

apptoteach.org

THE BEREANS

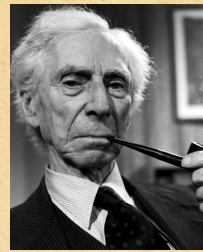
ACTS 17:11

John 3:16-21

Lesson #12

A Savior not a Judge

10/04/2015



Bertrand Russell

“Religion is based primarily upon fear. Fear is the parent of cruelty, and therefore it is no wonder if cruelty and religion have gone hand in hand.”

Russell’s observation, though insightful is too shallow.

Beginning with Adam, all humanity lives in fear, of not only physical but especially spiritual death!

Hebrews 2:15 (speaking of Christ)

“and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

Being a Christian

doesn’t change what you deal with, so much as how you deal with it.

Fear

perhaps the most powerful negative emotion affecting spiritual decisions.

Genesis 3 suggests that

The fear of God is the root of all human anxiety.

John 3 reveals that

Jesus came to take away our deepest fear.

The Gospel of John

A Savior not a Judge 3:16-21

Revelation to the world of sinners	Revelation to individuals	Revelation to multitudes	Rejection by the Jewish leaders	Ministry to the disciples	Ministry to the world of sinners
1-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	13-17	18-21
Signs				Sermons	Sacrifice
Public ministry				Private ministry	Paschal ministry
Galilee & Judea				Jerusalem	
About 3 1/2 years				Only a few days	

John 3

“¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

1 John 1

“⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, **we lie and do not practice the truth**; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, **we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us**. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

“Practice the truth” does not mean that we have no sin but rather that we see more than our sin as we face the light (Jesus).

Both Peter & Judas betrayed Jesus and suffered remorse as they saw what their sin did to Jesus.

Peter would abide long enough to see what Jesus did to his sin.

Judas took his own life and never saw what Jesus did to his sin.

If we don't let our sins draw us to Jesus, we are left alone in them.

Paraphrase

“¹⁶ God's love is behind my mission to save all who believe in me. ¹⁷ Do not be afraid, I was not sent to condemn but to save. ¹⁸ Those who believe in me escape judgment, while those who run away from me have only themselves to blame for their fate. ¹⁹ They are intimidated by their sin ²⁰ and sadly feel more at home with the darkness. ²¹ But those who walk in the truth brave the light, and let their sin draw them to me so as to be saved thus revealing God's plan.”



Calvin's three uses of the Law of Moses

A Constraint

It is to bring order to society.



It is the basis of civil laws.

A Tutor

It is to lead us to faith in Christ.



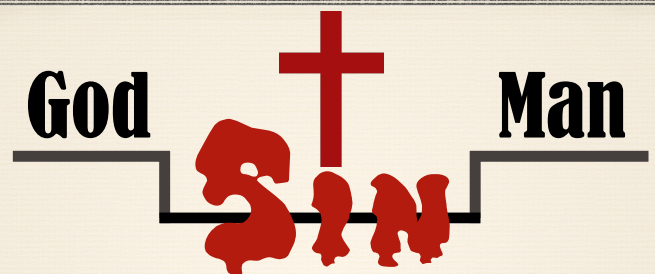
It reveals the need and plan of redemption.

A Guide

It is to direct the Christian's life.



It is a guide to Kingdom ethics and life.



**Under the Law,
the issue is our sin.
God deals with sin
at the Cross.**

God *Jesus* Man

Now the issue is
Jesus.

Once we understand
the Cross

we see that what
stands between us &
God is not our sin
so much as faith
in Jesus.



*Why did Gilbert
DeLeon die in
May of 2015?*

*The obituary
said it was a
Cottonmouth
snake bite.*

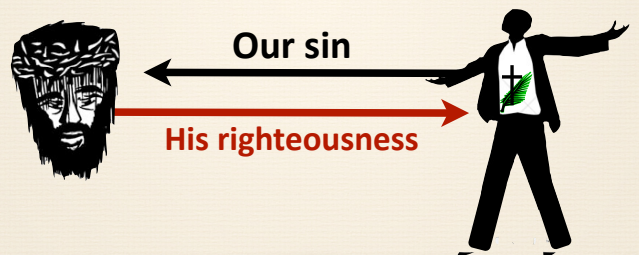
*The rest of the story - he refused anti-venom
saying, "He could not afford it".*

*We are separated from God
not only by our sins
but more so by our refusing to accept
God's salvation in the Cross of Christ.*

The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin
on our behalf, so that we might become
the righteousness of God in Him."



Romans 8

"¹ There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ 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,"

John 5:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life, and **does not come into judgment**, but has passed out of death into life."

Luke 19

"⁷ And when they (**Religious leaders**) saw it (**Jesus dining with a tax collector**), they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." . . . ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For **the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**"

The point of Jesus as the light

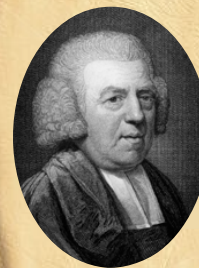
The Light of Jesus is not only to reveal our darkness but to show us the heart of God and the gracious way of salvation.

Remember

1. Jesus came to save **not to condemn.**
2. Jesus is not intimidating **but rather a friend of sinners.**
3. The TRUTH and FAITH **will set us free from FEAR.**
4. The issue NOW is not our sin **but Jesus.**

Does this mean that Jesus never judges?

Jesus 1st coming	Jesus 2nd coming
A Savior John 3:17	A Judge John 5:22
If this is all we see, we will abuse people by EXCUSING them.	If this is all we see, we will abuse people by EXCLUDING them.
God's GRACE is real, but linked to FAITH & REPENTANCE.	Practiced HOLINESS is important but cannot SAVE us.



John Newton

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, in a believer's ear!

It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear."

1 John 4:18-19

"There is no fear in love; **but perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is perfected in love. **We love because He first loved us.**"

- **God's love sets us free.**
- **God's love through us brings freedom to others.**