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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Timothy 2:14-19
Lesson #28
Discerning the Truth
11/5/2023

1

A universal challenge - SUFFERING

2 Timothy 1

“8 Therefore **do not be ashamed** of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but **join with me in suffering for the gospel** according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, . . .”

Paul does NOT ask for:

- **Relief** from suffering
- **Retribution** for injustice

Paul DOES ask that:


- **Timothy not be ashamed of the Gospel**
- **Timothy not be afraid of suffering**

2

A universal challenge - SUFFERING

It raises two questions

1. **What is the nature of our hope?**
2. **How are we to read the the Old Testament with its many promises of deliverance from suffering?**



3


2 Timothy 2

“14 Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to **wrangle about words**, which is useless, and leads to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **handling accurately the word of truth**. 16 But avoid **worldly and empty chatter**, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the **resurrection has already taken place**, and thus they upset the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.”

4

1. What is the nature of our hope?

- **Had the resurrection already taken place (spiritually)?**
- **Were (true) believers now living in the age of promised blessings (materially) that were to be claimed by faith?**
- **Or were the material blessings to come in this life through obedience to the Old Covenant Law, not a future resurrection?**



The common mistake was - a misplaced hope for peace & prosperity.

5


NOTE: Two modern forms of misplaced hope

“**Standing on the promises**”



“**Word of Faith**”


“**Following the rules**”.



Legalistic Fundamentalism

EXPECTATIONS
peace & prosperity

KEY TO THE DOOR
faith or obedience



6

2. How are we to read the Old Testament promises of deliverance from suffering?

- The authority of the Word of God is its **message**, not the Bible as a new Torah.
- Avoid treating the Bible as an **encyclopedia of proof texts**, filtered through a personal or contemporary culture lens.
- Context, **context, context, context!!!!!!**
- Discern the **MAJOR** themes and principles.
- Respect the Bible's **LITERARY** nature.
- Respect the differences between the **Old and New Covenants**.



7

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **handling accurately** the word of truth.”

1 Corinthians 13:11

“When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I **did away with childish things**.”

**When you read the Bible
“Put away childish things”.**

8



9

“In early 1960, as I was finishing my first year at Dallas Theological Seminary, I took a course from Dr. Howard Hendricks that would mark my life and ministry forever.”

Howard Hendricks

HOWARD G. HENDRICKS
WILLIAM D. HENDRICKS

LIVING BY THE BOOK

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF READING THE BIBLE

Chuck Swindoll

10

Wise people don't act without insight.

God said it!
I believe it!
That settles it!
Just do it!

THE **NIKE** CHRISTIAN
JUST DO IT

11

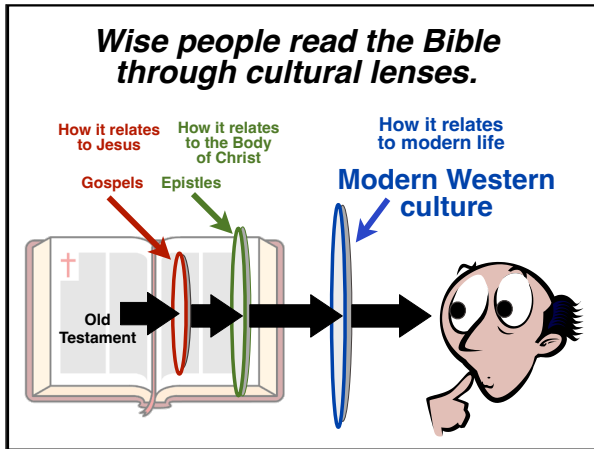
THE **NIKE** CHRISTIAN
JUST DO IT

NIKE Christians tend to apply before carefully observing and interpreting.

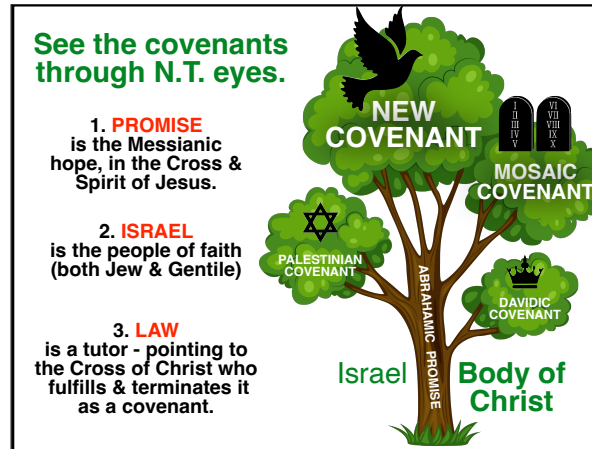
1. Observation
2. Interpretation
3. Application

DON'T CHANGE THE ORDER!

12



13



14

Galatians 3:16
 “Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to **seeds**,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your **seed**,” that is, Christ.”

Paul is not sighting any O.T. text as a “proof text” he is interpreting the O.T.
 (See also Isa.53 “suffering servant” as Jesus)

Leviticus 18:5
 “So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, **by which a man may live** if he does them; I am the Lord.”

This promise of life (salvation) “by works” is cited by Paul in Gal.3:12-13 as standing in contrast to “by faith”, where Christ’s good works are imputed to the believer.

15

Sabbath & Circumcision were O.C. signs
Exodus 35:2
 “For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy *day*, a Sabbath of complete rest to the Lord; **whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.**”

that were terminated under the N.C.
Colossians 2
 “16 Therefore **let no one act as your judge** in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day — 17 things which are **a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.**”

Romans 14:5
 “One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. **Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.**”

16

1 Corinthians 8:4
 “Therefore concerning the **eating of things sacrificed to idols**, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.”

“Things sacrificed to idols” is a cultural issue illustrating a universal principle.

Matthew 19:8
 “He said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart, **Moses permitted** you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.’”

Divorce was normally not God’s will (Matt.19:6) but it was allowed in Deut.24:1-4 as the lesser of two evils.

17

Don’t punctuate all theological issues with:

(!) (.) (,) (?)

“I AM FULLY CONVINCED.” “I have some settled beliefs.” “I have tentative insights.” “I only have questions.”

Proverbs 18:13
 “He who gives an answer **before he hears**, It is folly and shame to him.”

1 Corinthians 13:12
 “For now we see **in a mirror dimly**,”

18

(!) (.) (,) (?)

"I AM FULLY CONVINCED." "I have some settled beliefs." "I have tentative insights." "I only have questions."

As I have grown older I have been compelled and comfortable expressing some doctrines with less certainty.

19

God made man in His Image.
Man tends to return the favor.

Romans 1
 "22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and **exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man ...**"

Does divine sovereignty mean micromanaged control of all details?

Is our God too small?

20

The End Times (Matthew 24-25)

Beginning of birth pangs	Great Tribulation	2nd Coming of Christ	Parables	Final Judgment
24:4-14	24:15-28	24:29-31	24:32-25:30	25:31-46
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> False Christs will come Wars & rumors of wars Famine & earthquakes Believers hated by all Conflict within the ch. False prophets Many are misled Increased lawlessness Love will grow cold World evangelism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desecration Tribulation False signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cosmic signs Christ is seen Trumpet sounds Elect gathered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fig Tree Servants Virgins Talents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheep Goats
1 Thess.5:1-11	2 Thess.2:1-12	1 Thess.4:13-18 2 Pet.3:3-13	?	2 Pet.3:13
Rev. 6-7 (seals)	Rev. 8-18 (trumpets, bowls)	Rev.19	The Millennium	Rev.20

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Chronological progression of the End Times (Matthew 24-25)

"The beginning of birth pangs"	"The Great Tribulation"	Second Coming of Christ	Judgment day
24:4-14	24:15-28	24:29-31	25:31-46
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> False Christs will come Wars & rumors of wars Famine & earthquakes Believers hated by all Conflict within the ch. False prophets Many are misled Increased lawlessness Love will grow cold World evangelism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Abomination of desolation" Unparalleled tribulation False signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christ's return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew 24:34: "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."
Events 30%	Ethics 70%		

22

Some popular books in the 20th cent. on End Times Prophecy

23

Predicted dates of Christ's return and the END

70	1533 (Oct.19)	1763 (Feb.28)	1880	1954 (Dec.21)	1995
247	1534 (April 5)	1780 (May 19)	1881	1957 (Apr.23)	1996 (Dec.13)
365	1544	1789	1890	1958	1997
380	1555	1790	1891	1959 (Apr.22)	1998
500	1556 (July 22)	1792	1895	1960	1999
793 (April 6)	1583 (April 28)	1794	1896	1962 (Feb.4)	2000
800	1584	1795 (Nov.19)	1899	1966	2001
806	1588	1801	1900	1967 (Aug.20)	2002
848	1600	1805	1901	1969 (Aug.9)/1972	2003
870 (March 25)	1603	1814 (Dec.25)	1908 (April 23)	1973	2004
992	1623 1624	1820 (Oct.14)	1910 (May 18)	1974	2005
995	(Feb. 1)	1832	1911	1975	2006 (Feb.12)
1000	1648 1654	1836	1914 (Oct.1)	1976	2007
1033	1656	1843 (April 28)	1915	1977	2008 (Mar. 21)
1184	1657	1844 (Mar.21)	1918	1978	2009
1186 (Sept.23)	1658	1845	1919 (Dec.17)	1980 (April.1)	2010
1260	1660	1846	1925 (Feb.13)	1981 (June 28)	2011 (Dec.31)
1284	1666 1673	1847 (April 7)	1928	1982 (Mar.10)	2012 (Dec.21)
1290	1688	1849	1934	1983	2017
1306	1689	1851	1935	1984 (Oct.2)	2020
1325	1694	1856	1936	1985 (Mar.25)	2022
1367	1697	1862	1938	1986	2023
1370	1700	1863	1941	1987 (Apr.29)	2025
1420 (Feb.14)	1708	1867	1943	1988 (Sep.15)	2026
1496	1716	1868	1945 (Sept.21)	1989 (Sept.30)	2033
1504	1719 (April5)	1869	1947	1990 (April 23)	2035
1524 (Feb.20)	1734	1870 (June 28)	1950	1991 (Mar.31)	2037
1525	1736 (Oct.13)	1872	1952	1992 (April 26)	2040
1528 (May 27)	1757	1874	1953 (Jan.9)	1993 (Nov.14)	2043
1532	1761 (April 5)	1878	1953	1994 (Sept.29)	?

24

How does God view those outside the Christian faith, who have not heard the Gospel?

Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must **believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.**”



Image of God
(responding
to light)



25

Acts 17

“23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ **What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.** 24 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 **that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;**”

26

John 10

“14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and **My own know Me**, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and **they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.**”

A believing remnant within Judaism recognized Jesus as the Messiah and followed him as did many from among the Gentiles who believed.

The true Israel made up the Body of Christ.

27

Romans 4

“3 For what does the Scripture say? “*And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.*” (*Gen.15:6*) 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but **believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,**

23 Now not for his (Abraham) sake only was it written, that it was reckoned to him, 24 but for our sake also, **to whom it will be reckoned, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,**”

28

The Lord of Mysteries

Israel knew God's covenant
The mercies of the Lord divine
Not seeing clear God's mystery
Of Gentiles grafted to His vine.



But when the light of God's broad plan
The mystery hid in ages past
Is brought to light at Calvary
A new perspective then is cast.



So when we contemplate the host
Who know not Christ but fear God still
We can't but wonder at the thought
Are other mysteries in His will?



29

*“Oh, the depth
of the riches both
of the wisdom and
knowledge of God!*

*How unsearchable are
His judgments and
unfathomable
His ways!”*

Romans 11:33

30

