

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Peter 1:3-9**  
**Lesson #5**  
**Saltiness**  
**09/06/2020**

## 1 Peter

*Operations Manual for  
 Alien Ambassadors  
 in a broken world*



Aliens need to:

1. Stay "homesick".
2. Not drink the "Kool-Aid".
3. Ask "WWJD?".

So what would Jesus do?

1

*Matthew 5:13*

"You are the salt of the earth; but **if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again?** It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men."

What does it mean to be spiritually "salty"?

Is this the key to avoid being "good for nothing"?

Is this our mission "in this world"?



NOTE:

It's not enough to be salt.

**We must be salty.**

2

## 1 Peter

*Operations Manual for Alien  
 Ambassadors in a fallen world*

This is who we  
 are "in Christ"

This is how we should  
 express our identity

	Indicative	Imperative					
"chosen"	Salvation	Sanctification	In the church			Shepherding	Conclusion
Introduction	"salty salt"	Submission      Suffering					
"aliens"		In the world					
1:1-2	1:3-12	1:13-2:10	2:11-3:12	3:13-4:19	5:1-11	5:12-14	

Christians are called out of the world — and then sent back into the world.

3

*John 17*

"15 I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to **keep them from the evil one.** 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth. 18 **As Thou didst send Me** into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

Jesus seems more concerned about  
**the world's impact on us**  
**than our impact on the world.**

Is it because if we lose our saltiness  
**we can have no impact on this world?**

4

## 1 Peter

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Don't lose your saltiness:

1. **Faith** in the midst of it all.
2. **Hope** in the midst of it all.
3. **Love** in the midst of it all.

5



### Indicative mood (1:1-12)

facts about who we are and what we have as “salt”.

#### 1 Peter 1

“<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be **born again** to a **living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved for you, <sup>5</sup> who are **protected by the power of God through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

This is what makes aliens salty.

#### A Unique NEW BIRTH

that is based on hope through the resurrection of Christ and secured by the power of God through faith.

6

## The Gospel

### The death & resurrection of the Christ

- The **O.T. promises** are realized in this.
- The **Gospels** emphasize this.
- The **sermons in Acts** emphasize this.
- The **N.T. epistles** emphasize this.

7

## The emphasis of the Gospels

Jesus' teaching and deeds

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Jesus' Passion  
and Resurrection

8

Jesus' 3 year ministry

The Death &  
Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

### The emphasis of the Epistles

NOTE: Jesus is quoted only in 1 Cor.11:23-26 and there is no mention of his miracles or ethical teaching.

Epistles

9

## The Gospel

### The death & resurrection of the Christ

- The **O.T. promises** are realized by this.
- The **Gospels** emphasize this.
- The **sermons in Acts** emphasize this.
- The **N.T. epistles** emphasize this.
- The **Christian church** is based on this.

10

### The great symbols of the faith are **NOT**



The Law



The towel and basin



Crown of a King

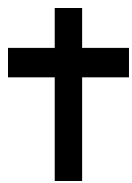
reminding us of the life & ethical teachings of Jesus

11



## The great symbols of the faith

**ARE**



The Cross



The Lord's Supper



Baptism

**reminding us of the death and resurrection of Jesus**

12

## 1 Peter 1

“6 In this you greatly **rejoice**, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by **various trials**, 7 that the **proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ: 8 and though you have not seen Him, **you love Him**, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly **rejoice with joy inexpressible** and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

**This is what makes aliens salty.**

A Unique **Faith, Hope, and Love** that is not contingent on this life's blessings or tribulations.

13

## Note the cultural context of 1 Peter.

### “various trials” (vs.6)

- “**necessary**” (they can't be avoided)
- “**varied**” (they don't all look alike)
- “**stressful**” (they are not easy)
- “**temporary**” (they are not the end)
- “**useful**” (they test & prove our faith)

15

## Note the cultural context of 1 Peter.

### “various trials”

- Tyrannical government
- Physical persecution
- Gender inequality
- Social exclusion
- Mixed marriages
- Chattel slavery



15

## We are called to rejoice in the midst of it all.

### Worldly Joy

Dependent upon “good times”,  
what we see and how we feel  
with our natural senses.

### Godly Joy

Exists even in “hard times”,  
as we see and walk through life  
by faith in what is to come.

### James 1

“2 **Consider it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”

Joy is a **CHOICE** we must make  
while **in** (not only after) **the midst of it all**.

16

## We are called to rejoice in the midst of it all.

### John 15

“10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, **that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.**”

- Jesus **promises** joy to his followers.
- Jesus joy is the **model** for our joy.
- Jesus joy came in “**the midst of it all**”.
- Jesus joy had “**salt**” all over it.

17



**We are called to rejoice  
in the midst of it all.**

*1 Peter 4:13*

“but to the degree that you **share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing;** so that also at the revelation of his glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

**We are salty when  
while sharing the sufferings of Christ,  
rather than whining & worrying  
we show faith, hope, and love.**

18

**1. A unique Faith  
that is not in the ways and means  
of this world.**

**Worldly Faith**

is *in* anything and everything  
but Christ. And is *for* things  
other than the kingdom.

**Godly Faith**

Trusts God to abide with us as  
we are a self-sacrificing answer  
to someone else's prayers.

*James 2:18*

“But someone may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**”

19

**1. A unique Faith  
that is not in the ways and means  
of this world.**

*1 Peter 1:7*

“that the **proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though **tested by fire**, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

**If we want to be salty,  
our faith must stand the test of fire**

**(Don't Fear.)**

20

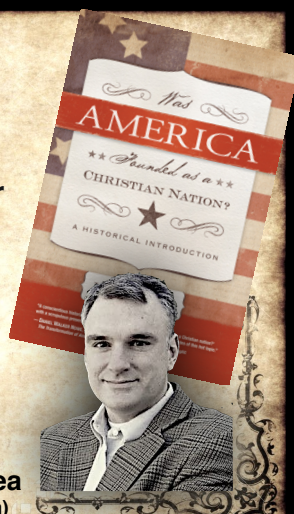
**Satan does not want to  
take away our faith,  
hope, and  
love.**

**He just  
wants to  
control the  
subject and  
object of our  
faith, hope & love.**



21

“Despite the biblical passages exhorting followers of Christ to “fear not,” it is possible to write an entire history of American evangelicalism as the story of Christians who have failed to overcome fear.” **John Fea** (historian)



22

**Up until the Civil War, America's  
identity with Christianity was  
generally accepted as a fact.**

**Christian Nation**

**Secular state**

1776

**Forces that  
brought change**

1865

2016

**Secularization**  
(court decisions)

**Destabilization**  
(political disfunction  
and distrust)

**Diversification**  
(racial & religious)

**Tribalization**  
(loss of common (ground,  
good, & goals))



23



**2. A unique Hope**  
**that is not tied to this world.**

**Bane**  
Batman's foe in  
"The Dark Knight"



"To create  
despair you first  
need hope."

**As the church places its  
hope in politics and the  
American Dream, it is  
inviting cynicism,  
despair, and apostasy.**

24

**2. A unique Hope**  
**that is not realized to this world.**

*Romans 8*

"24 For in hope we have been saved, **but hope that is seen is not hope**; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."

- **Aliens see beyond the blessings and trials of this life to the glory that awaits those who are in Christ.**

*Romans 8:18*

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**"

25

**2. A unique Hope**  
**that is not realized to this world.**

*2 Corinthians 4*

"16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet **our inner man is being renewed** day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an **eternal weight of glory** far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at **the things which are not seen**; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are **eternal**."

**What is changing?**

**Not the outer things that are "seen"  
but the inner things that are "not seen".**

26

**2. A unique Hope**  
**that is not realized to this world.**

*1 Peter 3:15*

"but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the **hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence;"

**If we want others to hear the Gospel,  
we need to display our hope  
so others notice and inquire.**

**(Don't whine and worry)**

27

**2. A unique Hope**  
**that is not realized to this world.**

*Philippians 2*

"5 Have this **attitude in yourselves** which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but **emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming **obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,"

**Following Jesus (being "salty") is  
AN ATTITUDE of humble obedience.**

28

**3. A unique Love**  
**that is respectful of God**  
**and caring of all whom God loves.**

**Worldly Love**

Extended to those "we need",  
share "our values", and earn  
"our admiration".

**Godly Love**

Given to all who bear the  
"image of God" and those  
who "need it".

*John 15*

"8 By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; **abide in My love.**"

29



**3. A unique Love**  
**that is respectful of God**  
**and caring of all whom God loves.**

*1 Peter 3*

“8 let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 **not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead;** for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.”

If we want to be salty,  
**we will bless those who have hurt us.**  
**(Be a blessing to someone who does not expect it from you.)**

30

**The “abundant Christian life” of Paul**

**A thorn in the flesh, misunderstanding, prison, forsaken by man, rejected ministry, persecution**  
**and yet**  
**a gracious life, persistent joy, energetic love, persevering faith, and a grateful heart.**



31

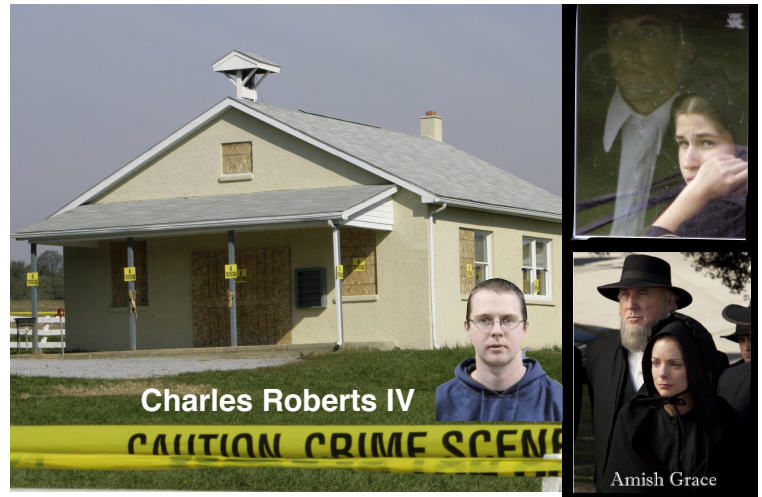
“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”



Martin Luther King Jr.

32



Charles Roberts IV

Amish Grace

October 2, 2006 Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania

33

Despised & forsaken by man,  
 acquainted with grief,  
 a man of sorrows,  
 smitten by God,



**prince**  
**of peace**

*John 17:26*

“that the love  
 with which You loved Me  
 me might be in them  
 and I in them”

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