

The Wednesday Word, May 22, 2004: Saved by the Death of a Lamb

Many years ago, in Germany, a steeplejack was doing work on the top of a church spire. In the course of his work he lost his footing, slipped, and fell. He frantically tried to save himself by clutching onto one of the ledges but to no avail. It seemed as if he was going to lose his life because he was plunging hastily towards the ground.

But the church building at which he was working was in a country parish and sheep generally ran freely in the churchyard.

In the providence of God on the day that he fell there was a large lamb on the ground below him. The lamb broke his fall and saved his life. When he recovered from the shock of the fall and was able to get back on his feet, he was amazed to find that his injuries were minimal but by contrast the lamb was dead.

The story became very famous as it was told widely throughout Germany. As the man relayed the details of what happened he always stated that he was 'saved by the death of a lamb'. What a great testimony!

The theme of the death of a Lamb is one that runs right throughout the Bible (See Genesis 22:8; Exodus 12:3). It is one of the great subjects of Scripture and is summed up in the words of John the Baptist when he declared: "Behold the lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29).

John's lamb provides a far greater salvation than the German lamb ever did. Why? Because John was identifying God's Lamb as the Lord Jesus Christ who alone can take our sins away and save us from eternal doom.

May we all actively tell others of being saved by the death of God's Lamb.

We are sinners but Christ is sinless.

To be saved means that we have trusted Jesus to be our righteousness and only way to heaven. On the Last Day, when believers stand before God, we will be treated as though we had never sinned for we shall stand before Him in the pristine, flawless righteousness of the Lamb who died for us.

What an astonishing story we have in the Gospel. To save His people, we learn that God became human, took our sin, and suffered for us as an innocent substitute ... the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God. (1 Peter 1:18).

Perhaps you feel as though you will not be welcome in heaven because of the greatness of your sin. On the contrary, no one was ever rejected because their sins were too great. *Where sin abounded, grace shall much more abound.* (Romans 5:20).

However, we must learn to always take our sins to the blood, to the finished accomplished gracious work of the perfect Lamb of God. What can prevent us going to Him?...Our sins? No, it

is our sins that are the very reason for going to Him.

The excellent preacher of a previous generation, James Hery, said it like this, “When I shall be summoned to the great tribunal, what will be my plea, what my dependence? Nothing but Christ! Christ, I would say, has been wounded for my sins, therefore they will not be punished in me. Christ has fulfilled all righteousness in my stead; therefore, I trust to be justified (*acquitted*) when I am judged. I am a poor unworthy sinner; but worthy is the Lamb that was slain, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, for whose sake I shall receive both mercy, and everlasting glory. This is my only hope.”

“Lamb of God, we fall before Thee,
Humbly trusting in Thy cross.
That alone be all our glory;
All things else are only dross.”
Joseph Hart.

And that’s the Gospel Truth!