

Sermon Manuscript

John 1:29-34

Look to Jesus!

Image Church November 24, 2019 // Stand Alone

FCF: Is Jesus really the one true Savior?

SI: Jesus is the one true savior of the world who has come to take the curse of sin.

Introduction:

Good Morning Image Family! It is great to be with you today!

Last weekend it was incredible to see so many of you here take a step with us during our one-year discipleship journey.

If you have not had a chance to make your legacy commitment, please take a few moments to write your commitment in.

Then during the offering, you will have an opportunity to place the card in the bucket.

Today I want to tell you a little bit about my life before becoming a pastor.

Before being called into the role of pastor I worked in two Industries.

- University Student Life
- Sales/Client Services

After I graduated college I began working as a recruiter for my university

Then I got the second-best job on the planet

I was the Director of Intramural Sports at a small university – yes it really is as fun as you are imagining right now.

All of these jobs had one underlying theme: I was constantly convincing people to do or buy into something: a school, a product, me!

Through that time, I learned of two broad, and very general, groups of people

Those who need all of the information before buying

and those who don't; it's really that simple. I

know, this is a generalization; I see all the snowflakes out there saying, "I'm neither of those!"

I'm here to tell you, "yes you are." And to be honest we are probably a little of each depending on the situation.

Let me show you what I mean.

Person 1 - Those who Need the Info:

- Have you ever researched something to find out the specs and details of a product before you ever walk in the store?

- *JOKE: A store is a place the physically carries the product you want to buy. You don't have to pay for shipping or wait two days to take it home*

- You need the info. You want all the facts.
- You want more facts than necessary.
- So many of you can't make a decision.
- You fall into the "need the info" category. Whether you ask the sales rep or spend hours reading blogs and amazon reviews, you want to know what you are getting yourself into.
- I bet you even ask about the warranty.
- I know you well, mostly because I am just like you.

Person 2 - Those who do not need all of the info:

- Now for those who don't need all the details, you seem okay making the impulse buy.
- I know you too! In 2007 you heard someone say the new iPhone was pretty good so you thought yeah, I'll spend \$600 only find out the price was about to drop \$200 three

weeks after you bought the phone.

- No research at all, and it's not a big deal for you. You only need to know the foundation and you are in.

~~This is the generalization that most of us can agree on.~~

~~We all lean towards person 1 or person 2.~~

- But To be fair, whether we know it or not, we have all been person 1 or person 2 at some point in our lives.
- ~~Well, maybe not you super impulsive folks in here~~
- ~~That's not me but hey more power to you.~~
- ~~You know which way your nature tendencies lean.~~
- ~~If we are all honest, we are all a bit gridlocked and impulsive when making decisions~~
- And this doesn't stop at buying new tech for Christmas, or what car to buy, or what type of floors should we put in our house.
- The unknown simply scares us
- and when we don't know what to do we often respond in one of two ways –
- we are emotionally and spiritually paralyzed by a choice.
- Or we move on.
- And for most of you this same logic applies to your belief in Jesus.
- You are either gridlocked on what to believe and even what it means to believe

- Or you are caught in this loop of avoidance and unbelief on who Jesus is and his relationship with humanity.
- Today I want you to see what the Bible is proclaiming about Jesus.
- If you have your bible please read along with me in

- **John 1:29-34.**

- ***“The next day he [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”***

From reading and studying this Scripture today, I want tell you **Jesus is our one true savior who came take away the sin of the world.**

Some of you here today are still not sure if Jesus really is the

Savior.

You have read the bible, you know what it says, but you are still not sure you are ready to believe.

Some of you think you believe but you know in your heart Jesus is not and has never been your Savior and Lord.

You are still asking the questions:

1. Why does Jesus have to be the only way to heaven?
2. What about the other religions?
3. Is this really true?

Is Jesus really the one true Savior?

The answer is yes!

The first thing we see in the passage is....

Jesus is our one true savior - the Lamb of God - who came take away the sin of the world.

We know this is true and verse 29 tells us that Jesus...

1. Jesus is our Sacrifice (v.29).

Explanation:

- In verse 29 John is making the proclamation the first 28 verses set up.

- This setup is the soft toss in softball, the empty net in soccer.
- You see the pitch coming, and you know this is going to be amazing when you connect. This is what John has done up to this point in the first chapter of John.
- He laid the foundation that Jesus is the Savior, and in verse 29 he connects.
- When John says, ***“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*** It’s like the finally at the 4th of July fireworks show.
- We know it’s coming and when it does it always blows our minds.
- John is proclaiming who Jesus is. He is the savior of the world! He is our Savior! He is our Sacrificial Lamb.
- ~~For just a moment~~ let’s take a closer look at the weight of his announcement.
- When the Jewish men and women heard a reference to a lamb that would remind them of Passover.
- Passover was time for Jewish people to remember their deliverance from slavery and the cost of forgiveness of sins.
- In Isaiah 53:7 it describes the lamb saying,
 - ***“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”***
- The final sacrificial lamb has arrived and John is proclaiming Jesus as this Lamb.
- We are all in need of forgiveness and it is not a stretch at all to make the statement that everyone in here has done something wrong, not one of us is perfect.
- Romans 5:23 ***“...For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”***
- What we read here in John 1:29 is that Jesus is the one who has come to remove the guilt and condemnation of the inherent sin of the world.
- He is the promised lamb we read about in Isaiah 53.
- ~~The passage is telling us that~~ Jesus has come as God’s Lamb, the spotless lamb, the final Passover lamb, and that he has come with purpose of removing the sin of the world.
- This is the greatest new ever heard!
- This is the gospel of Jesus. He is our Sacrifice.

- Though we are all short of God's glory, ~~God's Lamb~~ – Jesus – has come to take away the sin.

Illustration:

- Let me explain it this way.
- Once a cruise liner was at sea and a man fell overboard.
- Just so happened this man was not a great swimmer so they needed to act fast.
- Turning the boat around would take hours and this man did not have hours.
- The captain acting fast pulled the best of the best from his crew together to figure out solution.
- Finally, a man spoke up and decided to toss this drowning man the best book on swimming he could find. He went ahead and highlighted the best sections...what you really need to know from the book.
- Then tossed it overboard with a short one-page synopsis attached for good measure.
- Another of the captain's best decided she would jump in and demonstrate the best way to tread water and swim to stay alive.

- So, she did. She jumped in swam all around the man saying, "Do it this way," "I find easiest to kick like this, you try."
- After these first two attempts failed, one of the captain's men decided to shout positive words like "you can do it!" "Keep giving it your best."
- Until finally a one of the other passengers no one had known until this point, jumped in the water and rescued the drowning man from dying.
- I could see all of you looking at me with this ridiculous look like, no one would ever really do that...
- I would never do that!
- And to that I say...I hope not, but you never know?

Argumentation:

- Now this is an analogy and it will break down if you take it too far.
- But, I'm guessing that most of us in here, we start thinking what we would do in that scenario;
- I would for sure jump in and actually save this person drowning.

- Not true, we are the person drowning!
- John is telling us – Jesus jumped in to save us!
- He came to earth not to show us how or give us the best steps necessary to survive.
- He did the work for us.
- He willingly came to earth to take our sin; therefore, taking the punishment of our sin, which is death.
- **Romans 5:18 says, “Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.”**
- It is through Jesus’ act of righteousness that leads to our redemption – our justification,
- which is a big word used to say, we are now in a right relationship before our God.
- He is the Lamb of God who takes away our sin. He is our sacrifice.
- Even though we are guilty, through Christ we are made right before God.
- When we look to Jesus we see our savior. Only the Son of God is able to save the world from the curse of sin,

and...this leads to the second point made by John: that...

2. Jesus is The Son of God (v. 30-34).

Explanation:

- John has been clear about his intentions to proclaim Jesus as the Savior and the Son of God. In verse 30-34 we see two things
 1. Jesus is the Son of God and
 2. Jesus is the chosen one of God.
- Let’s take a look at the verses again starting in verse 31:
 - **and John said, “I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”**
 - Is this confusing to anyone in here?
 - I often refer to passages like this as proof the bible is true.
 - Why would this be in here? It’s really confusing when you first read it...
 - Well, it is for me, maybe not you.
 - ~~Well let’s find out~~
 - ~~John is saying he did not know Jesus. What could that mean?~~

- Obviously, John knew Jesus, he just made a proclamation that he is the Lamb of God
- and you can read in the other Gospel accounts they are cousins.
- So, he knows him; however, he did not know he was the Messiah
- The reason John was called by God to baptize was to reveal the Messiah to Israel – v. 33
- John did not know if Jesus was the Messiah, but...
- There were signs John was looking for, signs that would be revealed to Israel – v. 30
- and John saw the signs at the time of Jesus' baptism,
- John was not playing favorites towards his smart cousin,
- He wanted the one true Savior – the Messiah to be revealed.
- Picking up in verse 32 It says:
- ***And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'***

- **These two verses give us the explanation of the previous verse.**
- **God – the one who sent John to baptize with water – gave him the sign of the spirit.**
- **When the spirit rested on Jesus, John knew he was the one true Son of God.**
- **And the climax comes in verse 34 where John says,**
- ***"And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."***
- John wanted to be very clear on who Jesus is and so do I
- He is the Son of God! The Savior of the World
- ~~What does this mean for us? How are we to respond to this?~~
- Listen to what C.S. Lewis has to say about Jesus.

Illustration:

- In his book Mere Christianity, he says
- **"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus]: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort**

of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

- Church, we cannot simply brush Jesus off as a good idea.
- We cannot brush off what he has done for us.
- Often times we can mentally say that Jesus is King, but we DO. NOT. ACT LIKE HE IS KING

Argumentation:

- All of Scripture has been waiting for the coming of the Jesus – The Lamb of God.
- In 2 Samuel 7:14-16 The Lord tells David
- ***“I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love [that is God’s Presence] will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”***
- *The Promised Lamb*
- Revelation 5 says

- ***“behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals....and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain... And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb...And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”***
- Jesus also made claim as the Messiah saying in
- ***John 3:14 Jesus says “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”***
- *Which is a direct connection to Israel being saved by God through looking at a serpent in Numbers 21, which is a direct connection to salvation coming to humanity through the Messiah.*
- ~~*This one will take a little explaining*~~
- ~~*Numbers 21 Moses and the serpent*~~
- Then in John 8:58 Jesus could not have been anymore clearer when he said...
- ***“Before Abraham was, I am.”***

- *This is a direct quote from God in...*
- *Exodus 3:13-14*
- ***The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what should I tell them? " God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."***
- *If anything, today I hope you walk away clear knowing it is not possible to rationalize a scenario where Jesus does not claim to be the true Savior*
- *Who is 100% God and 100% man.*
- Jesus is calling himself God. This type of claim calls for a response.
- *You will either respond by surrendering or rejecting*
- *There is no middle ground*

*****VAMP*****

Application of the SI and 2 divisions:

- B/C At the beginning of our time I asked you **"Is Jesus really the one true Savior?"**
- Simply put it is: YES!
- Most of us in here today are probably in two places in life

- **Place 1:** You really see Jesus as your savior. You know he is Lord and you are Looking to Him for life, strength, hope, direction...
- **Place 2:** You don't look to Christ as savior, or you think you do, but if you are really honest, you Behold yourself, not the Lamb of God.
 - Some of you have never placed your trust in Jesus.
 - You want to make sure you are ready for God,
 - **YOU WILL NEVER BE READY FOR GOD!!!**
 - That is a lie you are told. We cannot get ready for Jesus.
 - We come just as we are.
 - He is the giver of faith and grace.
 - We simply surrender to him once and for all.
 - Some of you may have said you placed your faith in Jesus, but rarely are you willing to behold Jesus.
 - Rarely do you Look to Him
 - How do we look to him?
 - I know this can be ambiguous in thought, but it really isn't.
 - It starts with a commitment, not one that you are able to keep, but one that Jesus keeps.
 - Its starts with verbally surrendering and emotionally surrendering
 - It starts by saying to Jesus, I am a sinner, I need forgiveness, please forgive me.

- I surrender my life to you, please help me surrender.
 - Its knowing who Jesus is an acting on that truth.
- We cannot ever save ourselves that is a job for Jesus.
- **Jesus is our one true savior who came take away the sin of the world.** He is the one true Son of God.
- **Church, we cannot simply brush Jesus off as a good idea.**
- **We cannot brush off what he has done for us.**
- **Often times we can mentally say that Jesus is King, but we DO. NOT. ACT LIKE HE IS KING**
- **Please don't hear me asking for a check-list or a simple one-step solution to make everything easier.**
- **This isn't an easy task – its an impossible task for us.**
- **but it's not our job to work for Salvation – that is very clear Jesus did this.**
- **But we have to understand our response to the Lamb.**
- **And, it seems we in theory understand this and we are willing to exchange our sin from Christ's gift**
- **But what we often do exchange is our lack of obedience for the idea of legalism.**

- **Legslism is not about what you do; it is about what value you place in what you do.**
- **To respond in ob**
- **To behold Jesus is to trust him with everything**
- **To fully surrender.**
- **One of the things the Turner's have done in the past and still to this day**
- **Is physically open our hands and say all that we have is yours.**
- **It seems cheesy and weird, but this simple act helps us behold the Lamb of God.**
- ~~Explain the connection~~
- ~~In Numbers 21 the people of Israel began to sin against God and as a result God sent serpents that bit the people and people died. This is the result of our sin.~~
- We are separated from God and we are cursed to die separated from him for all eternity.
- But God being rich in love and mercy has made a way.

- ~~In Numbers 21 God commanded Moses to make a serpent and place it on a pole and as soon as people looked at the pole they would live.~~
- The people of Israel looked in faith and lived.
- Today I call you to look to Jesus and live. John called out to us to “Behold!” to “Look!” to Jesus as our sacrifice, as our savior, and as the Son of God.
- Today I want to give us an opportunity to respond.

Communion

Gospel call.

Fence the table.

- This Jesus calls us to respond. How will you respond?
Today is the day to look to Jesus and live. Let’s pray.

Bullpen

- In the book Paradox of Choice Barry Schwartz addresses this issue we have as Americans.
- We simply cannot make a choice on what we need or should have.
- We are paralyzed by the options we in front of us.