

How God Takes Away Sin
International Bible Lesson

John 1:29-34

Sunday, March 1, 2015

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29—KJV).

“The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29—NRSV).

When we hear about a criminal and his crimes, we usually feel that they should be punished to stop them, to protect others from them, and to encourage others not to do the same. Executing just punishments shows what a government or a society thinks about a law’s importance and obedience to the law as a whole. When a criminal does not receive the punishment that a law specifies or that we think they deserve for an especially horrid crime, we can become outraged at the injustice. When someone of the privileged class ignores or violates the law and escapes the punishment that the law demands, we are sometimes offended by the injustice; we also lose respect for the law and the government. We know we would be punished if we

broke the same law. We expect lawbreakers, especially persistent lawbreakers, to be punished in some way. As the Great King, God must deal justly with situations such as these; however, all of us have broken God's law of love as written on our hearts and on Moses' stone tablets. Even worse, we have been persistent breakers of God's law of love: we have not loved God and others as we ought. We all deserve God's punishment forever. For God to emphasize obedience to His law, for God to uphold justice and show mercy when forgiving sinners, the Son of God took upon himself the punishment we deserve. By His death, Jesus won the love of repentant believers, and He takes away the sin of the world one transformed sinner at a time.

– L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. If someone asked you what Lamb of God meant, what might you say?

2. What did John say the Lamb of God would do?

3. How did John the Baptist know that Jesus was the Lamb of God?

4. In addition to Jesus being the Lamb of God, who else did John say Jesus is?

5. What are some of the ways Jesus, who is the Son of God and the Lamb of God, takes away the sin of the world?

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