

## Lecture 20: Jesus, the Lamb of God

March 4, 2020

### The Doctrine of the Cross

Central to Christianity { 1 Corinthians 15:3 – “died for our sins”  
Matthew 1:21 – “save...from their sins”  
John 1:29 – “takes away the sin of the world”

*What symbol better signifies Christianity?*

### What is sin?

*Sin is a relational concept—the fulfillment of the Law is **love** (Matthew 22:37-40).*

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks...” (Romans 1:21).

1. *Dishonor* – opposite the fear of the Lord
2. *Ingratitude* – opposite faith in the Lord

To understand sin, we need...

*a God-centered moral sensibility*  
through a direct sight of God’s glory.

### How is this spiritual discernment gained?

Only through the Holy Spirit:

“But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Illus. Near-sighted, color-blind eyes  (i.e. the things revealed by the Spirit of God)

Those who minimize sin and despise the cross do not realize:

1. the depth of their wrongdoing against God (cf. Mt. 18:24, 26)
2. the depth of their insult to God’s grace
3. the depth of the cost paid by God—the life of His Son on the cross

### Jesus – the Lamb of God

Old Testament context: *Scripture interprets Scripture*

Leviticus 4

1. atonement – a payment to “make up for” a wrong done
2. blood – the price paid is the value of the life taken
3. the more sin, the more valuable the life

*Where will we find a life so valuable...?*

Judah  
Joseph  
Job

### Isaiah 53 – the Suffering Servant

“But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our peace fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.

All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has laid on Him the iniquities of us all” (Isa. 53:5-6).

### Traits of the Cross

deliberate  
unjust  
public  
vicarious  
abandoned  
vindicated

### Justice and Mercy Reconciled

“...that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:26)

Just – *God rightly honoring His glory*

Justifier – *God rightly receiving **in Christ** those who have dishonored His glory, as if they were guiltless*