

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 1:13-16
Lesson #7
From Calling to Choosing
09/20/2020

Holiness is a calling of God
 and a choice to walk
 in the Spirit of Christ.

1 Peter 1:13-16

How to build the bridge between

**God's calling
 & our choices**



1



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	Shepherding
Introduction	"salt"	From God's call to our choices	Conclusion
"aliens"	"light"	Submission	Suffering
		In the church	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. 2

1 Peter 1

"¹³ Therefore, **prepare your minds** for action, **keep sober** in spirit, **fix your hope** completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, **do not be conformed** to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy** yourselves also **in all your behavior**; ¹⁶ because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

God's
 calling
 of us

Equip

Expect
 Building a bridge
 between

Exchange

our
 choice
 to follow 3

1 Peter 1

"¹³ Therefore, **prepare your minds** for action, **keep sober** in spirit,"

NOTE: "spirit" is not a part of the Greek text, nor is "action".

Step #1

Equip

- **"Therefore"** - vs. 10 **"As to this salvation"**
 "salt" & "light" with "faith", "hope", "love", & "joy".
- **"prepare your minds"** - Be mentally armed and alert as an alien who is living in a hostile world.
- The first step toward making good choices is **knowing who you are, where you are, and what you are called to.**

4

Worldliness is a mindset.

Ephesians 4:17

"So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer **live** as the Gentiles do, **in the futility of their thinking.**"

1 Peter 1

"¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former **lusts which were yours in your ignorance**, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also **in all your behavior**;"

**As spiritual aliens we must
 have a renewed mindset.**

5

“And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the
renewing of your mind,” *Rom. 12:2*

**Our way of thinking,
seeing, hoping,
and longing**



**will govern
our doing,
speaking,
& feeling.**

6



NOTE how these “angels” operated in every episode:

1. They were messengers not surrogates.
 - Angels are **messengers** - bringing needed light, encouragement, and truth for the moment.

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,”

8

NOTE how these “angels” operated in every episode:

1. They were messengers not surrogates.
 - Angels are **messengers** - bringing needed light, encouragement, and truth for the moment.
2. They were spiritual life coaches, renewing the minds of people in crisis.
 - They challenged and countered the world’s **deceptive lies, which were:**
 1. **a narrow view of reality** - Our problems and solutions are material and circumstantial.
 2. **a superficial view of redemption** - God has abandoned us and we are alone, unloved, and without hope unless God changes our circumstances.

9

A “quiet time”

Time alone with the Paraclete (Spirit of Christ) is necessary in combating the challenges of life.

It is the place where God can
**remind us of the truth,
renew our mind, and
reassure our soul**
in preparation for alien living.

10

Prepping the Mind

- **Talk to yourself** - Remembering that you are “**salt & light**” following Christ’s example of a “**suffering servant**” in this life **awaiting glory** in the next.
- **Listen to yourself** - Anticipate **what to expect** (triggers) and how you **have tended to respond** in the past.
- **Dress rehearsals** - Plan your **desired response** ahead of time (in detail).



11

1 Peter 1

“13 . . . **fix your hope completely** on the grace to be brought to you **at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**”

Action step #2

Expect

- “**Fix your hope completely**” - Expectations are vital. - **Do not tolerate or feed worldly hopes.**
- “**Revelation of Jesus Christ**” - The grace promised us is at the resurrection that awaits us, not the removal of the circumstances around us.
- **Patience** - This life will call aliens to patiently wait.

12

Christians do not live life as those who have no hope.

They live life as those whose hope is not in this life.

In their baptism they have died with Christ and are raised with him to a new hope.



13

Two popular hopes

- God will change my **circumstances.**
- God will reform **society.**

“If I **ONLY pray in faith**”

“If I stand on His **promises**”

“If I live a **holy life**”



NOTE the testimony of **Jesus,** his disciples, Christians throughout history, and your own experience.

14

God’s list of Messiah candidates is very short.

In case you have not noticed - people make lousy messiahs.

Don’t hold other people responsible to change you.

Don’t take responsibility to change those around you.



15

But what about signs, wonders, & miracles?

(Mk.16:17,20, Acts 2:43, 4:16,30, 5:12, 6:8, 8:6,13, 14:3, 15:12, Rom.15:18-19, Heb.2:4)

2 Corinthians 12:12

“The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by **signs** and **wonders** and **miracles.**”

- “**signs**” - pointers to the truth and authority
- “**wonders**” - inexplicable events (changes in nature)
- “**miracles**” - supernatural events (often healings)

These are not solutions to life’s problems but indicators of where and to whom we should look for solutions.

16

Expectations

Bane
Batman’s foe in
“The Dark Knight”

“To create despair you first need (false) hope.”



As the church places its hope in politics and changing circumstances, it is inviting cynicism, despair, and apostasy.

17

1 Peter 1

¹⁴ As obedient children, **do not be conformed** to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy** yourselves also in **all your behavior**; ¹⁶ because it is written, “*You shall be holy, for I am holy.*”

Action step #3 Exchange

- **“Conformed”** - (passive voice) Don't let the world parent your soul.
- **“all your behavior”** - Holiness is to be wholistic starting with the “operating system” of our soul.
- **Spiritual parenting** - Look to Jesus as a model.



18

Galatians 5

“¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the **flesh sets its desire against the Spirit**, and the **Spirit against the flesh**; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

Our choices are subject to conflicting pressures that are resolved by:

**the direction we are facing,
the habits we are cultivating,
& the Spirit we are following.**

19

**Facing in the right direction
makes it easier to make
good decisions.**

Strategic (macro)
decisions sets the
stage for good
tactical (micro)
decisions.

Take your baptism
seriously - renew
the mind



20

Our mind is a battlefield.

Repentance is turning **FROM** something
(a futile mind and a hard heart)

Ephesians 4

“¹⁷ This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the **futility of their mind**, ¹⁸ being **darkened in their understanding**, excluded from the life of God, because of the **ignorance that is in them**, because of the **hardness of their heart**; ¹⁹ and they, having become **callous, have given themselves over** to sensuality, for the **practice** of every kind of impurity with greediness.”

and turning **TO** something
(a renewed mind and a receptive heart) .

21

Ephesians 4

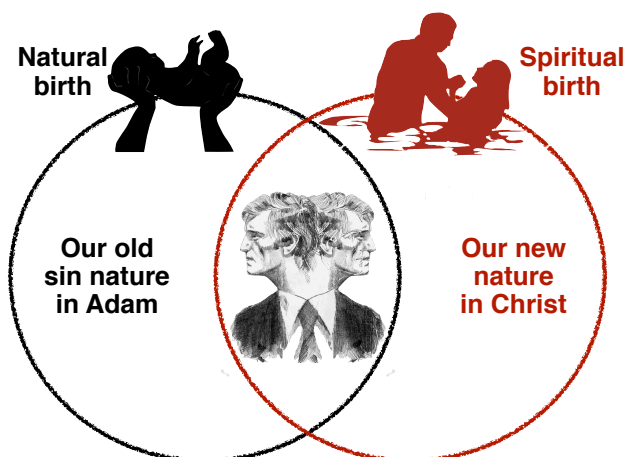
“²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

**We will be hypocritical
to our old nature or
our new nature.**

22



We are creatures with two conflicting natures.



23

We are to lay aside the old self **and put on the new self.**



24

There are two natures in every Christian.



The one you feed is the one that grows.

25

How do we handle failure?

2 Corinthians 7:9

"I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that **you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance**; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us."



Shame that leads to **Sorrow** can hold a hidden blessing if it results in repentance.

26

The difference between



is how we see & use them.

27

God's blessings can be missed when we resist discipline, pass the blame, & kill the pain, in our story.

28

"We shine brightest when the fire inside us burns brighter than the fire around us."



29

Closing thoughts

- It's hard to turn **TO** something if we are unwilling also to turn **FROM** something.
- **PAIN** can be a doorway to real change if we respond to it wisely.
- Dramatic change is more **POSSIBLE** than we realize but it may require more work and time than we expect.
- We seldom change until we **REALLY, REALLY WANT TO**.
- **PRAY** for eyes to see the ugliness of sin and the beauty of righteousness.
- **DETAILS** - The little choices we make build spiritual "**muscle memory**".

30



1 Peter

*Operations Manual for
Alien Ambassadors
in a broken world*

