

THE BEREANS

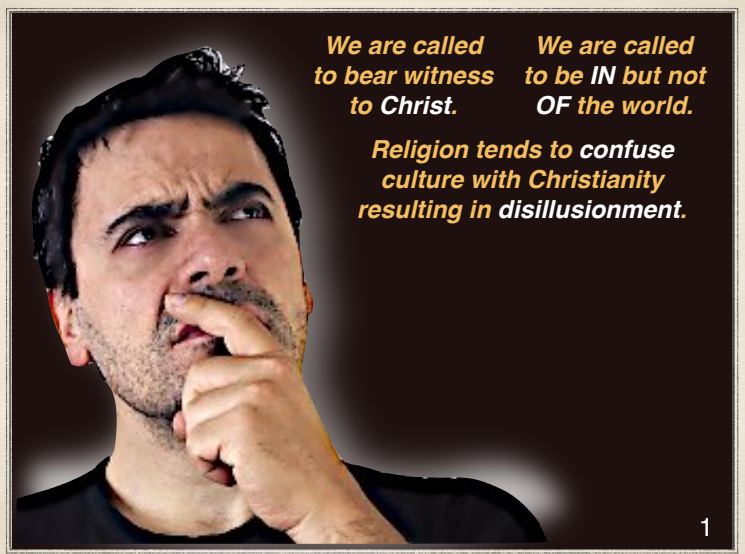
ACTS 17:11

John 16:1-22

Lesson #56

The Spirit's Witness

12/18/2016



John 16

“¹ These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling.”

Following Christ can be confusing and disillusioning.

- The early disciples were about to hit a **bump in the road** (have their expectations crumble) that could challenge their faith.
- We face a similar challenge as many of **our expectations** may be misplaced.
- Jesus wants to prepare us to **abide through times of disillusionment** with our faith.

2

John 16

“² They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. ³ And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me. ⁴ But these things I have spoken to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.”

Religion can hinder our faith.

- Many of our false expectations come from **within the religious community**.
- As in the 1st century, there are many **Biblical texts** that lend themselves to false expectations.

3

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

- Abundant life as our culture and “human nature” knows it - **peace, justice, success, happiness, respect, satisfaction, etc.**
- We fail to define “abundant life” as Jesus knew it - **joy in spite of circumstances, inner peace through outer stress, persecution, and misunderstanding.**

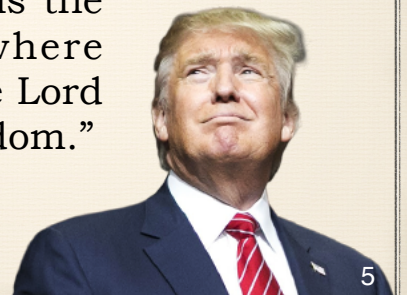


4

“Two Corinthians 3:17. That’s the whole ballgame.”

Donald Trump

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”



5

Isaiah 9:7

“There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.”

- The Messiah would **occupy the throne of David** and rule over all Israel.
- He would bring forth **peace, justice, and righteousness**.
- He was **not to go away**.

6

John 16

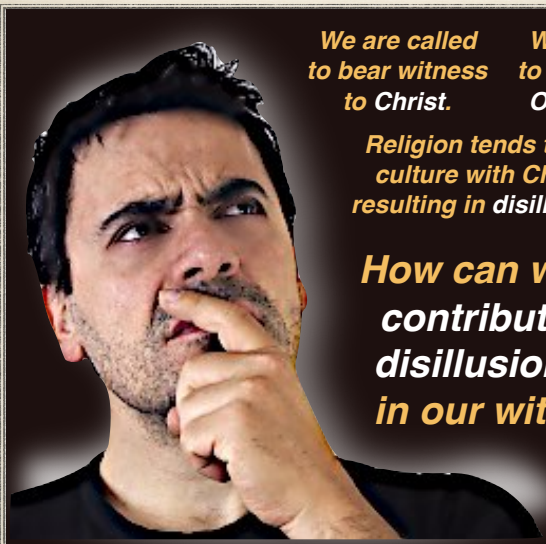
“⁵ But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.”

- The disciples were more concerned about **Jesus’ leaving than where or why he was going**.
- The fact that Jesus was preparing a **better place** for his followers and **empowering them to do greater works**, was missed.

John 16

“⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

7



We are called to bear witness to Christ. *We are called to be **IN** but not **OF** the world.*

Religion tends to confuse culture with Christianity resulting in disillusionment.

How can we stop contributing to disillusionment in our witness?

8

“When He (the Spirit) comes”

- He **Convicts** the world: vs.8
Reveal the meaning of the human dilemma.
- He **Clarifies** the message: vs.12-15
Reveal the meaning of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

When we go into the world do we witness in the same Spirit?

9

“When He (the Spirit) comes”

- He **Convicts** the world: vs.8
Reveal the meaning of the human dilemma.

John 16

“⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

The human dilemma is:

- **misplaced faith**
- **misplaced righteousness**
- **misplaced judgment**

10

Common mistakes

1. We **sugarcoat** the Gospel out of fear of rejection.
“God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.” *John 10:10*
2. We frame personal and social problems as rooted in **economics, politics, and environment** (family).
“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?” *James 4:1*
3. We put ourselves and others “under the law” believing that **lack of “moral discipline”** is the root problem.
“by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.” *Romans 3:20*

11

"When He (the Spirit) comes"

He **Convicts** the world: vs.8
Reveal the meaning of the human dilemma.

He **Clarifies** the message:
 vs.12-15
*Reveal the meaning of
 Jesus' death and
 resurrection.*

12

John 16

"¹² I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you."

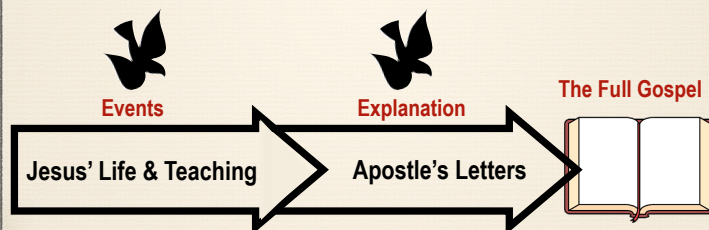
The whole truth about Jesus

1. There is more to the Gospel of Jesus Christ than has been revealed in the four Gospels.
2. The Spirit (through the Apostles teaching) would make known the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor.15:1-4).
3. The Spirit will glorify Jesus not himself.

13

John 16

"¹² I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you."



14

Paul's Gospel and Jesus' Gospel

Mark 1

"¹⁴ Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying,

"repent and
 believe in
 the gospel."

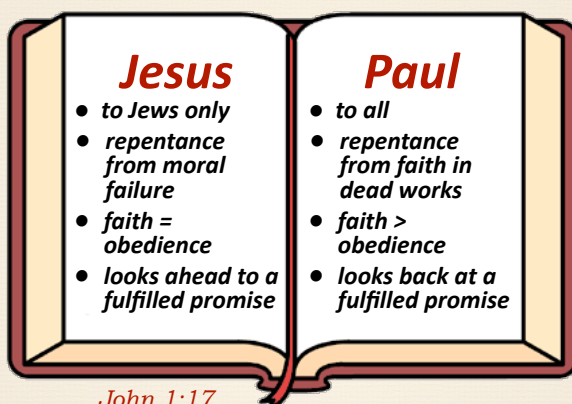
**What were
 they supposed
 to believe?**

1 Corinthians 15

"¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,"

15

The Gospel of Jesus & Paul



John 1:17

"For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."

16

Jesus recognized that his calling and purpose were centered on his **passion & resurrection.**

John 2:4,19

"My hour has not yet come."

"Destroy this temple (his body), and in three days I will raise it up."

Old Testament - Gospels

Old Covenant



Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

17

- **2:4** – And Jesus said to her [his mother], “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? **My hour has not yet come.**”
- **5:28** – “Do not be astonished at this; for **the hour is coming** when all who are in their graves will hear his voice”
- **7:30** – Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because **his hour had not yet come.**
- **8:20** – He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because **his hour had not yet come.**
- **12:23** – Jesus answered them, “**The hour has come** for the Son of Man to be glorified.”
- **12:27** – “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘*Father, save me from this hour*’? No, it is for this reason that **I have come to this hour.**”
- **13:1** – Now before the festival of the Passover, *Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father.* Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
- **16:32** – “**The hour is coming, indeed it has come,** when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.”
- **17:1** – After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “**Father, the hour has come;** glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,”

18

The emphasis of the Gospels

The Passion and Resurrection



19

Gospels

The Passion and Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

The emphasis of the Epistles

Epistles

20

Jesus promised the Apostles that the coming Holy Spirit would bring **more revelation and understanding.**

John 16:13

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; . . . and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

Old Testament - Gospels

Old Covenant



Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

21

The Apostles saw the coming of the Holy Spirit as **the beginning of the Gospel community.**

Acts 11:15

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at **the beginning.**”

Old Testament - Gospels

Old Covenant



Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

22

Paul understood his Gospel to have been a **mystery until his day.**

Ephesians 3:3-5

“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, . . . which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”

Old Testament - Gospels

Old Covenant



Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

23

The Law covenant of Moses could **only condemn not confirm.**

Acts 15

“¹⁰ Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus,”

Old Testament - Gospels

Old Covenant



Paul's Gospel

Acts - Epistles

24

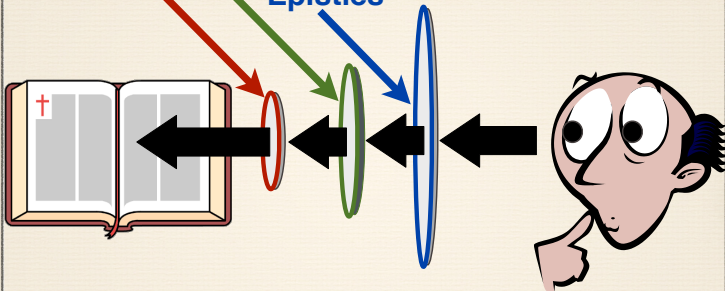
Romans 16

“²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of **the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,** ²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, **has been made known to all the nations,** leading to obedience of faith; ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.” 25

Old Testament

Gospels

Epistles



Interpret the Scriptures through lens of the Epistles.

26

Mark 1:1

“The **beginning** of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

The Full Gospel

- **Begins** with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- **Continues** with the Acts of the Holy Spirit and the revelation through the Apostles.

27

Common mistakes

1. “**Red letter Christians**” **reverse the order** of the two great commandments.
“Love of God (the 1st commandment) Love your neighbor (the 2nd).” *Matthew 22:35-40*
2. We define the Christian gospel by the **O.C. form of the Law without the N.C. Spirit of grace.**
“The Law was given through Moses, grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.” *John 1:17*
3. We **confuse** the moral standards of a **secular state** with the standards within the **community of faith.**
“But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler . . .” *1 Corinthians 5:9-13*

28

The Spirit bears witness through us as we:

Expose the world's sin and hypocrisy in rejecting Jesus.

The core of the human dilemma is personal and spiritual before it is political and environmental.

Explain God's salvation.

Our hope is in Christ alone.

29