

# God Never Graduates from the Gospel

## Revelation 5:5-6

### Introduction

The Gospel is foundational

- it is essential and basic
- we are perpetually dependent on it
- it holds our attention
- it captivates our hearts
- it is the Good News of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior

The Gospel is not insurance

- we do not move on from it to “bigger and better”
- we do not graduate from it
- it is not the first step in the Christian life

The Gospel IS the Christian life!

### Background

The Book of Revelation was written by the apostle John about 90 AD while he was on the island of Patmos. He had been persecuted by the government for following Jesus. He wrote this letter to encourage his fledgling churches to encourage them to be faithful to Jesus. He wanted to encourage them and remind them that Jesus is victorious.

***Revelation 1:19 “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.”***

John wrote this book in obedience to what Jesus had told him

- Rev Chapter 1 – “...what you have seen...”
- Rev Chapters 2-3 – “...what is now...”
- Rev Chapters 4-22 – “...and what will take place later...”
  - Chapters 4-5 – Heaven
  - Chapters 6-19 – the Tribulation and God’s Judgment
  - Chapters 19-22 - New Heaven and New Church

Revelation Chapter 4 – John writes down history

In Heaven, God is the centerpiece

- V. 3 – throne and the One who sits on it
- V. 4 – the 24 elders
- V. 6-8 – 4 living creatures (see Isaiah 6)
- Ch. 5:11 – myriad of angels
- Ch. 5:13 – every created thing

**Point:** there are concentric circles of worship in Heaven around Jesus.

### 1. The spotlight of heaven is forever upon the exalted Lion of Judah

***Revelation 5:5 “and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.” “***

- Genesis 49 – *the tribe of Judah* - God is majestic and mighty – royal and regal – glorious and victorious
- *The Root of David* – all grows out of it – David comes from this One – see Rev 22:16
- *The Overcomer* – death and sin
  - Col 2:13 – 15 – how He overcame sin
- To this end – *to open the book and its seven seals* – Jesus is the only One worthy to usher in history - judgment – see Romans 2, John 5

John expects to see a Lion when he turns around.....

***Revelation 5:6 “And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. “***

### 2. The spotlight of heaven is forever upon the slain Lamb of God (v6)

The lamb is a meek and gentle animal, vulnerable and humble. In the Bible, they are often the victims. Jesus is the Lamb of God:

- the Sinless punished for sinners
- the Obedient crushed for the disobedient
- sent to slaughter

The seven horns symbolize His power and might while the seven eyes are the seven-fold Spirit of God

***Revelation 1:1 “ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,”***

- the unveiling of Jesus Christ
- in the Book of Revelation, one title is used more than any other – the Lamb
- Jesus is referred to as the Lamb 28 times in Revelation

Why is the slain Lamb on display in Heaven?

- It is a defining point for all humanity
- The conqueror of Satan, pain, death, brokenness, sickness
- Jesus is the centerpiece of history and theology
- God never gets beyond a slain lamb – He never graduates from the Gospel of the slain Lamb because God **is** the gospel

**Point:** How do we shift away from a reality that Heaven never gets tired of?

What causes Gospel drift?

- evangelists –
- distracted Christians – focus on what we are doing
- grace-skeptics
- liberal theologians
- self-help gurus – focus turns to self
- missionaries – confuse fruit of the Gospel – message gets lost
- innovators – looking for something new - capitulate to the gospel
- you and I – not regularly shepherding our own hearts

We need to hold each other accountable to run to the Cross.

### **Application**

1. Preach the Gospel to yourself – the Gospel isn't just for unbelievers – we need to remember it daily
2. Don't let "do" replace "believe" – emphasis on who we are clinging to not what we are doing
3. Apply the Gospel to your sin – my best works are filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64:6)
  - You can't rightly entertain sin when you are thinking about the slain Lamb (2 Cor 5:21)
4. Don't let the peripheral things take over the center of your life
5. Sing – in unified, self-emptying worship of the Lamb

~ Pastor Smedly Yates  
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