

Our Savior's Burden



Sermon Goal

That we would all be brought back to God afresh through the cross of Christ.



Sermon Text

1 Peter 2:24a

→ “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree...”



Big Idea

The great exchange of the cross has as its goal the great reunion of God and man.

(1) “*He Himself...*”

In light of God’s unapproachable holiness, man’s sin called for God’s wrath. But God is not only holy and wrathful, He is also gracious and merciful, “not wishing that any should perish” (2 Pet 3:9). So He establishes a sacrificial system in Israel.

But, of course, all of these sacrifices, made day after day for hundreds of years, were but a picture, a foreshadowing, of that one and only acceptable sacrifice for sin—namely Jesus Christ. In that most holy moment on the cross, Christ became not only the Priest, but the sacrifice.

(2) “*He Himself bore our sins...*”

God cannot disperse of Christ’s burden. No one else can carry it. In the end, even the Father must leave the Son utterly alone. The cross-hairs of God’s wrath were fastening over Him. The burden of all the world was to be carried by ONE man!

(3) “*He Himself bore our sins in His body...*”

Many people make a great deal of the physical sufferings of Christ, and rightfully so. But the worst reality of all, is that which no eye could see. There is something far worse than wounds on His body. O I tell you, with tears in my eyes, my sins were there; your sins were there; the sins of all the world were there; “our” sins were there. And this spiritual suffering erupts into the physical world with what R.C. Sproul has called “the scream of the damned”: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt 27:46b).

(4) “*He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree...*”

To be hung on a tree was to be cursed by God. But, in the unfathomable wisdom and mercy of God, the place of His curse is made the place of His blessing. It is on the cross that God makes what Martin Luther called “the Great Exchange”.



Critical Action

The cross provides a safe place for us to come out of hiding and engage God and His people with what’s really going on. Do business with God in the light of the cross. Come back to Him afresh, or even for the first time.



Reflection Questions

- How did God forgive people in the Old Testament? How does He forgive us today?
- Why is God so angry with our sin? Isn’t all this a bit of an overreaction? How seriously do you take your sin? How deeply are you grateful for the cross?
- If the cross is the centerpiece of all that is Christianity, why are we often so reluctant to reveal to others that we are sinners? How does the cross provide a safe place for us to come out of hiding? How are you hiding your sin from God and His people? What would it look like/feel like to open up?