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THE BEREANS

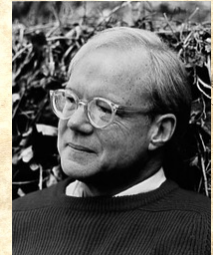
ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 6:17
Lesson #52
The helmet of salvation
08/12/2018

"YOU deserve a break TODAY"




"America's greatest sin is the refusal to delay gratification."



M. Scott Peck

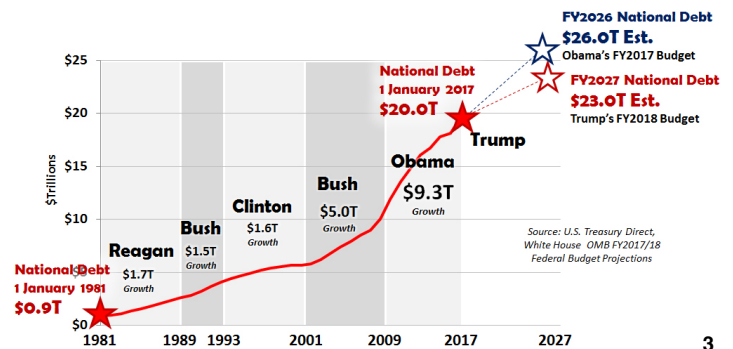
A common characteristic of the American prison population:



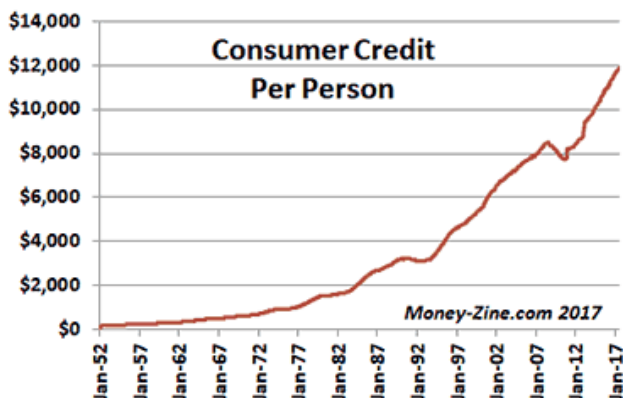
The need for immediate gratification

2

Delayed gratification continues to be a public crisis in the USA.



Delayed gratification continues to be a personal crisis in the USA.



Spiritual "Salvation" is most often pictured as a future promised inheritance.

Romans 13:11

"And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for **now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.**"

1 Peter 1:5

"who are protected by the power of God through faith for **a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**"



Ephesians 1

“¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, **the gospel of your salvation** – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of **promise**, ¹⁴ who is given as a **pledge** of our **inheritance**, with **a view to the redemption** of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”



6

Romans 8

“²⁴ For **in hope we have been saved**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance **we wait eagerly** for it.”



7

1 Thessalonians 5

“⁸ But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as **a helmet, the hope of salvation**. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but for **obtaining salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

8

Revelation 12

“¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the **salvation**, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ **have come**, for the **accuser of our brethren has been thrown down**, he who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

9

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**,”

10

1 Peter 1

“³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to *obtain* an **inheritance** *which* is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven for you**, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for **a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time**.”

11

Richard John Neuhaus

“Idolatry is trying to bring in God’s Kingdom before its time and without its King.”



12

Much of the modern liberal church reduces Biblical ethics to **political action strategies.**

Much of the modern conservative church reduces Biblical ethics to **personal fulfillment strategies.**

13

Both are more earthly minded
than heavenly minded.

14

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”

C.S. Lewis



15

Ephesians 6:11

“Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”



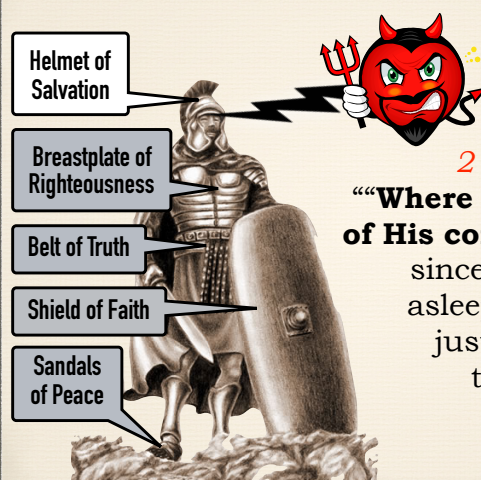
16

Ephesians 6:17

“And take the **helmet of salvation,**”

2 Peter 3:4

“**Where is the promise of His coming?** For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”



17

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.*’”

18

“⁵ Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘*He will give His angels charge concerning You;*’ and ‘*On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.*’ ⁷ Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘*You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.*’”

19

“⁸ Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; ⁹ and he said to Him, “All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘*You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.*’ ¹¹ Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.”

20

Observe Satan's unexpected strategy:

- He affirms **Jesus' special relationship with God.** Jesus' identity, his power, and authority are assumed.
- He affirms **The goodness and power of God.** - Promising blessing, protection, and reigning with Christ.
- He affirms **The authority of Scripture.** He appeals to common sense, and texts of Scripture.

21

Each temptation deals with:

- **Identity** coming from a special relationship with God - What does it mean to be saved?
- **Authority** that is tied to that identity - my right to reign as an heir to the Kingdom.
- **Issues** that invite the expression of that authority in this life - temporal needs, security, & control.
- **Hope** that is centered on this life's experiences - temporal needs, security, & control.

22

The temptation is
to reduce salvation and hope
to this life:

- **Relieve the pain of this life.**
- **Remove the risk in following Christ.**
- **Reduce the hope to this life.**



23

Implications:

- ✓ Christians have **rights and authority** to claim by **faith material blessings** - financial success, physical healing, social justice.

The role of **waiting and suffering** in the development and demonstration of virtue is **ignored** (Paul's thorn, Joseph's enslavement, Jesus' cross, etc.).

- ✓ **Spiritual authority is reduced to a "proof-text"** - rather than a contextual understanding of the Bible.
- ✓ Using **worldly means** to reach "kingdom" ends is **encouraged** - political power to bring about kingdom goals.

24

Salvation's armor

- It's Friday **but Sunday's coming**.
- The **resurrection** is our hope.
- It's not about **me or us, here or now**.
- **Delayed** gratification is a part of the Gospel.
- Before we can really be of earthly good we must be **heavenly minded**.

25

Hebrews 11

"³² And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection; . . ."

- **This sounds really great.**
- **But listen to what follows.**

26

" . . . and others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection; ³⁶ and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated ³⁸ (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,"

27

2 Peter 3

"³ Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, **following after their own lusts**, ⁴ and saying, **"Where is the promise of His coming?"** For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

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