

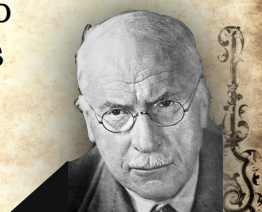
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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 John 5:19
Lesson #23
Overcomers Guide
06/05/2022


“Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, ‘**Something is out of tune**’.”



Carl Jung

1

“Satan’s greatest challenge to the Christian faith is the seemingly senseless suffering of those who follow it.”



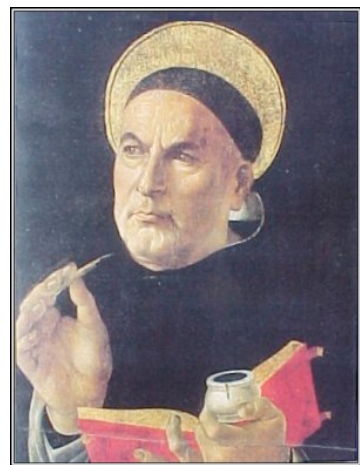
C.S. Lewis

2

“There are two serious arguments against the existence of the Christian God.”

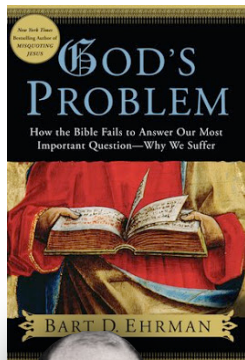
The challenge of science

The challenge of suffering



Thomas Aquinas

3




“Why the Bible Fails to Answer our Most Important Question – Why we Suffer?”

“I just began to lose it. It wasn’t for lack of trying. But I just couldn’t believe there was a God in charge of this mess.”

Dr. Ehrman’s point is very convincing

IF God is in charge of this mess.



4

1 John 5:19

“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

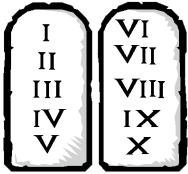
Paraphrase

“Christians are empowered by God’s Spirit, but live in a world that is still under the power of Satan.”

5

John 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you, **that in Me you may have peace.** In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; **I have overcome the world.**”



10 commandments for spiritual alien overcomers

1. Take your baptism seriously.

Two Domains

1 John 5:19

“We know that **we are of God,**

and **the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**”



The Church



The World

Facts about God’s kingdom

- ✓ **It exists in the spiritual realm** not the physical realm until Christ returns.
- ✓ **Its domain is the church** not THIS world.
- ✓ **Its people are alien ambassadors** resisting and overcoming this present world rather than reforming it.
- ✓ **This world like our body of flesh** is not fit for the glory of God’s kingdom and will be replaced at Christ’s return.

2. Expect resistance in this world.

1 Peter 4

“¹² Beloved, do not be **surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your **testing**, as though *something strange* were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on **rejoicing**, so that at the **revelation of His glory** you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are **blessed**, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you.”

THIS world is a hostile environment for all who bear the image of God -

A controversial assumption.

- ✓ **“Thy Kingdom come”** is for this world and at this time.
- ✓ **Dominion theology** is the cultural destiny and mandate of believers in this world.
- ✓ **Christian Nationalism - America is to be God’s embassy on this planet.**



3. Maintain abiding faith in Christ.

1 John 4:4

“You are from God, little children, and **have overcome** them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

1 John 5

“⁴ For whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world; and this is the **victory** that has **overcome** the world — our **faith**. ⁵ Who is the one who **overcomes** the world, but he who **believes** that Jesus is the Son of God?”

4. Realize the curse of the “fall”.

Genesis 3:17

“**Cursed** is the ground **because of you**,”

Romans 8

“19 For **the anxious longing of the creation waits** eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For **the creation was subjected to futility**, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 **that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption** into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that **the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.**”

12

5. Find hope in Christ’s 2nd coming.

1 Corinthians 15

(speaking of the resurrection) “23 ... Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming, 24 **then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.** 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 **The last enemy that will be abolished is death.** 27 For *He has put all things in subjection under His feet.*”

13

This material world will be replaced, not reformed.

2 Peter 3

“7 But by His word the **present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire**, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. . . . 10 . . . and **the earth and its works will be burned up.**”

Revelation 21:1

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the **first heaven and the first earth passed away**, and there is no longer any sea.”

14

6. Invest your heart wisely.

1 John 2

“15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is **passing away**, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God **abides forever.**”

15

Matthew 6:19

“Do not store up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”

Matthew 13:22

“And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, **and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches** choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

Matthew 16:26

“For what will a man be profited, **if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

16

7. Fear not the loss of life.

Hebrews 2

“14 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that **through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil;** 15 **and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.**”

17

8. Be the “Body of Christ”.

Ephesians 1

“18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the **hope of His calling**, what are the **riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His **power toward us who believe**. . . . 22 **And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church**, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

18

9. Recognize the root spiritual issue.

1 Peter 5:8

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”



Messengers of Satan are everywhere seeking to entrap the unwary.

(Confusing, Accusing, and Abusing)

19

General observations on FAITH.

- ✓ Everyone has faith **in something**.
- ✓ Saving faith starts with **perception**, which is the result of many factors.
- ✓ The real issue is - the **object and subject** of our faith.



Satan does not want to take away our faith, hope, and love. He just wants to direct the **object and subject** of our faith, hope & love.

20

Hebrews 12

“1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and **the sin which so easily entangles us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.”

The sin which so easily entangles - investing in worldly hopes.

21

Worldly hope rests in these lies:

- **Material prosperity** will bring social peace and justice.
- **An educated world** will bring humanity to its senses.
- **An organized church** will unify the Body of Christ.
- **Political power** will bring in God’s kingdom.
- **Military strength** will give us security.
- **Christian laws** will reform humanity.

Ephesians 6:12

“For our struggle is not against **flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the **spiritual forces** of wickedness in the **heavenly places**.”

22

10. Focus on your response to life’s circumstances.

1 Peter 1

“6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by **various trials**, 7 that the **proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ:”

Nurture Faith, Hope, and Love that is not contingent on this life’s blessings or tribulations.

23

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

patient trials
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

Its not our circumstances that shape our life so much as our response to them.

24

Why is this important?

- ✓ It is the **basis of a separation** between church and state.
- ✓ It **defines the agenda** for Biblical people.
We are called to be **overcomers and ambassadors** but not reformers or redeemers.
- ✓ It **shapes our expectations** for this life.

25

Our quality of life is tied to how we relate to **God** and **also to this world.**

Position

Abiding It starts with our union with Christ

Aliens which makes us sojourners in this world.

Posture

Ambassadors It calls us to represent God's Kingdom in this world

Overcomers while avoiding the ways and means of this world.

26

10 commandments for spiritual alien overcomers.

1. Take your baptism seriously.
2. Expect resistance in this world.
3. Maintain abiding faith in Christ.
4. Realize the curse of the "Fall".
5. Find hope in Christ's 2nd coming.
6. Invest your heart wisely.
7. Fear not the loss of life.
8. Be the "Body of Christ".
9. Recognize the root spiritual issue.
10. Focus on your response to circumstances.



27

John 16:33

"**These things** I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; **I have overcome the world.**"

28

1 John

Next lesson 5:20

What does Jesus tell us about God?



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A bishop then must be ... apt to teach 1 Timothy 3:2

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