

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Peter 3:18-22**  
**Lesson #16**  
**Worthy "in Christ"**  
**11/22/2020**



## 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 world	Shepherding		
Introduction	Chosen	Privileged	Submission	Suffering		Conclusion
"aliens"			In the world			
1:1-2	1:3-12	1:13-2:12	2:13-3:12	3:13-4:19	5:1-11	5:12-14

Christians are called out of the world — and then sent back into the world. 1

### Challenges that spiritual aliens face:

#### Promises

*Psalm 34:10*

"The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall **not lack any good thing.**"



*Deuteronomy 28:13*

"And the Lord will make you the **head** and not the tail; you shall be **above** only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them."

*Isaiah 1:19*

"If you are willing and obedient, you shall **eat the good of the land.**"

2

### Challenges that spiritual aliens face:

#### Promises

**Faith**  
 living by faith  
 not sight

**Confusion**  
 expectations,  
 circumstances,  
 & experiences



**Is God there,  
 does He care,  
 and is He fair?**

3

### Confusion

*1 Peter 2:9*

"But you are a **chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him** who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

If we are Royal Priests of the light, **how can we proclaim God's virtues while suffering as though we are in the dark?**

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### Confusion

*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**; 16 and keep a **good conscience** so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your **good behavior** in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is **better, if God should will it so**, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong."

If Christ is Lord (of all), **why are we suffering (at all) for following him?**

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1 Peter 3

“<sup>18</sup> For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been **put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit**;

<sup>19</sup> in which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who once were disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

<sup>21</sup> Corresponding to that, **baptism** now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for **a good conscience**—through the **resurrection of Jesus Christ**, <sup>22</sup> who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”

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1 Peter 3

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**The theme of vs.18-22**  
**Life comes in the realm of the Spirit**  
**not the flesh, which must die.**

1 Corinthians 15

“<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that **He was raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

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## How should I view suffering?

(Last week)

1. Suffering demands **a broader perspective.**
2. Suffering should not **confuse or scare us.**
3. Suffering calls for **a witness to our hope.**
4. Suffering builds **confidence in our new self.**

(This week)

**5. Suffering (death)**  
**is the necessary way**  
**to God's presence.**

8

1 Peter 3

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Paraphrase

“Christ (in the Spirit) spoke to “angels, principalities, and powers” who were disobedient like the wicked in Noah’s day, who were judged by the flood waters (Gen.6-7) as others were saved through the water.”

**NOTE:** This was to assure faithful aliens today that they are secure (saved) in water baptism, which pictures union with Christ’s death (judged for sin) and his resurrection (raised to new life).

9

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- Is water baptism a **sacrament** that bestows saving grace when properly administered by the church?
- Is it simply a **sign** of the baptism with the Spirit of Christ that comes with saving faith?
- What is the **difference** between the baptisms of John, of Jesus, by Jesus, and by the church?
- Is it to be by **immersion** or sprinkling?
- Is it **necessary** or optional?
- Is it for **believers** only?

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## Water Baptism



**Augustine of Hippo**  
“An outward sign  
of an inward grace”

**We will look at some**  
**pastoral implications**  
**of water baptism for**  
**suffering aliens.**

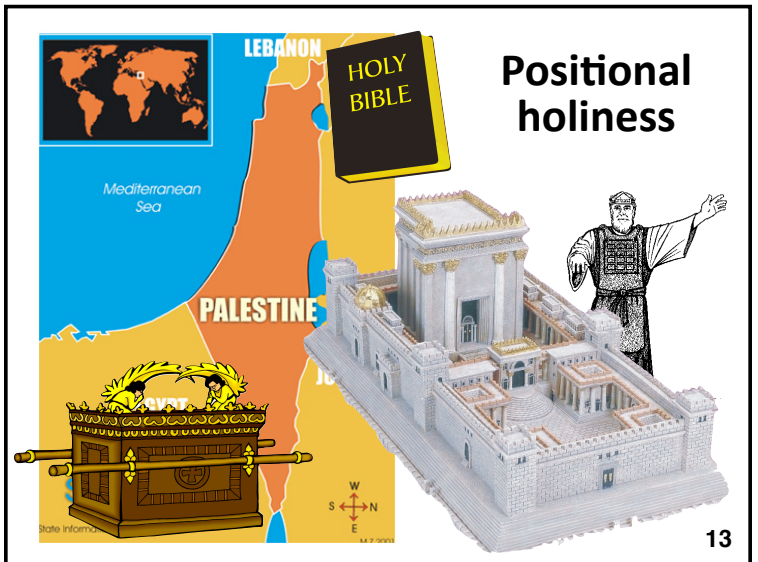
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# Water Baptism

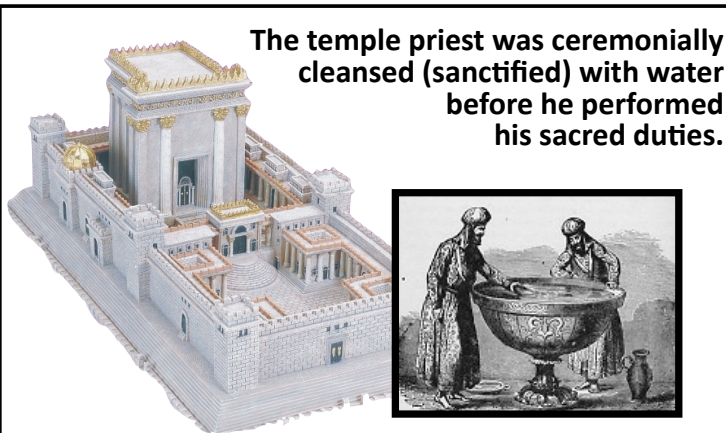
*It may be viewed as a physical symbol of spiritual birth, marriage, initiation, etc.*



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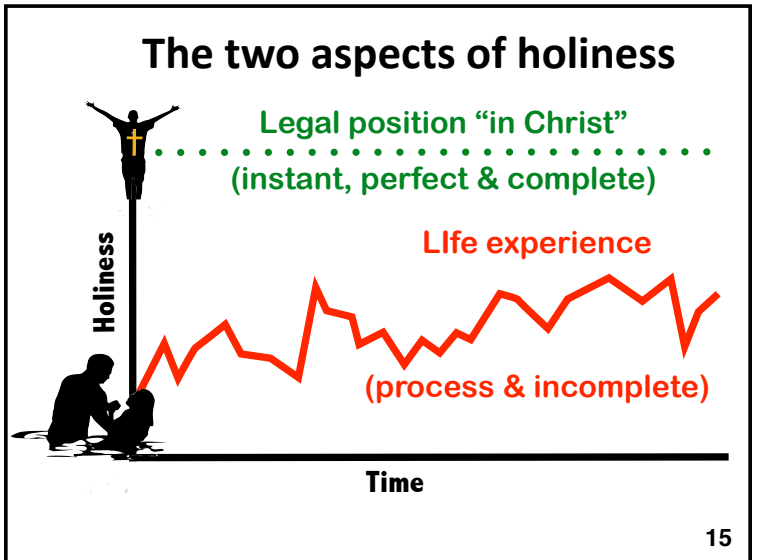
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The temple priest was ceremonially cleansed (sanctified) with water before he performed his sacred duties.

**This had to do with his official position not his personal character.**

14



15

**Water baptism**  
*is your positional cleansing as a believer priest.*

“ . . . baptism now saves you, not the washing of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

*1 Peter 3:21*



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## Positional truth

- ✓ It is a declaration & non-experiential.
- ✓ It is not progressive.
- ✓ It is not related to human merit.
- ✓ It is not related to moral reform.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ It must be learned through teaching and applied by faith.
- ✓ **It is symbolized in baptism.**

**The Good News**

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## Paul's letters start with affirmations not exhortations.

What Christ has  
done **FOR** us.

Our **position** in  
Christ by grace  
through faith

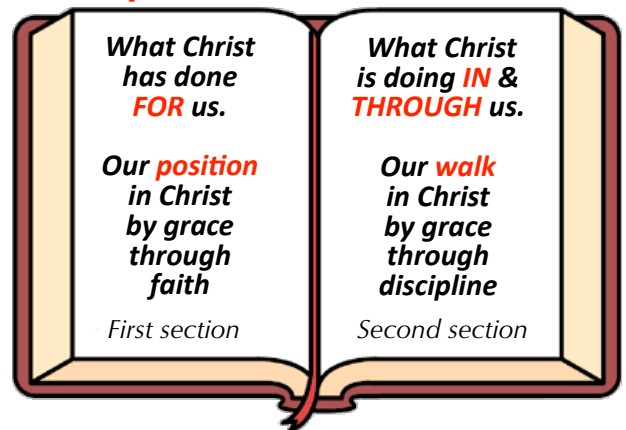
What Christ is doing **IN**  
and **THROUGH** us.

Our **behavior** in Christ  
by grace through  
discipline

At this point we are not exhorted  
to do anything but pray for God  
to help us see so as to believe.

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## The pattern of Paul's letters



The order is consistent and significant 19



**Positional holiness  
makes us fit for heaven**



**and leads to  
Practiced holiness  
making us fit for earth.**

20

Christians are bound not by law but by love.

“me in Christ” “Christ in me”

Positional holiness

Practical holiness

**FAITH**

**LOVE**

A child of God  
complete

A disciple of Christ  
in process

**Free from law    Bound by love**

21



- *Feelings make the train a comfortable place to ride.*
- *We can't expect feelings to pull the train.*
- *The train will go without feelings but not without faith.*
- *Feelings should not lead, but rather follow faith in facts*

22

**Baptism points us in the right direction  
and makes it easier to stay on the path.**

- Take our baptism seriously.
- When our goals and values are clear it is easier to make good decisions.



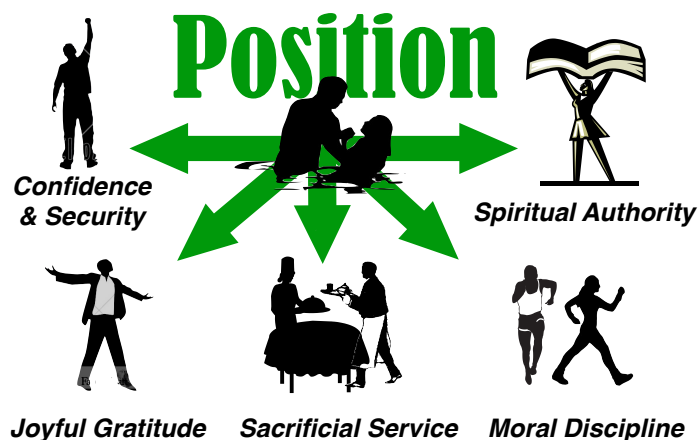
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**Official position dictates  
security, authority, and responsibility.**



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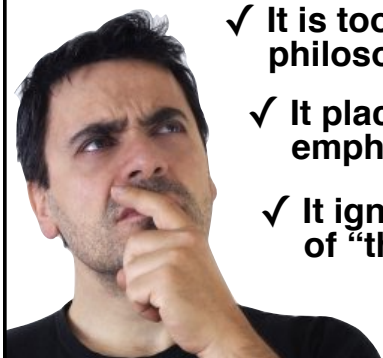
**Our position in Christ inspires**



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## The Fear of Positional Truth

- ✓ It is not relational, personal, or felt.
- ✓ It promotes moral irresponsibility.
- ✓ It is too intellectual and philosophical.
- ✓ It places too much emphasis on justification.
- ✓ It ignores the importance of "the work of faith."



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## Why Positional truth is important

- ✓ It is the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel of **GRACE**.
- ✓ It does not **confuse** the REDEMTIVE work of Christ's Cross with the REFORMING work of Christ's Spirit in our lives.
- ✓ It **grounds** our relationship with God in what is finished (secure) not in our feelings or personal merit.
- ✓ It is clearly **illustrated** in the Old & New Testaments.



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## Take your baptism seriously.

*2 Corinthians 5*

"14 For the **love of Christ controls us**, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, that they who live should **no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.**"

"16 Therefore (#1)

from now on **we recognize no man according to the flesh**; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer."

**See things through "God's eyes."**

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"17 Therefore (#2)

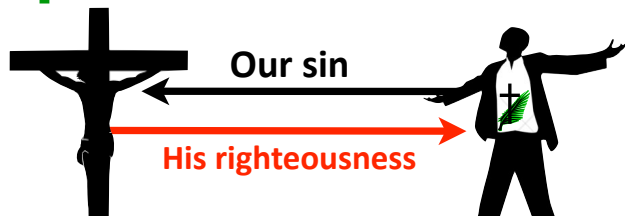
**if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.** 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**"

**Be true to your "new self."**

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"<sup>20</sup> Therefore, (#3)  
we are ambassadors for Christ, as though  
God were entreating through us; we beg you  
on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>  
**He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on  
our behalf, that we might become the  
righteousness of God in Him.**"

## Spread the "Good News."



30

## How should I view suffering?

1. Suffering demands **a broader perspective.**
2. Suffering need not **confuse or scare us.**
3. Suffering calls for **our witness to hope.**
4. Suffering builds **confidence in our new self.**
5. Suffering (death) is the necessary way  
**into God's presence.**

## Baptism gives us confidence



- to show the Way of the Cross  
and tell the Word of the Cross.
- to enter the presence of God.

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