

Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

John 1:29 | The Lamb of God

Sunday September 13, 2026

WELCOME:

- Announcements:

REVIEW:

We continue our verse-by-verse study of John's Gospel this morning.

Last Sunday, John the Baptizer gave a testimony about himself to the priests who were sent from Jerusalem.

We all have a testimony—a story regarding our conversion from death to life.

As with any good testimony, our story is actually His story.

Our conversion testimony is not the Gospel, but rather it points people to the Gospel—and that's what the Baptizer did last week.

The priests asked John who he was—John responded, ***“the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.”***

John's mission was to prepare the way of the Lord through preaching repentance and baptism to Israel.

However, when God sends someone on mission, people tend to stand in the way—especially those on the inside.

Many times religious tradition becomes an enemy of the gospel whenever it is elevated above God's Word or keeps us from recognizing the Lord.

We saw this in real time last week—the priests who confronted John had certain expectations and traditions that he was breaking.

We discussed how traditions and expectations can blind us to who God truly is and what God is doing.

Jesus mentions this in the parable of the wineskins.

And no one, after drinking old wine, wants new, because he says, ‘The old is better.’ (Luke 5:39)

In other words—“We’ve never done it that before, so we’re not going to do it now.”

Second, we also saw the priests try to give John an identity.

Their questions were not merely about John’s ministry—but to define John on their terms.

But John refused to accept an identity that God had not given him.

The priests were trying to place John in a box, but he wouldn’t have any of that.

The same goes for us today—God’s Word tells us who we are.

- He is the one who knit us in our mother’s womb.
- He is the one who created our personality.
- He is the one who gave us spiritual gifts to serve.

So John showed us how to handle people who want to label us.

INTRODUCTION:

Our narrative today continues chronologically.

It’s *the next day* after John the Baptizer had his confrontation with the priests from Jerusalem.

On this new day, John publicly identifies the Lord Jesus with a remarkable new title.

Jesus has over 150 titles in Scripture, and each title reveals a different aspect of His character and work.

Today, we'll learn how Jesus is the *Lamb of God*, why that is so important, and how it impacts your life today.

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE:

John 1:29— *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John 1:30— *This is the one I told you about: 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.'*

John 1:31— *I didn't know him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel."*

John 1:32— *And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him."*

John 1:33— *I didn't know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'*

John 1:34— *I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."*

May the Lord bless the reading of His Holy Word.

PRAY:

From the depths of despair, O LORD, I call for your help. Hear my cry, O Lord. Pay attention to my prayer. LORD, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you. I am counting on the LORD; yes, I am counting on him. I have put my hope in his word. (Psalm 130 NLT)

EXEGESIS:

John 1:29— The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him

The next day is the day after the Baptizer confronted the priests.

John 1:29— *The next day* John saw Jesus...

John 1:31— *I didn't know him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel."*

John 1:32— *And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him.*

John 1:33— *I didn't know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'*

That's all the detail we get from John—

Mark 1:9—*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.*

Mark 1:10—*As soon as he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.*

Mark 1:11—*And a voice came from heaven: “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased.”*

So, by John’s account, the Baptizer may have already baptized Jesus.

Jesus was then led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil for 40 days and nights.

After passing that series of tests, Jesus now returns to the Jordan River, where John is preaching and baptizing.

We’ll see evidence of that next week.

John 1:29— *... John saw Jesus...*

But think about this—**“John saw Jesus.”**

The Baptizer saw—God with his own human eyes.

Consider that for a moment.

John saw the...

- Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8)
- Anointed One (Ps. 2:2, Acts 4:26)
- Author and Perfector of Our Faith (Heb. 12:2)
- Author of Life (Acts 3:15)
- Author of Our Salvation (Heb. 2:10)
- Bread of Life (Jn. 6:48)
- Bridegroom (Lk. 5:34)
- Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20)
- Chief Shepherd (1 Pe. 5:4)
- Friend of Sinners (Matt. 11:19)
- Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14)
- Head of the Church (Eph. 5:23)

- Hope of Israel (Jer. 17:13)
- Horn of Salvation (Lk 1:69)
- Image of The Invisible God (Col. 1:15)
- Immanuel/God With Us (Matt. 1:23)
- KING OF KINGS (Rev. 19:16)
- Light of men (Jn. 1:4)
- Light of the World (Jn. 8:12)
- Living Bread That Came Down From Heaven (Jn. 6:51)
- Lord (Josh. 3:11)
- Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:8)
- LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:16)
- Lord of peace (2 Thess. 3:16)
- Lord of the harvest (Matt. 9:38)
- Lord of the Sabbath (Matt. 12:8)
- Man of sorrows (Isa. 53:3)
- Master (Lk. 8:24)
- Mediator of a New Covenant (Mal.3:1)
- Messiah (John 1:41)
- Morning Star (Rev. 2:28)
- Physician (Lk. 4:23)
- Prince and Savior (Acts 5:31)
- Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)
- Prince of Princes (Dan. 8:25)
- Resurrection and The Life (Jn. 11:25)
- Righteous Judge (2 Tim. 4:8)
- Righteous One (Acts 3:14)
- Savior of the World (Jn. 4:42)
- Shepherd and Overseer of Your Soul (1 Pet. 2:25)
- Son of Man (Jn. 3:13)
- Son of the Living God (Matt. 16:16)
- Son of the Most High God (Lk. 8:28)
- Source of Eternal Salvation (Heb. 5:9)
- Sure Foundation (Isa. 33:6)
- Teacher (Matt. 23:10)

- The Amen (2 Cor. 1:20)
- The Beginning and the End (Rev. 21:6)
- The Bright Morning Star (Rev. 22:16)
- The First and the Last (Rev. 1:7)
- The Gate/Door (Jn. 10:7)
- The Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45)
- The Life (Jn. 14:6)
- The Living One (Rev. 1:18)
- The Most Holy (Dan. 9:24)
- The One and Only (Jn. 1:14)
- The Only God and Savior (Jd. 1:25)
- The Radiance of God's Glory (Heb. 1:3)
- The Stone the Builders Rejected (1 Pe. 2:7)
- The True Light (Jn. 1:9)
- The True Vine (Jn. 15:1)
- The Truth (Jn. 14:6)
- The Word (Jn. 1:1)
- Wonderful Counselor (Isa. 9:6)
- Word of God (Rev. 19:13)
- Your Life (Col. 3:3)
- Your Salvation (Isa. 30:15)

John saw the same man who walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

John saw the same Lord who:

- Told Noah to build a boat
- Told Abraham that he would have children
- Told Moses to talk to Pharaoh
- Told King David that the King of Kings would come from his throne

John saw the same Lord God Almighty that Isaiah saw sitting on His glorious throne, where angels continually sing, "HOLY HOLY HOLY." (Isa. 6)

John the Baptizer saw *that* Lord Jesus.

And he not only saw Him...

John 1:29— *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him*

How would you respond if you saw the Lord God Almighty, the creator and sustainer of the cosmos, walking toward you?

Maybe a better question is, “How will you respond?”—because it’s only a matter of time before you see the Lord Jesus face to face.

John saw Jesus approaching in humility—one day every person will see Him revealed in glory.

Years ago, there was a popular song called “I Can Only Imagine.”

*I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by Your side
I can only imagine
What my eyes would see
When Your face is before me
I can only imagine*

*Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You Jesus
Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees, will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?*

*I can only imagine
When all I will do*

*Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine*

It's beyond tragic when people say that Heaven will be boring.
Or that they stopped coming to church because church is boring.

Church is supposed to be a place where we step out of the world and enter His sanctuary to encounter God.

In the OT, when people encountered God—the most common response was fear and terror.

Many people thought they were going to die; some people bowed out of reverence, others hid their faces, some praised the Lord for not dying.

One response that never makes the list when people encounter the One True Living God—is boredom.

Nobody yawns in the presence of the Holy One.

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns for His Second Coming, no one will be bored.

No one will be entertained either—let me give you a preview of coming attractions:

Revelation 19:11—*Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice he judges and makes war.*

Revelation 19:12—*His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself.*

Revelation 19:13—*He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God.*

Revelation 19:14—*The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen.*

Revelation 19:15—*A sharp sword came from his mouth, so that he might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty.*

Revelation 19:16—*And he has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

No one will be bored when the Lord Jesus Christ returns.

John 1:29— and said, “Look, the Lamb of God,

Your translation may say “Behold!”—it means “pay attention!”

The Baptizer's response is certainly not boredom but instead joy and exaltation.

ILLUSTRATION:

Imagine standing with a crowd of people at an airport waiting for a friend—one you haven't seen in decades.

Hundreds of people walk through the terminal, but then, finally, you see your him.

You point to everyone who is with you and cry, “There he is!”

That is what John is doing.

Everyone else in the terminal simply sees another man.

You, on the other hand, see your friend.

The Baptizer does something similiar—*Look! There He is—the Lamb God has provided!*

It is hard to know how much John understood by proclaiming this title.

This is the first time we see it used.

We don't know how much John knew about Jesus' sacrificial destiny.

What we do know is that the Holy Spirit used him to introduce the key purpose of Jesus' coming—for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of Himself (Heb 9:26–28).

Today many of us are so familiar with this title—*the Lamb of God*—that we don't bat an eye at the richness, fullness, and its ultimate fulfillment.

This is one title that I deliberately left off the list.

The title is *Agnus Dei*, (AG-nus DAY-ee") or "Lamb of God."

This title is featured throughout Christendom in church history, art, and music.

It's important to know where this title comes from.

To understand why John chose the word 'Lamb,' we must hear his announcement with Old Testament ears.

The lamb was one of the primary animals used in the OT sacrificial system.

Lambs were slaughtered for peace offerings, sin offerings, guilt offerings, burnt offerings, and freewill offerings.

Beyond that, lambs were sacrificed twice per day every day—both morning and night in the Temple.

Israel's biggest celebration is the Passover.

The Passover is key to understanding the role of the sacrificial lamb.

The sacrificial lamb had to be physically perfect.

The Lamb's blood was then smeared over the front door of the home—representing the cross.

So, the blood and the cross served as a sign of protection for God's people.

When the LORD GOD passed through Egypt to kill every firstborn son, he would see the blood on the doorposts that resembled a cross—and “pass over” that house.

The Hebrew verb *pasach* (pay-sock) means “to pass over, protect, spare, dance.”

In other words, those who were covered by the Lamb's blood through the cross were spared from the coming judgment.

That was the original Passover. Let's fast-forward to the first century with Jesus.

According to the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, 256,000 lambs were sacrificed during the week of Passover.

That's a lot of lambs and a lot of blood.

However, the animal sacrifices of the OT were not a solution to our sin problem because an animal's blood can never take away human sin.

Only a human sacrifice can take away human sin.

Animal sacrifice was a physical compromise for a spiritual problem.

Animal sacrifice was a temporary, God-appointed sign that pointed beyond itself to the final sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

We see this throughout Scripture.

Starting at the very beginning, after Adam and Eve sinned, the preincarnate Lord Jesus Christ, who was in the Garden with them, killed an animal to cover their nakedness and sin.

At that moment, an animal's blood hit the ground for the very first time.

What was given to mankind as paradise has become a place of war.

Within a spiritual war, physical blood must be shed.

Genesis 3:21—*The Lord God made clothing from (animal) skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.*

Have you ever wondered what kind of animal this was?

Scripture doesn't say, but if I were a bettin' man, I'd lay money down on a lamb.

Why? Because this theme of lambs covering sin as a temporary band-aid runs throughout the rest of Holy Scripture.

In Genesis, we see animals sacrificed for individuals.

We saw this not only with Adam and Eve, but also with their sons, Cain and Abel.

Abel was a shepherd who offered an animal for sacrifice.

Genesis 4:4—*Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock*

When the Lord told Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac asked,

Genesis 22:7—*"The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb?"*

Genesis 22:8—*Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb..."*

In Exodus, the sacrificial system was expanded from personal sacrifices to families/households.

Leviticus expanded the sacrificial system again, from families to the entire nation.

Later, in the Tabernacle and Temple, lambs were slain every day, day by day, week by week, month by month, and year after year.

ILLUSTRATION:

Think about receiving the same bill every month.

You make a payment, but the next month another statement arrives.

Its arrival reminds you that the debt has not been completely settled.

That was the message of the repeated sacrifices.

Another lamb, another altar, another shedding of blood—and then it all had to happen again.

Every sacrifice announced that the final payment had not yet been made.

Lambs were sacrificed in the temple as a perpetual reminder of the people's need for three reasons:

1. Because of the seriousness of sin—sin is a life-and-death issue.
2. The need for forgiveness
3. As a substitute

We may not like all this blood being shed for our sin, and we don't have to.

But there is a reason for it.

In Leviticus, the Lord provides clarity.

Leviticus 17:11 NLT—*for the life of the body is in its blood.*

Blood contains the *nephesh* (life force/force of life), which belongs to God alone—because God is the author of life.

This is why consuming blood is strictly prohibited.

Blood cannot be treated as ordinary food—lifeblood was reserved exclusively for OT rituals. (Lev 17:1–16)

Blood must be handled with precision because it embodies what is most precious to a person—and it belongs to the Creator Himself.

Leviticus 17:11 NLT—*I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord.*

Second, blood has a functional role in worship.

The animal becomes the substitute for the sinner.

When the priest applies blood to the altar, the LORD accepts temporary reconciliation.

Leviticus 17:11 NLT—*It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible.*

God the Father ordained that blood function as the agent of temporary reconciliation not through mystical or spiritual power, but because God designated it for this purpose.

The Father designed blood to be not only the carrier of physical life but spiritual life as well.

This is why the writer of Hebrews says,

Hebrews 9:22—*According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

So this blurry OT photo is gradually coming into focus as to the purpose of all this blood being shed.

Genesis gives the outline, Exodus adds definition, Leviticus adds detail, Isaiah reveals the suffering servant, and John finally points to the Lord Jesus...

John 1:29— *and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

First things first, we have to know *what sin is* before the importance of it being taken away.

KEYPOINT 1:

Sin is the lack of moral perfection in our lives.

When people say, “I’m not perfect”— they are admitting they are sinners even though they aren’t using Biblical terminology.

Sin is missing the mark of moral perfection.

Sin includes thoughts and actions that violate God’s standards of morality—things that are contrary to God’s Will.

And these violations come at a bloody cost.

How seriously do you take your sin?

- Does it pain you when you realize you've been gossiping?
- Does it grieve you when you lose your temper?
- Do you realize when you sin?

When you do realize that you have sinned, how quickly do you confess it? —both to God and the person you sinned against?

Or do you take sin lightly? God doesn't wink at sin.

Jeremiah 17:9—*The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable...*

ILLUSTRATION:

An MRI can reveal a tumor, but it won't cure it.

It exposes the problem so the patient can receive the necessary treatment.

The tumor must be removed through a painful yet necessary treatment plan.

God's Word does something similar.

It reveals the sin hidden within us, but recognizing our sin cannot cure us.

We need more than a diagnosis.

We need God to give us a new heart.

God's Law shows us the disease while the Gospel shows us the Savior.

Spiritually speaking, our hearts are too deceitful to diagnose and cure themselves.

This is why God has to fix our sin problem.

Think about it: if we can't fix a physical disease, how much more are we incapable of fixing a spiritual disease?

Ezekiel 36:25—*I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols.*

Ezekiel 36:26—*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

Ezekiel 36:27—*I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.*

We are deceived in thinking that we are good people, dealing with small amounts of sin.

We are deceived in thinking that I only need a little Jesus.

We are deceived in thinking that I really don't deserve God's wrath in a very real place called hell for eternity because of our sin.

John made it clear that the Lamb of God had come to deal with sin.

John 1:29— who takes away the sin of the world!

How did the Lord take away our sin?

The Greek word for “takes away” is *airō*. It can also mean to lift/take up or carry off.

We see Jesus taking away sin in three ways.

1. Through His Substitution:

Jesus, as the Lamb of God, was *“pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him”* (Isa 53:4–6).

Jesus absorbed the sinful consequences that rightfully belong to us as sinners.

God the Father “*made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*” (2 Cor 5:21)

It is through substitution that “*the many will be made righteous.*” (Rom 5:18–19)

The second way God takes away sin is:

2. Through His Sacrifice

Unlike OT sacrifices requiring endless repetition, the Lamb of God appeared “*at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of himself.*” (Heb 9:26–28)

Some medical treatments must be repeated because they only manage the condition without curing it.

Every time you visit the hospital, it reminds us that the underlying problem remains.

The repeated sacrifices of the Old Testament could never provide a final cure for guilt.

By the sacrifice of Himself, He accomplished what no animal sacrifice could ever accomplish.

The third way God takes away sin is:

3. Through His Reconciliation:

God’s reconciliation is fundamentally peacemaking.

We can now live at peace with God because the Lamb of God “*erased the certificate of debt by nailing it to the cross*” (Col. 2:13-14).

By taking away our sin, the Lord Jesus reconciles us back to God the Father.

The Lamb of God is the only one who can pay the debt.

John 1:29— *who takes away the sin of the world!*

Our photo now becomes crystal clear—

In Exodus, the sacrificial system was expanded from personal sacrifices to families/households.

Leviticus expanded the sacrificial system again, from families to the entire nation.

Now the Lamb of God offers Himself to the whole world.

This does not teach that every person is automatically saved—that is universalism.

KEYPOINT 2:

Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient for the world, but his shed blood only benefits those who believe.

The “world” refers to humanity's hostility toward God.

Because the whole world is guilty of sin—and they don't know what to do with it but blame others.

APPLICATION:

The question is no longer whether God has provided a Lamb.

The question is whether we are looking to Him in repentance and faith.

For those of you who believe:

1. Look to Christ
2. Confess your sin
3. Rest in His sacrifice
4. Point others to the Lamb of God who takes away sin.

For those of you who don't believe, you will see a very different side of this Lamb.

Revelation 6:12—*Then I saw him open the sixth seal. A violent earthquake occurred; the sun turned black like sackcloth made of hair; the entire moon became like blood;*

Revelation 6:13—*the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a high wind;*

Revelation 6:14—*the sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up; and every mountain and island was moved from its place.*

Revelation 6:15—*Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and every slave and free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.*

Revelation 6:16—*And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb,*

Revelation 6:17—*because the great day of their wrath has come! And who is able to stand?"*

PRAYER:

SONG:

BENEDICTION:

May the LORD bless you and protect you;

*may the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;*

*may the LORD look with favor on you
and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24)*

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