

Spiritual Growth Lessons from Christian Ambassadors

Lesson 57 – Worthy is the Lamb

By Sharon K. Griffiee

Brothers and sisters, just think about what Jesus has done. He shed his blood on the cross for our sins over 2000 years ago. He dealt with the sins of the whole human race once, for all time.

Hebrews 10:12-18 (KJV) - *But this man [Jesus], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.*

When the Lord said, “I will put my laws into their hearts and in their minds”, he was literally saying I will put *my way* of doing things into their hearts and in their minds. No matter how we think it should be - the only sure way to salvation is to accept Jesus exactly as He offered Himself to us. This is *His method*. This is *His way* of reconciling the world to Himself. In fact this is prerequisite for our relationship with Jesus.

The covenant that the Lord made, plainly states, “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more”. The problem is, even though sin is no longer an issue with God; *we are redeemed by His blood*, many people continue to carry around the guilt. Why? Instead of *by faith simply receiving* the “one offering” Jesus made, once for all time, they think they have to add their own sacrifice. Then and only then, do they feel their forgiveness is acceptable. What they are really saying is, “I don’t believe Jesus was worthy enough to take all my sins on Himself.”

This misguided thinking fails to grasp the reality of the situation. It isn’t God who is condemning us when we sin. It is our own *conscience* condemning us. We haven’t purged our consciences with the truth of what Jesus has already done regarding sin in our lives!

Hebrews 9:13-14 (KJV) - *For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:*

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Guilt is a dead work. Those who live in the area of guilt, day in and day out, are playing right into Satan’s hands. The guilt ridden is still trying to *pay* for something Jesus already paid for. They are still trying to add their *own work* to what Jesus has already accomplished at the cross. Guilt is a dead work that prevents people from serving the living God. How so? Satan uses our guilt to his advantage. He plots to destroy our faith and confidence in God, by telling us that we don’t deserve God’s marvelous blessing of salvation. Of course we don’t deserve it! Daily, we are either doing something we should not do, or not doing something, we should do. Praises be to God! He isn’t giving us what we deserve. We don’t have to *prove* to God we are “worthy” to be saved. If we had to prove our worth, the burden of salvation would then be on our own shoulders, not His. Brothers and sisters, there is only one worthy to bear the entire burden of our sins.

Ephesians 1:6-8 (KJV) - *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;*

Father God loves His Son, so it is a given that believers, being in the Son (in Christ), are also the object of Father God’s love. This is astounding. Jesus has made us accepted in the beloved. We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace! It is high time to put away the dead work of guilt, to freely serve the living God. *Only believe*. Whole heartedly *believe* Jesus’ finished work, for worthy is the Lamb!

Worthy is the Lamb. As we take an awesome journey into the Book of Revelation, we find John identifying Jesus as the worthy Lamb. While he was imprisoned on the Greek island of Patmos, John was transported in vision to the throne room of heaven. This majestic scene in the throne room reveals to us of God’s absolute authority over his creation. While there, John experiences the incredible energy filling the room. He sees God the Father sitting on the

throne appearing as radiant light. He describes in detail the “living creatures” hovering around the throne. Surrounding the throne he sees twenty-four elders dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads. In front of the throne stands a “sea of glass”, like crystal (**Rev. 4:6**). What John sees in vision is literally the seat of government of the entire universe.

Psalm 47:8 (NIV) - God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

John had heard a voice saying, “Come up here” and was dramatically taken into the throne room in vision, so that he might be shown the things which must take place in the future. A time was coming when events would rapidly unfold moving humanity toward its ultimate destiny. In God’s perfect government evil would be banished from the human race. Righteousness would triumph in the end, fulfilling God’s purposes. As the vision unfolds, John distinctly observes God the Father sitting on the throne holding something in his hand.

Revelation 5:1-2 (NIV) - Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”

Under Roman law, documents were sometimes sealed by seven witnesses. This was to show that the contents of the documents were authentic. The documents could only be opened when all seven witnesses or their legal representatives were present. A good example, in Roman times, of an ordinary document sealed with seven seals would have been a will. But, in the throne room where John was transported in vision, the mighty angel speaking like a trumpet was not talking about any ordinary will. The scroll or document which God held in His hand, could only be opened by *someone worthy*. This document would disclose God’s “Will” regarding His final settlement of the affairs of the universe. As the scene unfolds an unexpected problem arises.

Revelation 5:3 (NIV) - But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

John becomes extremely distraught over this unexpected problem. His weeping becomes more and more intense, because it appears no one is found worthy to open the seals. Then suddenly one of the elders said to John;

Revelation 5:5 (NIV) - “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

John, much relieved, stops crying. He clearly sees there is someone deserving to open the seals.

*Revelation 5:6-10 (NIV) - Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders... He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. And they sang a new song, saying: “**You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.**” [Bold emphasis mine]*

Questions for Personal or Group Study

(Please do not mail to CA for grading):

1. When the Lord said, “I will put my laws into their hearts and in their minds”, what was He literally saying? (**See: Hebrews 10:16**)
2. Because of the covenant the Lord made with believers, explain why sin is no longer an issue with God. (**See: Hebrews 10:17-18**)
3. What are we really saying when we try to add our own sacrifice (works), to what Jesus has already done at the cross? What is this work called?
4. If God is not condemning us when we sin, where is the condemnation coming from?
5. Why is it so important to have our consciences purged from dead works? (**See: Hebrews 9:14**)
6. The guilt ridden person is still trying to *pay* for something Jesus already paid for. How is Satan using their guilt to his advantage?
7. We don’t have to *prove* to God we are “worthy” to be saved. If that were the case, where would that falsely place the burden of our salvation?
8. Who is the only one worthy to bear the entire burden of our sins? (**See: Ephesians 1:6-14, Revelation 5:9, Revelation 5:11-14**)