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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Bereans "received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so."

1

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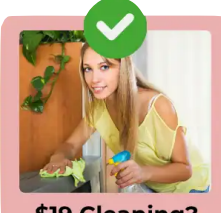
THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Corinthians 3:10-15
Lesson #11
Bema exposure
08/10/2025

2

Is Homeaglow legit?



\$19 Cleaning?

Yes



Or \$1,105 Cost?

But
you better read
the fine print



3

Romans 3:28
"For we maintain that **a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**"

But what about the fine print?

Matthew 16:27
"For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will then **recompense every man according to his deeds.**"

Is the Gospel pardon, provision, or parole?



4

The Gospel sounds like good news

We are told that we are saved by **grace through faith apart from our works.**

But when the Bible speaks of the final judgment it is **almost always** on the basis of **our works, not our faith.**

Bereans look at the Biblical fine print and **often feel confused if not misled.**



5

"Shame is the most powerful, master emotion. **It's the fear that we're not good enough.**"
Brene Brown



The works of the Law are the front door to either:

It is God's tool before the Cross



or Shame

& Satan's tool after the Cross.



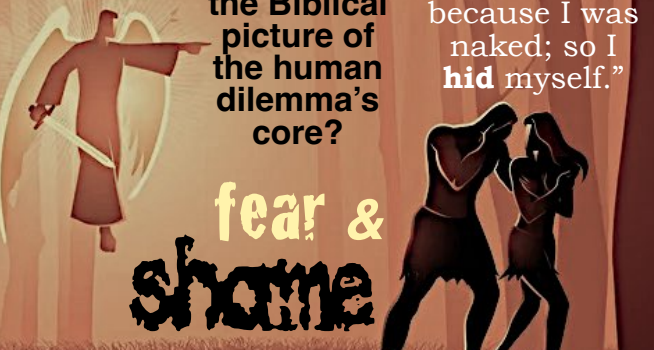
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The first negative human emotions expressed in the Bible are

Genesis 3:10
 "I was **afraid** because I was naked; so I **hid** myself."

Could this be the Biblical picture of the human dilemma's core?

fear & shame



7

As Bereans let's look at the Word of God.

Hebrews 6

"1 Therefore leaving the **elementary teaching** about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works and of faith toward God**, 2 of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and **eternal judgment**."

We need to clarify the "fine print" of:

- Our **REPENTANCE** from dead works & faith
- God's **JUDGMENT** of believers

8

Two levels of REPENTANCE / faith & works

REPENT & BELIEVE

repent & behave



for **FAMILY** identity,
 "Strategic"
 (initiation, once)



for **FRUITFUL** living,
 "Tactical"
 (several times)

- ★ Hope
- ★ Conversion

- ★ Ethics
- ★ Communion

Hebrews 6:1

"let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works and of faith toward God**,"

9

Two common erroneous doctrines

Saving faith is
 notarized by
 holy living.

Catholic
 sainthood or
 purgatory.

Protestant
 election or
 Holy Spirit
 enabled.



Because we are
 saved by grace
 through faith
 it makes no
 difference
 how we live.

One
 adds
 to God's
 grace.

One
 subtracts
 from God's
 glory.

10

Two levels of JUDGMENT / faith & works

Revelation 20

"11 And I saw a great white throne,...12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books** were opened:

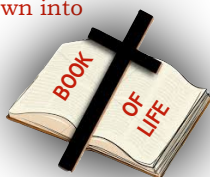
and another book was opened, which is **the book of life**;

and the dead were judged from the things which were written in **the books**, according to their deeds. And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death,

15 and if anyone's name was not **found written in the book of life**, he was thrown into the lake of fire."



BOOKS



11

Biblical Judgments

This life

- Nature
- Government
- Church Discipline

Christ

After physical death

all who are
 in Christ
 (the book
 of life)

Bema

Eternal
 destiny

of all who
 stand on
 their own
 merits

Great
 White
 Throne

Judged on the basis of works.

12

1 Corinthians 15:22

“For as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”

Romans 5:19

“For as through the one man’s disobedience the
many were made sinners,
even so through the obedience of the One
the many will be made righteous.”

All who are
in Adam die.



All who are in Christ
are made alive.

13

1 Corinthians 4

“3 But to me it is a **very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court**; in fact, I do not even examine myself. 4 I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.

God (not we or others) is the judge.

5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who **will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts**; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”

God will expose the hidden deeds & motives of our lives (and much more).

14

**The “bema” judgment exposes
our works and God’s glory.**

1 Corinthians 13:12

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but **then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.**”

**Tears will be wiped away and displaced
by God’s glory and grace.**

Revelation 21:4

“**He will wipe away every tear** from their eyes;”

Romans 14:11

“... *every knee shall bow to Me,*
and **every tongue shall give praise to God.**”

15

What will believers be judged for?

1 Corinthians 3

“7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but **each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.** 9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

**Our HEART and BODY
for God’s GLORY and BODY**

**Moral virtue
in mirroring
Christ’s holiness**

**Ministry value
in building
the Body of Christ**

16

1 Corinthians 3

“10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man **builds upon the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work.”

**The “bema” judgment exposes
our works and God’s glory.**

17

1 Cor.3:10-15

**The Bema judgment
is not about saving
grace and faith
but about how
we build on it.**

Gal.5:16-26

“25 If we live
by the Spirit,
let us also walk
by the Spirit.”



18

1 Corinthians 3:8

“Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own **reward according to his own labor.**”

The result of a believer's behavior is loss or reward (fruit, not redemption).

1 Corinthians 3

“14 If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall **receive a reward**. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he shall **suffer loss**; but **he himself shall be saved**, yet so as through fire.”

Our behavior (good or bad) will not alter salvation by grace through faith.

19

The Points

The Gospel is good news for sinners.

Salvation is by grace through faith apart from our good or evil works.

Our peace rests with God's full *PARDON* (not His provision or parole).

True (saving) faith will bear fruit that only God can judge.

The exposure of our behavior brings a fuller awareness of God's grace, not a fear of God's wrath.

20

Abiding (enduring) Faith

- 1. assures our peace.**
- 2. defines our hope.**
- 3. inspires our love.**
- 4. shapes our:**
*values, priorities,
attitudes, & actions.*

21

Hard Questions



22