

**March 20, 2025: (originally prepared by Tom Knecht for March 11, 2022)**



203 Surely-His Stripes-We Like Sheep.mp3

Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

What a dichotomy; what a contrast between these two thoughts.

The first causes me to reflect on my fallen state:

I'm a wanderer by nature, I'm lost. (Psalm 119:76)  
I've spent so much time partaking in the folly of my lost state. (Proverbs 15:21)  
I've caused myself (and others) great pain by my wandering. (Psalm 38)  
I've carried on too long as though I don't need a shepherd. (Psalm 10:4)  
My pride has blinded me into thinking I know better. (I Corinthians 2:14)  
I've lived selfishly, not seeking any way but my own. (James 3:16)  
My ways have caused me to be in bondage and have caused great despair, shame, sadness, disappointment, and defeat. (Romans 7:24)

The second thought in contrast directs my attention to His sinless state:

Though I behaved as the sheep gone astray, He became the Lamb for my sin. (John 1:29)  
My selfishness, my pride, my shame, my sin—were all laid on Him there. (I Peter 2:24)  
His sacrifice made the way for my healing and restoration. (Psalm 51:12)  
His sacrifice paved the way for my reconciliation. (I Timothy 2:5)  
His sacrifice has redeemed me from bondage. (Isaiah 43:1)

But praise God that He doesn't just leave me with a passive knowledge of these two thoughts. A genuine realization of the weight of my sin--a work of the Holy Spirit--causes me to sink to my knees in shame and disgust over my fallen state and brings true conviction and repentance. A genuine realization of all that He bore for me, one that only grows over time --a work of the Holy Spirit-- brings about my salvation. Through the washing and regeneration of my inner being I now have forgiveness, relief, peace, healing, blessing, assurance, and victory. (Isaiah 42:7).

And this is cause for great rejoicing today. He has turned (and continues to turn) my darkness into light, my bondage into freedom, my regrets into praise, my bitterness into sweetness and my failures and defeats into victory.

Lord, help me this day to be ever more thankful to You for bearing my iniquity, for "redeeming my life from destruction" and purchasing my freedom. Bind me to yourself so that I do not wander again from You. Help me this day to come to the mercy seat afresh. For "there I can

plead, I can claim, I can have, all that [You] purchased for me." May I walk in victory today!  
Amen.

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought  
My sin, not in part, but the whole (every bit, all of it)  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more (hallelujah I'm free)  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul  
It is well, it is well, it is well with my soul