

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

"Worthy Is the Lamb!"

George Hutto

Store In My Heart

Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Generally considered as written by John Mark, the shortest of the Gospels tells the story of Jesus as he gathers disciples and prepares them for the work ahead. The record includes the rejection of Jesus as the Messiah by the rulers of the Jews as well as those who accepted Him as one sent from God. None seemed to fully understand Him until His death on the cross.

Mark tells the ministry of Jesus in a concise and orderly manner, possibly using Peter as his source. Read and study it diligently.

In the Revelation, after we are introduced to Jesus Christ by the vision in chapter one and to the seven churches via the letters, we are taken to the throne of God. There are God in His magnificence, and also the Lamb, the only one of all creation worthy to open the seven seals of the scroll. Heaven's new song goes like this:

"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..." (Rev 5:9)

Jesus Christ breaks the seals for understanding the "patience of the saints."

One of the wonders of God's great scheme of redemption is that Christ, the heir, is made worthy to "rule the nations with a rod of iron." (19:15) Being heir does not automatically give a ruler the same respect as the Father receives. Often, people belittle the heir as one who simply inherits his position.

Well, Jesus has inherited His place. "God ... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." (Heb 1:1-2,4) Circumstances of one's birth and genes do play big roles in who we are, like it or not.

Consider the extraordinary circumstances of Jesus' birth. He was born of a virgin. He was begotten by God through the Holy Spirit - "the only begotten of the Father." (Jn 1:18; Heb 1:5) He was born by prophetic decree to sacrifice and to rule. (Heb 1) To say that He was born into Divine Privilege would be an understatement. (Heb 10:5)

However, Jesus must not be belittled because of His heritage. He is worthy to be Lord because He has earned the place. To grasp this gem of divine wisdom, let us go to Gethsemane and Jesus' prayer. "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done." (Mt 26) The Father at this point was faced with an excruciating decision, similar to Abraham's decision on the mount. (Gen 22)

Some have suggested that Jesus, being divine, was somehow insulated from the torments of the cross. But Luke speaks of those drops of sweat, as though they were blood. (Lk 22:44) Jesus said to His disciples, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me." (Mt 26:38) The Master knew completely that His only way out of this world was on that loathsome cross.

Should we think that the loving Father would feel the anguish less than the Son? When Jesus saw the crowd coming with clubs, swords, and torches, He knew the answer to His prayer. The mission was on.



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For Our Information

Joyce Venable spent much of last week in the hospital with blood pressure and sodium level issues. She has been home for a day or so and doing some better.

Vickie McNees is still dealing with back pain.

Jonathan & Amy Simpson are in Dallas, TX this weekend.

Several of us have family members with health issues.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

A father-son relationship is like that. There is a time when the father steps aside and the son is left to prove his metal. Jesus passed the test, Himself, as Savior of the World.

“Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Heb 1:3)

“Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,” (Heb 5:7-9)

The term perfected here is a word we might not associate with the sinless Son of God. Jesus needed to be perfected? The term perfect in the Bible usually carries the meaning of being completed, or to come to fruition. When Jesus completed His mission here on Earth, then He was perfected – He “came full circle.” (Heb 7:28; Lk 13:32)

We, too, are made whole by the Lord's work. “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” (Heb 10:14) Now, there is a proper sacrifice for sin.

But further, we are given our own mission by the Lord. He is “the author of salvation to all those who obey Him.” By following and obeying Christ, we “go on to perfection.” (Heb 6:1) We are not in the business of earning our salvation, but each person has a mission, and without that mission being accomplished, we are not in league with the Lord.

There is a camaraderie and brotherhood that Christians must appreciate. “For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.” (Heb 2:11)

We say that respect is earned, but with the Lord, reverence is closer to what He deserves. Worship is in order here. We mortals might forget this point, and “let it slip away.”

If the Lord expects you to give up your sin, do it. If He asks you to give time to study and reflection, don't resist. (Heb 5:12) If you might neglect the service, muster the energy to be there. (Heb 10:25; 13:13-17) If the flesh or the eye tempts you, stand like a man. (Heb 12:7-11; 13:4-5)

Have you considered that you will someday be judged by the One who paid the price for your sins? “He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” (Acts 17:31)

One of the most poignant encounters of the Lord was the dramatic approach of the Rich Young Ruler. His question centered on what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus loved the young man, but He did not flinch from pointing out his shortcoming. The Lord will dispense judgment for you and me in the same way. We must not fail Him. We must not allow His blood to be shed in vain in our case. (Heb 10:29)

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.” (Heb 10:26-27)

He is worthy to judge us. He is worthy of our life-altering repentance and spiritual service. He is worthy of our worship as “our Lord and our God.”

“We are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.” (Heb 10:39)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

