you should under no circumstances be consummating the lust of the flesh.
17 For the flesh is lusting against the spirit, yet the spirit against the flesh. Now these are opposing one another, lest you should be doing whatever you may want.
18 Now, if you are led by spirit, you are not still under law.
19 Now apparent are the works of the flesh, which are adultery, prostitution, uncleanness, wantonness,
20 idolatry, enchantment, enmities, strife, jealousies, furies, factions, dissensions, sects,
21 envies, murders, drunkennesses, revelries, and the like of these, which, I am predicting to you, according as I predicted also, that those committing such things shall not be enjoying the allotment of the kingdom of God.
22 Now the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 meekness, self-control: against such things there is no law.
24 Now those of Christ Jesus crucify the flesh together with its passions, and lusts.
25 If we may be living in spirit, in spirit we may be observing the elements also.
26 We may not become vainglorious, challenging one another, envying one another.

Chapter 6

1 Brethren, if a man should be precipitated, also, in some offense, you, who are spiritual, be attuning such a one, in a spirit of meekness, noting yourself, that you, also, may not be tried.
2 Bear one another's burdens, and thus fill up the law of Christ.
3 For if anyone is supposing himself to be anything, being nothing, he is imposing on himself.
4 Now let each one be testing his own work, and then he shall be having his boast for himself alone, and not for another,
5 for each one shall be bearing his own load.
6 Now let him who is being instructed in the word be contributing to him who is instructing, in all good things.

7 Be not deceived, God is not to be sneered at, for whatsoever a man may be sowing, this shall he be reaping also,

8 for he who is sowing for his own flesh, from the flesh shall be reaping corruption, yet he who is sowing for the spirit, from the spirit shall be reaping life eonian.

9 Now we may not be despondent in ideal doing, for in due season we shall be reaping, if we do not faint.

10 Consequently, then, as we have occasion, we are working for the good of all, yet specially for the family of faith.

11 Lo! with what size letters I write to you with my own hand!

12 Whoever are wanting to put on a fair face in the flesh, these are compelling you to circumcise only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ Jesus.

13 For not even they who are circumcising are maintaining law, but they want you to be circumcised that they should be boasting in that flesh of yours.

14 Now may it not be mine to be boasting, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation.

16 And whoever shall observe the elements by this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, also on the Israel of God.

17 For the rest, let no one afford me weariness, for I am bearing in my body the brand marks of the Lord Jesus Christ.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren! Amen!