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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."

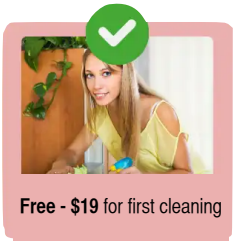
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II Thessalonians



2

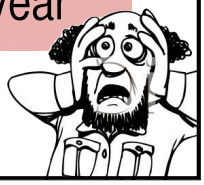
Is Homeaglow legit?





Yes But

you better read the fine print



3

The Gospel sounds like "Good News"

John 3:16

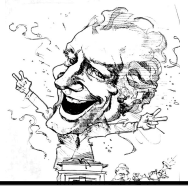
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life**."

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."

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."



4

But what about

Romans 2

"5 … the **righteous judgment of God**, 6 who *will render to every man* ***according to his deeds*****:** …13 for not the hearers of the Law are just before God, but **the doers of the Law will be justified**."

2 Corinthians 5:10

"For we must all appear before **the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may be **recompensed for his deeds in the body**, according to what he has done, **whether good or bad**."

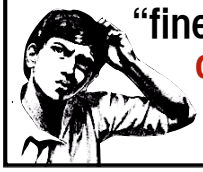


5

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 works, not faith.

Matt.16:27, Rom.2:6-8, 2Cor.5:10, 1Pet.1:17, Rev.20:12-13



Bereans look at the Biblical "fine print" and often feel confused, misled, and insecure.

6

Challenging Truths from 2 Thess. 2

1. **Vs.1-12** God's Kingdom has two domains of calling & conduct (1) bearing a cross in this life, and (2) a crown in the next.
2. Justifying (saving) faith extends beyond the "New Cov." Gospel that Paul preached.
3. **Vs.13-14** God's election is not "to our faith in Christ" but "of Christ" and all "in him" by faith.
4. **Vs.15-17 God's judgment is of both human works and Christ's works.**

7

2 Thessalonians 3

"15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our **Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace**, 17 **comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word**."

The Greek word translated "comfort" is related to the word used of the Holy Spirit as a "comforter" who "comes alongside" to affirm, and assure.



8

1 John 2

"1 My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous**; 2 and **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins;** and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."

Being justified "in Christ" by faith brings:

1. **ATONEMENT - what the cross of Christ has done in satisfying God's wrath on sin.**
2. **ADVOCACY - what the Son of God does to confirm our hope and comfort our hearts.**

9

The wrath of God against sinners comes in two contexts.

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:

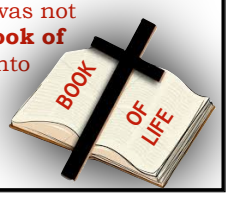
and another book was opened, which is **the book of life;**

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. ...14 This is the second death, the lake of fire.

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



BOOKS



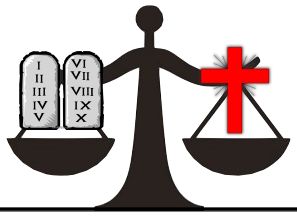
10

Eternal judgment is among the elementary foundations of Christian faith.

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**."

Great white throne



Book of life

"faith toward God"

11

Jesus fulfilled the Law's demands.

Matthew 5:17

"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish but to fulfill**."

He fulfilled the moral demands of the Law of Moses for all of us Rom.10:4, Heb.10:1-14

He fulfilled the promises of an indwelling Holy Spirit in Jer.31:33, Ezek.36:26-27, & Lk.24:44

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, 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.**"

12

Revelation 20:11-15 ***(interpretive paraphrase)***

"Everyone's motives and behaviors will be exposed in the final judgment before a holy God who will judge all justly based on their works (which separate them from God) in the "lake of fire".

"The Book of Life will also be opened exposing all those who are a part of the "Body of Christ" by faith, who will not face the "lake of fire" being clothed in Christ's righteousness."



13

What does God expect from humans?

- **God calls** us simply to be true to ourself as a human being, bearing God's Image.
- **God is the standard** and will judge justly and impartially.
- **God graciously provided** His Redeemer Son for all who know that they fall short of God's calling.
- **All who receive God's gift by faith** are saved in that they are united (imputed) with His Son's perfection.
- **God forces no one** to believe although all have that option.
- **All who chose to stand before God** on their own merit will be treated justly as it is their choice.

14

The just wrath of God will NOT come on those who are in Christ by faith.

It has already come on the Cross of Christ and is finished for those who are in Christ.

The GOSPEL



Those without faith in the Gospel, *while in this world are as close to heaven as they will get.*



Those in Christ by faith, *while in this world are as close to hell as they will get.*

15

The GOSPEL

Ephesians 2

"4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of **His great love** with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace** you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, **in Christ Jesus**, 7 **in order that in the ages to come He might show** the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works,** which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

16

Ephesians 4

"11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for **the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ**; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ... 15 but **speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,** 16 from whom the whole body, **being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

Disciples are called to
BUILD & BE the Body of Christ.

17

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."

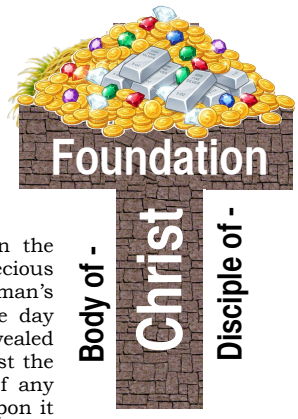
The "Great Commission" is
to make Disciples, and build the Body of Christ.
It is much more than world evangelism.

Spiritual Bodybuilding starts with the right foundation and is judged by its quality.

This is the heart of Apostolic teaching and the church's purpose.

18

The Bema judgment is not about saving faith but about how we build the church in making disciples.



1 Corinthians 3

"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. 14 If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward."

19

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."

Reward and loss has to do with how we build (God's temple) on the foundation (Christ).

"16 Do you not know that **you are a temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 **If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him,** for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are."

Reward and loss may be experienced in this life (and or) the next.

20

suffer loss **receive reward**

We will reap what we sow IN THIS LIFE.

Galatians 6

"7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.** 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life."

In the end all will be well for those "in Christ".

Revelation 7:17

"And God shall wipe away
all tears from their eyes."

21

"We in Christ"
Christians are to be comforted by God's love and grace for all who simply believe.

"Christ in us"
Christians are called to show the world God's love in the way they behave.

What Christ has done FOR us		What Christ can do IN & THROUGH us
Christ's Spirit enlightens us		Christ's Spirit enables us
IMPUTED righteousness		IMPLEMENTED righteousness
PEACE		POWER
Done		Dynamic
Be a Disciple		Build the Body of Christ
ADOPTED / ANOINTED		ALIEN / AMBASSADERS

The GOSPEL



22

What should we take seriously from this text?

2 Thessalonians 3

"15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our **Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace**, 17 **comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word**."

- Paul's teaching / modeling of the Gospel
- The comfort of its hope & grace
- The calling to BE & BUILD Christ's Body
- The caliber of our words and works.

23

II Thessalonians



24