

*apptoteach.org*

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*Colossians 1:24-2:3*  
**Lesson #7**  
*Mysteries revealed*  
**03/8/2026**

1

**As the Body of Christ, bearing God's image, Christians:  
EXPERIENCE the Word and Way of the Gospel of Christ?**

*Colossians 1:24-2:3*

"<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions. <sup>25</sup> Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out **the preaching of the word of God,** <sup>26</sup> that is, **the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints,** <sup>27</sup> to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. <sup>29</sup> And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. <sup>1</sup> **For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf,** and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, <sup>2</sup> that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

2

**As the Body of Christ, bearing God's image, Christians:  
EXPERIENCE the Word and Way of the Gospel of Christ.**

**EXPECT to share the suffering of the Body of Christ**

*Colossians 1*

"<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do **my share on behalf of His body** (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions. <sup>25</sup> Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out the **preaching of the word of God.**"

- Paul's ministry models Jesus' **"taking up his cross and following Jesus"** (Matt.16:24).
- Jesus and the Apostles repeatedly teach disciples to view **hard circumstances as opportunities to shine.**
- The **most powerful witnesses** we can offer is our response to good and especially bad circumstances.

3

**THE  
PASSION  
OF THE CHRIST**

JIM CAVIEZEL

**A love story**

"Of all the great religious leaders of history, Jesus alone came for the purpose of dying."  
*Fulton J. Sheen*

4

*1 Corinthians 15:19*

"If we have hoped in Christ in this life only **(or by our own merit)**, we are of all men most to be pitied."

5

**As the Body of Christ, bearing God's image, Christians:  
EXPERIENCE the Word and Way of the Gospel of Christ.**

**EXPOSE the Gospel of past mysteries in Christ.**

*Colossians 1*

"<sup>26</sup> that is, **the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations;** but has now been manifested to His saints, <sup>27</sup> to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**"

- The Old Covenant gives **hints of the New,** but not until the Word & Way of the Cross and the baptism of Christ's Spirit, was made clear.
- One of the greatest challenges of following Christ is **letting go of the O.C., worldly culture, its comforts.**
- The N.C. would **make many things new.**

6

## New Testament Introduction

1. A new addition - Inspired Scripture
2. A new covenant - The Biblical context
3. A new message - The Word of Life
4. A new lifestyle - The Way of the Cross
5. A new nature - The Spirit of Christ
6. A new Israel - The Body of Christ
7. A new mission - The Disciples of Christ
8. A new hope - The Return of Christ

7

**1 Cor. 13:4-7** Love is a response to

|                           |                   |   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---|
| patient                   | trials            | Respond to GOD'S SPIRITUAL dog whistles.<br><br><i>Look at life's circumstances as opportunities to respond with faith, hope, and love.</i> |
| kind                      | insults           |   |
| not jealous               | success of others |   |
| does not brag             | success of self   |   |
| is not arrogant           | power & authority |   |
| not unbecoming            | freedom           |   |
| not self seeking          | competition       |   |
| is not provoked           | confrontation     |   |
| holds no grudges          | injustice         |   |
| does not rejoice          | failure of others |   |
| rejoices in the truth     | gossip & slander  |   |
| bears all things          | losses            |   |
| believes/hopes all things | discouragement    |   |
| endures all things        | delayed hopes     |   |

8

Satan does not want to take away our faith, hope, and love.

He just wants to control the

**object & source**

**of our faith, hope & love.**



9

Satan delights in our our sensitivity to right and wrong so long as it leads to fear, pride, vengeance, or depression,

**rather than repentance.**



10

**The temptation of Jesus & all of us is: to invest our faith in the right source but for the wrong things.**

*Matthew 4:1-11*

“<sup>3</sup> **Command** that these stones become bread.”

**Change circumstances!**

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

**Claim promises!**

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

**Compromise means!**

11

As the Body of Christ, bearing God's image, Christians: **EXPERIENCE** the Word and Way of the Gospel of Christ.

**EXPORT** this Gospel to the world, making disciples of Christ.

*Colossians 1*

“<sup>28</sup> And we proclaim Him, **admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom**, that we may **present every man complete in Christ**. <sup>29</sup> And for this purpose also I labor, **striving** according to His power, which mightily works within me.”

• Our witness to the world is a show and tell ministry as **Anointed, Alien, Ambassadors for Christ**.

• Jesus' miracles were signs, not solutions as **our behavior is a sign that makes our message heard** as a solution to the human dilemma.

• The greatest tool a local church has in reaching the lost is **its posture, and pulpit in the community**.

12

## “T”ing up good leadership

Tender

Tough

Thankful

Tolerant

Trust

Trustworthy

Truth

Transparent

## “T”ing up healthy community

13

As the Body of Christ, bearing God’s image, Christians: EXPERIENCE the Word and Way of the Gospel in Christ.

EXPLORE the full depth of their inheritance “in Christ”.

*Colossians 2*

“1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf, and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and **attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself**, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

- Mature disciples are essential for a healthy church in that **they stamp out “churchianity”, “bibliolatry”, “superficiality”, anxiety, shame, and bitterness.**
- Disciples that stop learning, **stop growing, and start fading away spiritually.**

14

## Spiritual Drifter Disorder (SDD)

- Symptoms - low serenity, security, significance.
- Causes - misplaced faith and hope
- Prevention - see the big picture
- Treatment - modeling, teaching, prayer

*Hebrews 2*

“1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.”

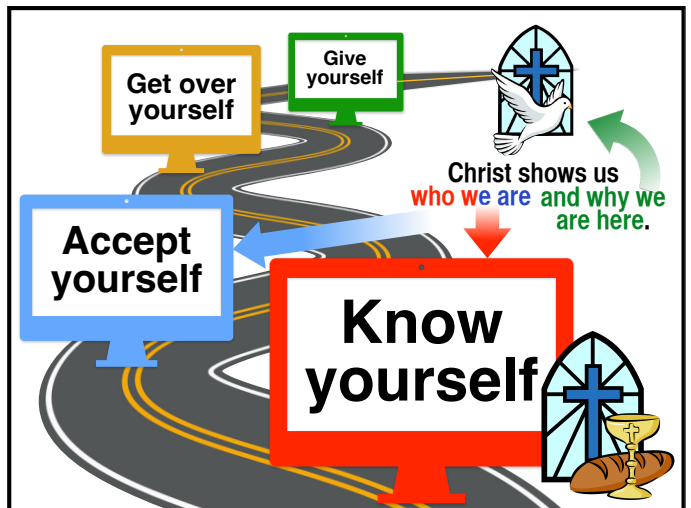
“this reason” - **Jesus is the final word from God.**

“closer attention” - **The details of being “in Christ”.**

“have heard” - **The Apostles spell this out for us.**

“drift away from it” - **We are always in process (growing toward or drifting away from Christ).**

15



16

### Know yourself

- being honest with yourself is the first step to peace.

*Bearing God’s image*

### Accept yourself

- applying God’s grace to yourself by faith is step two.

*Secure in Christ*

*Living sacrifice*

### Get over yourself

- a sign that you are healthy and postured to serve.

*Making a difference*

### Give yourself

- walking in the way of the Cross as a part of the “by faith” family

17



18

*Ephesians 4*

“20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”



19

When the Son shines  
all other stars  
are hard to see.

20

*Colossians*

Next week  
Col.2:4-15

“In Christ”  
blessings

21