

Morning Sermon July 25, 2021

“Washed, Set Free” – Revelation 1:5, 5:8-13

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood
Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

... To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood
Revelation 1:5 (ESV)

Washed (λούσαντι). Read λύσαντι *loosed*. Trench remarks on the variation of readings as having grown out of a play on the words λουτρόν, *a bathing*, and λύτρον *a ransom*, both of which express the central benefits which redound to us through the sacrifice and death of Christ. ... Either reading falls in with a beautiful circle of imagery. If *washed*, compare Ps. 51:2; Isa. 1:16, 18; Ezek. 36:25; Acts 22:16; Eph. 5:26; Tit. 3:5. If *loosed*, compare Matt. 20:28; 1 Tim. 2:6; 1 Pet. 1:18; Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:5; Apoc. 5:9; 14:3, 4. M. R. Vincent

Washed -

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.
Psalm 51:2

¹⁸ “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Ezekiel 36:25 (NKJV)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

Set Free, loosed, redeemed -

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1:18–19 (NKJV)

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:9–10 (NKJV)

Both truths expressed in one passage -

¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:12-14

I. *However, you translate it, there is power in Christ’s blood both to cleanse and set free from sin –*

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

1. *This is something we see in Old Testament Prophecy, Jesus as taking the cross is the ARM of the LORD –*

53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the Arm of the LORD been revealed? Isaiah 53:1

A. *The Arm of the LORD in that chapter is a “He” and it is Jesus, and Jesus taking the cross, He took a punishment, we could not handle upon Himself –*

⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5–6 (NKJV)

B. *In this we see Christ’s strength, He takes our sin, but gives to us His righteousness –*

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

II. *This surprising POWER of the cross is known and seen by us, but missed by an ungodly world*

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing... 1 Corinthians 1:18 A

1. 27 times in the Book of Revelation Jesus is called “the Lamb”

2. We as God’s people are also called, even by Jesus, sheep –

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27 (NKJV)

3. An ungodly world does not see this –

“It is better to be a lion for a day, than a sheep all your life.”

Elizabeth Kenny

“A lion doesn’t concern himself with the opinions of sheep.”

Anonymous

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

4. Yet, it is as the Lamb Jesus redeems us, as the Lamb Jesus is worthy of our PRAISE, our worship! – What is pictured in revelation 5 is Heavenly worship -

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on

the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” Revelation 5:8–13 (NKJV)

III. *We should aim for Heavenly Worship in church on earth – Revelation 5:8–13 (NKJV)*

The word “worship” means to ascribe worth!

1. Jesus is worthy in God’s eyes to take the scroll, though no one else was - :9

2. Jesus’ worthiness is sung about - :9

A. An ungodly world sings about many things: “99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall” “Love is a Many Splendored Thing” some more worthy of song than others, but none as worthy as Christ!

B. Christ is worthy because “slain” :9 He is worthy of our praise because He redeemed us - :9

C. Christ is worthy because He redeemed many of us, from many nations - :9

D. He is worthy because He made us Kings and Priests, when we were nothing but Hell Deserving sinners without Him ----

We often cheer loudly for men who put a ball through a hoop or in a hole, or hit it far with a stick: basketball, golf and baseball! Yet, what are these thing WORTH? Do they save us from Hell? No!

3. Note Jesus is worthy of a crowd - :11

4. Note Jesus is worthy of LOUD - :12 Sometimes hard for Presbyterians, but we should aim at improving in this area!

5. Jesus is worthy of power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing, even forever and ever - :12-13

6. Definitely He is worthy of our honor as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper!

7. He is worthy of our time during the week as we prepare for it!

Worship should be both daily, part of all we do – 1 Corinthians 10:31 Yet, also special, we set aside Sunday, the Lord’s Day, also the Lord’s Supper!

Arnold Brevick