

### **Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God**

One of God's attributes is that He is just. A price must be paid for the sin of the world. It must be a full price. Sin must be punished as it deserves to be punished, as an offense and a rebellion against the holy, just, and all-powerful God. God cannot suffer injury to His justice and still be God. God, however, also is gracious, loving, and merciful. Those are His attributes as much as justice is. In His grace, love, and mercy He longs for our rescue. But how can His justice be satisfied if He shows mercy and rescues us? And how can grace and love and mercy be satisfied if He treats us as we deserve and as justice therefore demands?

All man-made religions look to man for a solution to the problem. The offered solutions however are nothing but vain self-delusion that only makes the problem worse by keeping people away from the only real solution. Man-made and man-centred solutions offer the false hope that sinful human beings can perform for God some extraordinary work that will satisfy His justice and cancel out sin. Or, they imagine that if we just do the best we can (ignoring the all too obvious fact that there isn't anyone who always or probably ever does the best he can!), God should be satisfied with us and reward us with heaven. Even if a perfect work were possible for us or if we really did the best we could, such works would be less than the bare minimum demanded by God in the first place; perfection is what He is, and constant perfection is the minimum that He can accept. Not even a perfect work from us, therefore, could cancel out other imperfect works, much less blatant and deliberate sins.

Even conscience rejects and condemns such a one-sided and self-justifying delusion, especially in the day of tribulation or in the hour of death. At such times conscience cries out loudly and will not be silenced easily: "*God is just and I am getting what I deserve!*" The answers of human reason and emotion will give no assurance to an accusing conscience or certainty to the doubting soul when it feels the sting of adversity or ponders the hour of death and considers what it deserves for its sins.

Thus, if there is a solution for the problem of sin and sinfulness that is sure and certain, it must come from God Himself. He is the judge of all the earth. He alone must find the way to solve the desperate problem that we cannot solve. He alone must show the solution to the dilemma of an apparent irreconcilable opposition in His own attributes of justice on the one hand and love on the other.

To God be eternal thanks and praise and adoration! He did find a solution for our desperate and hopeless condition. He did find a resolution that satisfies perfectly both His own justice and His grace, love, and mercy. The solution and the resolution revealed and given to us in His Word is summed up in one sublime name: JESUS CHRIST! To satisfy divine justice, He as the holy and spotless Lamb of God endured fully the punishment for the sin of the whole world (John 1:29). The punishment of death and the torments of the damned meted out to Him on the cross have a weight and a value, have merit that exceeds the weight and guilt of the sin of the whole world! In Him - and in Him alone - divine justice was satisfied. At the same time divine love and grace and mercy toward us have reached their sublime peak and are satisfied as well by that one supreme and all-sufficient sacrifice.