

## Behold Love!

### I. Isaiah 53

**What Can Wash Away Our Sin? What Can Make Us Whole Again? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!**

### II. How Can God Love and Justify Ungodly People?

#### 1. God Loves and Justifies Me through a Rejected Redeemer.

Who has believed what he has heard from us?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted. – Isaiah 53:1-4

“When the only true remedy for the guilt that tortures us and threatens us with eternal destruction appeared right in front of us, our emotions were dead, our decisions misguided, our minds corrupted. And he accepted it as the price love had to pay to give us our lives back.”<sup>1</sup>

#### 2. God Loves Me and Justifies Me Through an Innocent Scape-Goat

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;

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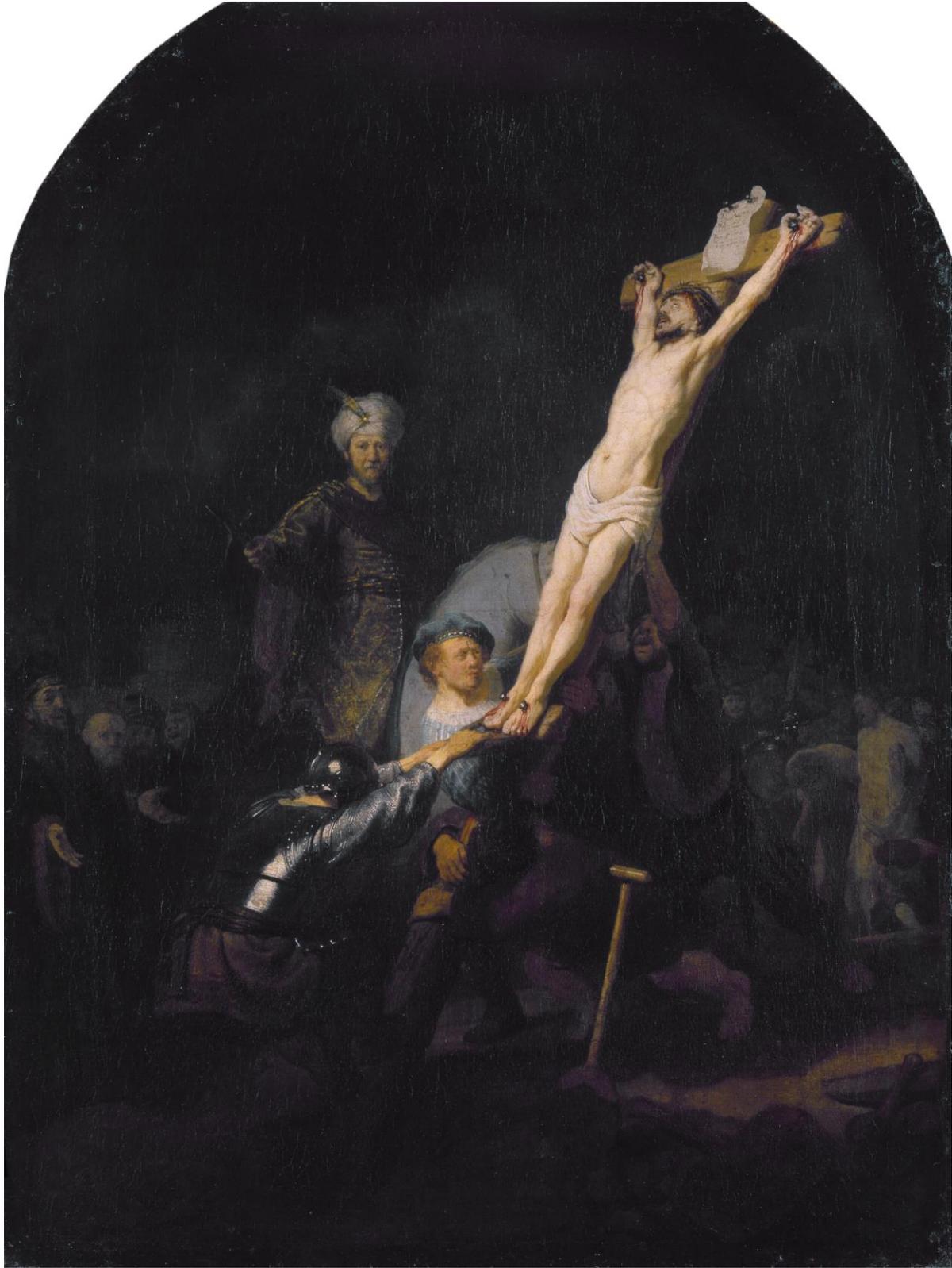
<sup>1</sup> Ray Ortlund Jr.

and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
and as for his generation, who considered  
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?

<sup>9</sup> And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth. – Isaiah 53:5-9



**3. God Loves Me Through A Crushed Yet Victorious Savior**

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;  
 he has put him to grief;  
 when his soul makes an offering for guilt,  
 he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
 the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.  
<sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
 by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
 make many to be accounted righteous,  
 and he shall bear their iniquities.  
<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,  
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
 because he poured out his soul to death  
 and was numbered with the transgressors;  
 yet he bore the sin of many,  
 and makes intercession for the transgressors. – Isaiah 53:10-12

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and *be satisfied*;  
 by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
*make many to be accounted righteous*,  
 and he shall bear their iniquities. – Isaiah 53:11

### III. **We Don't Need Our Names in an Earthly Hall of Fame. We Need Our Names in the Lamb's Book of Life!**

“The Christian faith includes miracles of divine power. The Christian faith is thoroughly miraculous, and some people choke on that. But they often miss the outrageous miracle right at the center of the gospel. In Romans 4:5 Paul says that God “justifies the ungodly.” That’s a real problem. Jesus walked on the water – so what? No one is harmed. But when God justifies the ungodly, he upsets the whole moral order of the universe, doesn’t he?

Everybody knows that God punishes bad people and rewards good people. It’s his job. But the gospel disagrees. The gospel says that God *justifies* the ungodly. What does that mean? It means that God declares guilty people innocent. It means that God treats bad people as if they were good people. That goes beyond the power of miracle. It’s a scandal. Are you open to the mega-miracle and the arch-scandal of the gospel? It doesn’t matter if you’re a conservative person or a progressive person. However, you define virtue and vice, you have a sense of right and wrong. You form judgments. You expect God to. But how can he justify the ungodly?

It's a good thing he does."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ray Ortlund, Jr.