

## Behold, the Lamb of God! (Part 2)

John 1:30-34

**Thought for the Day.** Jesus Christ is God's perfect provision for the sins of the entire world! We experience His forgiveness and cleansing from sin when we put our faith in Him as our substitutionary sacrifice for our sins.

In the Gospel of John, the Apostle John is making the case that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ—the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament, and the Son of God—God in human flesh, who came to reveal God to man and to give His life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. In John 1:19-34, he calls his first witness—John the Baptist. In verses 29-34, John has the privilege of introducing the Messiah to the world.

### **29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"**

- Jesus Christ is God's perfect provision for the sins of the whole world!
- God sent His one and only Son to live a perfect life and die as a substitutionary sacrifice on the cross in order to pay the price of our sins by His death.
- "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), and by Christ's death, God's holy wrath and just demands that sin be punished are fully satisfied.
- When we put our faith in Jesus Christ to be our Savior, He takes away our sins, and we receive His righteousness.
- Through faith in Jesus, we stand before God clothed in His righteousness and forgiven of all our sins.
- His death is *sufficient* to pay for the sins of the whole world, but it is *efficient* only for those who trust in Him for salvation.

### **30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'**

- A repetition of verse 15.
- Jesus was greater than John because He existed from all eternity—He is God in human flesh!

### **31 I myself did not know him...**

- John knew Jesus—they were cousins—but he did not know that He was God's Son, the Messiah, until His baptism.

### **...but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."**

- "John's mission was to prepare the way of the Lord, and then to point Him out **to** the people of **Israel** when He appeared. It was for this reason that John baptized people in **water**—to prepare them for the coming of Christ. It was not for the purpose of attracting disciples to himself." (MacDonald, p. 1424)

### **32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove...**

- A divinely inspired clarification of Matthew 3:16: It was not only Jesus who saw the Spirit descending like a dove, John also witnessed this.

### **...and it remained on him.**

- In the OT the Holy Spirit came upon people temporarily to empower them for a particular task, and then, He would depart.
- At His baptism, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus, and He remained on Him; He anointed Him and empowered Him for His ministry. (Luke 4:18)

### **33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'**

- God told John in advance that this would be the authenticating sign that this Person was the Messiah.
- Only the Messiah could have the power to baptize people with the Holy Spirit.
- This baptism with the Holy Spirit took place on the day of Pentecost as described in Acts 1:4-5 and 2:1-4.
  - "At that time, **the Holy Spirit** came down from heaven to dwell in the body of every believer and also to make each believer a member of the Church, the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13)." (*MacDonald, p. 1424*)
  - When we accept Jesus as our Savior: 1) The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us; 2) He imparts to us the gift of eternal life, the very life of God; 3) He baptizes us into the body of Christ, the Church; and 4) He empowers us for service to the Lord and His Church.
  - "John the Baptist's baptism with water was preparatory because it was for repentance and symbolized the washing away of sins. Jesus, by contrast, would baptize with the Holy Spirit, imparting not only forgiveness but also eternal life. He would send the Holy Spirit upon all believers, empowering them to live and to teach the message of salvation. This outpouring of the Spirit came after Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended into heaven (see 20:22; Acts 2).  
"All true believers have been baptized by Jesus in the Holy Spirit (see Romans 8:9). As such, we have been immersed in Jesus' Spirit. Now we can experience the life-giving Spirit and enjoy his presence day by day." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)

### **34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."**

- "Son of God" means that Jesus Christ is God in human flesh!
  - This title is used of Jesus 43 times in the New Testament.
  - It is the title His followers used most often to describe Him.
  - Only 5 times did Jesus refer to Himself as the Son of God.
- When Jesus spoke of Himself, He nearly always used the title "Son of Man."
  - 80 times Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man.
- Both titles indicate that Jesus is God in human flesh. "Son of God" emphasizes His deity; "Son of Man" emphasizes His humanity.