

Isaiah 53

Sunday, June 4, 2006

“Who hath believed our report?”

The mission and ministry of the Arminian preacher is to make God palatable and the Christ of the Bible desirable. They are ashamed of the Gospel. They do not believe “our report” – i.e., record (1 Jn. 5:9–11), doctrine, preaching. Because, “the arm of the Lord” – i.e., His sovereign, omnipotent power to control the will of His intelligent creatures – has not been “revealed” to them. Isa. 53:1.

To these false prophets and their willing followers, the Christ of the Bible is ugly and hideous, hateful and repulsive – undesirable, despised and rejected. Isa. 53:2–3. They viscerally hate Him.

Because, (1) He died only for His sheep, His seed (He shall see his seed...He shall see of the travail of His soul), He justifies many – not all, and He bare the sin of many – not all (Isa. 53:6, 10–11); and, (2) He will soon come in flaming fire to execute His wrath upon them and deal with them in bloody, conquering vengeance, and divide the spoil with his elect. Isa. 53:12 and Luke 11:21–23.

They hate, despise and reject Him because the Christ revealed in Scripture is the King (i.e., absolute omnipotent sovereign), eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God. 1 Tim. 1:17, For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge or avenge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb. 10:30–31.

They hate, despise and reject this only Lamb of God because they know that the Great Day of His wrath – long determined upon them – is soon to break upon their heads. Rev. 6:14–17. And, they know that the Lamb will personally administer their eternal torment with fire and brimstone. Rev. 14:10.

All of which is plainly, repeatedly, and unambiguously proclaimed in Scripture, in nature, and on the fleshy tablets of all hearts. 2 Thes. 1:4–10.

They are ashamed of the Gospel – i.e. the Christ of Scripture.

This universal visceral hatred of the Christ of Scripture manifests itself almost exclusively in mankind's hateful treatment of His servants.

The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me. Psa. 69:9 and Rom. 15:3. Which is to say, The vicious, implacable hatred of them that hate thee is fallen upon me.

The primary if not the only way that they daily demonstrate that they esteem Him as ugly and hideous – hateful and repulsive – undesirable, despised and rejected, is by shamefully treating us – as being in their unanimous estimation – ugly and hideous – hateful and repulsive – undesirable, despised and rejected.

This makes us bold: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully treated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention. 1 Thes. 2:2.

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. Mat. 24:9. The context shows that this hatred will exponentially increase as the End of the World draws near. Mat 24:9-15.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you...I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you. The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. Jn. 15:18-20

This is indeed the mystery of the ages.

We thereby, "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church." Col. 1:24. When His servants thus suffer, this is none other than, "the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow," the subject of Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles and the intensest study and interest of the angels: "which things the angels desire to look into." 1 Pet. 1:11-12. "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings," 1 Pet. 4:13.