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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Hebrews 11:3**  
**Lesson #26**  
**Walking by Faith**  
**07/7/2024**

1

The majesty of Christ

# HEBREWS

**11:3**  
**Walking by Faith**

**(What does it mean to walk by faith?)**

2

*Luke 21*

“1 And he (**Jesus**) looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And He saw a certain poor widow putting in two small copper coins. 3 And He said, “Truly I say to you, **this poor widow put in more than all of them**; 4 for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.””

3

**Two different worldviews on display**



*Luke 21:1-4*

The offering was not about how much she gave away, but about how much she gave up.

4

**Two different worldviews on display**

The Gospels tell the story of two rich young rulers.

Material wealth is most significant in what it says about and does to those who keep it.

*Luke 18:18-27, Matthew 19:16-26*

One had great wealth to give to the other but the other first had to make room for it.



5

**Two different worldviews on display**

Paul's thorn in the flesh was the loss of his natural strengths to make room for the filling of Christ's Spirit.

*2 Corinthians 12:7-10*



6

*Hebrews 11:3*  
 “By faith we understand”

**1. Our “faith / worldview” provides the CONTEXT of all understanding.**

Making sense of what we see and experience **has roots in and finds meaning through presuppositions that we embrace by faith.**

Science is equipped to explain **how things operate** (secondary means)  
**NOT how they originate** (primary means)  
 or **why they exist** (purpose or meaning)

7

*Hebrews 11:3*  
 “By faith we understand ...”

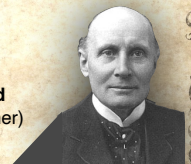
17 of the next 30 verses in ch.11 start with **“By faith”**.

“Understanding” comes from data and reason that is brought to life **“By faith”**.

“FAITH” is needed to make sense of life in science and Christianity.

8

“Scientist today maintain a “scientific faith” in the order of nature while lacking any rational basis for it.”



Alfred North Whitehead  
 (mathematician / philosopher)  
 1861-1947

9


*Hebrews 11:3*  
 “that the worlds (ages) were prepared by the word of God,...”

**2. The creation is designed for a PURPOSE with a plan in mind.**


- The dynamic creation was **designed to glorify God and His Image bearers.**
- **Science** (our physical senses & reason) give **clues to, but not proofs of** God’s existence.

10

**Questions that are** - unavoidable to all  
 - answered by Christianity  
 - a puzzle to science

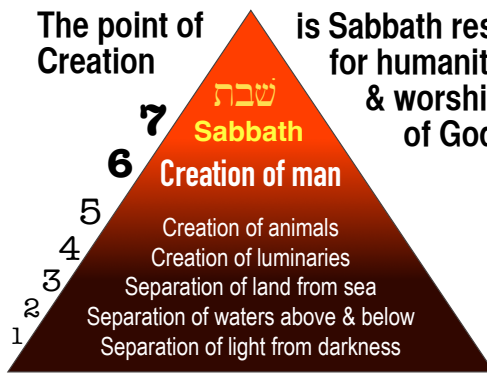
**Clues to God?** 

- ✓ Why is religious impulse universal?
- ✓ Why are humans so unique?
- ✓ Why do we long for more?
- ✓ Why do we struggle?
- ✓ Why do we do good?
- ✓ What do we live for?
- ✓ Why do we die?



11

The point of Creation is Sabbath rest for humanity & worship of God.



orders of **Genesis 1-2** orders for

12

*Hebrews 11:3*

“...so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

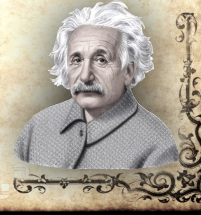
**3. The material creation is an EXTENSION of the spiritual Creator.**

- **History is linear** in that it had a beginning and is moving toward a climactic end.
- The physical universe is **not to be worshiped, it is to be played out.**

13

“Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.”

Albert Einstein



14

The cosmos is not the object of worship but exists as **a witness to the Creator.**

*Psalms 8*

“1 O Lord, our Lord, **how majestic is Your name** in all the earth, who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! ... 3 When I consider Your heavens, the works of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; 4 **what is man** that You take thought of him, ...”

**Its vastness is to magnify the Creator's love for humanity - made in His image.**

15

“The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.”

**This makes sense until we include the human soul with its pain & longings as a part of our data base.**

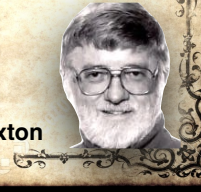
Richard Dawkins



16

“Modern science was an egg hatched in the nest of medieval Christianity's worldview of an ordered cosmos and a human mind that could explore it.”

Charles Thaxton



17

“I stand in awe of the wonder of life and can but offer humble thanks for the gift of being a part of the cosmos.”

**But to whom can he give thanks?**

Richard Dawkins



18

Jesus' **behavior** made it clear that his kingdom was not of this world.

*John 18:36*

“Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world**. If My kingdom were of this world, then **My servants would be fighting**, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

*Mark 12:17*

“And Jesus said to them, “**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s**, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were amazed at Him.”

19

Jesus' **temptation** made it clear that God's kingdom was not of this world.



*Matthew 4:1-11*



Satan tempted Christ to use God's power to satisfy core longings in life

**by and through this world.**

1. Satan appeals to **legitimate longings**.
2. Satan appeals to **common sense**.
3. Satan appeals to **Scripture**.

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**How can we walk by faith?**

**1. Take our baptism seriously**

- say “**NO**” to the world's plan for “rest”
- seek God's plan for peace and rest.

*Romans 12:1-2*

“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”



21



22

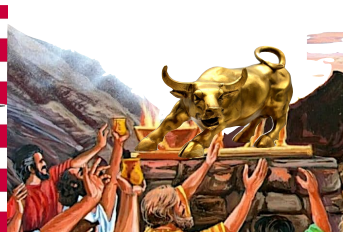
**God's gifts can become idols.**

America's “original sin” may be our

**LIBERTY**



Israel's Golden Calf can become America's “Bull of Wall Street”.



23

**America's uniqueness**

- It is governed **OF, BY, and FOR** the people.



King



The People



Bishop

Whatever the people are eating  
**will be reflected in their believing and behaving.**

24

## How can we walk by faith?

### 2. Invest in character development.

#### *Ephesians 4*

“15 but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

- Expect **circumstances** to be labs for character formation.
- Pray for **wisdom and Kingdom priorities**.
- Be an active part of **the body of Christ**.

25

#### *The greater gift*

“A monk in his travels once found a precious stone and kept it. One day he met a traveler, and when the monk opened his bag to share his provisions with him, the traveler saw the jewel and asked the monk to give it to him. The monk did so readily. The traveler departed overjoyed with the unexpected gift of the precious stone that was enough to give him wealth and security for the rest of his life.

However, a few days later he came back in search of the monk, found him, gave him back the stone, and entreated him, ‘Now give me something much more precious than this stone, valuable as it is.

**Give me that which enabled you to give it to me.”**



Anthony De Mello  
Indian Jesuit priest

26



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