

He Is Our Lamb

1 John 2:2-11



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FOCAL 1 John 2:2-11 KJVA And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world. (3) And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (5) But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. (6) He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. (7) Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. (8) Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. (9) He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. (10) He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. (11) But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

Opening Prayer Oh Precious Savior, our Everlasting God, we come with hearts full of worship to You today. We wish to love You, and we wish to know You more. Dearest Lord, Almighty Creator, we often fall into grievous sin.

Help us to have a heart that clings to You. Help us to be able to say¹ "whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I

¹ Ruth 1:16 KJVA And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, [or] to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people [shall be] my people, and thy

will lodge". Let our hearts be devoted to You, for You are so devoted to us. Your Blood was poured out for us - shall we not serve You with all our hearts. Lord we pray that you would keep us from the sin of Uzzah, that terrible sin of *familiarity*. We have no right to put our hand out and touch that which You have declared holy as Uzzah did with the Ark of the Covenant. When You become familiar to us, common place, when Church services become mundane - when we forget that You and You alone are to be worshiped, then we toy with the Ark, and invite Your judgment. Lord help us to remember that You are Infinite, we are finite. Help us to remember that You left the splendor of Heaven and took upon Yourself mortality, so that we through You could inherit undeserved immortality, eternal life. Help us not not take this sacred moment in time lightly, for if we do we invite Your displeasure. And that, Blessed Father, we do not want.

We pray for those who have no knowledge of You, who do not yet have that wonderful relationship with You through faith in Your finished work of Calvary. Dear Lord, please bless us all today by bringing New Life into our midst. Open our minds, our hearts, our ears, our eyes to Your presence. Cast down, Dear Savior, any spirit of rebellion, arrogance, pride, or self righteousness. As our foreparents were in the Garden let us walk unclothed before You. Look upon our hearts, heal us, and bring us into complete agreement with Your Spirit and Your Will. In Christ's name we pray - Amen!

I love the Lord's Table, for in the simplicity of the Table we learn the most complex truths. Let's look at our focal passage today and see how it relates to the eternal truths that Jesus Christ shows us in His Table.

1. The Table Teaches Us That God Alone Made Payment For Our Sins

God my God:

The Lord's Table is not like a fast food restaurant. It's not like a sandwich shop - for there is absolutely no variety at the Table. There is One Bread and One Beverage, one element representing the Body of Christ and another representing His Blood. The Bible tells us that

FOCAL 1 John 2:2 KJV "[Jesus] is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world. "

One Propitiation in One unique Person we call Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the *propitiation* for our sins. What does that mean, *propitiation*?

The word the King James renders *propitiation* is the Greek *hilasmos*, which means *the satisfactory sacrifice or payment to God*.

It's important to note that the *noun form*² of this word is only found one other time in the New Testament, at

1 John 4:10 KJV "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and **sent his Son [to**

² the verb form, *hilasterion* is found in:

Romans 3:25 KJV Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Hebrews 9:5 KJV And over it the cherubim of glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

be] the propitiation for our sins."

You would understand this word better if you used the same word that John the Baptist used of Christ.

The word *propitiation* means the *satisfactory sacrifice*.

One day while John was preaching and baptizing in the River Jordan he looked up and said:

John 1:29 HCSB³ "The next day John [the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

The word *propitiation* means *a Lamb without spot or blemish, a Lamb used to appease the Creator God whom we have all sinned against*. Now let's read 1 John 2:2 with new eyes, putting the words that John the Baptist used *in place of* that word *propitiation*:

FOCAL 1 John 2:2 KJV And [Jesus] is the **only Lamb of God given for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world.**

or as the New English Translation puts it,

3 HCSB signifies Holman Christian Standard Version

1 John 2:2 NET⁴ "and [Jesus] himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the whole world."

Jesus Christ is the *only payment* that God the Father will accept for our sins. He is the *only Person* represented in the Lord's Table. Why is He the *only* acceptable payment? Because He is the only payment that God has *ever offered* for our sins. We are told in the Book of Romans that Jesus Christ is the *only offering for sin that God Himself has ever offer or accepted*⁵.

Shortly after John baptized Jesus in the River Jordan we read in **John 3:22-26** that Jesus began to *baptize* people also. This caused John the Baptist's disciples a great deal of *consternation* and *upset*. They, along with *the Jews* - I suspect the Pharisees - came to John and said:

John 3:26 HCSB³ "Rabbi, the One you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, is baptizing--and everyone is flocking to Him."

Can't you just hear what they're thinking now?

"John the Baptist, the son of the Levite Priest Zechariah, has every right to baptize others. After all, John was a great man of God, and being from the tribe of Levi he could perform these *ceremonial purifications or washings* that were often

4 NET signifies New English Translation Version

5 **Romans 3:23-25 International Standard** "since all have sinned and continue to fall short of God's glory. (24) By his grace they are justified freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (25) whom God offered as a place where atonement by Christ's blood could occur through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because he had waited patiently to deal with sins committed in the past."

associated with the Law of God. A Levite priest had every right to baptize - but what of Jesus? Wasn't Jesus of the tribe of Judah, and not of Levi? What right did He have to baptize, or to function within any of the stations of the Law? How dare He! And, dear Master, people are *literally flocking to Him* - what are we going to do about this?"

John gave the only answer that could be given - and I pray that your heart answers the same way. John said:

John 3:27-30 HCSB ... "No one can receive a single thing unless it's given to him from heaven. (28) You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I've been sent ahead of Him.' (29) **He who has the bride is the groom. But the groom's friend, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the groom's voice. So this joy of mine is complete. (30) He must increase, but I must decrease."**

You cannot receive *one single thing* unless it is given to us from Heaven. Jesus Christ is the ...

FOCAL 1 John 2:2 KJV ... **only Lamb of God given for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world.**

Jesus is not only the **only Lamb of God given for our sins**, but He is also the *only Person ever to keep God's Law perfectly*. The Law said:

Exodus 20:3 NLT⁶ "Do not worship any other gods besides me."

Jesus Christ worshiped God perfectly. Even though He was co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Spirit He said in

John 14:28 "my Father is greater than I".

This statement puzzles us because, in our humanity, we often feel that we need to be the *center of attention, the center of all things*. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus, but Jesus pointed to the Father. He never worshiped His own desires or His own ways above that of what the Father wanted. We cannot say the same thing, for often we fall away, making other things - be it food, family, comfort, or something else - more important than that which God wants. Jesus never did this. He fulfilled the Law perfectly, always putting the Father's Will first and foremost in His life. Even as a child His focus was, as He told His earthly caretakers in

Luke 2:49 "didn't you know that I had to be about My Father's business?"

Jesus never had an idol - though He died for us who often fell and continue to fall to idolatry. He served the Law perfectly, and satisfied God *on our behalf*.

Jesus did not just fulfill this Law perfectly, but He also fulfilled the third commandment, which said:

Exodus 20:7 NIV⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

We have a tendency today to think *what's in a name - what does it matter* - but to God His name is as Holy as He is. In America today the holy Name of God is blasphemed in homes, on the radio, through the network television shows, in every place both public and private. God rages each time He hears this, and we would do well to remember that **He will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His holy Name.** Yet Jesus Christ *never* used God's name inappropriately. As a matter of fact, Jesus *expanded our definition* of God's name by give us the name **Father**. Then He reminded us of His perfect union with Father by saying in

John 14:9 HCSB ... "The one who has seen Me has seen the Father. "

The Lord's Table reminds us that we are sinners, but that Jesus lived the Law perfectly in our place. The Lord's Table reminds us that Perfect God came and made payment for imperfect man. The Lord's Table reminds us that

FOCAL 1 John 2:2 KJVA "[Jesus] is the [Lamb of God offered by God] **for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world. "**

Jesus came to do as He said,

Matthew 5:17 HCSB "Don't assume that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

Jesus Christ left the splendor of Heaven to come and live among us. He kept the Ten Commandments - and more. He lived the Law perfectly, being sinless. After living among mankind for thirty-three years, proving Himself to be sinless time and time again, He went to the Cross to pay for our sins. And not only for our sins, but **for the sins of the whole world.** If you have accepted Christ as Savior then the sins He paid for *has been applied to your credit before God.* If you have *not* accepted Christ as Savior you need not take of this Table - for those who take of it are showing all that they *are submitted to the Savior - at least insofar as salvation is concerned.* The Table also teaches another great truth:

2. The Table Teaches That God Lives Inside Those Whom He Paid For

FOCAL 1 John 2:2-4 KJV ...[Jesus] **And he is [Lamb of God from God offered] for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world.** (3) **And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.** (4) **He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

How do we *know* that we are saved? Again, the Lord's Table gives us a very clear representation of salvation. You see, we gather and take of this Table *because* we believe that Jesus - whose Body and Blood are represented by the Table - died for us. Next

we actually *eat* the Bread and *drink* the Beverage of the Table. That which represents Jesus on the Table *goes inside of us.*

If you have been saved by faith in Christ it is no *outward ritual* that brought you to this state, but it is the fact that God *now lives inside of you*. Just as we eat the Bread and drink the Beverage, receiving it to our inner being, Christ's Spirit comes and lives inside of us at the point of salvation. The Bible says:

Romans 8:9 KJV "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."**

If Christ is not inside you, then Beloved - you are not saved! When you are saved you become the *very Temple of God the Holy Spirit* -

1 Corinthians 6:19 HCSB "Do you not know that **your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own ..."**

Jesus Christ, the God-Man, died for us to not only *bring us to God*, but also to *bring God to us to live inside us.*

We are not just saved so that we can *cash in our chips* at the end of life's road, hitting the jackpot in Heaven. We are not just saved so that we can gain some sort of Heavenly fire insurance. We are saved *by God* so that God *in us* can work *through us* in this present age. God's ultimate goal was to *both* save man from his sin *and to put Himself inside of man*. This is why we *eat* the elements of the Lord's Table and don't just *look* at them or *rub* them on our flesh. God actually *comes inside us* when we are saved - and inside of us begins to prepare us to do His Will in this present world. The Apostle John emphasizes this great truth when he says:

FOCAL 1 John 2:3 KJV **hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.**

How do we *know* that we *know* Him? How do we know *that we are saved*? Because we **keep His commandments**. Whose commandments? God's commandments? No, but God the Son's commandments. What commandments did Jesus give to us? We read:

John 13:34 KJVA "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; **as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."**

If Christ is in you by faith - a teaching that the Lord's Table affirms, for you *eat* the Bread and Beverage - then we will obey His commandments. What commandment did He give us, but the commandment which is above every commandment "**ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another**". This thought is the very foundation of all the doctrines found in the Church Epistles. We are to love our brothers *more than* we love ourselves. The Apostle told us:

Galatians 5:14 NASB⁸ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

Romans 12:10 NIV⁹ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Just as Jesus Christ *always* put God and others *before Himself*, when He lives inside of you He makes you want to put God and others before yourself. John uses very harsh words in the next sentence when he says:

FOCAL 1 John 2:4 KJV "He that saith, I know [Jesus], and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

There is a bad problem when those who *profess* Christ as

⁸ NASB refers to New American Standard Version

⁹ NIV refers to New International Version, not the blasphemous *gender sensitive* version!

Savior do not live like Jesus is inside of them - a bad problem. Just as you eat the Bread and drink the Beverage of the Table and that symbolic food becomes a part of you, if you are Born Again Christ's Spirit now lives inside of you. John further states:

FOCAL 1 John 2:5-6 KJV "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. (6) He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

A.W. Tozer put it best when he said:

"One hundred religious persons knit into a unity by careful organizations do not constitute a church any more than eleven dead men make a football team. The first requisite is always life."

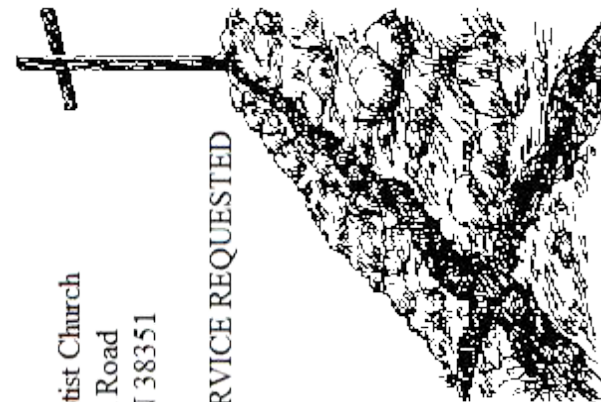
The Church is alive and will be triumphant not because of empty ritual, but because the ritual we celebrate today points to the Eternal Life that saved us and is even now *within us*. We only know that we are in Jesus when we walk as Jesus walked, obeying His commandment of love. Not mushy love. Not sentimental, do nothing, "I luv u" cutesie love. But showing love to one another and to the world around us as Jesus showed love. As we

share this Table we need to remember that He gave the Table *to us*, to the Church united, to His Body. We need to remember that we either stand or fall *together*. We read:

FOCAL 1 John 2:8-11 KJV "Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. (9) **He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. (10) He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. (11) But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness,** and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

Just as we take this Table together, we remember that we must *stand together* for Him and with Him. It is He that saved us, He that loves us, and He that is within us. If this is not true for you, then you are condemned where you now sit. Either Jesus is inside you, or you are condemned. I pray that you prepare your hearts as we now prepare to enjoy His Table *together!*

May God touch your hearts with these words.



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