

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 John 10-11  
Lesson #29  
Vetting the Truth  
07/24/2022

## 2 John

“7 For many **deceivers** have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 **Watch yourselves**, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. 9 **Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God**; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring **this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting**; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.”

## NOTE:

- ✓ **“Comes to you”** - takes the initiative toward you.
- ✓ **“This teaching”** - the Word and Way of Christ.
- ✓ **“Take in, greet”** - endorse as one with you.
- ✓ **“Your house”** - the church (Christian community).
- ✓ **“Participates”** - shares responsibility.

### Psalm 1:1

“How blessed is the man who does not **walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!**”

## 2 Peter 3

“17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **be on your guard so that you are not carried away** by the error of unscrupulous people and lose your own firm commitment, 18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

## 1. Be careful who and what you listen to.

## The temptation of Jesus and all humanity

**Fear**

Matthew 4

**HOPE**

### Change the circumstances!

“3 **Command** that these stones become bread.”

### Claim the promises!

6 **He will command His angels concerning you** so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

### Compromise the means!

9 All these things I will give you, **if you prostrate yourself before me.**”

## 2. Be sure you get the big picture and the whole truth.

1.

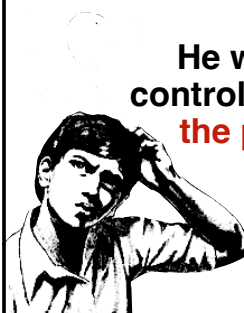
When truth is removed, we are left with only **power, passion, and perception.**

2.

He who controls the present, controls the past. **He who controls the past, controls the future.**

3.

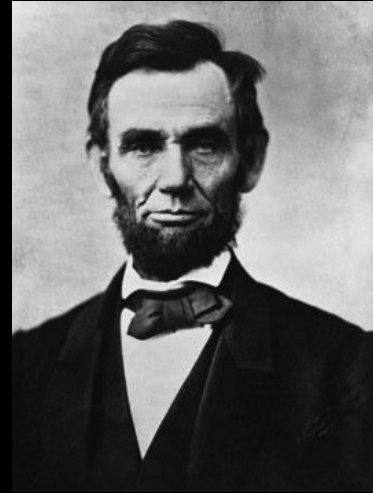
History that is **redacted or repressed** will be **repeated.**



## The British tax of the colonies?

- ✓ Should the American colonies pay the British tax (on just about everything)?
- ✓ **Loyalists** argue it is a tax that funds British protection of the colonies from the French & Indians. The **Patriots** argued that the tax comes without representation in Parliament.
- ✓ **Jesus' hypothetic counsel to Christians:** "My interest is in God's kingdom not man's. Pay the tax to be at peace; show the world that your faith, hope, and love are in something bigger than political liberty. If you can gain freedom through peaceful means, do so, but not at the expense of Christ's message or model."

6



"Don't believe everything you read on the Internet just because there's a picture with a quote next to it."

—Abraham Lincoln

7

## 3. Be wise in the way you read Scripture.

*Proverbs 26*

4 **Do not answer a fool** according to his folly, or you will also be like him.

5 **Answer a fool** as his folly deserves, that he not be wise in his own eyes.

**Principles & Context** guide **Proof-texts.**

**AGAPE love is a principle.**

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## Respect the cultural / literary genre of what you are reading.



"This is the holy Bible! God said it! I believe it! That settles it!"



9

## 4. Be wise in the way you manage conflicting principles.

*Matthew 19*

7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to *give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?*" 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.**"

**Some things may be both AWFUL and LAWFUL.**

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## 5. Respect the limits of your moral responsibility.

*1 Corinthians 5*

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the **immoral people of this world**, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with **any so-called brother** if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Do you not judge those who are within the church?** 13 **But those who are outside, God judges.** *Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.*"

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## 6. Care for those who are outside your comfort zone.

*Matthew 5*

“43 You have heard that it was said, ‘*You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.*’ 44 But I say to you, **love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you** 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; . . . 46 **For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same?** 47 **And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?** 48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

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## 7. Let AGAPE (love) take precedence over your rights.

*1 Corinthians 10*

“25 Eat anything that is sold in the meat market, without asking questions for conscience’ sake; . . . 28 But if anyone should say to you, “This is meat sacrificed to idols,” do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience’ sake; 29 I mean not your own conscience, but the other man’s; for why is my freedom judged by another’s conscience? . . . 32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; 33 **just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many, that they may be saved.**”

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## Taxation for funding abortions?

- ✓ Should Christian’s tax dollars go to Planned Parenthood?
- ✓ YES! Pay the tax and protest abortion issue on other grounds. NO! Don’t let your tax dollars support positions that violate your conscience.
- ✓ Did the Roman tax support programs that were offensive to God’s people?
- ✓ Which way allows you to render to Caesar and to God?

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## Same sex marriage?

- ✓ If homosexual conduct is to be tolerated, does that also apply to same sex marriage?
- ✓ Why are “civil unions” unacceptable? Is the issue about tax benefits etc. or the credibility of homosexuality?
- ✓ How would changing views of marriage affect the “general welfare” of the family and society?
- ✓ If homosexual passion is “a civil right” because it feels “natural”, what about other forms of sexual passion that “feel natural”?

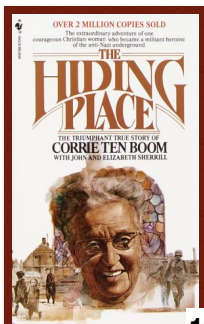
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## Betsie Ten Boom

was imprisoned with her family for hiding Jewish refugees as a part of the Dutch resistance during WWII.

Before her death, she experienced three visions about what she and her sister, Corrie were to do after their release. Her first vision was of a house for former prisoners. The second was to own a concentration camp where they could teach Germans to learn to love again. The third was that she and Corrie would travel the world telling what they had learned of God while in the camps.

Betsie died in prison at age 59. Corrie was released due to a clerical error and went on to tell the story of God’s love conquering fear in *THE HIDING PLACE*.



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