

CHRIST, THE LAMB OF GOD!

John 1:35-36

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: To believe in Jesus as divine is essential to being a genuine, real Christian and is one of the most distinguishing marks which separates Christians from others. Jesus is more than just a man, a prophet, or a religious leader, He is divine and is the source of eternal life for those who believe in Him. What Jesus Christ did as "the Lamb of God" is what made Him THE LAMB, THE WAY, THE DOOR, THE SAVIOR. (*Acts 4:12*) God required the sacrifice of a lamb for the sins of His people yearly and Jesus became the once and for all sacrificial Lamb for all who call upon His name.

I. JESUS CHRIST, THE LAMB OF GOD, IS THE SUBJECT OF THE BIBLE

1. The theme of the Bible is redemption, atonement, access to and acceptance with God by a sacrificial Lamb and that Lamb is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The Book of Revelation refers to Christ being the Lamb of God 27 times.
 - *Luke 24:44-47*
2. The Old Testament gives glimpses of Christ as Savior.
 - A Priest like Melchisedec and Aaron.
 - A Prophet like Moses.
 - A King like David and Solomon.
3. The Old Testament gives Divine examples of Christ.
 - The innocent victim slain in *Genesis 3*.
 - Abel's Sacrifice in *Genesis 4*.
 - The Ark that Noah built in *Genesis 6*
 - Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah in *Genesis 22*.
 - Israel crossing the Red Sea.
 - The Smitten Rock.
 - The Brass Serpent.
 - The Fourth Man in the Fiery Furnace.
 - Daniel in the Lion's Den.
4. In established rituals, ceremonies, laws of the Old Testament, Christ was pictured.
 - The Tabernacle, furnishing, the altar, the showbread, the veil, the Ark of the Covenant, the Mercy seat.
 - The Ten Commandments.
 - The Sabbath Day.
 - The Year of Jubilee.
 - The Law of the Bondslave.
 - The Daily Sacrifices.
 - The Sacrifices of Purification.
 - The most outstanding, significant thing was the Paschal Lamb sacrificed every year on the Day of Atonement. (*Exodus 12; Leviticus 16; 1 Corinthians 5:7*)
 - No wonder when John the Baptist saw Jesus he cried out "...*Behold the Lamb of God...*"
5. The whole, entire Bible declares that Jesus Christ is man's Redeemer, the Lamb of God.
(*1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 13:8; Hebrews 9:26*)
 - In *Genesis 4*, Jesus is reflected in the blood of a lamb that Abel brought to make atonement for his sins and to worship God. (*Ephesians 1:7*)
 - In *Genesis 22*, Jesus is presented as the Lamb prophesied when Isaac asked his father, Abraham, where is the Lamb for the burnt offering? Abraham replied that God would provide the lamb.

- *2 Corinthians 5:21; John 1:29*
 - In *Isaiah 53* The Lamb of God is revealed as being a man, identified with mankind.
 - Assuming human flesh - *Hebrews 2:14-17*
 - Assuming man's sin - *Isaiah 53:6*
 - Dying in man's place - *1 Peter 3:18*
 - In *John 1:29* Jesus is identified as the Lamb of God by John the Baptist. The very ONE that John had been talking about for some time.
 - In *John 19:17-19; 28-30*, Jesus is presented as the Lamb Crucified.
 - The crucifixion and death of Jesus was NO accident, He died by the hand of God according to the purpose and time appointed by God to bring redemption to mankind by satisfying the justice of God. *Galatians 3:13; 4:4*
- In *Revelation 5*, John describes Jesus Christ as the Lamb Glorified.
- In heaven's glory Jesus Christ is worshiped as the Lamb of God who has redeemed those who believe in Him, the result of His accomplishments in His death. (*Isaiah 53:10-12*)

II. JESUS CHRIST AS THE LAMB OF GOD IS TO BE EVERY PREACHER'S MESSAGE

1. The preacher of the Gospel is to be the example for all who follow him.
 - The one purpose, the one business, the one object of the gospel preacher is to preach: **"BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD."**
 - The preacher who fails to point sinners to Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God is NOT doing what God has called him to do. *Ezekiel 33:8; 1 Corinthians 9:16*
2. The preacher of the Gospel are to have their eyes fixed upon Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.
 - Notice where John the Baptist's eyes were focused - upon Jesus Christ.
 - Anytime a person who, among others, keeps looking upward, sooner or later everyone around him/her will also start looking up to see what the person is staring at.
 - Thus whenever a person focuses his/her attention upon the Lord Jesus Christ, others will also begin to look for Him for in Jesus Christ is Wisdom, Righteousness and Sanctification.
3. The message of the preacher of the Gospel is "Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God."
 - What message can be any deeper or more important than "Behold, the Lamb of God?"

III. JESUS CHRIST AS THE LAMB OF GOD IS THE ONLY POINT OF THE GOSPEL

1. The lambs offered through the centuries did not accomplish anything, never put away sin, never appeased God's wrath, never satisfied God's justice, never purged the conscience of guilt, they only pointed to Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who WOULD put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
 - *Hebrews 10:1-10*
 - Sin could never be put away without total satisfaction of God's justice and God found a way and that was through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Christ alone is the Lamb that God appointed. *Hebrews 10:5-7*
 - Christ alone is the Lamb that God provided. *1 John 4:9-10*
 - Christ alone is the Lamb that God Himself sacrificed and offered. *Isaiah 53:10*
 - Christ alone is the Lamb that God accepted. *Hebrews 1:1-3; 9:12; 10:11-14*
 - "A sweet smelling savor.." *Ephesians 5:1*
 - Christ alone is the Lamb that God has set forth. *Romans 3:24-26*
 - God set Jesus forth in the Covenant.
 - God set Jesus forth in the Law.
 - God set Jesus forth in the Gospel.

CONCLUSION:

1. There is forgiveness with God because Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God.
2. Sinners can now approach God without being sent to hell or bringing their own works or sacrifice.
3. Just as the old Jew laid his hand upon the head of the lamb that died in his place, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, one lays his/her hand upon the head of the one who died in his/her place, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus Christ the Lamb of God is the sinner's ONLY hope.
 - Jesus Christ the Lamb of God is the believer's ONLY rule of life.
 - Jesus Christ the Lamb of God is and shall forever be the message people need to hear from the pulpit.