

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 4:5-10

Lesson #17

Spiritual Defilement

06/27/2021

## John 16

“32 Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.**”

- ✓ Our peace will not come in or from this world, **but in and from Christ.**
- ✓ Jesus does not plan to remove us from trouble **but to send us into it, equipped to respond to it.**

1

## John 17

“13 But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves. 14 I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because **they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.** 15 **I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.** 16 **They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.** 17 Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth. 18 As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I **sanctify** Myself, that they themselves also may be **sanctified** in truth.”

2

What follows is Jesus’ high-priestly petition for the church and Christ’s **chief priorities.**

**Are we “quick to hear” them?**

**Note what is not mentioned.**

- Material blessings
- Social favor
- Removal of hardships
- Reform of society
- World evangelism



3

**Note what is mentioned.**

**Intimacy**  
in our  
relationship  
with God.  
vs.1-12

**Purity**  
in our  
relationship  
with the world.  
vs.13-19

**Unity**  
in our  
relationship  
with the church.  
vs.20-26

**Faith**  
toward  
God

**Hope**  
outside  
this world

**Love**  
for  
the brethren

4

## James Kingdom Living in a Broken World

This is what we should know	This is what we should do		
Life's trials contain hidden blessings. 1:1-18	“quick to hear” “Listen up” 1:19-2:13	“slow to speak” “Shut up” 2:14-3:12	“slow to anger” “Cool it” 3:13-5:20

Holiness is not so much disciplined moral behavior **as it is to what we attach our faith, hope, and love.**

5

***“Holy” - “Holiness”  
“Saint” - “Sanctified”***

(from the same Greek word)

**Meaning:**

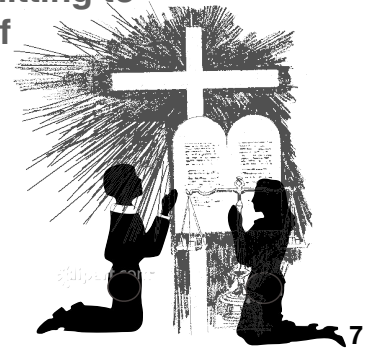
***Separation***

(from the world unto God)

6

“We have been led to believe that personal fulfillment is only possible if we submit to no one but self not realizing that our deepest fulfillment is in submitting to something outside of & greater than self.”

***humans are  
designed to  
worship!***

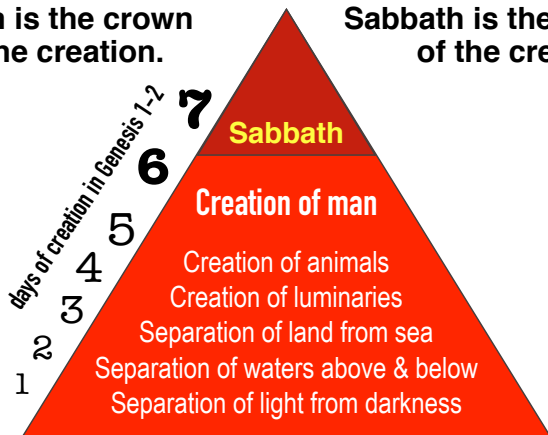


7

**Exhibit #1  
The Sabbath**

Man is the crown  
of the creation.

Sabbath is the point  
of the creation.



8

***Worship comes  
after God's work  
and before ours.***

***The question is not do we  
work on the Sabbath  
but do we bring the Sabbath  
to our work.***

9

***Christian living is the natural  
outward expression of an  
inner identity and heart.***

***Our world tends to measure  
a person's worth in terms of  
accomplishments in this life  
more than "being" (essence).***

***The Gospel is not about "do"  
but about "done."***

10



**Exhibit #2  
Eve's temptation**

***Genesis 3:6***

“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate;”

***Misplaced faith, hope, and love  
follow the way we choose to  
see things.***

11

**Exhibit #3**  
**Jesus temptation in the desert**

*Matthew 4*



"<sup>2</sup> And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to Him . . ."



**At the heart of worldliness is not only a misplaced faith, hope, & love but also a worldly wisdom that makes sense in this misplacement.**

12

**The Way of the Cross calls us to resist the temptation to let the ends justify the means.**

*Matthew 4:1-11*  
**Three great temptations.**

**PROSPERITY  
PROTECTION  
POWER**

**(by any means)**



13

*Matthew 4*

"<sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

**(prosperity?)**

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Him into the holy city, and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'I will give His angels charge concerning you'; and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

**(protection?)**

<sup>8</sup> Again the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; <sup>9</sup> and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."

**(power?)**

14

**Exhibit #4**  
**Jesus cleansing the Temple**

*John 2*

"<sup>13</sup> And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated. <sup>15</sup> And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and overturned their tables; <sup>16</sup> and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; **stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise.**"

15

**Exhibit #5**  
**Mary and Martha's dinner**

*Luke 10*

"<sup>40</sup> But Martha was **distracted (drawn away)** with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are **worried and bothered** about so many things; <sup>42</sup> but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

16

**Exhibit #6**  
**Paul's thorn in the flesh**

*2 Corinthians 12*

"<sup>8</sup> Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am well **content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake**; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

17

## What do these examples share in common with respect to “worldliness”?

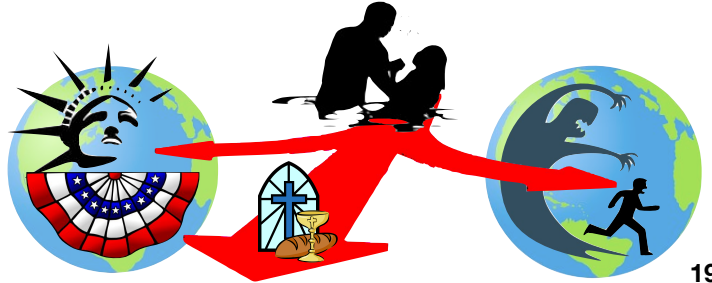
1. They do not point to overt immorality.
2. They do not point to irrational behavior.
3. They do (in the end) spiritually defile.



18

Making wise decisions starts with pointing our life in the right direction.

- **Take baptism seriously** - renew the mind.
- **Demonstrate our alien status** with our faith, hope, and love in God’s kingdom, as well as our freedom from fear of a broken world.



19

### James 4

“<sup>5</sup> Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: **“He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”**? <sup>6</sup> But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup> **Submit** therefore to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> **Draw near** to God and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse** your hands, you sinners; and **purify** your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> **Humble** yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”

20

### Revelation 3

“<sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> “So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, <sup>18</sup> I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.”

21

“<sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. <sup>21</sup> He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with

My Father on His throne.

<sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

**Is Jesus knocking at the door OF OUR HEART to follow the WAY OF THE CROSS and be.**

**Exhibit #7**

22

