


apttoteach.org

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Peter 2:1-3
Lesson #7
Alien Expectations
10/31/2021


“We’re tired of the national conversation centering on
 “What should we fear?”
 and “Who should we blame?”.”



Brene Brown
(author)

1


“White evangelicals appear as the group most easily captive to conspiratorial nonsense, in greater panic about their political opponents, or as most aggressively anti-intellectual.”



Mark Noll
(The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind)

2

“You can safely assume that you’ve created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.”



Anne Lamott
(author)

3


“**Discernment** has to do with knowing how to **identify** the root of a problem, and also how to **respond** to it.”

4

2 Peter Finding our way in a Confused World

Salutation	Three aspects of staying on track.		
Faith and the faith 1:1-4	Cultivate a mature faith in sync with Scripture. 1:5-15 1:16-21	Control your expectations and responses. 2:1-22	Clarify true and false hope. 3:1-18
	Holiness	Heresy	Hope

Alien life coaching



1. **Expect conflict but be sure you are aliens to this world and not to the kingdom of God.**

5

The immediate context

2 Peter 1

“²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of **someone’s own interpretation**, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

The Gospel message:

- comes not from human creativity
- nor should it be shaped by human imagination

6

2 Peter 2

“¹ But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their indecent behavior, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³ and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

7

John 14

“²⁵ These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**”

John 16:13

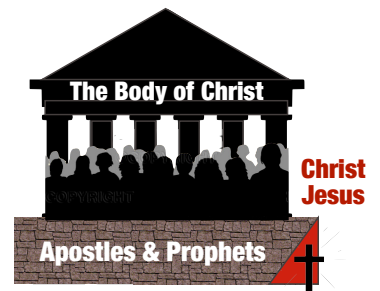
“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; . . . and **He will disclose to you what is to come.**”

This can be understood as Jesus’ endorsement of the apostles’ teaching.

8

Ephesians 2

“²⁰ having been built on the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord.”



The apostles’ teaching is the foundation of the FAITH (noun) for all who have ears to hear.

9

The Apostles’ message

- | | |
|--|--|
| • What Christ DID FOR us | • What Christ DOES IN & THROUGH us |
| • Grace applied to us by God | • Grace applied by us to others |
| • Sacrificial atonement on the Cross | • Living sacrifice as worship |
| • Virtue imputed through faith | • Virtue expressed through love |

The Word of the Cross

The Way of the Cross

10

Aliens should expect conflict in this life.

2 Peter 2

“¹ But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be **false teachers among you**, who will secretly **introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them**, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

1. False teachings will be inevitable.

- They will come from **among** us.
- They will **depart** from the Word and Way of the Cross.

11

**The Gospel message
met stiff resistance in the ancient world**

1 Corinthians 1

“22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, **to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness**, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

- Its message of **Word of the Cross** insulted the Jews.
- Its message of **Way of the Cross** insulted the Gentiles.

12

**Distortions of the Apostles' message
(then and now)**

**The Word of
the Cross**

- Distorting peace
Define the path
to peace with God,
ourselves, & others
by law rather than grace

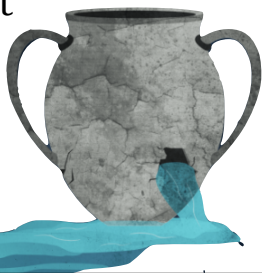
**The Way of
the Cross**

- Distorting power
Define the way we view
& respond to life's
suffering as economic /
political / psychological

13

Jeremiah 2:13

“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”



14

Aliens should expect conflict in this life.

2 Peter 2

“2 **Many will follow their indecent behavior**, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3 and **in their greed they will exploit you with false words**; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

2. False teachings will be influential.

- The name of Christ will be **shamed**.
- The saints will be **used & abused**.

15

**Paul's teaching was often distorted
then as it is now.**

2 Peter 3

“15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother **Paul**, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which there are some things that are hard to understand, which the **untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.**”

16

**The Way of the Cross
is not the way of this world.**

Matthew 4:1-11 (three temptations of Jesus)

vs 3 Change stones to bread
vs 6 Expect God to rescue
vs 9 Dominion my way

Matthew 20

“26 It is not so among you, but **whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant**, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 **just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**”

17

Why was Jesus not a political zealot?

John 18:36

“Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. **If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting**, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm”

Matthew 28:20

“and lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.”

18

A kingdom perspective

Right or left wing politics are not the **solution** because they are not the **problem**.

They are platforms, contexts, or stages on which the core challenges of life are **exposed** and **addressed**.

Secularism, social injustice, moral bankruptcy, environmental stewardship, health care, respect for family, etc. are **symptoms** and God’s **visual aids** to a fallen world to wake it up.

19



EWTN
GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

As a powerful woman, how do you respond to those who say that women are not free to be ordained to the priesthood in the Catholic Church?

“Power in the Kingdom of God is love. I don’t need a position or a title to exercise that power.”

Agnes Mary Donovan PhD
Superior General, Sisters of Life



20

Spiritual warfare in Ephesians

The Word of the Cross

ch. 1-3



Teach

The Way of the Cross

ch. 4-6



Illustrate



6:12-20

“12 For our struggle is **not against flesh and blood**, but against . . . the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. . . 19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to **make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel**, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains;”

21

Changing circumstances create anxiety tempting us to find hope in this world and forget that we are spiritual aliens.

Bane
Batman’s foe in
“The Dark Knight”



“To create despair you first need hope.”
(in the wrong things)

As the church places its hope in politics and the American Dream, it is turning people away from the true Gospel.

22

Luke 7:28

“I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than **John**; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Jesus was not referring to John Wayne
but John the Baptist

John 1:8

“He was not the light, but he came to **testify about the light.**”



23

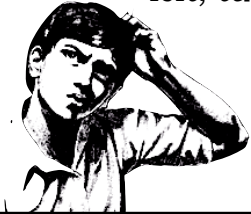
Some get political direction from a superficial reading of the Bible.

Ecclesiastes 10:2

“A wise man’s heart directs him toward the right, but the foolish man’s heart directs him toward the left.”

Proverbs 4:27

“Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.”



**Are we following
the Word and Way of
the Cross
or of our culture?**

24

Spiritual Warfare in Corinth

Not engaged in

Culture Wars

(Fighting
the world’s
core values)

Too engaged in

Civil Wars

(Fighting
other
Christians)

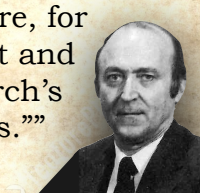
25

When Constantine united church & state:

“The mere outward conforming to the Christian faith, rather than being spiritually transformed, became all too frequent in the life of the church. It often impeded the spiritual transformations that were, for the most part, so vibrant and effective during the church’s first three hundred years.”

Avin J. Schmidt

“How Christianity Changed the World”



26

Lessons for Berean Aliens

- **Expect** conflict and confusion in the church.
- Build your faith on a strong **foundation**.
- Stand firm as a spiritual **alien** in this world.
- Major on **majors**, minor on minors.
- Be **careful** of your attachment to human leaders.

27

A

The Atlantic

IDEAS

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
IS BREAKING APART

Christians must reclaim Jesus
from his church.

By Peter Wehner

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/10/evangelical-trump-christians-politics/620469/>

28