

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 6:60-71**Lesson #26****The Word of Life****01/10/2016**

Three universal longings a secular culture cannot satisfy.

Three critical questions a secular culture cannot answer.



Do you know what they are?

Do you know how the Christian faith addresses these issues?

1

John 6

⁶⁰ Many therefore of His disciples, when **they heard** this said, “This is a difficult **statement; who can listen to it?”**

Jesus had made three statements, that to Jewish ears, had to be blasphemous.

1. It's all **ABOUT ME!**
2. **I AM** the bread that came down from heaven. vs.41
3. You must **EAT MY FLESH** to have eternal life. vs.52

No Jewish prophet would ever say this.

2

John 6

⁶¹ But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? ⁶² What then if you should behold the Son of Man ascending where He was before?”

Jesus' signs drew a crowd, his words divided it.

If Jesus drawing attention to himself was offensive how much more his ascension into heaven.

3

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; **the words** that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

Words are important.

Matthew 11:15

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Acts 28:26

“Go to this people and say, “You will keep on hearing, but will not understand;”

Romans 10:17

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

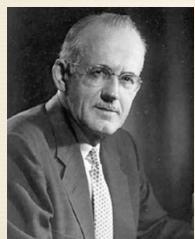
Philippians 2:16

“holding fast the word of life.”

4

John 6

“⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father.”



**The Son brings LIGHT to the world.
The Spirit brings SIGHT to the world.**

“We not only need light, we also need sight. No matter how bright the light, the blind man cannot see.”

A.W. Tozer

5

John 6

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- In *Rom.1:18* Paul indicates that all of us have eyes to see but we all suppress what we see.
- In *Acts 26:18* Paul was called to go to the Gentiles and open their eyes to the Gospel.
- In *Eph.1:18* Paul prays that the eyes of believers may be opened to see.
- The means by which God's grace is operative in our seeing the light is a mystery.

6

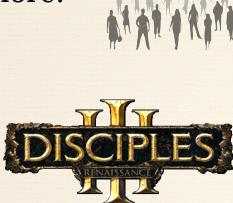
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- God has a grand purpose being worked out in history that cannot be understood or explained until after the events.
- It incorporates human volition in a way that is mysterious to us.
- Judas plays an important role in that purpose.

7

“⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His **disciples** withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.”



Just because you are hanging around Jesus does not mean you will receive the life he offers.

Your response to the Word of the Cross will determine your fate.



8

“⁶⁷ Jesus said therefore to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have words of eternal life.** ⁶⁹ And **we have believed and have come to know** that you are the Holy One of God.” ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” ⁷¹ Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.”

All understanding starts with faith but does not stop there.

9

All knowledge in science and Christianity starts with faith assumptions.

Hebrews 11:3

“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

- Presuppositions are by nature faith based.
- They are often preconscious when not affiliated with formal religion.

10

All knowledge in science and Christianity starts with faith assumptions.

“There is more faith in science and reason in religion than many scientists will admit.”

11

Three critical questions

1. **Mortality** - Why must we all die?
2. **Meaning** - What do we live for?
3. **Morality** - Why is there right and wrong?

The Scripture addresses these issues.

1. Death is God's visual aid to our alienation from God.
2. We are here to bear the image of God.
3. Our moral conscience is God's image in us.

**Secular materialism
struggles to answer these questions.**

12

Three critical questions

1. **Mortality** - Why must we all die?
2. **Meaning** - What do we live for?
3. **Morality** - Why is there right and wrong?

embracing
the flower's glory
(beauty)



while denying
its basis (root)

13

Three universal longings

1. **Peace with God** - Legal
2. **Peace with self** - Psychological
3. **Peace with others** - Social

**The Cross of Christ provides for
the satisfaction of each in order.**

**Secular materialism tries to satisfy
the last two while ignoring the first.**

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Three universal longings

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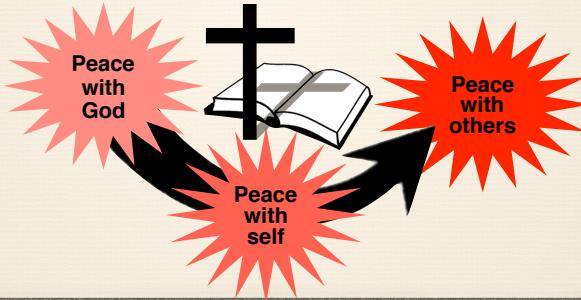
James 4

"¹ What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ² You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel."

15

Three universal longings

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16

1 Corinthians 1

"¹⁸ For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing **foolishness**, but to us who are being saved it is the **power** of God."

"²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

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