**Why Has There Been Such An Outcry By Brethren Against Isaiah 53:6c?**

Isaiah 53:6c reads “the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” But notice these quotes by gospel preachers which directly contradict the wording of that verse:

* “It is said that Jesus took every sin of mankind into Himself on the cross … I deny that any … scripture says such a thing but to the contrary the scriptures deny it.” (Maurice Barnett, Gospel Truths, July 2010)
* “To the Calvinist that means … they were put on Him … Where is the passage that says that God put the sins of the world on Jesus?” (Gene Frost, sermon, March 2000)
* “God has never put sin on anyone” (Hugh Walton, 6-14-2017 email)
* “Jesus took our sins upon Himself … It is plain Calvinism.” (Jesse Jenkins, 2-21-2014 email)

How can we account for such blatant denials of the wording of Isaiah 53:6c by Christians? Sure, many in the past have denied the true meanings of various passages, but I can never recall brethren denying the actual wording of a verse such as they are doing now. None have ever gone this far to prop up their theory.

Here is what I think has happened. The Calvinist will say the wording of Isaiah 53:6c means the “guilt” of our sins were laid upon Jesus. Maurice Barnett and the like know that cannot be true, that you cannot rewrite history (who committed what sin). So my friend Barnett and company reject the wording of the verse outright. Instead of disavowing what the verse says, they should have rejected the Calvinists’ addition of the word “guilt” to the verse. What our brother Barnett should have done is to say “the verse is true, but here is what the verse means.” Instead his tactic has been to deny the actual wording of the verse - because he has evidently accepted the Calvinistic interpretation of the wording of the verse.

When a basketball referee literally charges (transfers, lays) the foul of Dan to/on Tom (mistakenly), that doesn’t mean Tom was guilty of the foul. It is impossible to change who committed a foul after the fact. Instead it means Tom took the penalty for Dan’s foul. Likewise, instead of teaching the guilt of our sins were transferred to Jesus (He remained a completely innocent lamb, I Pet 1:19), the context of Isaiah 53:6c shows the verse is saying the punishment for our sin was transferred to Jesus. Verse 5 (context) declares this understanding of verse 6 when it says “The punishment for our well-being *was laid* upon Him” (NASB).

So a lot of this controversy probably could have been avoided if brethren had just had confidence in the age old rule of letting context determine the meaning of a phrase. Instead many preaching brethren swallowed the Calvinistic interpretation of Isaiah 53:6c (contrary to context), and that mistaken acceptance of adding the word “guilt” to the text caused them to reject the verse outright. Sad but true?