

The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

September 2005



Feature Articles

Studies in the Epistle of James—James 1:2-8
 Pastor Paul M. Sadler 5

Sanctification
 Pastor Cornelius R. Stam 11

A Sound Mind—Biblical Transformation
 Mr. Stephen Shober 17

Departments

Family Dynamics and Personal Growth Seminar... 4

Question Box 15

Spotlight on Grace Churches..... 16

From Our Mailbag 26

The BBI Byline..... 29

News and Announcements 30

The **Purpose** of the *Berean Bible Society* is to help you understand and enjoy the Bible. The **Mission** of BBS is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the whole counsel of God according to the revelation of the Mystery. Our **Goals** are to *evangelize* the lost, to *educate* the saved in “rightly dividing the Word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15), to *energize* their Christian lives, and to *encourage* the local church.

The *Berean Searchlight* is the official organ of the *Berean Bible Society*, and is sent free of charge to any who request it.

Editor: Paul M. Sadler; Assistant Editor: Ricky L. Kurth

Composition and Layout: Kevin J. Sadler

Printing: United Press Inc., Elk Grove Village, IL

Questions, comments, orders? You can reach us at:

Berean Bible Society
 N112 W17761 Mequon Road
 PO Box 756
 Germantown, WI 53022

Main Office: (262) 255-4750
 Fax Number: (262) 255-4195

Internet: www.bereanbiblesociety.org
 E-mail: berean@execpc.com

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., CST

The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), September 2005. Vol. 66, Number 6.

The *Berean Searchlight* is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Second-class postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756.



From the Editor to You:



Dearly Beloved,

Translation work is a slow and tedious process, simply because it is impossible to translate from one language to another word for word. When I visited the Philippines several years ago, Brother Rudy Galambao translated my message at Cebu City from English into Cebuano. During the course of the message I made a brief statement about Paul's gospel. Brother Galambao went on and on in his translation of what I had said. When he finished I turned to him and remarked, "*I said all that?*" Needless to say, the auditorium exploded in laughter. You see, I apparently used a few words that were foreign to their language. Rudy had to replace them with similar words in Cebuano, and then he had to explain the sense of what I was saying. This gives you some idea as to the complexity of doing translation work.

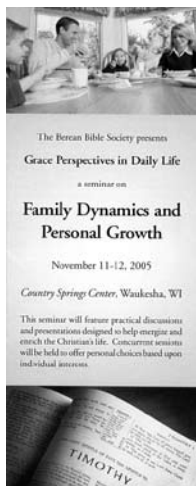
We have received numerous requests through the years to offer *Things That Differ* in Spanish. Up to this point in time we had left the project on the back burner until someone stepped forward with the expertise to undertake the challenge. As you know, it takes someone who has a good grasp of *both* languages, and in our case an understanding of the Mystery as well! About a year ago Brother Francisco Maldonado contacted us to express a willingness to tackle the project, if we were interested. Francisco was a *State Certified Translator* for many years; therefore, we felt comfortable that we were working with someone who was skilled in translating.

Around the time Brother Maldonado was completing his labor of love we were contacted by a Grace Church in the south that wanted to cover the cost of having *Things That Differ* translated into Spanish and published. God's timing is always perfect! These dear brethren were totally unaware we had already been working on the project behind the scenes and that we were to the point of having to raise the necessary funds to bring it to fruition.

Lord willing, we hope to inform you of the release date of the *Spanish* edition of *Things That Differ* in our November Letter. In the meantime, please pray that the adversary will be defeated in his attempts to delay the publication of this classic work on the Word, rightly divided. According to those who minister to our Spanish-speaking friends, there is a real interest among them to hear the gospel of the grace of God. May the Lord use this effort to further the spiritual understanding of those in the Spanish-speaking community.

Yours because of Calvary,
Paul M. Sadler, President

The Berean Bible Society presents
Grace Perspectives in Daily Life
a seminar on
**Family Dynamics and
Personal Growth**



Dates:

Friday and Saturday, November 11-12, 2005

Location:

Country Springs Hotel
2810 Golf Road
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187

Seminar Registration:

\$20/person—\$30/couple—\$40/family

This seminar will feature practical discussions and presentations designed to help energize and enrich the Christian's life. Concurrent sessions will be held to offer personal choices based upon individual interests.

Presenters:

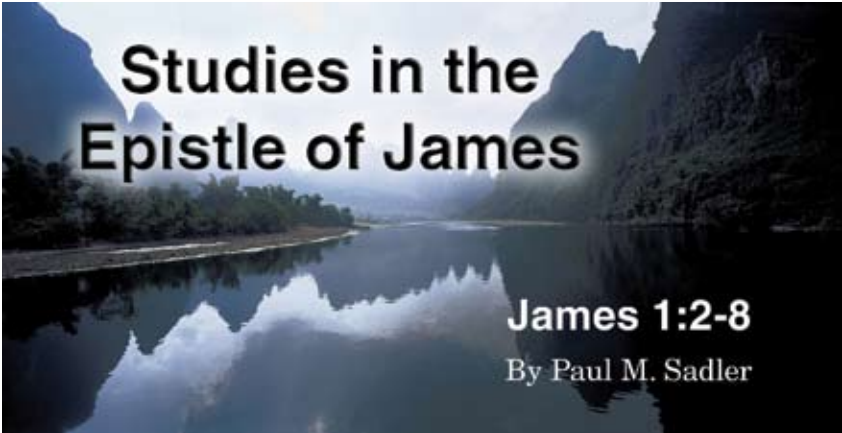
John Fredericksen, Pastor of *Grace Bible Church of the Black Hills*
Mike Keshan, Director of *Growing Up in Grace S.S. Ministries*
Dennis Kiszonas, Director of *Grace For Today*
Ricky Kurth, Pastor of *Faith Bible Church*
Paul M. Sadler, President of *Berean Bible Society*
Jeff Seekins, Pastor of *Community Bible Church*
Steve Shoher, Naturopath and *BBS Board Member*

Please call the *Country Springs Hotel* at (262) 547-0201 to make your own room reservations and mention the code: "BIBKN" to get the special conference rate. Please try to make your reservations 30 days or more in advance.

For additional information or to receive a brochure and registration form, please contact: Pastor Ricky Kurth or Mr. Doug Cox at: (262) 255-4750. Or write: *Berean Bible Society*, PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022, e-mail: berean@execpc.com.

Written and video taped proceedings of the conference will be made available.

Please make seminar checks payable to "Berean Bible Society"



Studies in the Epistle of James

James 1:2-8

By Paul M. Sadler

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers [diverse] temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

—James 1:2-4

James was a man of action! He wasn't one to heap pleasantries upon his hearers, but went straight to the heart of the matter. The kingdom church was undergoing an intense persecution from both the religious establishment of the day and Rome, to which James replies: “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers [diverse] temptations.” His hearers probably counted many things *joy*, but trials? Hardly! What joy would a believer find in being flogged by a Roman whip? Beloved, James isn't advocating some type of prideful denial in suffering. He doesn't say the trial is all joy, but to “count it all joy.” They were to look at the trial with a proper attitude, understanding that it would ultimately work out for their good. As difficult as they

are to endure, God has a purpose in trials.

A good example is the Apostle Paul—when he and Silas were mistreated unmercifully at Philippi. What purpose could God have possibly had in allowing such cruel treatment of His apostle? It must have been a bitter pill for Paul to swallow when he was falsely accused, beaten with rods, and cast into prison; the innermost prison, mind you, where conditions were deplorable. Surely there was no joy in such abuse, but Paul left the matter with the Lord, knowing that He was working all things out according to the counsel of His will. Imagine the apostle's joy when the Philippian jailer and his household were saved as a result of Paul's incarceration! If Paul and Silas had not encountered this trial the jailer may have never heard the gospel.

Years later Paul came to see that what had happened to him at Philippi, and his subsequent imprisonment at Rome, happened for a purpose. He writes, “But I would ye should understand,

brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel” (Phil. 1:12). Both trials demonstrate the providence of God working in his life and ministry.

TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers [diverse] temptations.” Strong defines the word “temptation” (Gr. *peirasmos*) that James uses here as “a putting to *proof*, by experiment of good, or experience of evil, solicitation.” Our English word *temptation* is almost exclusively used today as a solicitation to do evil. The biblical term, however, can also mean a “trial” sent by God which serves to test or prove a believer’s faith (See Gen. 22:1 cf. Heb. 11:17). This twofold meaning is clearly exhibited in James 1:12,13:

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.” Since a reward is promised from the Lord, this “temptation” or *trial* is obviously from the hand of God. It may also be something He allows to come into our life to try us. As the believer passes through the furnace of affliction the experience prepares him for more responsibility in the Lord’s service. James goes on to say, “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man.” Seeing that God will never tempt anyone

to do evil, the *temptation* here is an attack of Satan to cause the believer to fall into sin. The context then is the determining factor as to which aspect of the term is being used.

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers [diverse] temptations.” It is noteworthy that James doesn’t say, “if” you fall into trials, but “when” you fall into trials. There are some things you can count on in life and trials would be one of them. They are like unwelcome guests that occupy our time and attention. Trials are good instructors, however, because they teach by experience. If there is one thing you can say about experience, it would be this: it gives you the *test* first and the lesson later.

James also adds that there were “divers” or various types of trials that his hearers were being called upon to endure. For example, the patriarch Job in one day suffered the loss of his servants and all his flocks and herds. He was still reeling from this news when he received word that his sons and daughters were swept into eternity by a sudden storm. While he was trying to comprehend all this, Satan afflicted him with sore boils from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet (Job 1:14-22; 2:4-8). Through it all Job never charged God foolishly or sinned against Him. Essentially, James wanted his readers to understand that trials are unpredictable and come in many different forms.

“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:3,4).

Years ago I worked in the injection molding department of a large company that produced safety equipment. As a supervisor, I was responsible to keep twenty hydraulic presses running smoothly. Injection molding machines operate under extreme temperatures and pressures to produce a desired product in a controlled environment.



We were one of the companies that molded helmets for all the fire departments across the country. This particular hat was made out of a polycarbonate resin that is nearly indestructible. Oftentimes the back part of the large brim of the helmet would run short. In other words, the hat wasn't filled out properly—it was incomplete. To correct the problem I merely applied more hydraulic “pressure” to the back of the ram to inject the molten plastic into the mold more quickly. This would cause the rim of the hat to fill out properly, resulting in a *complete* end product.

In like manner, the application of pressure to the faith of these believers, in the form of trials, produced patience. A young man

once asked Pastor Win Johnson (former president of the *Berean Bible Fellowship*) to pray that God would give him patience. Pastor Johnson replied, “Are you sure that you understand what you are asking?” “What do you mean?” said the young man. “Well, the Scriptures teach that ‘tribulation worketh patience’ (Rom. 5:3). You are asking me to pray that God will bring trials and tribulations into your life.” “*OH!!*” he said.

Here we see God's perfect order of things. When the believer passes through a trial he must wait on the Lord. As he endures, it causes him to become more *patient* because the circumstances are always beyond his control. If a kingdom saint, for example, was imprisoned for preaching that Christ is God, in defiance to Caesar who believed he was a god, there was little he could do until Rome decided to release him. Patience builds character and produces *consistency* in those areas of our Christian life where we are often inconsistent. The end result is that we might grow spiritually or as James expresses it, “that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:4).

The will of God for these kingdom believers was that they might be “complete.” Like the brim of the fireman's hat that was filled out by applying more pressure, the believer is made *complete* through testing. I read somewhere years ago, “A Christian is like a tea bag, he's not worth much until he's been through some hot water.” Very true! James adds to being complete, “entire, wanting nothing.”

While trials are bitter waters, they ultimately bring *contentment* into our life, because we understand that God is working all things out in accordance with His good pleasure.

THE SOURCE OF WISDOM

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed” (James 1:5,6).

During times of intense testing the believer may be uncertain how to deal with the crisis in a Christ-honoring way. This would have been especially true of this group of believers. Thus James instructs his hearers, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.” With the diminishing of Israel’s program it’s doubtful that the apostle is referring to the supernatural gift of wisdom. Thankfully the wisdom of God was still at their disposal, but in another form. Like believers today, when these saints were faced with a major crisis it was their tendency to deal with it in their own strength. They rolled up their sleeves and did their best to manage the crisis only to discover it was bigger and more complicated than they realized. We can all relate to that! It didn’t take long for them to see that they needed divine assistance.

When they didn’t know which way to turn, James tells his hearers, seek the wisdom of God, if they lacked wisdom. It

is generally agreed that wisdom is knowledge properly applied. Here it is important to distinguish between human and divine wisdom. Human wisdom says, “Haste makes waste!” On the other hand, divine wisdom rises to a higher standard, a spiritual standard! It says, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12).

When Solomon ascended to the throne, God spoke to him in a dream. The Lord said, “Ask what I shall give thee.” Instead of asking God for long life or riches, he requested that he be given *wisdom* to lead the great nation of Israel. Solomon prayed:

“And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?” (I Kings 3:7-9).

Wisdom is making the right call. Shortly after God granted Solomon’s prayer for wisdom, two women came to the king, both lived in the same house, and both had infant sons the same age. One night when the mother of one of the infants accidentally suffocated her son, she took the dead child and placed him in the bosom of the other mother and claimed the living child as her own. As

they stood before Solomon both mothers passionately alleged to be the mother of the living child.

Remember, DNA testing wasn't an option; consequently most judges at the time would have found themselves between the horns of a dilemma. Not Solomon; he simply demanded that a sword be brought to him and instructed that the child be divided in two and each mother be given half. When the true mother heard the king's order she begged him not to take the child's life, but to give the child to the other woman. When Solomon saw the compassion she had for the little one he knew she was the mother. "And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment" (I Kings 3:28).

This type of wisdom was at the disposal of the kingdom saints. But they had to ask God in faith, not wavering. Without faith it is impossible to please God. For those who would respond in faith, God promised to "liberally" or generously fill their cup with wisdom to assist them in their hour of need. The same will also be true of the future Tribulation saints whom James is addressing *providentially*. As we will note throughout our study, the epistle of James runs parallel to the earthly ministry of Christ recorded in the Four Gospels. The Lord promised the little flock:

"Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye

shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matt. 21:21,22).

James echoes the same: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God....But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering [doubting]."

**"Wisdom is
making
the right call."**

These weren't idle words; God always honors His Word. Around the time James was penning these words, the twelve apostles of the kingdom were suffering persecution at the hands of religious leaders in Jerusalem. In response to Peter's prayer for boldness the place where they were assembled literally shook beneath their feet (Acts 4:29-31). Because they were under the *control* of the Holy Spirit whatever they requested in faith, not doubting, they received—whether it was to move a mountain or the need for wisdom—God honored their request. In all probability this was accomplished through a special measure of wisdom that would be granted by God for a specific trial or by simply opening the eyes of their understanding as to what was already revealed in the Prophetic Scriptures. The primary source of wisdom is the Word of God.

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:6-8).

When everything in life is going along as smooth as silk, it is easy to have faith without doubting the Word of God. It’s when adversity stalks you like an unwelcome predator that doubts arise in the heart. Faith and doubt are usually both present when the phone rings at 2:30 in the morning and the bearer of bad news tells you: “There’s been an accident. I’m sorry—your loved one isn’t coming home!” When things become more than you can bear, look to Him in faith. God is the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort who will comfort us in our time of need.

Even the faith of the apostles was shaken at times. Doubt was a temporary setback even for them. You will recall how one evening the Lord and the disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee when a storm came up. At the beginning of the voyage the Master retired to the stern of the boat where He fell asleep on a pillow. As the waves broke over the bow and the boat began to take on water, the disciples were paralyzed with fear and doubt. Their faith began to *waver*, with the wind-driven waves. Having done everything humanly possible to save themselves, they finally looked unto Jesus who was the author and

finisher of their faith. Did they really think that ship would go down with the Lord on board? Little wonder the Lord responded, “Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?” (Matt. 8:26).

“A double minded man is unstable [restless] in all his ways.” I must confess that I tend to be a perfectionist. I like things to be done right and on time; therefore, if I have a choice, I always choose people to work with who aren’t afraid to make hard decisions. Essentially, I like all my ducks in a row. Indecision drives a perfectionist crazy! A doubled minded man is one who can’t make up his mind if his life depended upon it. If you think about it, someone who is indecisive ultimately allows the circumstances to make the decision for him. In other words, a decision is actually made by default! For example:

A family friend has given you an all-expense paid tour of the Mediterranean, but you are undecided whether or not to go. You really don’t like to fly. Then there are the unforeseen expenses. But the Mediterranean is beautiful this time of year. Of course, there is also a terrorist concern. The day of the departure you are packed, but still undecided. The tour leaves *without* you—their departure made the decision for you.

James wanted these kingdom believers to be *decisive* in the face of adversity. They were to call on God in faith who would freely grant them wisdom to endure the circumstances.

To Be Continued!



The following is the sixth in a series of excerpts from Pastor Stam's classic work on *True Spirituality*. Since this book never appeared as a series in the *Searchlight*, many of even our long-time readers may not be familiar with these selections.

Sanctification

A PRECIOUS TRUTH TOO LITTLE APPRECIATED

By Cornelius R. Stam

It is regrettable that so many Bible commentaries take so shallow a view of the subject of *sanctification*.

Most Bible students know that in the *Authorized Version* of both the Old and New Testament Scriptures the words "holiness" and "sanctification," with scarcely any exceptions have the same meaning. In the Old Testament both words come from the single Hebrew root *qodesh*, while in the New both come from the single Greek root *hagiazō*.

According to most commentaries *qodesh* and its Greek equivalent *hagiazō*, simply mean "to set apart" or "to separate." Now it is true that this is the organic meaning in both cases, but very often the organic meaning of a word falls far short of expressing its true significance in actual usage. Such is the case with the Hebrew and Greek words for *sanctification*. Organically they mean a separating or setting apart, but *as used in the Scriptures* they mean much more than this.

CONSECRATION

In Bible usage, both in Old and New Testaments to make

holy, or to sanctify, means "to set apart *as sacred*," "to *consecrate*," "to *dedicate*." The following passages are but a few that bear out this fact:

Gen. 2:3: "And God blessed the seventh day and *sanctified* it."

Ex. 3:5: "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is *holy ground*."

Matt. 6:9: "*Hallowed* be Thy name."

II Cor. 11:2: "...I have *espoused* you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

In the above passages the Hebrew and Greek words in question are variously rendered "sanctified," "holy," "hallowed" and "espoused," but in each case the meaning is, "set apart *as sacred*," "*consecrated*," "*dedicated*." Thus Jerusalem is called "the *holy city*" (Matt. 4:5) and the sanctuary of the tabernacle, "the *holiest of all*" (Heb. 9:3,8); the Bible is called "the *holy Scriptures*" (Rom. 1:2) and the Spirit of God, "the *holy Spirit*" (Eph. 4:30).

THE BELIEVER'S SANCTIFICATION

How it would touch the hearts of many believers if they realized

that both in our salvation and in our walk it has been God's purpose, not merely to set us apart *from the world*, but to set us apart *as sacred to Himself!* Sanctification speaks of God's love to us more than of ours to Him. This truth, to many, would cast an entirely new light on the doctrine of sanctification.



Sanctification is not a negative matter, but a *positive* one. God wants us for Himself. He considers us His hallowed possession much as a bridegroom considers his bride his very own, sacred to himself. This shows how precious the believer is to the heart of God and makes our separation from the world and sin the natural *result* of our consecration to Him. “Ye turned *to God from idols*,” says the apostle, not “from idols to God” (See I Thes. 1:9). True Scriptural sanctification, or holiness, then, does not consist in “dos” and “don’ts,” nor is it to be confused with sinless perfection. It is rather a consecration to God which *results* in a closer walk with Him.

POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION

In a very real sense every true believer has already been sanctified, or consecrated, to God. Some

view sanctification as a second work of grace, after salvation. Actually it is the very first work of grace. Sanctification begins with God as He chooses us and sets us apart for Himself through the work of the Holy Spirit, who convicts us of sin and leads us to faith in Christ. Thus we read:

“...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth” (II Thes. 2:13).

“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ” (I Pet. 1:2).

Nor is this phase of our sanctification affected by our conduct. In Ephesians 5:2,3 the apostle declares that believers *should “walk...as becometh saints [sanctified ones]”* but this in itself *implies that some who are saints do not walk so.*

Even the carnal Corinthians are addressed as “*saints*”—“*sanctified in Christ Jesus*” (I Cor. 1:2). Naming sins which some of them were even then committing, he goes on to say:

“And such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (I Cor. 6:11).

Thus believers, whatever their *state*, are called:

“...them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32; 26:18).

“...the elect of God, holy and beloved...” (Col. 3:12).

All this, of course, pertains to our position and standing before

God. It was *He* who, in infinite love and grace, set us apart as His own, declaring us righteous before all. But how can a righteous God justify a sinner? How can a holy God embrace a fallen son of Adam? The answer is, through the glorious, all-sufficient work of Christ on the sinner's behalf.

“We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Heb. 10:10).

“For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Heb. 10:14).

Positionally, then, *every* believer *has been sanctified*, or set apart, *by God* for Himself through the operation of the Holy Spirit and on the basis of the shed blood of Christ. Little wonder the Spirit thunders forth the challenge:

“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth?...” (Rom. 8:33,34).

How precious are these truths! Yet, the apostle never teaches positional truth without applying it in a practical way. If *God* in love set us apart *as His own*, should not our love respond to His? Should it not also be *our* heart's desire to be His, wholly His, in experience and conduct? Should not our hearts be touched with gratitude and wonder at His condescending love and result in spontaneous and eager consecration to Him?

PRACTICAL SANCTIFICATION

It is this that the apostle has in mind as, by the Spirit, he writes that God—

“...hath chosen us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him,

“In love¹ having predestinated us unto the adoption of children...” (Eph. 1:4,5).

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification...” (I Thes. 4:3).

But here a word of caution is needed, lest in seeking to be wholly sanctified to God, we leave ourselves open to discouragement and disillusionment.

Nowhere in Scripture are we instructed to sanctify the “flesh” to God. The Scriptures teach that the “flesh,” the old Adamic nature, is *totally* bad and experience bears witness that this is so. The “flesh” cannot be improved, or reformed, or converted, and “they that are in the flesh² cannot please God” (Rom. 8:8). It is for this reason that God sent His own Son “in the likeness of sinful flesh” to “condemn sin in the flesh” at Calvary (See Rom. 8:3).

“...those who are not... interested in the study of the Word will never enjoy true, practical sanctification....”

We are not, then, to seek to improve the old nature or dedicate it to God, but to recognize it as condemned by God and crucified with Christ.

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him...” (Rom. 6:6).

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).

But while the believer’s “flesh” cannot be sanctified to God, his *body* can and should be. The Apostle Paul has much to say about this:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Cor. 6:19,20).

Thus the apostle writes to the Thessalonians:

“That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor” (I Thes. 4:4).

“For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness” (I Thes. 4:7).

And thus he concludes:

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Thes. 5:23).

In his very last epistle he declares that while “the Lord knoweth them that are His,” all who name the name of Christ should “depart from iniquity,” and goes on to explain that—

“...in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of

silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.

“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work” (II Tim. 2:20,21).

The Church is indeed “a great house,” and in it there are all sorts of vessels. Most of these, it is to be feared, are *dishonoring* to the Lord and *unfit* for the Master’s use. God grant that we may not belong to this number, but may rather be vessels which will bring honor to God, “*sanctified, and meet [fit] for the Master’s use.*”

THE “HOW” OF PRACTICAL SANCTIFICATION

As we consider *how* to be sanctified to God in walk and experience we must again place the emphasis where God has placed it: upon His blessed Word.



No one will deny that prayer is an important element in practical sanctification, yet the Word places the supreme emphasis upon itself in this matter. Our Lord prayed for His disciples:


“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth” (John 17:17).

“Sanctification is not a negative matter, but a *positive* one.”

The Apostle Paul declares that our Lord “loved the Church, and gave Himself for it,

“That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word” (Eph. 5:25,26).

Many dear Christians have said to the writer: “If only I could remember these Bible truths better, but I have a mind like a sieve.” But pour water through a sieve

and it will at least have a cleansing effect. And so does the blessed Word of God have a cleansing effect upon those who prayerfully read it and meditate upon it. It is the Word which its Author, the Holy Spirit, uses to cleanse and sanctify us more and more to God, and those who are not deeply and sincerely interested in the study of the Word will never enjoy true, practical sanctification no matter how much they pray. 

Endnotes

1. While there is no punctuation in the original, it appears from the context that the words “in love” belong with Verse 5.
2. I.e., who have not been begotten again by the Spirit.

Question Box

“Can we lose our salvation if we don’t ‘keep in memory’ the gospel?” (I Cor. 15:2).

“...I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain” (I Cor. 15:1,2).

If we could lose our salvation by forgetting the gospel, the most feared disease among Christians would be *Alzheimer’s*. No, our salvation rather rests on His “*once for all*” sacrifice for us (Heb. 10:10), and not on the strength of our memory of it.

The key word in verse 2 is “vain.” This word is used again in verse 14 and again in verse 17, where we read: “if Christ be not raised, *your faith is VAIN; ye are yet in your sins.*” Hence in verse 2, Paul is simply saying that the Corinthians were saved by believing the gospel that Christ died for their sins and rose again (v. 3,4) “*if*” *Christ indeed rose from the dead!* This word “*if*” is repeated *six verses in a row* in verses 12-17. Paul’s argument in this chapter then is: “Ye are saved by the gospel that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again. If He did not rise again, ye have believed in vain (v. 2), your faith is vain (v. 17), ye are yet in your sins.”

—Pastor Kurth



Spotlight on Grace Churches

This month's church is:

Greater Grace Chapel

Location: 504 Roosevelt Street, Indianola, Mississippi 38751

Pastor: Tyrone Timothy Porter

Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:30 a.m. Worship Service
7:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

Additional Ministries:

Greater Grace Awakening Ministry
WNLA 1380 AM, Sunday 7:00 a.m.

Contact information:

Tyrone Timothy Porter (662) 887-3972 or (662) 207-0483

We walk by faith, not by sight!

Berean Bible Fellowship Fall Conference

Hosted By:

Grace Fellowship Bible Church
103 W. Pine Street
Sheridan, Arkansas 72150

Dates: Thursday & Friday, September 29-30, 2005

Guest Speakers:

John Fredericksen, Dave Siegmann, Dennis Kiszonas, Ed Bedore,
Joel Finck, Ricky Kurth, Floyd Baker, and Paul Sadler

Theme: *The Book of Galatians—"The Grace of Christ"*

For more information or to receive a brochure, please contact:

Pastor Floyd Baker (386) 851-0744 or
Pastor Richard Ware (870) 941-6110 or (870) 942-2799 or
Berean Bible Society (262) 255-4750

A Sound Mind

BIBLICAL TRANSFORMATION

By Stephen Shober
BBS Board



“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

Introduction

Have you ever heard someone say something like this, “I can’t help it, that is just how I am and how God made me.” This way of thinking is very unfortunate since it denies the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to change lives, and even goes so far as to blame God for personal deficiencies. God certainly accepts us just as we are for salvation (we do not have to try to get rid of our sin first), but His earnest desire is not to leave us the way He finds us. His desire after salvation is to start changing us from the inside-out, that is, to transform us from the depths of our being (changing how we think and act). The emphasis should not be who we are, but who we could be by the grace of God. *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he”* (Proverbs 23:7).

God created us in His image and, to some degree, being created in His image includes being made with three aspects, or parts, just as He is three. Our three aspects are: body, soul and spirit. In general terms, the soul is that part of us that is self-conscious (relating to self and the world around us), while the spirit is that part of us that is God-conscious (relating to faith and our relationship with God).¹ Each aspect has specific functions and needs; thankfully, God has a plan for each (according to His knowledge of the intricacies of His handiwork).

God’s plan for our spirit is regeneration, an instantaneous act of God that saves us by His grace the moment we believe. His plan for

the believer's body is to give us a glorified body in the future (with some earthly assistance for the present time). This article will explore God's plan for our mind. In Scripture the words mind, heart and soul are often used interchangeably; this pattern will be followed in this article. His plan for our mind is to renew it, to make it completely new, thereby transforming our entire life. Living a sanctified life (holy and God-pleasing) is based upon this renewing, that is, upon the Holy Spirit producing His character, will, values, and desires in our heart. Ultimately, we see that His grace is seen not only in salvation but in every aspect and all times of our life. His power within us helps assure what mankind so desperately seeks—a sound mind. *“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind”* (Ephesians 4:23).

We humans are a spiritual being in a physical body with a mind (soul) to do what the Holy Spirit teaches.²

Heavenly Instructions

The word *transformed* (Romans 12:2) in Greek is *metamorphosis* (meta=change, morph=form) and means, a change in form. In common practice the word transformation is used to describe the change of a rather unattractive chrysalis (larva) into a beautiful butterfly. Christ's transfiguration in Mark 9:2-13 was a metamorphosis. The Lord wants each of us to be transformed and this is accomplished by having a renewed mind. Our mind has to be changed in such a way that the old nature with its values, beliefs and practices is replaced by that which conforms to the mind of Christ. We are not genetically programmed to transform ourselves, God will not do it for us automatically, nor will He force it upon us. He will only do it as we allow Him and cooperate with Him in the process (walk in the Spirit).

“Believers are commanded to change [if you prefer, exchange]³ the expressions of the old life and nature for that of the new nature which indwells every Christian. This is done by the renewing of the mind by the Holy Spirit. ‘Renewing’ means ‘a complete change for the better’ effected by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).”⁴ The beauty of transformation is that we will find His good, acceptable (well pleasing), and perfect (complete) will to be exactly what we need in our life. His will in our life will prove to us, family, church, society, even the angels in heaven (Ephesians 3:10) how the perfect will of God is His gracious provision for our mental and spiritual well being.

Why Needed

A good spiritual lesson is afforded by a boy who observed a chrysalis transforming into a butterfly. The boy saw the struggling chrysalis trying to get out of the cocoon and wondered why it had to struggle so

hard, why did God make it struggle for so long, wasn't there an easier way? Finally, the boy intervened in his desire to ease the struggle. He took his pocketknife and carefully cut the cocoon open so the struggling creature could get out. It did, it wiggled out and the boy was delighted with his heroic efforts. But then, the chrysalis fell to the ground, writhing and struggling because it could not fly—its wings were not sufficiently developed. Eventually the chrysalis died. The boy then realized that the cocoon that he saw as a hindrance and an obstacle was instead life sustaining and allowed the chrysalis time to develop into a butterfly. The struggle was a necessary part of life and his well intended shortcuts only had detrimental effects. For the butterfly to fly required metamorphosis, and that entailed struggle and time.

“If we do not become changed from the inside-out—if we don't morph—we will be tempted to find external methods to satisfy our need to feel that we're different from those outside the faith.”⁵ If we do not allow our self to be transformed, we will settle for being informed (ever learning, II Timothy 3:7) or conformed to something other than Christ. It is here we Christians must be careful not to fall into one of the adversary's clever schemes, that is, the belief that by not conforming to the world we are obeying Romans 12. A person can be against everything the world offers but that only makes that person a non-conformist. Non-conformity is not transformation. Non-conformity can result in a person being a cranky, belligerent, isolationist—this is not God's desire. Transformation is a personal matter between each of us and the Holy Spirit, and, as the Lord produces His mind in us, we are compelled from our heart not to conform to the world. **Transformation produces the desired non-conformance, not vice versa!**

Perhaps an illustration will help clarify the above statement. If your boss said to you, “an emergency requires that you quickly go to the warehouse, do not walk but take the company car.” Then, if you were to think, “Well, I was told not to walk so I'll run,” would that be obeying the boss? Certainly not. The boss' emphasis was on what to do, not on what not to do. While running is not walking, that is not what the boss wants and it will not get the job done—just take the car and that resolves all issues of walking/running. In our case, the Lord's emphasis is on transformation, which results in conformance to Christ. **The degree we are conformed to Christ is the degree to which conformity to the world is averted.** Pure non-conformists can end life mean-spirited and negative because no transformation has taken place, only a preoccupation with being against the world.



Too often we think that Romans 12:2 gives us two commands: 1) not to conform to the world and 2) to be transformed. There is no “and” between the two phrases (implying two things); there is a “but,” which indicates the Lord is instructing us to do one of two things (be transformed). We have the choice of either conforming to the world or of having a renewed mind conforming to that of Christ. The choice of a renewed mind avoids the other. The legalists love to teach there are two items here for our obedience and then they come up with a list of do’s and don’ts to measure non-conformance to the world. This is missing the point entirely. Ideally, under grace, transformation creates a mind that has no interest in conformance to the world. In practical terms, our earthly struggle is often the fight between the world and Christ for our mind’s attention; we want to make sure the transformation side is always winning the battle.

Salvation is required before transformation can begin, but transformation should commence immediately thereafter. Any self-transformation attempts are useless. Just as we cannot save ourselves (He has to do it all for us), we cannot transform ourselves; however, He will do it for us, over time, as we yield to Him. Transformation is not an instantaneous act of God like salvation; it is a life-long process conducted by the Holy Spirit. It is the process of growing spiritually (with ups and downs), of growing in grace, with the goal of continually being conformed to the mind of Christ.

Please consider these reasons why we must each be *morphed*:

- To overcome the defacing of His image due to sin.
- Our mind is polluted from the fall, the world and our own choices—we need mental detoxification, mind renewal, reprogramming, and the mind of Christ.
- We need a new mind to go along with our salvation.
- We need a new value system, desires and goals—His (Philippians 2:13).
- Renewal of our mind removes negative thinking, a prime source of mental and physical illness.⁶
- To put off the old man (sin oriented, self-centered, defensive behavior, unable to admit being wrong, anger, moodiness, etc.) (Ephesians 4:22).
- To put on the new man (Colossians 3:10, Ephesians 4:24).
- To remove the overwhelming burden of thinking our performance is the measure of our standing with the Lord.
- Mental baggage (hidden in the deep recesses of our mind) holds us down, keeps us captive to the past, and we have to get rid of it.

More on Mental Baggage

A woman saw a very large and powerful elephant at a circus that was restrained by a small chain. The woman knew that the elephant could easily break the chain if it wanted, but every time the elephant came to the end of the chain it just stopped and did not even try to break free. The trainer said that the chain was the same one that was used when the elephant was little, and at that time the elephant tried and tried to break it but could not. So the elephant learned at that time that it could not break the chain, and he still remembers that. “You see,” said the trainer, “it is not the chain that holds the elephant captive but his memories.” Sadly, this is true for many of us, our memories hold us captive and we do not experience the freedom that is ours in Christ. **Precious memories are the fabric of our lives, but unpleasant memories unravel that fabric.**

The author often gets letters, calls, and emails from believers who have had a miserable past. The accounts go on and on about a terrible childhood, physical abuse, sexual abuse, depression, wrong treatment, unfaithful friends/spouses, bad parents, alcohol and drug abuse.... Some people seem to be dealt a very poor hand in life, some create it themselves. Sometimes the past is composed of good things that no longer exist (careers, fame, family, friends, wealth); these can also be negative when viewed from the perspective of great loss. The negative memories of the past, when ruminated about (thought about over and over in one’s mind) will only consume a person emotionally and physically. Negative thinking about the past feeds our hostility, bitterness or sense of loss. Since we cannot do anything about the past, we need a new way of viewing it. Constant negative thinking is like a cancer of the soul and is a sure formula for actual mental illness. That is why we are instructed in Philippians 3:13-14 to put it behind us (forget about the past) and look forward to the finish line.

**If we wallow in the negative events of our past
and do not allow transformation, then the past will
continue to be our present and future.**

In an effort to relieve the pain of the past and in order to foster healing many people have tried forgiving those who have offended them. Often they are disappointed, stating that forgiveness doesn’t work because they still remember the pain of the past and people still treat them the same. Forgiveness does not mean we will forget the past; only God can forget such things. Forgiveness on our part does not change the past, or others for that matter; what it does is release us from the stranglehold the past has on our present life. Thus, it creates in us a new perspective that allows us to move forward in life. Forgiveness creates a condition in which the memories of the past do not continue to control us emotionally—so a memory of the past does

not create sorrow, hostility or tears. In this regard, a Christian friend or therapist using Scriptural principles may be used by the Lord to help a person see and interpret the past and themselves differently. It is better to forgive past injustice than to let it fester into bitterness⁷ that tarnishes the rest of our life. Our future in Christ can be very different, provided we allow Him to make the truth that “all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17) part of our daily life.

For clarification purposes, forgiveness and forgetting the past relate to our mind; however, other civil, legal and family responsibilities still remain. One can walk away from an errant mind into a new way of thinking but one should not walk away from earthly responsibilities. So, debts, child support, criminal activities, and similar responsibilities must still be addressed.

When our minds are held captive there is no joy. Renewal of the mind allows the Lord to remove that which holds our minds captive and restore our joy. Consider this Biblical example. After the first destruction of the temple in Jerusalem many Jews were forced into Babylonian exile where they lamented, “*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the mist thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth...*” (Psalms 137:1-3). I believe this text teaches the principle that when in captivity there is no relief from sorrow. Hanging the harps on the willow is very symbolic for it makes two things clear: 1) the harps that normally brought joy could no longer do so, and 2) the willow trees (the bark contains salicylic acid, the precursor of aspirin) could not blunt their pain. (From that time the graceful tree was known as the weeping willow).⁸ In similar fashion, our past, problems, addictions, etc., can hold us captive and nothing in this world will relieve the pain or sorrow—only Christ can.

There is no joy while our mind is held captive to anything but Christ.

Purpose

Pastor Sadler states, “When the present dispensation was committed to Paul, the very nature of ‘grace’ gave birth to a new revelation in regard to our Christian walk.”⁹ Lewis Sperry Chafer emphasizes, “God has a purpose under grace, for a whole new manner of life for the believer,”¹⁰ that is:

- Adjustment of our life to the indwelling-presence of the Holy Spirit, and of maintaining an unbroken attitude of dependence on that Spirit.
- The law could work no change in the heart/mind, nor can our attempts to keep rules; the Spirit only can do this.

- Under grace, God proposes by the Spirit to first create the heavenly motives and desires, and then, by the same Spirit, to empower the life through the Word unto the full realization of those desires (Philippians 2:13).
- Thus, it may be seen that grace is not a way of escaping obedience to God, it is the only possible way in which true obedience can be secured.

If you squeeze an orange you get orange juice, every time. If you want grape juice no amount of faith or sincere prayer will enable grape juice to come out of an orange. Even a child knows you always get orange juice, “because that’s what’s in it.” The question is, what comes out of us when we are squeezed? What is truly inside is what will come out when squeezed by the stress of life. Does cursing, addictive behavior, bitterness, revenge, or sorrow come out? As the Lord transforms our mind and renews it His fruit is produced in our mind; then what will come out will be love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Galatians 5:22-23). “*For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth*” (Ephesians 5:9).

To Be Continued!



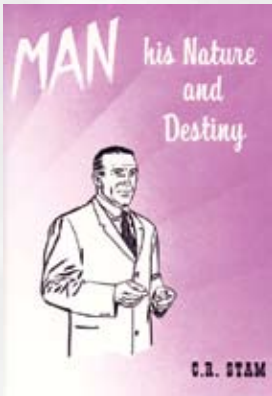
Endnotes

1. Scofield, C.I.; *The Scofield Reference Bible*; Oxford University Press; 1945.
2. Vogel, H.C.A.; *The Nature Doctor*; Keats Publishing; 1991.
3. The phrase in brackets was added by this author.
4. Brock, Robert; “*The Commands of Christ for Christian Living*”; Expo. Press; 1997.
5. Ortberg, John; *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*; Zondervan Publishing House, 1997.
6. Morter, Ted M.; *Cell Health and Wellness*; Lifetime Books, Inc.; 1992.
7. Bitterness has been shown to negatively influence a person’s gall bladder and anger negatively influences a person’s liver. Over time both of these will lead to physical as well as mental illness.
8. Castleman, Michael; *The Healing Herbs*; Rodall Press; 1991.
9. Sadler, Paul M.; *Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians*; Berean Bible Society; 1999.
10. Chafer, Lewis Sperry; *Grace*; Zondervan Publishing House; 1979.



Steve Shober is a Naturopath (natural health practitioner) and a member of the BBS Board of Directors. If you would like to hear more about this subject, Steve will be speaking on Transformation at our *Family Dynamics and Personal Growth* conference in November (see Page 4). If you have questions about this article in the meantime, you can contact him at: Biblical Health Ministries, 7179 Clover Hill Dr., Waunakee, WI 53597; or shober@chorus.net. Biblical Health Ministries is a non-profit ministry dedicated to teaching God’s provisions for our health.

Man Determined His Nature; Who Determines His Destiny?



Man, His Nature and Destiny

By C. R. Stam

In this particular work, Pastor Stam answers the three most commonly asked questions by mankind: Where did we come from? What is our purpose in life? And, is there life beyond the grave?

Hardcover 219 Pages

Special Price: \$10.00



Divine Election and Human Responsibility

By C. R. Stam

We pray that with the subject of election again on the rise, this book may be used for the salvation of many, as well as for a clearer understanding of the doctrine of *Divine Election and Human Responsibility*.

Hardcover 96 Pages

Special Price: \$7.00

THESE OFFERS END SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)

Orders up to **\$20.00**, please add **\$3.00** for postage and handling.

Orders over **\$20.00**, please add **15%** for postage and handling.

**Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency!*

Orders: Berean Bible Society, PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022

Phone: (262) 255-4750; Fax: (262) 255-4195

www.bereanbiblesociety.org

After...

By Dave Wasson

After... is the title of this CD of 14 songs that have been sung at conferences and services over the last 20 plus years by David Wasson. The title song "After" was sung by Brother Wasson at Pastor Stam's memorial service in Chicago. The remaining 13 songs are songs about living life and the assurance of eternal life...about the very real love, mercy and grace offered to you and to me...about God's providential care for us.



Price: \$15.00 each

Orders up to \$20.00, please add \$3.00 for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add 15% for postage and handling.

www.bereanbiblesociety.org



In-Depth Biblical Studies

with Casey Groeneveld

New DVD Series—*The Book of Acts*

The most misunderstood book in the Bible. Comprehending the book of Acts is vitally important in understanding the Word, rightly divided.

6 DVD Set

Covers the following topics: *Background Information; The Messianic Kingdom; Kingdom Rejected; Saul's Conversion; Cornelius—What's So Important About Him?; Peter, James and Paul.*



Individual DVD's: \$12.00 / Set of Six: \$65.00

There are 4 ways to order:

Mail: Casey Groeneveld, 698 Mapleway Dr., Muskegon, MI 49441; **Phone:** 231-780-3635, **E-mail:** caseygro@aol.com, or you can order by credit card by visiting: www.biblestudiesbycasey.com.

Orders up to \$20.00, please add \$3.00 for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add 15% for postage and handling.

Make checks payable to Casey Groeneveld.

Please do NOT send your order to the Berean Bible Society.

From Florida:

“Sir, I do not know how this book got to my house, but I am glad it did. I love what I have been reading and I would like to receive a booklet monthly if I could.”

From Nigeria:

“I got the *Searchlight* from a cousin. God is using it to touch my life. Thank you!”

From the Internet:

“I got my first 3 *Searchlights* and some other little booklets and have to say a huge thanks. They are so awesome. Makes perfect sense. I will be ordering heaps of stuff once I have saved some money. Thanks again.” (Heaps of stuff, coming right up!—RK).

From the Philippines:

“I have been converted by your ministry. I have come to know the truth in the Word of God. All this while, I have been beating about the bush. We are misguided by our pastor and Bible teachers. My careful study of the book ‘Things That Differ’ showed me the truth.”

From India:

“My friend introduced me to this website. I am hopeful to receive a copy of your publication so I can understand more of your ministry. Thank you and *more power!*”

From Michigan:

“I have recently been blessed reading about ten issues of the *Searchlight* which were left behind by another prisoner who left this facility. I am writing in hope to receive a free subscription. I have taken many of the articles and sent them to family and friends to share the good news of God’s grace with them. I also have a question....”

From the Philippines:

“I am so glad I received these materials for they are so profitable for my Christian walk. I am a new convert to the Grace Movement. I want to know and learn more about grace and this dispensation. Please send the *Searchlight* to my postal address.”

From the Internet:

“I enjoy your devotional. It blesses me and challenges me and helps me to grow spiritually. I visited your website and was particularly blessed as I read your history. It is amazing how God has led and directed your ministry over these many years.” (We are always delighted to hear from new pastors!—RK).

From Florida:

“Please send me a monthly *Berean Searchlight*. I came across one issue and found it to be not only spiritually enlightening, but very informative.”

From the Internet:

“Thank you for the free subscription of the *Berean Searchlight*. Your ministry truly glorifies God and manifests HIS Saving Grace to anyone who believes in the Risen Glorified Christ. God bless you all!”

From Idaho:

“I am just learning to see life in a different way thanks to my grandma, who took me to a Grace church last week-end. Thanks for the subscription to the *Searchlight*.”

From Florida:

“It gives me great pleasure to write and express my deepest concern in learning more about how to rightly divide the Word of God. I’m a new convert and wish to receive any material you have that would help me further my study.”

From the Internet:

“I have been a believer for over 30 years of my life. I was an Acts 2 dispensationalist until about 8 months ago. It was at that time I started to really understand how complete God’s grace is. I’ve been sharing the message of true grace with many dispensational pastors. God is working in many lives, and it is very exciting to watch. This area is a real mission field. In the last 8 months I have seen at least 8-10 believers see the truth, and for the first time understand Paul’s writings. This is a real joy!”

From Michigan:

“I thank the Lord for you all. I’m glad that my eyes are open according to the revelation of the Mystery. I want to grow in the grace and knowledge of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

From Kenya:

“I happened to go through your periodical and found it to be profitable. Thank you so much for the great work you are doing to educate the world in the true Word of God. I therefore would like to subscribe as one of those with great interest in knowing the Word.” (We welcome Kenyan pastors as well!—RK).

From Florida:

“I have recently been exposed to the Berean/Grace Movement and want to learn more.”

From New York:

“Wow, what a blessing to have so many excellent articles and reading material! Thank you so much. I would love to have some information regarding receiving the *Berean Searchlight* magazine here at my home.”

From New Mexico:

“I apologize for taking so long to say ‘thank you, BBS’ for the wonderful fold-out chart I received in the mail. I have been trying for some time now to come up with an adequate presentation in chart form to present the material you have encompassed in *The Key to Understanding the Scriptures*. You folks have done a marvelous job on this chart! I have been leading a home Bible study for several years and only relatively recently became convinced of the truths that you contend for. I need some copies of this chart and *According to the Scriptures* to use in our study group as I attempt to explain the uniqueness of Paul’s apostleship and ministry.” (We welcome new Bible teachers as well as new pastors!—RK).

From Florida:

“The *Berean Searchlight* has brought light and understanding to me. I have recently come back to the Lord, seriously searching in earnest for the Father’s will for me. I was saved and baptized very young, but I turned from God and did what I wanted to do. It did not work. Now I am 40 years old and in prison, with only God to look to for anything. I read the Bible but don’t always understand everything I read, and the *Searchlight* is very helpful to me.”

From Pennsylvania:

“I am responsible for assisting the pastor here at this correctional facility. We have decided that information you provide would be of great help to those who have given themselves over to our Lord Jesus Christ. So be expecting an order from us.” (We welcome new pastors’ assistants as well as new pastors!—RK).

“These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

Grace Bible Church Annual Fall Bible Conference

Lancaster, Wisconsin

Dates: September 23-25, 2005

Location: *Rural Insurance—Farm Bureau Center*
Just north of Lancaster, WI on Hwy. 61

Theme: *God's Dealing Through the Ages*

Speakers: Pastor Joel Finck and Peter Fries

For additional information, please contact:
Mel Flogel (608) 348-7574 or Jack Trumm (608) 794-2410

Midwest Grace Fellowship Fall Bible Conference

Dates: September 23-24, 2005

Location: Ankeny, Iowa

Speakers: Pastor Kevin Heyle and Kevin Sadler

Theme: *Choice of Masters—Romans 6:1-14*

For more information, please contact:
Kevin Heyle (816) 520-3943 or Ric Jennings (515) 964-2407



Grace Family Conference

Dates: October 21-23, 2005

Location: Tabor, South Dakota

Guest Speakers:

Vernon Simmons, Kevin Mepsted,
John Peters, Kevin Sadler, Joel Finck

Please RSVP by October 1st and directions and additional information will be sent. Contact Joel and Linda Finck, 30448 427th Avenue, Tabor, South Dakota 57063. E-mail: joelfinck@parsonspublishingcompany.com. Phone: (605) 463-2070.

THE BBI BYLINE

Paul's Prayers from Prison

Ephesians 3:1-13

By W. Edward Bedore, Th.D.

Executive Director, *Berean Bible Institute*

In chapter three of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul starts to record a second prayer for the believers at Ephesus (see 1:15-23). However, in verse two he temporarily leaves off explaining the details of his prayer and goes into a discourse explaining his special knowledge of the Dispensation of the Grace of God.

Paul's explanation of his knowledge includes several important facts: 1). The Dispensation of the Grace of God was particularly given (revealed) to Paul (v. 2). 2). It was for the Gentiles (nations) (v. 1-2). 3). It was a mystery (secret) which concerned Jesus Christ (vvs. 3-4). 4). This mystery was never made known in previous times (v. 5). 5). This mystery has been revealed by the Holy Spirit (see I Corinthians 2:9-16). 6). Only after being revealed to Paul was it revealed to Christ's Holy Apostles and Prophets (cf. Galatians 1:11-2:9; II Peter 3:15-16). 7). In the Dispensation of Grace, Jews and Gentiles would become fellow-heirs in Christ (v. 6). 8). Paul, by a gift of God's grace, was to preach

the unsearchable (hidden and untraceable) riches of Christ (v. 8). 9). Paul's commission was to make all men see what the fellowship of this mystery was (v. 9). 10). In past ages this mystery was hidden in God, indicating that it was not a subject of the Scriptures given before Paul's letters were written (v. 9). 11). That Jesus Christ was co-Creator with the Father (v. 9). 12). This mystery message is for the purpose of making the wisdom of God known (v. 10). 13). The mystery program is according to God's eternal purpose (v. 11). 14). God's purpose was accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord (v. 11). 15). It is in Jesus Christ that believers have access to God (v. 12; also see Romans 5:1-2).

These things are recorded for us in the Bible because they are vitally important to understanding the believer's inheritance "in Christ" (see Eph. 1:11-12). Do you share in this inheritance through faith in Christ? Only in Him can anyone be forgiven of their sins and receive the gift of eternal life.

Spring Semester begins January 23, 2005

For more information about **BBI**, please contact Dr. W. Edward Bedore at: **Berean Bible Institute**, 116 S. Kettle Moraine Drive, P.O. Box 587, Slinger, WI 53086-0587, phone: (262) 644-5504, fax: (262) 644-5507, e-mail: bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Did you read this month's "Mailbag"? If so, did you notice that *all* of the letters this month were from people who are *new* to our ministry. These letters are from new contacts (people who are just being introduced to the Grace message) and new Grace believers who have just recently grasped the distinctive truths for which we stand. Included are letters from pastors and other spiritual leaders. If you pray as we do that more and more people will see the message of grace, be sure to read Pages 26,27 for some real answers to prayer.

Rapid City Fall Bible Conference: *Grace Bible Church of the Black Hills* will be host to a weekend Bible conference to be held October 21-23. Pastor John Fredericksen has asked Guest Speaker Ricky Kurth to bring messages that will challenge his seasoned saints, but also minister to the church's substantial number of new Grace believers as well. For more information, contact Pastor Fredericksen at 605-341-9692.

It's not too early: If you would like to invite Pastor Sadler or Pastor Kurth to speak at your Bible conference or special meetings next year, it is not too early to begin making such plans. Since our schedules are often filled up early in the year, we sometimes have to reluctantly decline speaking invitations that we would otherwise love to accept. Planning ahead is especially important if your meetings revolve around a specific date, such as a church anniversary, where the date for your special event is not flexible. Thank you, and *we'll see you next year!*

Happy news: Pastor Richard Church and Miss Brooke Stead became husband and wife on July 2nd. In addition to being the webmaster for our BBS website, Richard is the pastor of *Friendship Congregational Bible Church* in Friendship, Wisconsin. Thanks to Brooke, he will now have "*an help meet*" for all of his endeavors (Genesis 2:18).

More happy news: Andy Kern and Sarah Herther were married on July 9th. Sarah is a student at *Berean Bible Institute* and Andy is a recent BBI graduate. They are currently residing in West Bend, Wisconsin and seeking the Lord's leading as to where they might best serve Him. May the Lord bless these couples as they "*magnify the Lord*" as husband and wife and "*exalt His name together*" (Psa. 34:3).

*Our cover lighthouse photo was taken by BBS staff member Doug Cox. The *Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse* is located in Mackinac City, MI. The picture was taken on September 11, 2004, which explains why the flag is at half-mast. The light was built in 1892 and guided ships on the Straits of Mackinac until 1957 when the Mackinac Bridge opened.

PRICE LIST

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS BY CORNELIUS R. STAM—FOUNDER

(Hardcover—Gold Stamped)

Acts, (Commentary) Volumes I & II	\$20.00
Acts, (Commentary) Volumes III & IV (w/Bible Index).....	20.00
Author's Choice, The	10.00
Baptism and the Bible	9.00
Colossians (Commentary, w/Bible Index)	13.00
I Corinthians (Commentary)	11.00
II Corinthians (Commentary).....	11.00
Divine Election and Human Responsibility	9.00
Galatians (Commentary, w/Bible Index).....	13.00
Hebrews, Who Wrote It and Why?	9.00
Holding Fast the Faithful Word (w/Bible Index)	13.00
Man, His Nature and Destiny	11.00
Memoirs of Pastor Cornelius R. Stam, The.....	12.00
Pastoral Epistles (Commentary).....	11.00
Paul, His Apostleship and Message (w/Bible Index).....	10.00
Romans (Commentary).....	11.00
Sermon on the Mount, The	9.00
Suggestions for Young Pastors	9.00
Thessalonians (Commentary).....	10.00
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index).....	11.00
True Spirituality (w/Bible Index).....	10.00
Two-Fold Purpose of God, The (w/Bible Index).....	8.00
Two Minutes With the Bible.....	11.00

(Paperbacks)

Lord's Supper and the Bible, The	\$8.00
Moses and Paul (w/Bible Index)	8.00
No Other Doctrine.....	8.00
Our Great Commission (w/Bible Index).....	8.00
Present Peril, The.....	8.00
Satan In Derision	8.00
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index)	9.00

WRITINGS BY PAUL M. SADLER—PRESIDENT

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (HC, w/Bible Index).....	\$11.00
Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter, The (HC, w/Bible Index).....	12.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (HC, w/Bible Index)	15.00
Triumph of His Grace, The (HC, w/Bible Index)	12.00
According to the Scriptures (Booklet).....	2.00
Historical Beginning of the Church, The (Booklet)	3.00
Institution of Marriage, The (Booklet)	4.00
Key to Understanding the Scriptures, The (Chart).....	0.50
Supernatural Sign Gifts of the Acts Period, The (Booklet).....	4.00

Ask about our special package offers!

Orders up to \$20.00, please add **\$3.00** for Postage and Handling

Orders over \$20.00, please add **15%** for Postage and Handling

**Foreign Orders Must be remitted in U. S. Currency*

*“The Lord gets His best soldiers out of the highlands
of affliction.”*

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

THE BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT
1112 W17761 MEQUON ROAD
PO Box 756
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022-0756

PERIODICALS
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI