

## John Series: That You May Believe

### #5: The Witness of John the Baptist – Part 1 (The Lamb of God)

Text: John 1:19-34

John the Apostle has written his gospel so that men will believe on Christ and receive life in His name. Now John calls his first witness to the stand. John the Baptist is one of 7 witnesses (counting Jesus Himself) in the book of John that show Jesus as God.

**I. John's Testimony Concerning Himself** (vs 19-28) John the Baptist (mentioned at least 89 times in NT) was a fiery, strangely-dressed prophet of God, who came out of the wilderness eating locusts and honey and preaching repentance. John the Apostle does not mention his Elijah-like clothing or strange diet. He is only concerned with John's witness of Christ that we may believe. He was making quite a stir, and some were saying he was the Messiah. So the religious leaders came to question him.

**WHO ARE YOU?** (and how do we approach that question?)

1. **Who John was NOT** (vs 19-21) John flatly denied being the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet. We too must know who we are NOT – our limitations.
2. **Who John WAS** (vs 22-28) Humbly called himself "the voice." We must know who we are.
  - a. **Purpose and Calling** (v23) the Forerunner of the Messiah according to prophecy.
  - b. **Why do you do what you do?** (vs 24-26) (Can you answer this? 1Ptr 3:15) John knew his authority came from God. He pointed out his water baptism in contrast to Messiah's spiritual baptism. He attacked their blindness after they attacked his baptism.
  - c. **Point to Christ** (vs 26-28) 2Cor4:5 WE are not the subject, or the point. Show them Christ!

**II. John's Testimony Concerning Jesus Christ** (vs 29-34) God Himself showed John who Jesus is (vs 31, 33). This happened after Jesus' baptism by John where John saw the Spirit coming upon Jesus. Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted and then came to John the Baptist to be publicly announced.

#### THE GOSPEL (the real meat)

1. **The Lamb of God** (v29) John had been baptizing for repentance, but we needed more than Repentance – we needed Redemption. We needed a Sacrificial Lamb to bear our sins!

##### A. "The Lamb"

1. **The Substance of the Law** – fulfilled OT types and system. (Col 2:16-17)
2. **The Sacrifice for Sin** – Propitiated God's wrath from sinners by receiving it upon His body at the cross (Heb 10:11-12, 1Ptr2:24, 2 Cor 5:21)
3. **The Substitute for Sinners** – Not only bore sin, but stood in the condemned place of the sinner. (Rom5:18-19, Is53:4-7, 11b-12)

B. **"...of God"** God's Plan. *"Where is the Lamb?"* the question of the OT. God provided His own Lamb (Rom 3:23-25, 1Jn4:10, Genesis 22).

C. **"who takes away the sin of the world"** John went straight to the problem – our sin. He didn't say, "Behold the Lamb of God who corrects social injustice, makes us rich and healthy, rids the world of poverty and disease," etc.

**Propitiation** means Christ appeased the wrath of God that was against us because of sin.

**Expiation** means that Christ took away the guilt of our sin before God (Scapegoat).

(1 Jn 2:2, 3:5, Heb 9:26, Is 38:17b, Ps 103:12)

D. **"of the world"** – men from every tribe, tongue and nation.

Was Christ the wrath-remover for every single person in the world, or people from every nation in the world? You need to think through this! What does the Bible teach? If Christ removed the wrath (made propitiation) for every individual in the world, then God's wrath doesn't abide on anyone. This is the heresy of universalism! But Scripture plainly says,

**Jn 3:36** – "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

It is clear that Christ on the cross certainly accomplished what He had come to do (or else He would have been a failure). Was He intending then to redeem every individual in the world, or make certain the redemption of God's people (those who will believe; chosen and loved by God before the foundation of the world, for no other reason than God's grace and choice)?

**Note the certainty of Christ's accomplishment at the cross:**

**Heb 9:12** – “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.**”

**Now Note the Intention of Christ in His death:**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **gives His life for the sheep.**” John 10:11

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd **the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**” Acts 20:28

**What the Father intended to accomplish by sending His Son to die on the cross, He accomplished. And what Christ intended to accomplish by dying on the cross, He most certainly accomplished. He died for His sheep, the church, and obtained for them eternal redemption!!!!**

Compare these 2 passages, written by the same author (John). Let John himself show us what he meant when he said:

**1 Jn 2:2** – “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

Compare this verse and terminology to John 11:51-52:

**Jn 11:51-52** – “Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, **52** and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.”

John is saying that Christ died for “the nation,” or Israel (“He Himself is the propitiation for OUR sins”). But not for that nation only, or not for Israel only (“and not for ours only” in 1 John 2:2). “But also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad” (“but also for the whole world”, 1 Jn 2:2). This “not only us but also the whole world” terminology is showing us that Christ did not come for the children of God in Israel ONLY, but also for the children of God scattered throughout the whole world in every nation! (Compare Christ telling Paul to remain in Corinth because He had many people in that city. He was telling Paul that there were men who WOULD BE SAVED, but had not heard the gospel yet. He called them HIS. Acts 18:10).

Praise God, He has a people! Our job is to go preach the gospel to everyone, and the “children of God scattered abroad” will be gathered in by the Holy Spirit as we preach. Glory to God!

**Application:** Believe the testimony of the eyewitness! Look to the Lamb of God who takes away sin! Go to Him in faith receiving the Holy Spirit! Believe on Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and have LIFE!

**Reference:** many Quotes, Outlines & Ideas for this sermon taken from the commentaries on the gospel of John written by Charles Erdman, Warren Wiersbe, John Phillips and William Hendrickson.

**Scripture References**

**1Ptr 3:15** – “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”

**2Cor 4:5** – “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.”

**Col2:16-17** – “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

**Heb10:11-12** – “And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,”

**1Ptr2:24** – “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.”

**2 Cor 5:21** – “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

**Rom5:18-19** – “Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. *19* For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.”

**Isa 53:4-7, 11b-12** - “Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. *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. *7* He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth....By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. *12* Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.”

**Rom3:23-25** – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, *24* being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, *25* whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,”

**1John4:10** – “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

#### **Gen 22 LOOK UP**

**1 Jn 2:2** – “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

**1Jn3:10** – “And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.”

**Heb9:26** – “but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

**Is 38:17b** – “For You have cast all my sins behind Your back”

**Ps 103:12** – “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

**Jn 3:36** – “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

**Jn 11:51-52** – “Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, **52** and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.”

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