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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Ephesians 1:19-23**

**Lesson #8**

**Christ Exalted**

**09/17/2017**

Old Testament  
Gospels  
Epistles

**We interpret the Scriptures through lenses.**

1

THE GOSPEL STORY

**The Epistles**

**The Gospels**

**The Old Testament**

2

**The emphasis of the Gospels**

*Jesus' Teaching and Miracles*

Matthew	
Mark	
Luke	
John	

*Jesus' Passion & Resurrection*

3

**Gospels**

*The Passion and Resurrection*

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

**The emphasis of the Epistles**

**Epistles**

4

**The great symbols of the faith ARE**

**The Cross**      **The Lord's Supper**      **Baptism**

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

5



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

What Christ has  
done **for** us.

What Christ is doing **in**  
and **through** us.

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

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.

6

## Paul's letters don't stop with affirmations .



Perceptions shape performance.

7

CHRISTIAN LIFE STARTS WITH SEEING  
WHO WE TRULY ARE "IN CHRIST"  
AND ALSO WITH SEEING WHO  
CHRIST TRULY IS.

8

Spirit centered  
Love motivated  
Worship oriented

**Two paths**

Law centered  
Fear motivated  
Discipline oriented

Matthew 6:22

"The eye is the lamp  
of the body; so then if  
your eye is clear, your  
whole body will be  
full of light."

9

## **Ephesians 1 is about knowing and seeing**



• Our position  
"in Christ"



• Christ's position  
in God's plan

• Many Christians do not see Jesus the  
way Paul insists that they see him.

10

**vs. 1-19a Our Position "in Christ"**

**vs. 19b Christ's Position in God's plan.**

"19 . . . These are in accordance with the working of the  
strength of His might 20 which He brought about in  
Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated  
Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,"

**The resurrection is the cornerstone of  
our faith, our message, and our hope.**

- The Gospels do not explain the resurrection.  
The resurrection is what explains the Gospels.
- Sunday worship is a testimony to the central  
significance of Jesus' resurrection.
- The resurrection of Jesus was the major theme  
in Apostolic preaching.

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"19 . . . These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,"

### **Christ's place in heaven.**

*Hebrews 1:3*

"When he had made purification of sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

### **The work of redemption is finished.**

*Ephesians 2:6*

"and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus."

- We, like Christ, are to rest from the work in being reconciled to God.

12

### **Those who are "in Christ" will one day share Christ's exalted position in heaven.**

*Romans 8:17*

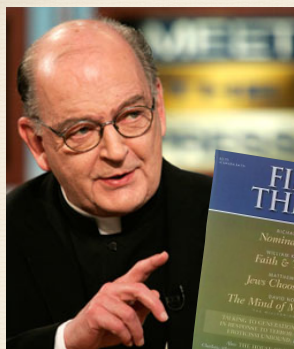
"and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

*2 Timothy 2:12*

"If we endure, we will also reign with him;"

- Some Christians believe that they have a "right" to live as "kings" with Christ **HERE** and **NOW**.
- Note that Paul says "we **WILL** reign" **not that we now DO reign**.

13



Richard John Neuhaus

"Idolatry is trying to bring in God's Kingdom before its time and without its King."

14

"21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come."

### **Christ's place in creation.**

- This addresses a **heretical belief** that spirit beings (angels and demons) had great authority over life.
- The implications are that Jesus is not just the Lord of Christians or of some primitive culture but has authority over **all creation for all time**.

### **The Christian Gospel is the hope of the world.**

- Note that the Apostles applied the implications of this to evangelism, **not politics**.

15

"22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

### **Christ's place in the church.**

- The church is not just a holding place for believers, or an institution for worship and education.

**It is God's kingdom community on earth, a light on a hill and a spiritual family of alien ambassadors.**

- The Apostles' ethical teaching and social standards are given to the Body of Christ not the secular state.
- While Jesus is Lord of all it is only in the church that kingdom values are the rule because they start with the indwelling Holy Spirit.

16

"22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

### **Jesus must be a functioning head not just a figurehead of the church.**

- The church community is not only the means of evangelism **but its goal**.
- Pastors are not princes ruling over a "kingdom principality" - **they are undershepherds who serve the sheep**.
- The church is both **distinct from the state and also salt and light within it**.

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## Historically differing views of Church and State

### Church and State United

Roman Catholic  
Eastern Orthodox  
Anglican  
Lutheran  
Presbyterian

### Church and State Separate

Anabaptist  
Pentecostal  
Baptist  
Independent  
Congregational

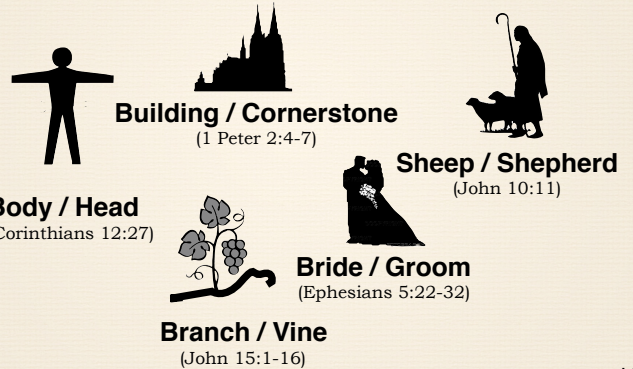
*Matthew 22:21*

"Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's;  
and to God the things that are God's."

18

"the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

***Christ is inseparable from his church.***



19

The church looks like the Body of Christ  
**only when the pieces are attached  
to the head and to one another.**



20

## Breaking News

- The resurrection is the **cornerstone** of our faith, our message, and our hope.
- Jesus' work of making atonement for sins is **finished**.
- The Gospel is the **hope** of the world.
- The church is God's **kingdom on earth**, a light on a hill, and a spiritual family of alien ambassadors.

21

## Lessons

- Don't look at this world as your promised hope or ultimate home.
- Don't try to gain reconciliation with God through your good works.
- Let the world know that there is hope in Christ by what they see in you and hear from you.
- The church is not just a human institution, it is a holy family with a calling to be Christ to its age.

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