

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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## SERMON OUTLINE

## JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD

REV. LITO VILLORIA | JOHN 1:19-34

After the prologue, the Apostle John narrated the testimony of John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus. While the Synoptic Gospels detailed the account of John's baptism of Jesus, (Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22), the Gospel of John focused on the person of John the Baptist. He was a humble servant of the Lord who clearly knew His God-given mission to prepare the way for Jesus the Lamb of God!

When John the Baptist's ministry grew, drawing people from all walks of life to be baptized in the wilderness, it caught the attention of the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem. They sent a delegate to inquire from John if he was the Promised Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet. He confessed that he was not

any of these anticipated end-time figures from the Old Testament, but rather, he was the one Isaiah prophesied to be a "voice" directing people to Jesus (John 1:19-23; 2 Samuel 7:11-16; Malachi 4:5; Deuteronomy 18:15, 18; Isaiah 40:3).

The Jewish delegates then asked by what authority John baptized people. If he was not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, then why does he call people to repentance and be baptized into the kingdom that is to come. John replied that although he had authority from God to baptize with water, he is nothing compared to the One coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit (1:24-28; Matthew 3:1-2; Mark 1:4-5; Luke 3:3-6).

The following day, John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him. He declared "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" He testified that he identified Jesus as the promised One when he saw the Spirit descend from heaven and remained in Him. The Father revealed this to John and told Him that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. In the end, John testified that indeed, Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the Son of God (1:29-34)!

In this sermon, we will learn together about the significance of Jesus being the Lamb of God in our discipleship journey.✱

## MADE HOLY

T. CAROL FELIPE

*14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*  
1 Peter 1:14-16

In Peter's letter to the believers, he calls on the suffering church not to be conformed to their former passions. He asks the church to be holy in their conduct, for the Lord is holy. Even in their suffering, the church is holy, obedient, and sober-minded not because they are able, but only because of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, OUR BLESSED HOPE!

Holiness is the communicable character of God. It means that God shares this attribute of holiness with those who are in Him. Our holiness is not because we are perfect nor without defect, but our being holy is imputed upon us by the One who is truly holy, perfect, and blameless, the Lord Jesus. The word imputed means that it is given to those who the giver chooses. By the Lord's choosing, He saved us, called us His own, and made us holy. Our given or imputed holiness is not perfection but a life of distinction or separation ("separe") from the world. Thus, by virtue of who Jesus is, the Son of God, our Redeemer, and Savior, the One who is Holy, we

## PARSON TO PERSON

are called to be holy and live holy, just as He is. Just as God is holy, we are called and made holy through His finished work on the cross. Praise the Lord!

The challenge believers face today is how to enjoy and live in the holiness given to us. Holiness, while it is imputed, is grown and nurtured. This is what the Apostle Peter exhorts the church about. He asks the believers in exile to hope fully on the grace of the word preached to them, which will come fully when the Lord Jesus comes again (v. 13). He also reminds them not to be conformed to their old life of sin but to live holy lives (v. 14- 16).

Living holy is not a life of perfection but a life of consecration unto the Lord daily. Living consecrated lives allows the Lord to control our hearts, minds, and actions for Him and His glory. For believers to live holy in this sinful world, we need to fully look forward to the hope that we have, the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 13). Looking forward will lead us to look upward to the One who has caused us to be born again to a living hope (v. 3). And as we look to Jesus, we ask the Spirit of God to keep us conformed not to our old ways but only to His ways. Living consecrated lives is possible because Jesus has accomplished it, and His Holy Spirit empowers us.

We were made holy to live holy in this decaying world. And to do so, we need to say no to sin. While this seems impossible to the world that is watching, it is possible because it is done. The Lord Jesus has freed us from the penalty of sin as He took the cross (Romans 8:1), and its result is that sin no longer has dominion over us, (Romans 6:14) for those who believe! These truths about what the Lord has done should always be kept in mind as we navigate our daily lives in the world that is watching and enticing us toward evil.

The church was made holy to show the world who Jesus Christ is. For our witness to be acceptable, we must always remember that we are Jesus' hands and feet to this world. The world is familiar with the ways of Jesus. As such, we need to always be mindful of how we present Jesus as we present ourselves. I pray that as we spend time in this world, our lives will be a foretaste of heaven to those we have encountered. That as we live today, they will see the goodness of God; they will experience the love and grace of God, as we, the children of God, reflect His holiness every day.

Yes, we are holy. We were made holy. ✱

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