

The **Good News** that John Wrote

***...that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of
God, and that believing you
may have life in his name.***

John 20.31

Life in the Spirit

Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
- To become more conformed to His image

Overview

John 1:29-34

Behold the Lamb of God

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Watch
John 1:29-34

Study

John 1:29-34

John 1.29: The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said,
“There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (GNB)

John 1.29: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (RSV)

- When did Jesus come to John?
- What is the significance of the phrase “the Lamb of God”?
 - Passover Lamb (Ex 12.1-51); suffering lamb of Isaiah 53.
- What does it mean, “...takes away the sin of the world”?

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Exodus 12.5-14 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats; and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening. Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them.

The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance for ever.

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Isa 53.1-12 Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

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Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. 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.

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He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

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Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand; he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities. 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 to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

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Bishop Gerasimos Papadopoulos
The Gospel of John — A Commentary. p. 22, 24.

- “All the sins of the whole world are removed with the unique sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross. For this reason **the lamb was the main symbol of Christ in the early Church.**”
- “Christ, whom God sacrificed for the life of the world, **will eradicate sin and death from the earth** with his unique sacrifice upon the Cross. **Christ died as a representative and leader of all humanity.** With his Crucifixion he cleansed and continues to cleanse and to sanctify humanity eternally, until such time as sin and death are wiped away from the earth.”
- “...the blessings, which the Messiah will bring to the world, are these: **the forgiveness of sins and the eradication of sin.**”

Christ's Death as a Defeat of Sin

John 1.29: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (RSV)

- **1 John 3.5-9** You know that he appeared to **take away sins**, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who does right is righteous, as he is righteous. He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Christ's Death for Forgiveness of Sins

John 1.29: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (RSV)

- **1 John 1.7-9**if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **1 John 2.1-2** My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the expiation (ἱλασμός) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Behold the Lamb of God!

- He obtains forgiveness of our sins.
- He delivers us from the evil one.
- He restores human nature.
- He delivers us from the power of sin.
- He brings us into union with God.
- He delivers us from death.

John 1.30: This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.' (GNB)

John 1.30: This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' (RSV)

- This is a repeat of John 1.15.

John 1.31: I did not know who he would be, but I came baptizing with water in order to make him known to the people of Israel.” (GNB)

John 1.31: I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” (RSV)

- This is the second purpose John gives for why he came baptizing. What was the first reason?

John 1.32:
And John
gave this
testimony:
“I saw the
Spirit come
down like a
dove from
heaven
and stay
on him.
(GNB)



Christ “... is
baptized not as
Himself requiring
purification but
as making my
purification His
own, that He
may break the
head of the
dragons on the
water, that He
may wash away
sin and bury all
the old Adam in
water....”
(St. John of
Damascus)

John 1.33: I still did not know that he was the one, but God, who sent me to baptize with water, had said to me, ‘You will see the Spirit come down and stay on a man; he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ (GNB)

John 1.33: 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.’ (RSV)

- If John was Jesus’ second cousin, why would John say “I myself did not know him?”
- From the Jewish perspective, what is significant about the Spirit remaining on Jesus?
- What does “baptizes with the Holy Spirit” mean?

The Baptism of the Spirit

- Acts 1.3-5; Acts 2.1-11
- The Giving of the Holy Spirit in the Mystery of Baptism:
 - ...do You Yourself, Sovereign Master, Compassionate King of All, bestow upon him (her) also the Seal of Your omnipotent and adorable Holy Spirit
 - And after the Prayer of Confirmation, the Priest chrismates the baptized and he makes on the person the Sign of the Cross with the Holy Chrism (Holy Myron), on the forehead, the eyes, the nostrils, the mouth, the ears, the breast, the hands, and the feet. At each anointing and sealing, he says:
 - The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit, amen.

John 1.34 I have seen it,” said John, “and I tell you that he is the Son of God.” (GNB)

John 1.34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” (RSV)

“Thus the Baptist gives us the theme of the Gospel: Jesus is the expected Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the only begotten Son of God, the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.”

(Bishop Gerasimos)

Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
- To become more conformed to His image

Re-Read

John 1:29-34

Watch and Apply

John 1:29-34

Achieving the Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
 - What did you observe that revealed to you the glory of Christ?
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
 - What did you learn that can help you to participate more deeply in the life of the Spirit?
- To become more conformed to His likeness
 - What did you observe in Christ that you need to conform to?

Supplemental Slides

We Have Been Saved, Are Being Saved, and Will Be Saved

John 1.29: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!** (RSV)

- **Rom 5.8-10** But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now **justified** by his blood, much more **shall we be saved** by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we **were reconciled** to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, **shall we be saved** by his life. (RSV)
- **Heb 10.14** For by one offering he **has perfected** forever those who **are being sanctified** (WEB)

Christ's Death as a Ransom

- **Palm 48** Truly no man can ransom himself, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of his life is costly, and can never suffice, that he should continue to live on for ever, and never see the Pit. But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.
- **Mat 20.28** ...the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- **1 Pet 1.18-19** ...you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

St Gregory the Theologian

2nd Oration on Pascha, chap. 22

"To whom was that Blood offered that was shed for us, and why was it shed?"

St. Gregory says not to Satan and not to the Father.

"Is it not evident that the Father accepts the sacrifice not because He demanded it or because He felt any need for it, but on account of the economy: **because humanity must be sanctified by the Humanity of God, that He might deliver us Himself, and overcome the tyrant, and draw us to Himself by the mediation of His Son**".

Christ's Death as a Defeat of Satan and Death

- **Heb 2.14-15** Since...the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage.
- **Paschal troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

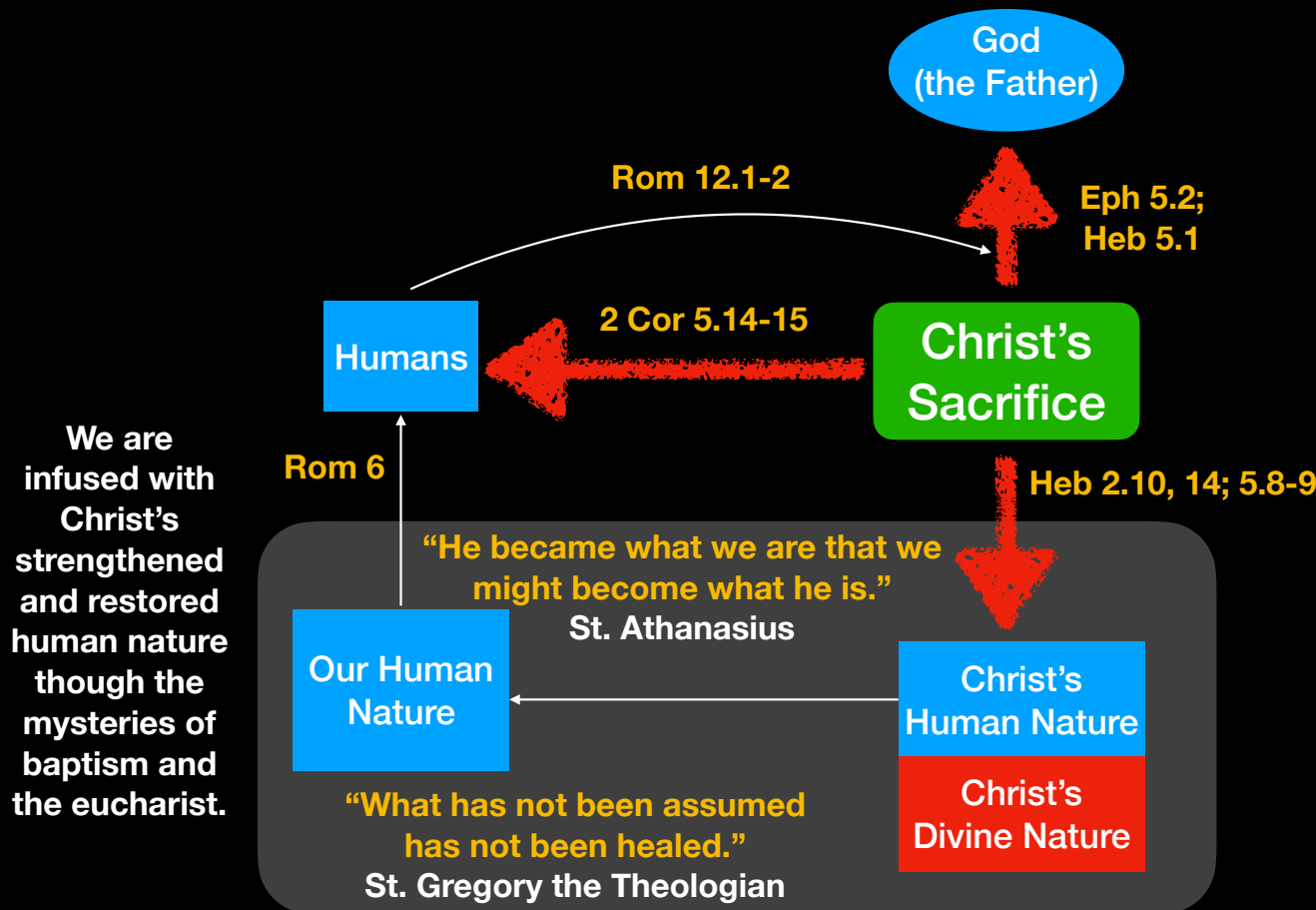
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- **Mat 1.20-21** “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for **he will save his people from their sins.**” (RSV)

Three-Fold Direction of the Permanent State of Sacrifice of the Lamb of God

Fr. Dumitru Stăniloae, *Orthodox Dogmatic Theology*, Vol. 3, p. 105



"...the most complete understanding of Christ's sacrifice is that which sees its movement both toward God and toward the human nature that was embraced by Christ and, through it, toward all human beings."

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- We partake of, and grow in, the saving grace of God through the Holy Mysteries
- “Grant us to partake of Your heavenly and awesome Mysteries from this sacred and spiritual table with a clear conscience for the remission of sins, the forgiveness of transgressions, the communion of the Holy Spirit, the inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven, and boldness before You, not unto judgment or condemnation.” (the Priest’s prayer behind the altar)

Two-fold Path to Knowledge of and Union With God Metropolitan Vlachos

