



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-text) but:

CONTEXT
CONTEXT
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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.”

Psalm 22:1
“My God, my God, **why have You forsaken me?**”

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.**”

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

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

Suffering saints - Heb.11:36-40, 12:1-3

Paul’s thorn - 2 Cor.12:7-10

Job’s losses - Job

Eve’s fall - Gen.3

John 10:10
“I came that they may **have life, and have it abundantly.**”

John 14:27
“Peace I leave with you; **My peace** I give to you; **not as the world gives, do I give to you.** Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

John 16:33
“**in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation,** but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

God’s visual aid - **abundant life and peace in the midst of tribulation** as witnessed by Jesus & his followers.

Hebrews 12
“1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and **the sin that so easily entangles us**, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us, 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. 3 For **consider Him** who has **endured** such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you **may not grow weary and lose heart.**”

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

Could it be “false expectations”?

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things **not seen.**"

1. Bereans witness comes more from what they endure than from what they escape.

Hebrews 12:1

"... we have so great a cloud of **witnesses** surrounding us,"

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;**"

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 11

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

39 **And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,**
40 because God had provided something better for us,"

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 Word of the Cross
is our security for heaven.

The Way of the Cross
is our significance in this life.

Paul's power and ours comes from our **RESPONSE** to life's ups and downs.

We must seek to know God's will, not for God to grant us our will.

James 1

"2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various **trials**, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces **endurance**. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him **ask of God**, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask **in faith** without any doubting, for the one who doubts ... 7 ... ought not to **expect** that he will receive anything from the Lord,"

Wisdom

is knowing God's will
and stepping out in it with faith.



Three issues
to address
In premarital
counseling

Know **yourself**
and **who** you
are marrying.
Know what the
world **grooms**
you to expect.
Know what God
expects you
to handle.

God calls us to (agape) the person we marry,
not to marry the person we love, or to
expect them to meet needs that
only God can meet.

Man's wisdom starts with God's will.

James 4

"1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? **Is not the source your pleasures that wage war** on your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. 3 You do not have because



you do not ask. **You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives**, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."



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."

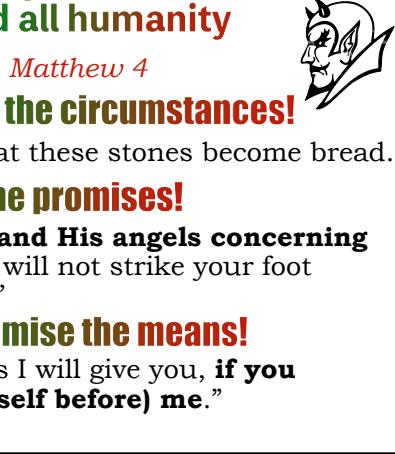


The way Jesus and the Apostles address hardships in this life is significant & shocking.

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 12

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

2. Bereans must watch out for misplaced hopes.

What is this sin that "so easily entangles us"?



Could it be the expectations of a distorted reading of the Word and Way of the Cross?

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."



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;"

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 be aware of in building Godly Expectations.

- **Promises** - God expects us to take our baptism seriously and die to self in this life.
- **Bibliolatry** - Don't treat the Bible as an encyclopedia of proof texts without a **context**.
- **Old Covenant** - Don't assume all Scripture (ie. Old Cov.) is **directed TO or ABOUT us**.
- **Examples** - Jesus, his Apostles, and all his followers are **alien ambassadors** in this world and expect experiences that are a **platform for witness**, not heaven on earth.

What can we expect?

- ✓ **A broken world** - THIS world will never become heaven on earth.
- ✓ **The dignity of God's image** in all humans (appetite, antenna, accountability).
- ✓ **Four things we can't change** - the past, the truth, other people, consequences of events.
- ✓ **Don't take responsibility** for things we can't control.
- ✓ **Take responsibility** for our response to life's ups & down.

Expectations are at the heart of the Christian Gospel

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

Expectations are not a problem when we seek wisdom, have faith & show up.



Hard Questions

