**Slide 1**

apttoteach.org

# THE BEREANS
## ACTS 17:11

*1 Timothy 5:11-16*
*Lesson #15*
*Social Welfare*
*07/30/2023*

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**Slide 2**

*James 1:5*
"if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,"

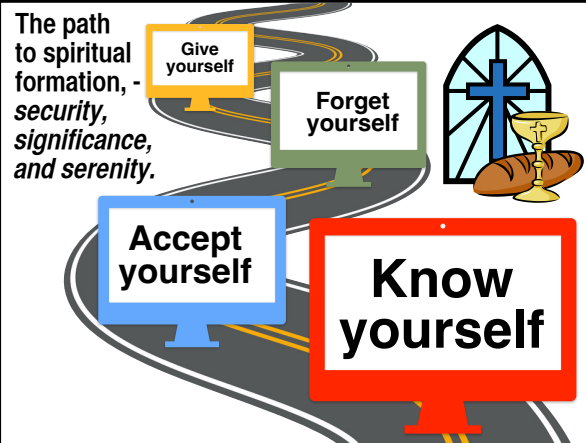## "True prayer is asking God for what **He** wants."

*William Barclay*

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**Slide 3**

**God wants the church to make a mockery of the world's misplaced hope,**

**as it responds to social injustice with the Word and Way of the Cross.**

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**Slide 4**

The path to spiritual formation, - *security, significance, and serenity.*

Give yourself

Forget yourself

Accept yourself

## Know yourself

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**Slide 5**

**SOCIAL WELFARE is a major theme in Scripture.**

- Some have made it the **ESSENCE** of all religions, including Christianity.

- Scripture makes the **FAMILY** the model for the implementation of social justice.

  - **GOD** is pictured as a father.
  - God's **PEOPLE** are a family (Acts 17:28).
  - The Messiah is God's only begotten **SON**.

- "The family is the first essential cell of human society." *Pope John XXII*

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**Slide 6**

NOTE: The N.T. is focused on social justice.
- but ONLY within the faith community.

NOTE: **It was not as though:**
- God did not care about the outside world.
- Jesus & the Apostles were intimidated by Nero.
- Nero's Roman empire had few social problems.

**It looks as though God was:**
- Reminding us that our hope is not in this world? Matt.4:8-11
- Developing and demonstrating the nature of true peace, power, and grace? 1 Cor.1:26-31

## Slide 7

"The religious left wants the kingdom on earth without its king and before its time."

Richard John Neuhaus

**Jesus' miracles were signs not solutions to social injustice**
(with one exception).

The resurrection was the miracle that addressed the hope of social justice.

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## Slide 8

*1 Timothy 5*

**Vs.1-2 Principle**

"1 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to ~~him~~ as ~~a father~~, ~~the~~ younger men as brothers, 2 the older ~~women~~ ~~as~~ ~~mothers~~, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity."

RESPECT

**Vs.3-15 Contextual application**

3 But refuse to put younger widows on the list, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, 12 thus incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge.13 And at the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention. 14 Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach; 15 for some have already turned aside to follow Satan. 16 If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, let her assist them, and let not the church be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

**Vs.16 Summation**

"16 If any woman who is a believer has dependent widow~~s, let her assist them~~ ~~and let not the~~ church be burdened~~, so that it may~~ assist those who are widows indeed."

NUCLEAR FAMILY CHURCH

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## Slide 9

**In this passage we see an example of application that is culturally conditioned.**

**NOTE:**
"In the ancient world it was next to impossible for a single or a widowed woman to earn her living honestly. . . . She either had to marry, or had to dedicate her life completely to the service of the Church; there was no halfway house between the two."

*William Barclay*

**We need to recognize key principles and apply them to OUR cultural context.**

**There are two points that we can take from this text.**

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## Slide 10

**1. Social welfare (justice) needs the culture's support for healthy, functioning, families.**

"3 Honor widows who are **widows indeed**; 4 but if any widow **has children or grandchildren**, let them first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family, and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable (**proper**) in the sight of God.

5 Now she who is a widow indeed, and who **has been left alone** has fixed her hope on God, and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day. 6 But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives. 7 Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach.

8 But **if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever**." (Matt.15:4-8)

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## Slide 11

**2. Social welfare (justice) policy demands screening lest it encourage delinquency.**

11 But refuse to put younger widows on **the list**, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they **want to get married**, 12 thus incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge. 13 And at the same time they also **learn to be idle**, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and **busybodies**, talking about things not proper to mention. 14 Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach; 15 for some have already turned aside to follow Satan. 16 If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, let her assist them, and let not the church be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed."

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## Slide 12

**How is the Christian to relate to the state with respect to social justice and the general welfare?**

*1 Timothy 2*

"1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, **so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity**. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,"

**Our goal is to promote FREEDOM to show the WAY and tell the WORD.**

*Galatians 6:10*

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith**."

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## Slide 13

*Matthew 22:21*
"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

God and Government

**A challenge for America's founding fathers and for us.**

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## Slide 14

*"rendering to Caesar"*
**Promoting the general welfare**

✓ **Maximize personal freedom,** while supporting the nuclear family.

✓ **Legislate social justice** - reflecting common, majority values in areas where the constitution is not specific.

✓ **Elect civil servants** - that are civil, servants, with character, who honor the truth and put the general welfare above personal power / welfare.

✓ **Support a social safety net** - tax support for the truly needy. Those who "have lots" should freely share with needy "have nots" or be taxed to do so.

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## Slide 15

**Tension is built into our system of Government.**

e pluribus — unum
libertarian — cooperative
freedom — justice
personal rights — general welfare

Community is built on cooperation, compassion, & compromise not civil war.

*Look at community as a bigger calling than just defeating your political rivals.*

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## Slide 16

### Challenges

1. **As the Body of Christ we are to be a lighthouse to our country, with respect to:**
   1) social justice now and
   2) eternal hope in the end?

2. **We are to use our power as Jesus did - pastoral and prophetic?**

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## Slide 17

apttoteach.org - Hot Topics / Christian Ethics (39 lessons)

SHOW & TELL LIVE

**The Way of the Cross.**

**The Word of the Cross.**

**DURHAM RESCUE MISSION**
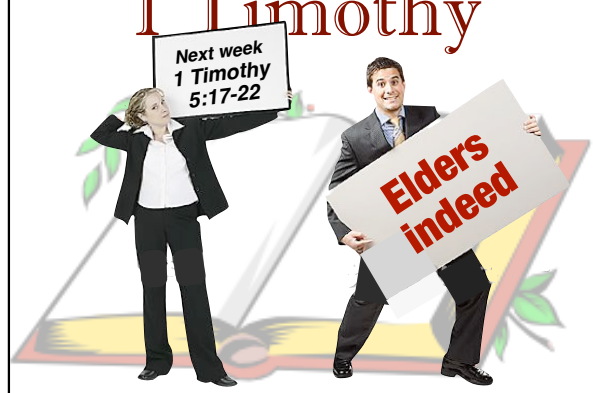*Restoring Families and Giving Hope*

**RESCUE MISSIONS, INC.**

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## Slide 18

1 Timothy

Next week
1 Timothy
5:17-22

Elders indeed

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