

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 1:22-2:3
Lesson #9
The Word of Life
10/04/2020

Matthew 4:

"¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written,

'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

The core of human longing & peace is not material security or social justice, it is the Word of Life (the Christian Gospel).

1

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

The
Word of Life
lived out through Christian
aliens in a hostile world as



Spiritual Seed -
the Love of God

2

The POINT of 1 Peter thus far

We are called out of this world as God's chosen and sent back into this world as aliens

to be salt and light as God's ambassadors

in an environment that is unjust,

with a hope that is unworldly,

and a love that is uncommon.

3

"We're tired of the national conversation centering on "What should we fear?" and "Who should we blame?".

Brene Brown



4

Citizens of the Kingdom of God

1 Peter 1:1
"chosen"

1 Peter 1:1
"sojourners of the diaspora"



Citizens of the World of humanity



Citizens of the Country of residence

5

**Could the greatest sign
of Christian love
come via a
compassionate
response to those
who don't deserve it?**



6

**A Christian alien's response
to a broken world:**



Social injustice.

Political disfunction.

Pandemic stress.

Economic insecurity.

Climate change.

7

**The world of the Roman
Empire in Peter's day**

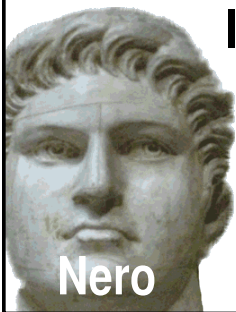
Economic injustice.

Institutional slavery.

Disease and famine.

Political disfunction.

Religious persecution.



Nero

8

1 Peter 1

"²² Since you have in obedience to the truth purified (**sanctified**) your souls for a sincere love (**phileo**) of the brethren, **fervently love (agape) one another from the heart,**

²³ for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring (**persevering**) word (**logos**) of God. ²⁴ For, "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, ²⁵ But the word (**rhema**) of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word (**rhema**) which was preached (**evangelized**) to you."

"¹ Therefore, **putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,**

² like newborn babies, **long for the pure milk of the word (logos),** so that by it you may **grow** in respect to **salvation**, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord."

9

**We are called to be the answer
to Jesus' prayer for unity**

John 17

"¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be **sanctified in truth**. ²⁰ I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ **that they may all be one;** . . . ²³ I in them, and Thou in Me, **that they may be perfected in unity**, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order **that they may behold My glory**, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world."

10

**We are called to be the answer
to Jesus' prayer for unity**

**and to Paul's prayer
for a vision of hope**

Ephesians 1

"¹⁸ **I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

11

*We are called to be the answer
to Jesus' prayer for unity
and to Paul's prayer for a vision of hope
as we care for one another*

Matthew 22

"37 And He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, '**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**'"

12

*We are called to be the answer
to Jesus' prayer for unity
and to Paul's prayer for a vision of hope
as we love one another
starting with the
household of the faith.*

Galatians 6

"9 And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.**"

13

What love is not.

1 Peter 2

"1 Therefore, putting aside all **malice** and all **deceit** and **hypocrisy** and **envy** and all **slander**,"

- "malice" - opposite of moral excellence
- "deceit" - deception
- "hypocrisy" - a false front
- "envy" - coveting that of another
- "slander" - false and degrading witness
- "putting aside" - Eph.4:22-24

14

1 Cor. 13:4-7 **Love is** a response to

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| patient | trials |
| kind | insults |
| not jealous | success of others |
| does not brag | success of self |
| is not arrogant | power & authority |
| is not unbecoming | freedom |
| not self seeking | competition |
| is not provoked | confrontation |
| holds no grudges | injustice |
| does not rejoice | failure of others |
| rejoices in the truth | gossip & slander |
| bears all things | losses |
| believes & hopes all things | discouragement |
| endures all things | delayed hopes |

15

As Christians we possess two conflicting natures.

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."

Love is a choice.

We must **exercise our will** in determining which of these competing desires will control our behavior.

16

Ephesians 4

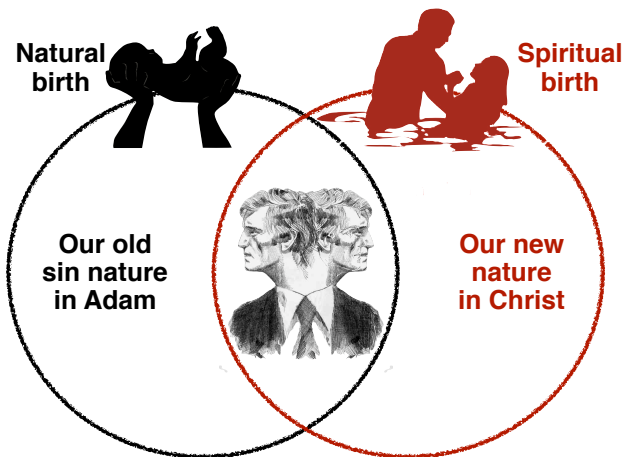
"20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be 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."



What does it mean
to "lay aside" the old
and "put on" the new?

17

We have desires that pull us in differing directions.



18

We are to put off the old self **and** put on the new self



19

1 Peter 2

"² like newborn babies, **long for** the **pure milk of the word**, so that by it you may **grow** in respect to **salvation**, ³ if you have **tasted the kindness** of the Lord.

Love is nurtured

- "milk of the word" - "spiritual milk"
- "grow" - patient process + effort
- "tasted the kindness" - 1 Jn.4:19
- "salvation" - 1 Pet.1:5 awaiting

20

"Love is moving toward another person's soul with a commitment to help them reach the deepest desire of their heart."

(which is reconciliation with God, self, & others)

Bell Hooks



21

1 John 4

"¹⁹ **We love, because He first loved us.** ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that **the one who loves God should love his brother also.**"

22

1 Peter

Next week
1 Pet.2:4-10

Living stones

