

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Ephesians 1:7-10**

**Lesson #4**

**Redemption**

**08/20/2017**

## *Ephesians 1*

“<sup>7</sup> **In Him** we have **redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness** of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup> which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight.

<sup>9</sup> He made known to us **the mystery of His will**, according to His kind intention which He purposed **in Him** <sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things **in Christ**, things in the heavens and things upon the earth.”

1

## *What was “the mystery”?*

### *Ephesians 3*

“<sup>4</sup> And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the **mystery of Christ**, <sup>5</sup> which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; <sup>6</sup> to be specific, that **the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,**”

2

## *Implications of the mystery*

- ✓ The love of God is extended to **ALL** (not just the Jewish people)
- ✓ Racial / ethnic **discrimination** has no place in God’s family. Those who are “adopted” (Gentiles) in vs.5 are to share an equal inheritance with the chosen race of Israel.
- ✓ **America’s founders** were deeply impacted by this mystery as they framed our constitution.
- ✓ If we are not careful “**Nationalism**” can lead us down a path that ignores or marginalizes this insight.

3

**Nationalism - be careful**

Charlottesville

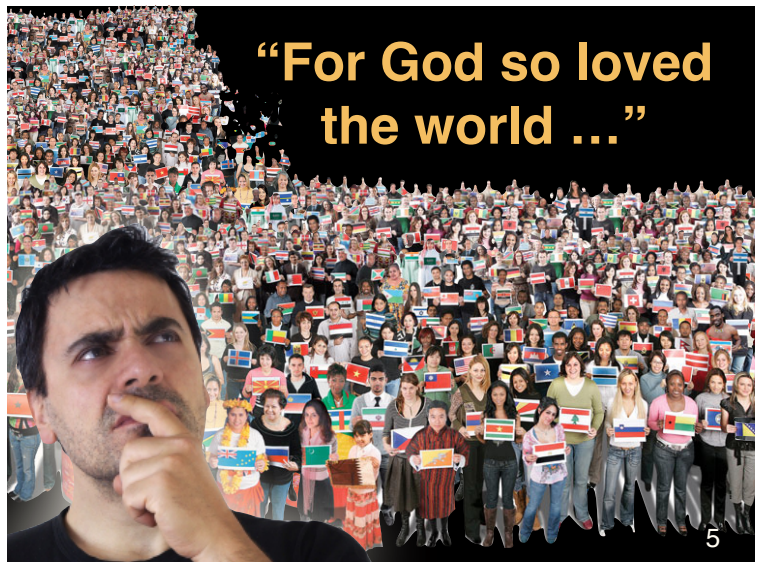
Christian  
Zionism

Jerusalem



4

**“For God so loved the world ...”**



5

## Christ's blood atonement

- ✓ It is at the **heart of the Christian faith**.

*1 Corinthians 15:3*

"For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins"

- ✓ It addresses the **core of the human dilemma** - alienation from God. (Jn.1:29, Col.1:20)
- ✓ Jesus was unique in that **he came for the purpose of dying**. (Jn.12:27 "for this purpose I came to this hour.")
- ✓ Only Christians **celebrate** the death of their leader. (1 Cor.11:23-26 "this cup is the new covenant in my blood.")
- ✓ It has always been a "**stumbling block and foolishness**" to the world. (1 Cor.1:23)

6

## Ephesians 1

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### Three points of confusion.

- **Past sins are forgiven; but what about future sins, unknown sins, and unconfessed sins after conversion?**
- **Is physical healing promised in the atonement?**
- **Did Christ die only for the elect or also for those who would not believe?**

7

## Why do some Christians believe that their unconfessed sins are not forgiven?

- **Roman Catholics and some holiness protestants believe that sins must be confessed to be forgiven.**
- **What happens if we are unaware of a sin or die with unresolved sin issues?**
- **Believer's confession of sins to God is not a big theme in Scripture. (Only in 1 Jn.1:9, Ps.32:5, Prov.28:13)**

8

## 1 John 1

"<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- **This text is written to believers to clarify a confusion related to **Gnosticism** (an early cult that taught that the human dilemma was not sin but the lack of spiritual transcendence).**
- **This text applies to **initial conversion** not to ongoing "Christian life".**

9

## Why are believers not condemned for unconfessed sins?

*Romans 7:6*

"But now **we have been released from the Law**, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter."

*Romans 8*

"<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,"

10

## Hebrews 10:26-27

"For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, but a terrifying expectation of judgment . . ."

- **The **setting** for this text is: Jewish followers of Christ who did not want to give up the Jewish system of sacrifice for sins.**
- **The Jewish sacrificial system is **terminated** at the Cross and provides no escape for sinners.**
- **A modern **parallel** might be Roman Catholicism, and protestant holiness sects that make confession / repentance a sacrament.**

11

# REPENT

exchanging hope  
in self  
and the world  
for the Cross of Christ



- ★ The sin of unbelief
- ★ Conversion

# repent

letting go of worldly  
attachments, attitudes,  
& actions for  
Kingdom living



- ★ Acts of sin
- ★ Communion

12

## Is physical healing a part of the atonement?

Matthew 8

“<sup>16</sup> . . . and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill <sup>17</sup> in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, “**He (Messiah) Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our disease.**””

- This passage **authenticates Jesus** as the Messiah but it does not assure that he will heal everyone in this life.
- Why is the healed, mortal, body still mortal and **unfit** for eternity? (1 Cor.15:50)
- In the teaching of the atonement in the N.T. the **emphasis** is on spiritual not physical healing.

13

## How was Christ's atonement limited?

- Not everyone will be saved.
- Only those who believe will be saved.
- But was Christ's work at the Cross limited in its intent or only in its reception?

Ephesians 5

“<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up **for her**; <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,.”

- If election is unconditional and grace is irresistible, and perseverance is inevitable, then it is **logically consistent** that limited atonement is unavoidable.

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## Is Christ's atonement limited by **divine intent** or by **human choice**?

Some emphasize that  
the redemption was  
**FINISHED at the Cross.**

Others emphasize that the  
redemption was only  
**FURNISHED at the Cross.**

**Faith is a gift from God to “the elect” who were predestined to believe before they were born.**

**Man has freedom to respond to the Gospel by the common grace bestowed on all who bear God's image.**

Were the elect saved  
before they believed?

Are we saved when we  
believe?

15

1 John 2:2

“and he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also **for those of the whole world.**”

2 Peter 2:1

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be fake teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even **denying the Master who bought them**, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

Romans 5:19

“namely, that God was in Christ **reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them,”

1 Timothy 2

“<sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> **who desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as **a ransom for all**, the testimony borne at the proper time.”

16

- It seems we are saved by the Cross of Christ.

Romans 5:19

“Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”

- and also by our faith (which is not a work).

Romans 5:1

“Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

17

*With respect to  
our bank account:*

***Do we possess  
the money  
upon deposit  
or withdrawal?***

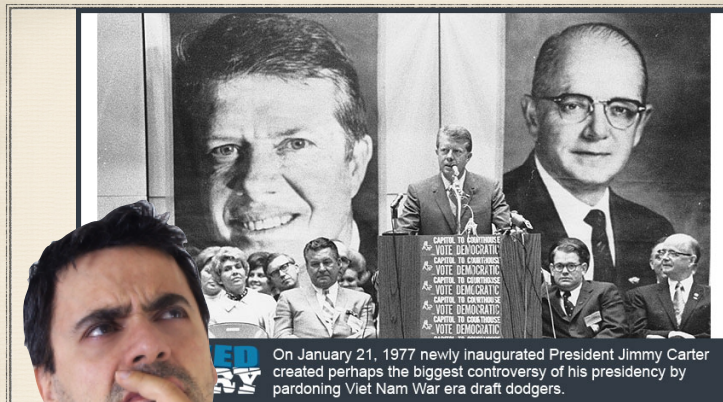
18

*Is a credit card valid  
when it is issued?*



***Or when it is  
activated?***

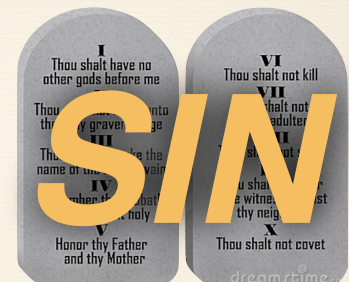
19



***Those who stayed in  
Canada were free but  
did not benefit from it.***

20

*Before the Cross, sin **WAS** the  
barrier between man and God.*



21

*Before the Cross, sin **WAS** the  
barrier between man and God.*



***After the Cross **FAITH**  
became the barrier.***

22

*Ephesians 1:7*

***“In Him we have  
redemption  
through His blood,  
the forgiveness  
of our trespasses,  
according to the riches  
of His grace,***

23