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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*1 John 1:8-10*  
*Lesson #3*  
*Enlightened Gospel*  
*01/16/2022*

The path to spiritual formation

Give yourself

Forget about yourself

Accept yourself

**Know yourself**

1

“What is your spiritual self-image?”

2

“There is no coming to consciousness **without pain.**”

Carl Jung

3

“Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. **It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.**”

C.S. Lewis

4

**Christianity is the only religion that celebrates the suffering of its founder.**

**and calls its participants to be living sacrifices.**

5

## Why is John writing this letter?

1 John 2:26

“These things I have written to you concerning those who are **trying to deceive you.**”

### The great deception

1. **Fellowship with God** comes through special revelation knowledge.  
Our problem is not moral but mental, not sin but ignorance.
2. **Walking in the Light** puts us above and beyond the physical (material) world.  
The enlightened live above the uninitiated.

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1 John 1

“1 What was from the beginning, what **we** have **heard**, what we have **seen** with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands **handled**, concerning the Word of Life”

## (Previous lessons)

Signs of walking in the light

#1

**See the image of what God created us to be.**

7

1 John 1:7

“but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**”

## (Previous lessons)

Signs of walking in the light

#2

**See the power of the Cross to cleanse us.**

8

## (This lesson)

1 John 1

“8 **If we say that we have no sin**, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 **If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

Signs of walking in the light

#3

**See the path to fellowship with God through brokenness.**

9

**John is speaking TO BELIEVERS who are tempted to remove sin from the Gospel message.**

1 John 1

“9 **If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Is 1Jn.1:9 instructing carnal Christians as to how they can **restore** a right relationship with God?

Or is it reminding confused Christians as to how a person **comes to saving faith?**

10

Two types (contexts) of repentance.

**REPENT**

for **FELLOWSHIP**,  
“Saving faith”  
(once and for all)



- ★ The sin of unbelief
- ★ Conversion

repent

for **FRUITFULNESS**,  
“Godly discipline”  
(several times)



- ★ Acts of sin
- ★ Communion

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Is 1 JN.1:9 is related to  
**“REPENT”** or “repent”?

- The N.T. **language used** with respect to our relationship with God (“*forgive, cleanse from all sin*”) is reserved for salvation.
- **“Confession”** is linked to salvation - 1Jn. 2:23, 4:2,3,15, 2Jn.7, Jn.1:20, 9:22, 12:42.
- **Nowhere else** are sinning believers to confess in order to be forgiven by God.
- An “unforgiven Christian” is an **oxymoron** (1Jn.2:1-2).

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Paul recognizes two types of Christians.

*1 Corinthians 3*

“1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to **men of flesh**, as to babes in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still **fleshly**. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not **fleshly**, and are you not **walking like mere men**?”

**Fleshly**  
 who follow their  
 old sin nature.

**Fruitful**  
 who follow the  
 Spirit of Christ.

13

*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.”

Physical birth



14

Note how Paul addresses our coming to Christ and following after Christ.

*Romans 10:9*

“... if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved;”

Word of the Cross

*Romans 12:1*

“I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God,**



Way of the Cross

to present your bodies **a living and holy sacrifice,** acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”



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**Why do people come to Christ?**

**Some common answers**

- Social pressure (security) - family, friends, job, etc.
- Civil ethics (pragmatism) - American culture
- Emotions (experiences) - sermon, healing, etc.
- Promise of a better life here and now - prosperity
- Promise of a better life hereafter - heaven

**The vital answer**

**Enlightened response to personal sin, suffering, and sense in life**

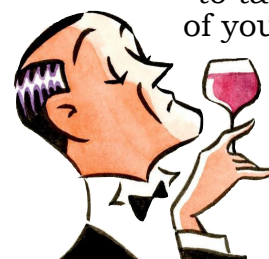
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**Have we lost this key?**

**1. The log in the eye problem.**

*Matthew 7:5*

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”



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### 1. The log in the eye problem.



I am:

- principled
- intense
- cautious
- flexible
- conservative
- generous
- tasteful

### 2. The “cook the books” problem.

“It’s not whether you win or lose but where you place the blame.”

“You need to let me explain.”

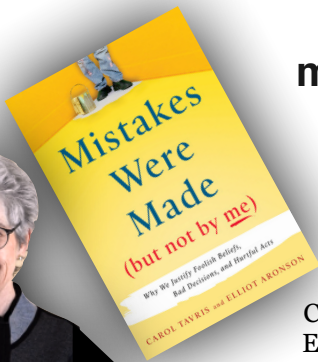
“Mistakes were made but not by me.”



“I have done that,’ says my memory. ‘I cannot have done that,’ says my pride, and remains inexorable.

Eventually – memory yields.”

Nietzsche:



by Carol Tavris & Elliot Aronson

### 3. The “put on a face” problem.

Matthew 23:27

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”

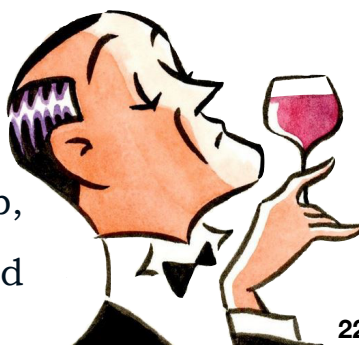


### 3. The “put on a face” problem.

“God must be proud to have a disciple like ME!”

“We are the church of the good looking sheep.”

“I always show up, shut up, cough up, look busy, and act holy.”



“Truth without love is brutality, and **love without truth is hypocrisy.**”

Warren Wiersbe



Never say "I love you"  
if you don't really care.  
Never talk of feelings  
if they aren't really there.  
Never hold my hand  
if your gonna break my heart.  
Never say you're going to...  
if you don't intend to start.  
Never look into my eyes  
if all you do is lie.  
Never say "hello"  
if you really mean "goodbye."

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## The Pharisee and the Publican

*Luke 18*

"9 And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer. 11 The **Pharisee** stood and was praying thus to himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. 12 I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'"

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"13 But the **tax-gatherer**, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.'"

**Jesus came to save  
sinners not saints.**

26

*Matthew 5:3*

"Blessed are the  
poor in spirit,  
for theirs is  
the kingdom  
of heaven."



**The path to the doorway of  
God's kingdom is  
brokenness.**

27

"There are only two kinds of men: the righteous, who believe themselves sinners; the rest, sinners who believe themselves righteous."

Blaise Pascal  
(1623-1662)



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# 1 John

Next week  
2:1-2

**What is  
finished and  
what is not**



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