

Grace to you and peace ... from Jesus Christ, ... who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Text: Is. 53:10-12 A 2/8/26 POP Loveland, CO 7-12-26 He. 4:9-16; Mk. 10:35-45; Resp. Ps.: 22; Ps. 16
Hymns: 363, 369, 364, 798

All mankind fell in Adam's fall,
One common sin infects them all;
From sire to son the bane descends,
And over all the curse impends.

But Christ, the second Adam, came
To bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our Life, our Light, our Way,
Our only Hope, our only Stay.

THE SON OF GOD GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE US

Dear fellow believers in Christ, crucified for us,

It's said that long ago in certain countries there were "whipping boys." If a young prince did something wrong, he, the future king, wasn't punished for it. His whipping boy was. That would be very unfair. In today's text we learn about One who was punished terribly for terrible wrongs He had not done.

When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, He didn't come to them with fire and brimstone. He came in His grace and mercy, giving them the opportunity to confess their sin to Him and receive His forgiveness. Right away when our human race first fell into sin, God revealed His plan to send His Son to save us. There had to be a punishment for our sins. The only way that our sins could be paid for is if God's Son paid for them. The Son of God would free us from Satan and sin and death and hell.

Our text says, "*It pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.*" God wasn't happy that He would have to punish His Son. The idea from the original is that God was "willing" and "determined" to let His Son suffer and die so that we could be saved. Peter in the second chapter of Acts tells us that Jesus was "*delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God*" (v. 23a). It was God's will that His Son be punished for our sins in our place.

The Lord says, “*By His knowledge My righteous Servant*” (Jesus) “*shall justify many.*” What “*knowledge*” did Jesus have that saved us? Jesus knew His Father’s will that He suffer and die for us. When our text speaks of Christ’s “*knowledge*” of His Father’s will, the original refers to knowledge that comes from experience. It’s one thing to know what we have to do; it’s another thing to do it. Our text says, “*The pleasure of the [Father] will prosper in His*” (in Christ’s) “*hand.*” Jesus not only knew His Father’s will for our salvation, He did it. Jesus put His “*knowledge*” into action for us. In the words of the Lenten hymn:

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, the guilt of all men bearing;
And laden with the sins of earth, none else the burden sharing!
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint, to slaughter led without complaint
That spotless life to offer;
Bears shame, and stripes, and wounds and death, anguish and mockery and
saith, “Willing all this I suffer.”

“Yea, Father, yea, most willingly I’ll bear what Thou commandest;
My will conforms to Thy decree, I do what Thou demandest.”
O wondrous Love, what hast Thou done! The Father offers up His Son!

Our text refers to our “*iniquities.*” “*Iniquity*” in the original is literally: perversity, depravity, crime, and guilt from sinning. We’re ashamed of some of the thoughts that come into our minds, of words that sometimes come out of our mouths, and of wrong things we’ve done. Jesus says, “*Out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness*” (Mk. 7:21-22). That’s why we sing after every sermon, “*Create in me a clean heart, O God*” (Ps. 51:10).

“*It pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.*” Those words make it clear how terrible our sin is in God’s eyes, and how terribly Jesus had to suffer because of our sins. Abraham was told to sacrifice his son, Isaac, but in the end didn’t have to. God actually sacrificed His Son to save us. We’re told, “*He poured out His life unto death.*” Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Referring to the bitter suffering and death He would endure for us, Jesus said, “*Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?*” (Jn. 18:11). Jesus paid the full price for every sin of every sinner of all time. He bore all of our guilt and shame, all of God’s anger, all of God’s punishment, He was forsaken by His Father – everything you and I deserve because of our sins – Jesus bore in our place.

We’re told, “*You make His soul an offering for sin.*” Jesus is our “*offering.*” It took nothing less than the perfect life and sinless sacrifice of the Son of God to pay for all of our sin and guilt. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says that “*[God] made [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*” The Father took all of our sins off of us and placed them on Jesus. Jesus suffered and died for our sins on the cross in our place. The Father accepted Christ’s “*offering*” for us, and we’re saved. 1 John 1:7 assures us that “*the blood of Jesus Christ, [God’s] Son, cleanses us from all sin.*”

We’re assured, “*[Christ] bore the sin of many,*” that is, the sins of us all. When we’re told that Jesus “*bore*” our sins, the idea from the original is that Jesus has lifted the load of our sins off of

us and taken them all away. When we stand before God on the Judgment Day, He's not going to make a list of the sins we committed during our life. They'll all be gone. As soon as we tell God we're sorry for something we've done wrong, He forgives us and forgets. Sometimes even after we've repented of a sin and received God's forgiveness, the memory of what we've done still bothers us. We don't need to keep asking God over and over to forgive us for that sin. He already has. We find peace by reminding ourselves that Jesus died on the cross for all of our sins, and by turning to passages in the Bible in which God assures us that He has forgiven us; passages such as Isaiah 43:25: *"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins,"* and Jeremiah 31:34: *"I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

We're told that Jesus *"made intercession for the transgressors"* and that He *"shall justify"* us. Scripture says, *"Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us"* (Ro. 8:34). Jesus is always interceding for us before His Father, reminding His Father that He lived a perfect life in place of our sinful lives, and that He was punished on the cross for all of our sins. We're told that for Jesus' sake, God *"justifies"* us. God declares us sinners to be righteous in His sight – not guilty, completely forgiven.

We're told that the Father *"shall see His"* (Christ's) *"seed"* (Christ's *"offspring"*) *"and shall prolong His days."* Christ's *"offspring"* are His believing children. The Father saw all of us whom Jesus would save by His death and *"prolonged [Christ's] days."* – raised Jesus back to life again. As we're told, *"He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied."* Was Jesus' resurrection prophesied in the Old Testament? Absolutely! The Old Testament believer, Job, exclaimed, *"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"* (Job 19:25-27, my emphasis)

"I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong." In the context of these verses this refers to Christ's victory on the cross and all the blessings it brings us. *"To the victor go the spoils."* On the cross Jesus fought the battle against Satan, sin, death and hell, all in our place, and won. We who believe in Jesus share in the blessings of His victory: God's love and forgiveness for us, salvation, eternal life in heaven, God's care and blessings for our life, God's promise to hear and answer our prayers, and so much more.

The idea of having a whipping boy is terribly unfair. A whipping boy have had no choice but to be punished when the prince did something wrong. You and I sin. Jesus is perfectly innocent. So that we wouldn't have to be punished forever in hell, God sent His Son to be punished on the cross in our place. *"Dear Jesus, with all our heart we thank You that You willingly gave Your life to save us!"*

We thank Thee, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new powers:
May grace our every way attend
Until we reach our journey's end! Amen.