

Tom Shanklin Ministries

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Dear Friend,

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29, KJV.

Wouldn't it be a welcome change to have a John the Baptist preaching in our world? So much ministry today is entertainment, glitz, humanism, and superficiality. But John spoke the only message that can change a life forever, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

This is the message that needs to be heard loud and clear in our society today. With so many professors of religion leading people down a primrose path toward compromise and unbelief, we need a voice that will speak the truth we need to hear—that we live in a world that is desperately lost, and that Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to eternal life.

Jesus is that sacrificial lamb of God, sent to die to take away the sin of the world. He is the only possible remedy for a sin-sick world. If there was another way that we could be saved, if transcendental meditation or positive thinking or a word from a "prophet" could save us, God would not have given His precious Son to be the sacrifice for our sins. But the truth is, sacrifice and the shed blood of Calvary is the only way that we could ever obtain salvation. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. (Heb. 9:22) That is why Jesus came, to die for your sins.

John is known as John the Baptist, but he did not preach a denominational line. He preached a word which he received from heaven, a word that was desperately needed in his generation, to prepare the way of the Lord. He came to prepare the people for the first coming of Jesus. Now, we are living near the time of Jesus' second coming. Once again, we need a voice to speak to our generation to prepare the way of the Lord.

So many today have no awareness of God in their lives, or of His glory. They know little of His glorious presence or His righteous requirements. The preachers who fill the airwaves tell us about how to have a better life here on earth, but too often do little to prepare us for eternity. There is little preaching about repentance or a call to holiness. Seldom do we hear that without Christ, we are lost, without hope, without God in this world. (Eph. 2:12) Because of this, the cross has lost its relevance and its power to this generation.

Soon Jesus will return. The question remains: will He find faith? Will he find those who are following the Lamb wherever He goes, or will he find a flimsy, anemic faith built on comfortable religious clichés that are void of power? "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18, KJV. We need someone who will point us to Jesus, and his death on the cross, for that is where the power lies. Behold (LOOK!) at the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

John did not have a PR firm handling his ministry. In fact, he preached in an unlikely place, in the wilderness, but the people went out to him. Why? Because he had reality. He had the touch of God on his ministry. He had a message from heaven. It makes me think that in these days we will see those rising from obscurity and used mightily to speak a bold message from heaven.

Today, we need a voice that proclaims the true Gospel based on the awful reality of a hot hell, and certain judgment without Christ. When we realize the awful judgment upon sinners, suddenly the cross



Hope & Healing for the Nations

becomes a welcome relief, and a desperately needed remedy. Preaching judgment may be out of vogue, but it still is what we need, a dose of reality in the midst of a crooked generation that is racing madly and blindly toward hell.

John was that independent voice in his generation. Not independent of God or of relationships with godly people, but independent of the control of the religious hierarchy of his day. He spoke without compromise to those who were religious but not righteous, calling them a brood of vipers. He was not beholden to any man or system, but yet he spoke a message which was desperately needed, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:2, KJV.

Today, we need such a voice. I say a voice (singular). Not that it should be one man or one woman, but that it should be one uncompromising voice, speaking the pure word of the Gospel, preached with clarity and power, like a voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of Lord."

God is about to release such a voice today, a company of believers and preachers who will proclaim it, and live it, and will not allow themselves to come under the thought systems of this world, the fear of man, nor of worldly religion. They will charge the people to prepare the way of the Lord, and point to the only solution to mankind's most desperate need, saying, "Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world."



STILL HEALED OF WHIPLASH

You may remember the testimony of Joyce Ballard, who was instantly healed of whiplash by the Lord in our services in Mahanomen, Minnesota. She had been in a car accident earlier last year. I was excited to receive the following note from her a few days ago: *"I am still doing great—sitting at my desk about 12 hours a day doing taxes with no trouble with my neck and arms—Praise God!"*

GOD'S PLAN FOR EVERY BELIEVER

Lately, I've been preaching about the Lord's plan for every believer. I've been captured with the prospect of what would happen if every Christian believer would just simply find and follow the will of God for their lives. The world would be evangelized within a short time and healing would come to the nations. God's plan for touching humanity will not be accomplished by preachers alone, but by everyday believers who learn to walk with God and share their faith with a troubled world. The Body of Christ MUST be activated to do the work of the ministry,

Please pray with us for new avenues for this ministry to reach the lost and the prodigals with the Good News of the cross through our preaching and through the media. Pray that the Lord would clearly order our steps this year. I'm scheduled to teach in a Bible School and evangelize in Thailand in July.

Thanks for standing with us! Susan and I are praying that 2010 will be a breakthrough year for you, your family and your ministry. Go! Go! Go!

Your partner,

Tom Shanklin

Sunday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m., For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, MN. 507-725-2984.

Sunday, Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m., United Methodist Church, Litchfield, MN. 320-693-3409.

Sunday, Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., New Life Fellowship, Tolna, North Dakota. 701-262-4470.

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m., Church of the Nazarene, LaMoure, North Dakota. 701-883-5100

Sunday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., The Country Church, Ruthton, Minnesota. 507-658-3917.

Sunday, March 7, 10 a.m., For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, MN. 507-725-2984.

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