

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

INDEPENDENT • MISSIONARY • ESTABLISHED 1786

“Preaching the same truth since before Kentucky was a state”

VOLUME 30, NO. 7

APRIL, 1999

WORTHY IS THE LAMB!

BY: AL GORMLEY

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand," Revelation 1:1-3.

"And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created," Revelation 4:8-11.

"And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo,

*in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vails full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb** that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever," Revelation 5:1-14.*

There is no way possible that I can preach this sermon the way I want to preach--no way, just no way. Did you ever get to the place where you know that you couldn't do what you wanted to do? These verses of scripture are a Revelation of Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation

is the Revelation of Jesus Christ as judge. As we look at this picture in chapter four, God immediately exalts us into Heaven. After the teaching concerning the seven churches, chapter four says, "I heard a voice saying, come up hither," and immediately the apostle John said "I was in the Spirit." I'm going to show you some things that will be hereafter or after these things. John had the great revelation given to him of God, as He sits upon the throne of Jesus Christ, as he stood there of the four living creatures about the throne crying out, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, which is, and which is to come. The Bible says the four and twenty elders fell down before Him on the throne and cast their crown before His throne, every thing they owned and said, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power, for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created," Revelation 4:11. But in chapter five, we see the right hand of Him that sat on the throne, a book with seven seals. This book contained the right to judge, not only this earth, but to judge all men--gave Him the right to judge the devil, gave Him the right to judge the false apostle, gave Him the right to judge every man, gave Him the right to judge this earth and pour out wrath upon this earth. John looked upon this scene and said "Who is worthy to open the book," who's worthy to and can judge every lost person, who can judge God's children, who is worthy to pour wrath upon the earth? John said that he looked around in Heaven and no man in Heaven, no man in earth was worthy to open the book or even look upon it. John said, "I wept much," because there was no man found worthy to open or read the book or even look upon it. One of the elders said to John--weep not, quit your crying now

and behold the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David has prevailed to open the book and to loose the seven seals. The elders told John, this Lion of the tribe of Juda--this precious king of the beasts, He is prevailed and John said Where is He? Where is He? And I behold and lo, in the midst of the throne and in the four beasts and in the midst of the elders stood a lion? NO, a Lamb. Oh, Yes! He's a lamb! The Bible teaches that He did His work as a lamb, He did His work as an innocent one, did His work as one that came down and took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh and as a man, as a lamb, who was led to the slaughter and He opened not His mouth. He hath prevailed. He has conquered. He has overcome, that He as a lamb might judge, might stand supreme, might be exalted and given a name above every name, that at the name of Jesus every tongue shall confess, every knee shall bow and acknowledge Him as Lord. Not as a lion, but as a lamb. This man Jesus! Son of God, made flesh and dwelt among us. We read in the book of Revelation that when God brings judgement upon the earth, man will crawl in the holes in the earth, go back into the dens and caves and cry out--Hide us from the wrath of the Lamb, (not a lion--hide us from the wrath of the Lamb). People in heaven are telling us these seven horns, represent all power; Jesus Christ as a lamb. God has given Him all power. The seven spirits which are the seven eyes is all knowledge. God has so exalted Him that Jesus Christ as Lord knows every thing about you and me, the devil and everybody else and He is worthy to judge. He took that book, came unto the throne of glory, came unto God in that Holy throne there and as a man, the Lamb of God; He came there and took that book in His hand. God gave it to Him and every body began springing out and saying, "*Thou art worthy!*" Who can reject that? Who can turn their ears back from hearing, that the Lamb of God which came to take away the sins of the world. He is worthy to do all that is written of Him in the book. Thou Art Worthy! Many of the Old Testament saints saw that. I believe Abel saw that; because, way back in the Old Testament, the Bible teaches us that when Abel came before the Lord, you know what he presented? He presented a lamb. I thought about that as I was studying this. When I was a child on the farm, we'd take a little

lamb away from its mother. It was helpless, harmless. You can take many animals and they will run or fight when you attempt to kill them. But you can take a lamb and he will just lay his head down upon that block. It is the most pitiful thing to kill--a lamb. I just don't believe I could do it. My friend, if I have that kind of feeling in my own heart toward a little lamb, I wonder what the feelings of God the Father had when Jesus Christ was on the cross of Calvary as the Lamb of God, the innocent one, the harmless one, the undefiled; and he opened not His mouth, he laid His life down on Calvary, when he died for you and me. My friend, He Is Worthy!

Going back into the book of Genesis, the twenty-second chapter, Abraham is a type of the Father, and Isaac is the son of promise, a type of Jesus Christ. God told Abraham, "Abraham, go upon a mountain in the land of Moriah. I'm going to test you, I'm going to try you." Abraham went, took his son Isaac, took the wood for the burnt offering. Isaac, his son followed right along beside him. I tell you, Isaac was important to Abraham. Because Abraham knew that through Isaac, Jesus was to be born. They started up that mountain, Isaac looked up to his Daddy and said, "we have the fire and all, but where is the lamb? where's the offering?"

All the time Abraham was determined to sacrifice his son. Isaac asked where is the lamb? "*God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering,*" Genesis 22:8. God will provide Himself. It didn't say God will make Himself a sacrifice, it says God will provide Himself a sacrifice! That's exactly who Jesus was--God Himself! Great is the mystery of Godliness, God was manifested in flesh, the Bible says that He was and is that body. God says the blood of bulls and goats, they cannot take away sin. So Abel just rolled that sin off himself, rolled it in a pile, if you please. Abraham and all the Old Testament saints rolled those sins over and kept rolling them over, remembered year after year.

We see another great truth in Exodus chapter twelve--judgement was going to come upon all the land. God said, "Now Moses, you take a lamb without blemish, you keep it up until the fourteenth day and then you kill it. Then you take that blood and sprinkle that blood on the lenthil and the door posts." Then He said, "*When I see the blood, I will pass over*

you!" That little innocent lamb did not take away any sin, but I'll tell you what, the lamb that freed those people from judgement, was the lamb that protected them. It was the lamb that withheld the judgement of God. It was the blood that was shed which kept back the iron hand of wrath from off those people.

In the book of Revelation we see the same thing: "*Thou art Worthy*" to take the book, open it for thou hast been slain and redeemed us to God by thy blood. No wonder they were singing. I imagine those people in the days of Exodus 12 were rejoicing in that Lamb; that there was a Lamb; and that the blood was shed. I'm free, I'm in a place of safety now, because of that blood. We see the same thing in Heaven, because Jesus Christ, the Son of God who was made flesh, came down as the Lamb of God. He protected them because He shed His own blood, and by faith it was applied to their heart.

Here is a scene in Heaven where God's children are exalted; and you know what they are singing about? They are singing about Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Lamb of God who took away their sins. They are singing, "*Thou art worthy because you redeemed us out of every kindred, tongue and nation*"--that's Gentiles too. "*Thou art worthy!*" We see that Josiah began in the Old Testament to restore the Passover. We will deal very briefly with this. II Chronicles 35:7, "*And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the passover offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand.*" Thirty thousand lambs to kill for the passover. "*And they killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands,*" verse 11. That was a bloody mess.

Because of the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed that day on Calvary's cross--that is how he overcame, by His own blood, by shedding His blood. By shedding His blood, that is how He got the right to judge. He overcame, He conquered, He prevailed. They sing the song, thou hast redeemed us unto God. "*Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power,*" Revelation 5:12.

A lot of us are not worthy of anything. If God would give me power, I would misuse it. If God would give you power, you would misuse it. The Bible teaches us that when Jesus came into this

world, he said that all power He had, He never, not one time, used it to benefit Himself. Have you ever thought about that? Oh, He healed people's diseases. He made the lame to walk, He raised the dead, but He never, never, used it to provide things for Himself. *"And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God,"* Matthew 3:2-4. He had the power. He came into the world to save sinners and He did not misuse that power, in no way did he misuse that power. He used it for the purpose for which God intended it to be used.

Now He is exalted as the lamb and the Bible says, "Thou art worthy to receive power because the Lamb will use it in exactly the right way." Therefore, God is going to pour out His wrath upon this earth and Jesus Christ is righteous and true. Everything He does will be right. He will only use His power for the glory of God. "Thou art worthy to receive power." There is not another man on the face of this earth that could that kind of power be put into their hands.

Thou art worthy to receive riches. I looked at that and said, "Lord, how in the world am I going to preach on that." I sat there wondering what I was going to do with that. Not a one of us today are worthy to receive riches. When we receive riches, we use it to consume it upon our own selves. God gives us blessings and what do we do? Everything we have is all used to benefit ourselves rather than the Lord's work. Is that not right?

God says Jesus is heir of all things. My Saviour had them all. He said, "I had glory before I came into this world." *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof,"* Psalm 24:1. He owns it all. He also said that the gold and silver is mine, everything else belongs to me, the cattle on seven hills are all mine. They all belonged to Him before He became the Lamb.

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich," II Corinthians 8:9. Isn't that something? For your sakes, he became poor. How poor? Not even a place to be born! Not

even a place to lay his head! Not even a tomb to be buried in! He did it for our sakes. He lay aside all those riches, he lay aside all that wealth, he lay aside all that glory, he lay aside all that honor--he lay it aside for our sakes. That through his poverty, ye might be made rich. There is a man that can handle it. There is a man that is worthy. There is a man that God said that as a lamb, as one who came into this world as a man, "Thou art worthy to receive riches because you can handle it." Wonderful! Not a man in heaven that can do that, not a man on earth can do that because all of us get ourselves involved. Jesus Christ emptied himself, *"made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Philippians 2:7-8. Therefore God hath highly exalted him. Worthy is the Lamb to receive wisdom. I believe with all my heart that the Lamb was God in the flesh, *"I and my father are one."* Jesus Christ never used any of his wisdom to question anything God had given him to do. God told him to work and he said, *"I do all things to please my Father."*

He had wisdom! Christ was the wisdom of God. Christ manifested the wisdom of God. Christ came and he showed, revealed, let people know God's wisdom in that he came to live, to submit, to yield, to die, to suffer and do the will of him that sent him. Christ had wisdom. The wise thing to do was to always obey his Father. He had enough wisdom not to deviate one little bit from the plan of God; therefore, God said now, that you are exalted as the Lamb, I will give you all wisdom, I will give it all to you because you can handle it.

You know to do exactly as I told you in strength. Thou art worthy to receive strength. The word "power" comes from the word "dynamus" and this means strength or force. I see Jesus Christ as a meek lamb, never using force except when it was in complete harmony with the will of God. Yes, he drove those men out of the temple. They deserved to be driven out. He was never in any fit of anger whatsoever, always glorifying the Father with his strength. *"And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that*

sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." Matthew 21:12-13. Not one time did he use any force. He told them one day, "I could call a legion of angels and they would come and protect me." But he never used that force. Now God says, I'm going to give you force, I'm going to give you strength because I know you, you'll only use it in a way that will magnify and glorify the Father. Thou art worthy of honor. Jesus Christ himself said, when he was talking about honor, *"I do always those things that please him,"* John 8:29. If I be a Father, where is my honor? Jesus Christ always honored his heavenly Father. As a lamb, never one time did he ever dishonor his heavenly Father. Now all heaven breaks loose, all those who have redeemed him and saw the greatness of his salvation that we have in him. He always honored the Father first and provided for us his salvation that only he and he alone could provide. They all sprang forth and said, "Thou art worthy to receive honor" because you have bestowed honor upon the heavenly Father. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive glory. Why Lord, why are you so worthy? Because Jesus Christ at the end of his ministry, in John the seventeenth chapter, lifted his eyes to the heavens, he said, *"I have glorified thee on this earth."* Jesus the Son of God, the Lamb of God, God made flesh, the Bible says that everything he did gave glory to God. He glorified his heavenly Father in everything he did. Today God says, *"be ye imitators of Jesus Christ;"* therefore, we ought to glorify God in all that you do for honor, glory, and praise of our Lord. That will cut out a lot of our sins.

"Thou art worthy, blessed." He's worthy, He's worthy of being spoken about and praised. That is why I like the song, "Worthy." When I hear that song I sit there by myself and say, "Praise Him." I imagine myself being in the very portals of heaven and glory. Praise Him for, "Thou art worthy". I told our music director I wish the church could sing that song, backed with the choir. On the chorus when it says, "Praise Him," I pray that all of our hearts could be raised up to God with understanding and cry out: **"Praise Him, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain!"** I tell you, God would spread throughout the nation. If we could just get that in our heart. Worthy, Worthy is

the Lamb that was slain to receive honor, glory, power, strength and wisdom! That is the scene in heaven. Can you imagine Jesus in the midst of thousands as the Lamb? That's him being exalted. All these angels, the number of them were ten thousands. Anybody here have a calculator? Ten thousand times thousands of thousands saying, "**Worthy is the Lamb.**" Sometimes we think of this as a little scene in heaven, where there is just a few, but there are multitudes, myriads of angels. **Worthy is the Lamb.** God's children have been redeemed. **Worthy is the Lamb!** All heaven breaks loose to glorify and to praise the Lamb of God. Jesus, who walked on this earth, was led to the slaughter. He opened not his mouth, went to the cross, suffered and died for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, exalted back at the presence of God. The only way we can know the position he is in is to read it. This is the exact position that God has given him today in heaven. **He is worthy of it!**

"The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready," Revelation 19:7. Don't you believe that that kind of person is worthy? Worthy of a bride that is pure without spot! Can't you imagine the kind of bride that ought to be united to the Lord of God? Can any one condemn me for preaching that God's children ought to be worthy of him, that they ought to live their lives with the glory of God, they ought to separate themselves from worldliness, ungodliness because he is worthy of all being brought into obedience. He is worthy of presenting our bodies a sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is a reasonable service. He is worthy of me to not conform to this world but to be transformed to renew my mind to praise him, to glorify him and live for him in this present evil world. I love him. My Saviour is worthy. I love him, I love my Saviour, but sometimes I don't understand the old deadness and hardness of my heart. But I love Jesus Christ.

"Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb," Revelation 19:9. Talk about a reception, talk about a marriage supper! God's children who are blessed are they that are called to the marriage supper. Everyone called to the marriage supper is not going to be in the Lamb's bride. She is going to have to be worthy. But I believe that every saved person who was ever saved upon the face

of the earth is going to be there at the wedding. *"Blessed are they which are called."* You will not be there unless you have been called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. I'm talking about the one who died for me. I'm talking about the one that I shall stand before one day. I'm talking about the one I'm going to live with forever. I'm talking about the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. When I get in this condition, I understand what John says, *"even so come Lord Jesus."*

If you are without Jesus Christ, I say to you, He is above every man. He is God manifested in flesh and exalted in the midst of all heaven. Everything rotates, revolves around him in the midst of the throne. I saw not a lion but a lamb. Before you ever get saved, you are going to have to realize you are a sinner and come to the cross of Calvary, seeing Jesus Christ dying and suffering for your sins. We were not redeemed with corruptible things of silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, heirs of the Lamb without blemish. You are going to have to see the truth. **Worthy is the Lamb** to receive honor and glory and praise. The Bible says, "he that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." Your father and your mother are not worthy of your love and praise as much as the one I'm speaking about today. **Worthy is the Lamb!** Can you trust him today?