The Blessing of Forgiveness

I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake. -- I John 2:12

In the book of John chapter 1 verse 29 John the Baptist called Jesus by one of his most important names:

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said,* ***“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”***

The word behold means, pay attention, eliminate distractions, focus; on what? On Jesus. This name “Lamb of God” speaks of the purpose for which he came.

The people of Israel waited for centuries for the one who was promised to come to address the issue of sin; John the Baptist say, the wait is over, the Lamb of God is here.

* ***Ask – Why John called Jesus the lamb?***

Comment:

The book of Genesis tells us that Adam and Eve try to hide their sin covering themselves with leaves; but that was not acceptable to God; therefore, God slayed an animal and shed blood to provide covering of Adam and Eve. This leads to a sacrificial system, by which the wrath of God against sin could be at ease.

In the Old Testament there were various sacrifices, the sin offering required a sacrificed a lamb; but not any kind of lamb, it needed to be without blemish

***Read Exodus 12:5 and Hebrews 10:1-4 (emphasis on 4)***

Only the blood of the blemish lamb was acceptable to God; but this sacrificial system was temporarily these sacrifices will delay the judgment but not redeem them from sin.

During the New Testament, God provides an acceptable sacrifice, to substitute the atonement; remember God must judge sin, and we all sin, therefore we all are to be judged; there is no man that can be the perfect Lamb.

**It had to Be a Sinless God - Jesus knew no sin.**

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. -- 2 Corinthians 5:21

John, point that Jesus is the Lamb of God, the death of Jesus was so sufficient that address every sin of every person for all the time.

* **Ask - do you know what the last words of Jesus were in the cross**

Comment:

*Tetelestai* “It is finish” is paid in full; this means that the sin of the world has been paid in full with his blood; this is why Jesus is consider the Lamb of God. He redeems us in the cross from all our sins.

Understanding this we can conclude that people don’t go to hell because they sin, people don’t go to heaven because they don’t respond in faith to the one who paid for to receive the gift of eternal live

The good news of the gospel is that we don’t have to pay for eternal life; the payment has been done. We just need to accept the savior to receive eternal life.

When God Forgives, He never again brings them up or allows them to shame us

Christ not only forgives our transgressions, but He also cleanses us of the guilt associated with the transgression

* He cleanses our conscience
* He liberates us from a spirit of condemnation
* **Read Hebrews 9:14**

There is therefore no more condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. The only way the devil can own you, is to trick you to make you forget about the power of the blood of Jesus; he will trick you to use your physical strength, the power of positive thinking, who you know, how much money you have, to get you to forget about the blood of Jesus.

* **Read Romans 8:1**

On the cross Jesus not only die for our sins, but he also broke the power of Satan, on Saturday he went to hell and declare victory to the demonic realm.

Only God can forgive sin, but the church has been given authority to give witness of how a man can receive forgiveness of sins.

* **Read Acts 2:36-39**

**Application:**

**We Christians, can call the name of Jesus to deal with all our battles, when the enemy plant a sinful thought in our head, when he tempts us, when he tries to condemn us, when he lies to us telling us that we are worthless, when he tries to defeat you; we can look at him and say:**

**Behold the Lamb of God who deal with all my sins he will also keep you away from me!**