

'The Son of God and the Lord of Glory Series'

Sermons in the Gospel of John

Message 13 - 'Behold the Lamb' John 1: 29



In this verse we are confronted with a defining moment in redemptive history, because at this point the reality of a Saviour is revealed to the world, and its significance reverberates throughout the ages! That is why we are told to 'Behold!' To look upon, to stand and see! What do we gaze upon? The most wonderful person we could ever know, a person of such majesty, such power, such authority, such divinity, such glory, and yet a person of such humility, such loveliness, such gentleness. The verse challenged us to 'Behold, the Lamb!' The Lamb of God who is Jesus Christ. We can see the following:

- **Christ is the Lamb of God (v29)** - This particular title is used only in John's writings, although the types of the sacrificial lamb are littered throughout the Scriptures. As John the Baptist speaks, He is revealing the reality of a heavenly truth that has been given to him by God that had complete authority and was absolute truth. The 'Lamb of God' is one of the most cherished pictures of Christ throughout the ages to the believer. The title, the 'Lamb of God', points to the cross, the ultimate sacrifice to atone for sin. Jesus had come to deal with sin. Throughout the Scriptures, the heart of our problem is revealed, and it is the problem of the heart, sin, and no-one is exempt. Jesus Christ is the only answer. Those who believe on Jesus Christ, who are washed in His blood, will be saved, for His sacrifice provides definite atonement for His people.

1. The Lamb is a picture of Christ our Passover who was sacrificed for us. - 1 Corinthians 5:7. The Passover was the occasion when God delivered His people from the bondage of the Egyptians. The blood of the Lamb would symbolise that the Lamb was the substitute and that judgement had already been accounted for. On seeing the blood, God would pass over the house. Those who hid under the protection of the blood were saved; those who did not receive the judgement of God. Here we have a picture of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. The Lamb without blemish speaks to us of His perfect sinless life. The shed blood speaks of the blood He would shed to redeem His people. The life and blood of the innocent Lamb preserved and gave life where there should have been none. The Lamb of God was slain, and as He died in the place of sinners, He redeemed them with His precious blood.

2. The Lamb is a picture of the precious blood of Christ which redeems us. - 1 Peter 1:18-19. Jesus Christ is the perfect Lamb of God without sin (no blemish or spot in Him is found). Jesus Christ is the One who bears sin on behalf of His people. He is the One who bore the judgement for sin, which was death. He is the One who laid down His life and was sacrificed for sin. He is the One who by His death sets free His redeemed. He is the One whose blood is counted precious both by God and those who have been washed in it. Christ willingly offered Himself as the sacrificial lamb, as the substitute and sin-bearer. God accepted the sacrifice of His Son to atone for sin and satisfy His wrath.

3. The 'Lamb of God' is not of men, but of God - God gave the Lamb, supplied the sacrifice. See the progression in the Scriptures, in Genesis 22:7, the question is asked, 'where is the lamb?' In the verse we have here in John, the glorious answer is given, 'Behold the Lamb of God'. Then in the final book of the Bible, Revelation, the work of the Lamb is complete and He is exalted, and we cry, 'Worthy is the Lamb!' God provided the Lamb to redeem sinners and to give them an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled.

4. The 'Lamb of God' takes away the sin of the world - Hebrews 9:28. The phrase take away speaks of a burden being lifted, of it being taken away. It means to bear on behalf of someone, as someone comes to be a substitute to bear the load on behalf of another. For those that trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, He takes away the burden of sin, of guilt, of shame, and restores true life and liberty given by grace.



Penzance Baptist Church

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