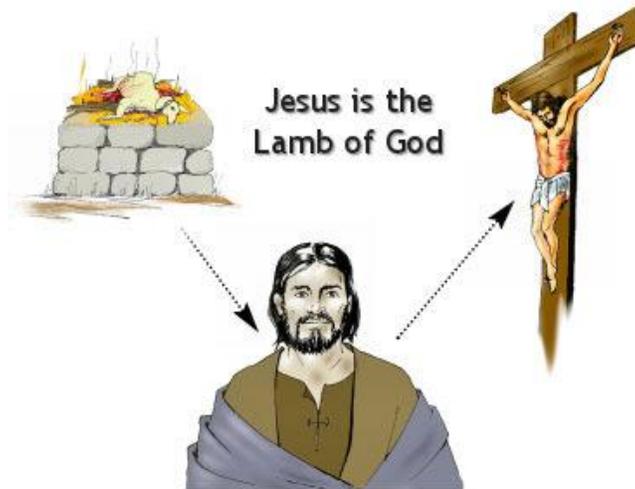


SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

THEME: THE PRESENCE, POWER AND PROPERTIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Unit I – HIS PRESENCE

“The Lamb Signified by the Holy Spirit”



Sunday School Lesson I – March 1, 2015 Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: John 1:29-34

Required Reading: John 1:15-37; 3:30

Motto Text: John 1:29, *“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; MacArthur Study Bible; Spiritual Warfare by Dr. David Jeremiah; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington

Introduction

Quoting the Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, “Our lesson series this quarter deals with the Holy Spirit and His ministry to and through the church. The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal to the Father and the Son in the Godhead. But He never undertakes His works independently of the other two. It is the Father who has sent the Spirit into the world for His ministry in this age, and He comes in the name of the Son (Jn. 14:26). The truth He reveals comes from Jesus, and He calls attention to Him, not Himself (16:12-14). He is completing what Jesus began to do.”

With that in mind we enter four lessons from the fourth Gospel. In these lessons we will discover teachings of Jesus Christ concerning His promised Holy Spirit and then we’ll close this unit with a lesson from Mark. **“The Lamb Signified by the Holy Spirit”** is our lesson focus. According to Dr. Warren Wiersbe the message of the Bible can be summarized around the Lamb. “The question in the OT is ‘Where is the lamb? (Gen. 22:7).’ In the 4 Gospels, the emphasis is, ‘Behold the Lamb of God!’ Here He is! After you have trusted Him, you sing with the heavenly choir, ‘Worthy is the Lamb! (Rev. 5:12).’”

John the Baptist, according to John the gospel writer, was on his mission preaching and preparing Israel to meet and receive their Messiah. According to verses 19-28, he was being interrogated by representatives of the Jewish religious hierarchy. They were the very custodians of the religion of the nation. They inquired of John if he was the Messiah. Was he Elijah the prophet, based on Malachi 4:15? Or was he the prophet who Moses declared would come in Deuteronomy 18:15? To all the questions, John simply answered “NO!” He was just an obedient servant, carrying out an ordained mission and waiting for the Holy Spirit to signify the Lamb of God. This is our lesson’s focus today.

Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Background on the Presenter. John 1:6-9, 19-28**
- **The Blessed Being Presented. John 1:29-34**

LESSON OUTLINE EXPOSITION

I. The Background on the Presenter. John 1:6-9, 19-28

This portion of the lesson focuses on the man who presented the Lamb of God, John the Baptist. He was a very different man who was born to two elderly parents as their one and only child. His life was steeped in prophetic mystery and he was set aside for the work of the Lord before he was born. From the mouth of Jesus Christ we learn the following concerning Jesus' presenter, John the Baptist. (Read Matthew 11:7-12). Note the background of the presenter John the Baptist as it is revealed. (Read Matthew 3:1-12). John the Baptist, described by John the Apostle in John 1:6-9, exposes the following:

- A. He was human, a physical man. vs. 6**
- B. He was humble, literally sent by God. No personal boasting, but all glory went to God. vs. 6**
- C. He was a "Herald", whose mission was to a voice crying out in the wilderness of humanity to prepare to meet the Lord!**

Read his responses when interrogated by the representatives of the Pharisees (Jn. 1:19-28). John the Baptist, God's presenter, truly knew his place and played his ministerial role well.

II. The Blessed Being Presented. John 1:29-34

Beloved, I refer to Jesus the Messiah as "The Blessed." It is during John the Baptist's ministry of preaching and baptizing that the Holy Spirit allows him to present Jesus Christ as "*the Lamb of God.*" Jesus, by the revealing of the Holy Spirit, is signified as the Lamb of God. For many centuries in Israel from the days of the first Passover celebrated in Egypt, Israel was familiar with the sacrifice of lambs. But up until this time, their blood was used to cover or make atonement for men's sins. But John the Baptist declared this divine human Lamb named Jesus would be the final fulfillment of the animals who were used for sacrifice. He would totally please Jehovah and bring eternal salvation to all who would repent and receive Him! John wrote in Revelation 5 that He is worthy! Let us note three things that John teaches us through the Holy Spirit about the Lamb.

A. John by the Spirit introduces the Saviour. vss. 29-31

vs. 29. The sin-bearing Lamb, God-approved Lamb, Substitutional Lamb, Saving Lamb of God is revealed by the Spirit of God to John and he declared Him on the day after being interrogated. Now the Spirit reveals that Jesus Christ the Lamb of God is His only acceptable sacrifice for both Jew and Gentile (I Jn. 2:2), to all those who believe and receive!

vss. 30-31. John declares with divine clarity that Jesus is without a doubt the One who Israel and the world anticipated because it was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. John worked faithfully for the Lord, not knowing all the details, but labored in faithful expectation of the Messiah's arrival (II Cor. 5:7). John was told to preach, baptize, and wait for the Spirit's revelation.

B. John through the Spirit identifies with the Saviour. vss. 32-34

John testifies that the Spirit would reveal the Messiah by sign (Matt. 3:16-17). A dove would light and remain on Him, the dove representing the Spirit. John was sent to preach and baptize with water, an act of preparation and repentance by the people before the revealing of the Messiah. Jesus, when revealed, would baptize the believing saints with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). Jesus' baptizing fully places a true believer into the spiritual body of Christ called the Church. Both John and Jesus labored for the same God!

C. John, led by the Spirit, decreased as the Saviour increased. John 3:30

John never claimed to be more than a faithful servant. Later in John 3 he made it clear that he was inferior and the Saviour was superior.

CLOSING

Beloved, would we imitate John by showing this unsaved world less of ourselves and more of Christ?! 'Philippians 3:4-8 tells us, *"Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ."*

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Looking Ahead: March 8, 2015 John 14:15-26



You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.