

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Matthew 21:33-45**  
**Lesson #20**  
**Kingdom Fruit**  
**02/09/2020**

## What is our calling as Christians?

*Ephesians 4:1*

"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in manner worthy of **the calling with which you have been called.**"



*Matthew 21*

"33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers, and went on a journey. 34 And when the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. 35 And the vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. 37 But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and seize his inheritance.' 39 And they took him, and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?"

2

"41 They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers, who will pay him the proceeds at the proper seasons." 42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures,

*"The stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief corner stone; this came about from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"* (Ps:118:22-23)

43 **Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it.** 44 And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust." 45 And when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them. 46 And when they sought to seize Him, they feared the multitudes, because they held Him to be a prophet."

3

## Jesus is speaking prophetically to Israel (and the world).

- The **landowner** is God.
- The **vineyard** is Israel.
- The **vine-growers** are Israel's leaders.
- The **slaves** are God's prophets.
- The **son** is Jesus (the cornerstone).
- The **fruitful nation** is the church.



**What are we to learn from this?**

4

## 1. The relationship of O.T. to the N.T. is key to understanding both.

"43 Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you (Israel),

The nation Israel (the Old Covenant) is to be displaced

... and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it."

by the Body of Christ (the New Covenant) for the purpose of bearing fruit.

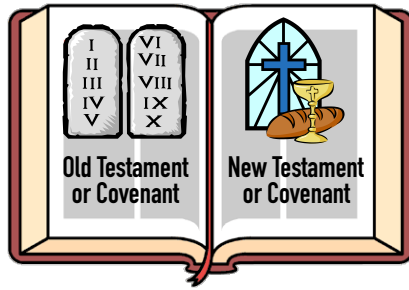


5

“The relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament is puzzling and has been controversial throughout church history.”



Jonathan Edwards



6

## 1 Corinthians 1

“10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “**I am of Paul,**” and “**I of Apollos,**” and “**I of Cephas,**” and “**I of Christ.**””

## The Christian’s relationship to the O.T. Law?

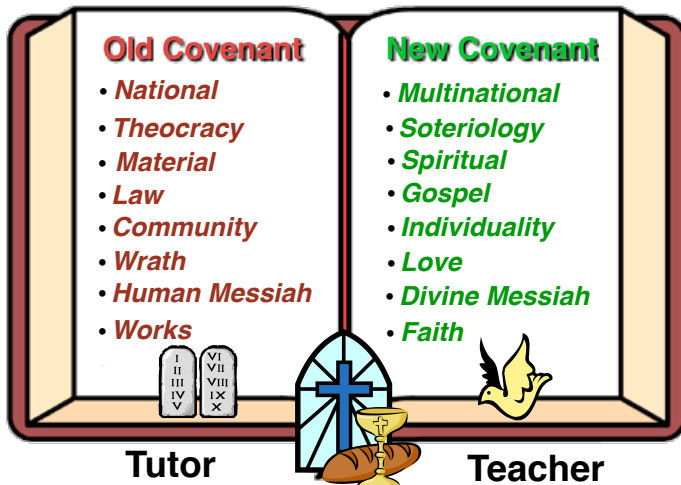
Cephas (Peter)  
& Christ



Paul &  
Apollos

7

## The challenge of two different emphases



8

## The **crucifixion, resurrection, Pentecost events** marked the beginning of the New covenant age.



*Ephesians 3:3-5*

“that by revelation there was made known to me the **mystery**, . . . which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it **has now been revealed** to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”

9

## The **crucifixion, resurrection, Pentecost events** marked the beginning of the New covenant age.



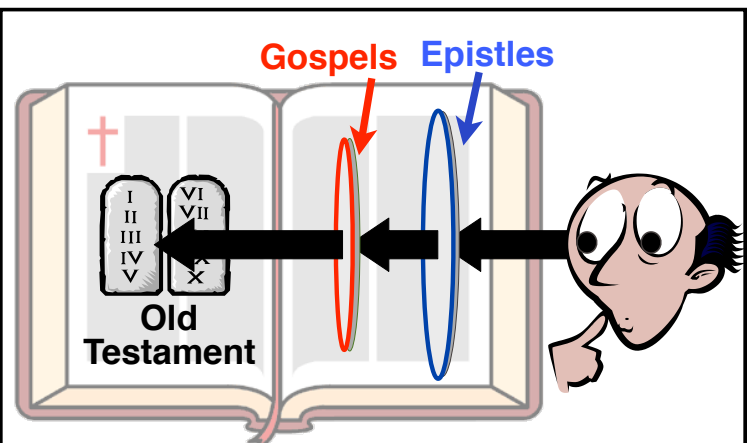
*1 Corinthians 11:25*

“This cup is the new covenant **in my blood.**”

*Acts 11:15*

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning.**”

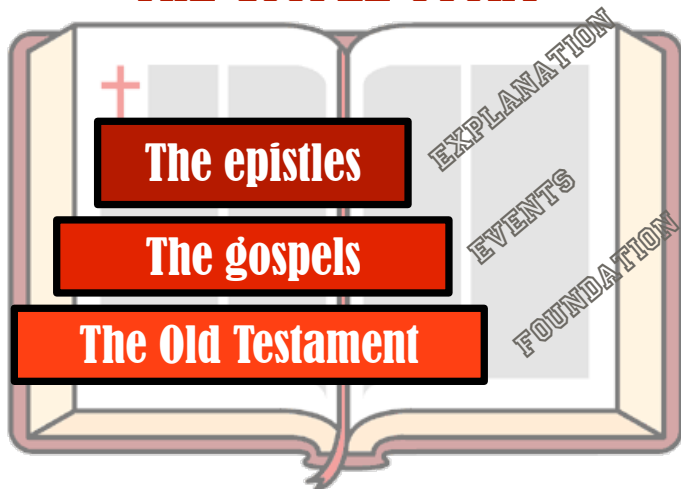
10



**We interpret the Scriptures through lenses.**

11

## THE GOSPEL STORY



12

## 2. The role of Jesus “the chief corner stone” in the Biblical story.

*Hebrews 1*

“1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days **has spoken to us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When **He had made purification of sins**, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

13

## 2. The role of Jesus “the chief corner stone” in the Biblical story.

**Jesus is not a poster boy for:  
the Law  
social justice  
saving the planet  
spiritual fulfillment**

**Jesus is not the means,  
he is the ends**

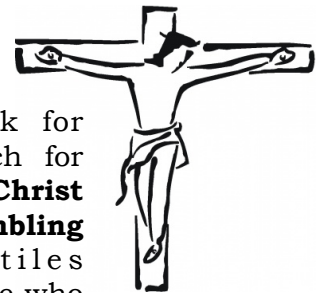
14

*Romans 9:33*

“Behold, I lay in Zion a **stone of stumbling and a rock of offense**,”

*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**.”



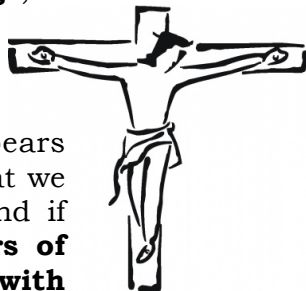
15

*Hebrews 1*

“in these last days, whom He appointed **heir of all things**,”

*Romans 8*

“16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, **heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”



16

## 3. The central role of faith in Biblical righteousness.

*Romans 9*

“30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by **faith**; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by **faith**, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who **believes in Him will not be disappointed**.””

17



### 3. The central role of **faith** in Biblical righteousness.

***Faith is not a means to righteousness through good works.***

***Faith is a path to God through Christ who is our righteousness.***

18

### 4. The central role of **God's image** in the fruit of the kingdom.

*John 1*

“4 In him was life, and **the life was the light of men**. . . . 9 There was the true light which, coming into the world, **enlightens every man**. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,”

19

### This is a unique distinctive of humanity

*Genesis 1:26-29*

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**;”

### Jesus is a model of perfect humanity

*Colossians 1:15*

“He (**Jesus**) is the image of the invisible God,”

### This is the basis of social ethics

*James 3*

“8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been **made in the likeness of God**; 10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.”

20

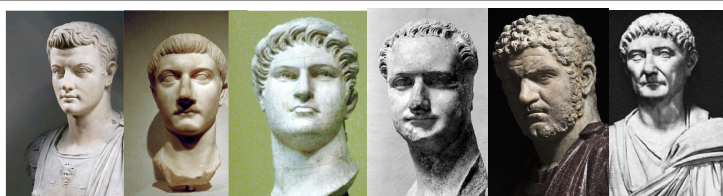
### Bearing fruit in the vineyard?

*Ephesians 4:1*

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in manner worthy of **the calling with which you have been called.**”



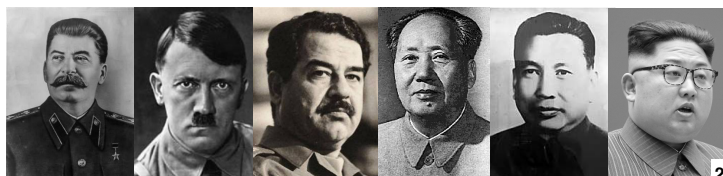
21



Tiberius (AD 14–37)    Caligula (AD 37–41)    Nero (AD 54–68)    Domitian (AD 81–96)    Caracalla (AD 211–217)    Diocletian (AD 284–305)

**These strong-men all shared a similar profile.**

Stalin    Hitler    Saddam    Mao    Pol Pot    Kim Jong-un



22

### 1. They were merciless to the opposition.

- They turned general welfare into cruelty.
- They turned critique into demonization.
- They turned debate into persecution.

### 2. They controlled the optics of truth.

- They dismissed unfavorable truth as opinion.
- They established favorable opinion as truth.

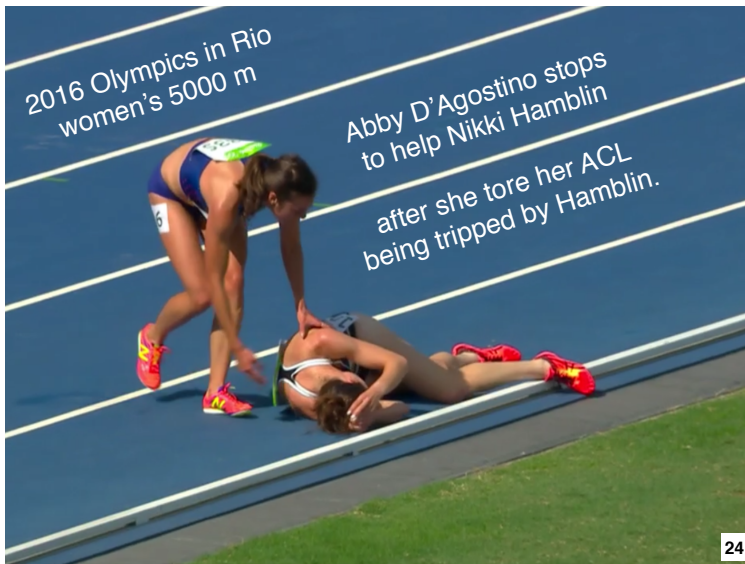
*John 1:14*

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**”



23





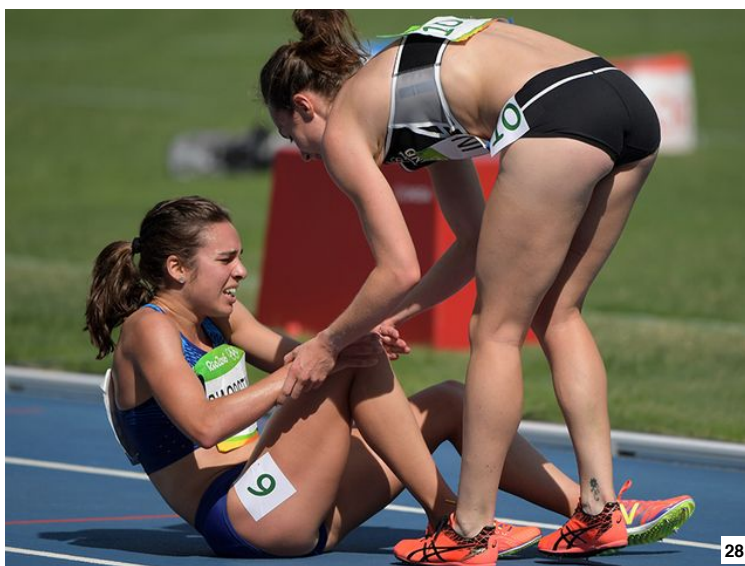
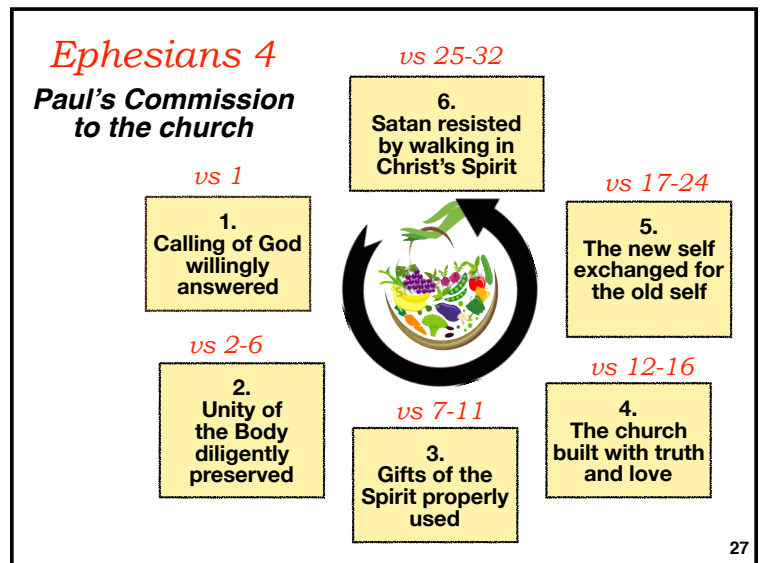
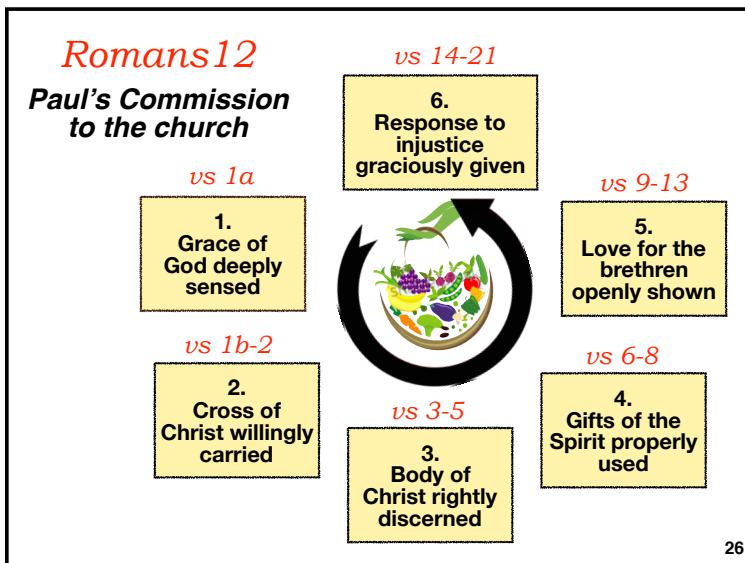
Abbey D'Agostino

"Although my actions were instinctual at that moment, the only way I can and have rationalized it is that God prepared my heart to respond that way"

"This whole time here, He's made clear to me that my experience in Rio was going to be about more than my race performance — and as soon as Nikki got up I knew that was it."

Hamblin described D'Agostino as "an amazing woman" and revealed that the pair had never met before the collision.

25



## Like the wine growers we have freedom and responsibility

- We are made in the image of God with a spiritual antenna pointing toward heaven.
- Our responsibility is not unreasonable. We are simply called to be fully human.
- This starts with realizing that we first must know what that looks like.

**Jesus is the perfect "image of God".**

- We also must realize how we get there.

**The Gospel is all about getting there.**

29

“Christianity does not simply make sense **to** us; it also makes sense **of** us.”

Alister McGrath  
*Surprised by Meaning*



30

“The Christian worldview makes better sense of my inner and outer worlds than any of the alternatives.”

Edward Carnell



31

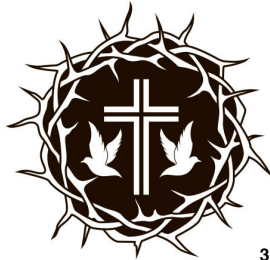
The kingdom of God asks:

**What's in  
your heart?**

2 weeks ago -  
**Kingdom Priorities**

Last week -  
**Moral Brokenness**

This week -  
**Image of God**



32