

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Hebrews 12:1-2  
Lesson #8  
Managing Expectations  
11/13/2022

"Expectation  
is the root of all  
heartache"  
- Shakespeare

## Three areas of expectation for Christians.

- ✓ **In our personal life** - How much **OF ME** should I expect God to change?
- ✓ **In our influence** - How much **OF YOU** should I expect to change?
- ✓ **In God's providence** - How much of our **CIRCUMSTANCES** should we expect God to change?



## Expectations are at the heart of the Christian Gospel

- ✓ **Faith & Hope** = expectations
- ✓ **Covenant & Promises** = expectations
- ✓ **Peace & Ministry** = expectations

**Expectations  
should never be a  
problem if we follow  
the Word of God -**

**RIGHT?**



## Are expectations assured when we stand on God's promises?

*Psalm 37:25*

"I have been young and now I am old, yet  
**I have not seen the righteous forsaken**  
or his descendants begging bread."

**Jesus'  
life experience  
and ours?**

*Psalm 22:1*

"My God, my God,  
**why have You forsaken me?"**



## Are expectations assured when we stand on God's promises?

*Psalm 34:10*

"The young lions lack and suffer  
hunger; **but those who seek the Lord**  
**shall not lack any good thing.**"

*Romans 8:36*

"For Your sake we are being  
put to death all day long; **we**  
**were considered as sheep**  
**to be slaughtered.**"



“To create despair  
you first need hope”

**that  
disappoints.**



*Bane*  
Batman's foe in "The Dark Knight"

6

**Wisdom does not rest on a "proof text".**

*2 Timothy 2:15*

“Be diligent to present yourself approved  
to God as a workman who does not  
need to be ashamed, **accurately  
handling the word of truth.**”



**Bereans  
seek the SCRIPTURES  
(not proof texts)  
for wisdom.**

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## The challenge of **DISSONANCE**

*A Berean's look  
at Biblical  
expectations.*

8

*Hebrews 12*

“<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have so great a cloud  
of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay  
aside every encumbrance and **the sin which  
so easily entangles us**, and let us run with  
endurance the race that is set before us,  
<sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and  
perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before  
Him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and has sat down at the right hand of the  
throne of God.”

**What is the "sin that so easily entangles us"?**

**Could it be "false expectations"?**

9

*Hebrews 12*

“<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have so great a cloud  
of **witnesses** surrounding us,”

**1. Bereans expect mixed  
experiences along with mature faith.**

*context*

*Hebrews 11:1*

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped  
for, the conviction of things not seen.”

**Hebrews 11:3-35 Some were blessed in  
this life and vs.36-39 others . . . .**

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*Hebrews 11*

“<sup>36</sup> and others experienced mockings and  
scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.  
<sup>37</sup> 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  
<sup>38</sup> (men of whom the world was not worthy),  
wandering in deserts and mountains and caves  
and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> **And all these, having gained approval  
through their faith, did not receive what was  
promised,** <sup>40</sup> because God had provided  
something better for us, so that apart from us  
they should not be made perfect.”

11



*John 15:20*

“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you;** if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”

*1 Corinthians 15:19*

“If we have hoped in Christ **in this life only**, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

*Romans 8:18*

“For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

*Hebrews 12*

“1 ... let us also lay aside every encumbrance and **the sin which so easily entangles us,**”

**2. Bereans can expect to combat misplaced hopes.**

What is this sin that “so easily entangles us”?

**Could it be the expectations of a distorted gospel?**



Satan doesn't want to take away our faith, hope, and love.

He just wants to redirect the **subject & object** of our faith, hope and love.

“Name it and claim it.”

“Ten Biblical promises of health and wealth”

“Prosperity gospel”

“God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.”



*Spiritual warfare is a civil war not a war between two independent powers.”*

C.S. Lewis



The Devil presents as an  
“angel of light”, a messenger  
of misplaced faith, hope,  
and love resulting in displaced



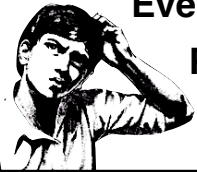
**expectations.**

Christ in the wilderness - Matt.4:1-11

Eve in the garden - Gen.3

Paul's thorn - 2 Cor.12:7-10

Job in his losses - Job



18

**The temptation of Jesus  
and all humanity**

Matthew 4

**Change the circumstances!**

“3 **Command** that these stones become bread.”

**Claim the promises!**

6 **He will command His angels concerning you** so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

**Compromise the means!**

9 All these things I will give you, **if you (prostrate yourself before) me.**”

19

When we expect the kingdom  
before its time and  
without its King  
we set ourselves up  
for **false expectations**

**blasphemy (falsifying the faith).**

**hypocrisy (faking the faith), or**

**apostasy (fleeing the faith),**

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*Hebrews 12*

“1 ... and let us **run with endurance** the race that is set before us,”

**3. Bereans expect life to be  
an endurance race  
on an obstacle course.**

The way Jesus and  
the Apostles address  
hardships in this life is

**significant  
& shocking.**



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**The WAY of the Cross**

*1 Peter 3*

“8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 **not returning evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead;** for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. . . .

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give **an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;**”



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*Hebrews 12*

“1 ... and let us **run with endurance** the race that is set before us,”

**3. Bereans expect life to be  
an endurance race  
on an obstacle course.**

*Hebrews 10:39*

“But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, **but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.**”

**The Parable of the Marriage  
Feast (Matt.22:1-14)**

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*Hebrews 12*

“2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

**4. Bereans expect to bear a cross to a banquet.**

**“It’s Friday now but Sunday’s coming.”**

*Philippians 2*

“5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 **Therefore also God highly exalted Him**, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,”

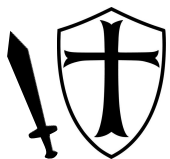
**Things that a Berean should avoid in building Godly Expectations.**

- **Bibliolatry** - Treating the Bible as an **encyclopedia** of proof texts without a context.
- **Old Covenant** - Centering kingdom hope on **this world, life, and age.**
  - **Assuming that all Scripture is directed to and about us.**
  - **Conflating God’s will** with our will.
- **Distorting the Gospel** - False expectations come from a false Gospel.

*Titus 2*

“11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to **deny ungodliness and worldly desires** and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus**; 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

**The great symbols of our faith and hope are NOT:**



Sword & Shield



Worldly riches



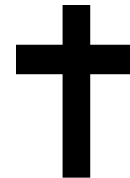
Power & Glory

**calling us to conquer, dominate, and rule this world.**

**The great symbols of the faith and hope are:**



The bread and cup



The Cross



Water Baptism

**reminding us of Jesus’ death, resurrection, and hope.**

# A Berean's look at ...

