

# The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

October 2002



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## From the Editor to You:

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Dearly Beloved,

Many who have visited the *Berean Bible Society* will remember our large storage room with steel shelving, containing cartons of Bible study books and booklets. Lately we have had to point out to visitors several large open spaces—whole sections of empty shelves. This is encouraging—and a bit frightening. Encouraging because it indicates a growing interest in the study of God's Word. This past year our literature has gone out faster by far than in any previous year, largely due to the Internet and our conference ministry. But this gives us concern too, for these open areas indicate that some of our books are running low and reprints will have to be done *at today's prices!*

Right now *two* of our larger books are being reprinted: *Things That Differ* and *I Corinthians*. These, in addition to the

smaller books and booklets, which are constantly being reprinted. This runs up into the thousands of dollars. Brace yourself, there's more troubling news. We received word this month that the cost to print the *Berean Searchlight* is going to increase dramatically, in addition to a recent postal increase. This is going to bring the expenditure to publish and send out the *Searchlight* to nearly \$11,000 per month. Your eyes are not deceiving you, that's the correct figure.



be one of those who will make some special sacrifice to keep this ministry for Christ going forward? It seems the needs never let up, but soon enough we will have made our last sacrifice for Him, so let's be faithful while we can.

The Lord knows, however, so we are trusting Him to touch hearts to "come to the rescue" as we press on in our efforts to make known "the wonderful gospel of the wonderful grace of God." Will *you*

Yours in His love and service,

Pastor C. R. Stam, Founder  
Paul M. Sadler, President

**From Arizona:**

"Your faithfulness in publishing the Word of God rightly divided is so very much appreciated, and we thank God for you every day. Also, we pray for your encouragement and steadfastness in this wonderful gospel!"

**From Indiana:**

"Brother Stam's booklet, *The Answer to Catholicism*, is the single best tool I've ever seen for witnessing to Catholics, and actually helped put me 'over the top' when I first became a Grace believer."

**From Minnesota:**

"During nearly 50 years of missionary service, my wife Mary and I have profited greatly from the *Searchlight*. Somehow, we got off the list and do miss the great teaching the magazine affords. Please make sure that we receive the *Searchlight* every month by putting us back on the list....May God richly bless you dear people as you teach the Word, rightly divided. I especially like all your studies, Brother Paul, on *The Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter*."

**From Colorado:**

"Discovering your ministry has been the key to really understanding God's Word, so its power is not diminished.... I've encouraged my children, who are currently in high school, to attend BBI.... May God continue to bless you as you get the accurate interpretation of His Word to those who hunger for the truth." (We trust other parents will follow your example, beloved, to encourage their children to attend BBI. It's a terrific way to get established in the message early in life before other influences crowd out the truth! Ed.)

**From Tennessee:**

"I agree with the dispensational viewpoint. The Bible is in perfect focus with it. I thought I was alone! I started studying this after reading some of Clarence Larkin's writings. It isn't taught anywhere now. Sad!!!!!!!"

**From Ohio:**

"I would like to thank you for the *Searchlight*; it has helped me learn a lot. With all the extremely strange religions here, it's sometimes hard to find the truth."

**From New York:**

"I thank you for *Things That Differ*. I am going to give it to a friend of mine to introduce the grace message to her."

**From New York:**

"Can you please send me the address for *Distance Bible Studies*, Altoona, Wisconsin? Please don't take offense, but are they biblically sound? I ask because I have started other Bible studies and they suddenly went 'out of the ballpark,' so to speak, with crazy and false teachings....I'm looking for solid biblical teaching like in your publication. Thank you again for the blessing of your Bible teachings." (No offense taken! DBS is as sound as it comes. We highly recommend it as a study tool. Ed.)

**From Australia:**

"I receive your magazine through my church in Western Australia. Thank you for your time and effort that you put into such a worthy magazine."

**From Vermont:**

"In a culture and age that seems so far removed from our Lord, it brings my wife and I great hope to find ministries like yours reaching out. It crushes us to know that so many of our dearest family and friends will be lost. Your newsletters and other resources, along with the blessing of the second Comforter, and of course the Word, help us remain prepared to point truth seekers in Christ's direction. Thank you for your help. We are so very blessed to be accepted in the Beloved."

**From England:**

"We do thank you all for the continuing gift of the *Berean Searchlight* and the work that each of you is called to do, in Christ, for the Lord Jesus."

**From California:**

"I have just started receiving the *Berean Searchlight* and find it a fantastic aid in my personal dedication to II Timothy 2:15. Your on-going series, *The Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter*, is outstanding."

**From Idaho:**

"I placed a book order for my niece about a week ago. The book I ordered for her was *Things That Differ...* I thoroughly enjoyed this same book which a former classmate of mine had ordered for me and was excited to send my niece the same book."

**From Australia:**

"Thank you so much for your ministry. *Two Minutes With the Bible* over the net has been so encouraging and a blessing to me that I also pass it on to others who are interested in this message. I PRAISE GOD each day for what He has done for us and for opening our eyes to the Scriptures. A word of encouragement: We STAND with you in this message all the way, no matter what the outcome. As the Apostle Paul stated in Philippians 3:7-9, our life is in Him." (Thanks so very much for the encouraging word. It means a great deal to us to know that others are willing to stand with us in defense of this precious message. Ed.)

**From New Mexico:**

"God has motivated me to start studying again, and I've read seven of Stam's volumes this year...Thanks also for sending the *Searchlight*; I need to send an additional amount for that, as I think I'm overdue. God bless you all, and keep preaching grace and His Word rightly divided."

**From Arkansas:**

"We would welcome correspondence with others in our Rogers, Arkansas area. Thank you for this ministry!"

**From South Africa:**

"Thank you ever so much for the *Searchlight*. I love to read it! Wow! What a lovely gift! Wish I knew about it years ago! I need to know more, but it's like being fed by a teaspoon. Wish I could know it all at once."

**From Canada via E-Mail:**

"I just received your package in the mail. I would like to thank you very much. The articles are of great interest to me and I cannot wait to read them all."

**From Tennessee:**

"I very much enjoy your ministry. May God bless you!"

**From South Dakota:**

"Please mail me your teaching on Ephesians 4:8. I will fellowship with God through my study of it. Thank you for your answer to my Bible question. My family and I have been bountifully blessed through studying the Word, rightly divided. It all began with Pastor Jeff Seekins in Sioux Falls, SD."

**From the Philippines:**

"I really had a great time during our conference in Mayatoc, Quezon. I was so inspired and blessed. I hope we can meet again. If you still remember, I was the one who approached you, during the last day of our conference and requested if you could give me a free subscription of the *Berean Searchlight* for my father. Thank you very much and more power to you. GOD BLESS YOU! Regards to your family!"

**From Connecticut:**

"My wife and I are really digging now on many fronts in dispensational understanding. I also have the CD with many of Stam and Baker's books." (We are deeply indebted to both these stalwarts for their groundbreaking efforts to help us understand the Mystery more fully. Ed.)

"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

# The Gospel of Salvation

By Paul M. Sadler

With the souls of men hanging in the eternal balance, it is extremely important to give a clear presentation of the gospel. We have always marveled at how the Holy Spirit sorts through the maze of confusion regarding the various plans of salvation that have been developed over the years. Although all these plans contain an element of truth, they leave the door open to mislead the sinner.

## Plan One:

1. Admit you are a sinner (Rom. 3:23).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent) (Matt. 3:2).
3. Believe Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross (I Cor. 15:3).
4. Through prayer invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life.

## Plan Two:

1. Confess your sins (Mark 1:5).
2. Open the door of your heart so Christ can come in (Rev. 3:20).
3. Believe on Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31).
4. Come forward publicly to receive Jesus as your personal Savior.

## Plan Three:

1. Acknowledge you are a sinner (Rom. 3:23).
2. You must make Jesus Christ Lord of your life (Rom. 12:1).
3. Believe Christ died for you (I Cor. 15:3).
4. Accept Christ as your personal Savior by praying to God.

There are two serious flaws with the above plans. First, they confuse the terms of salvation under the kingdom gospel with the gospel of the grace of God. Second, the sinner could easily place his trust in what he has done, instead of the Savior. Therefore we suggest the following:

## The Scriptural Terms of Salvation:

1. Acknowledge you are sinner, "for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, that He died for your sins, was buried and rose again (Rom. 4:5; I Cor. 15:3,4).

If you have trusted Christ as your personal Savior, why not pray and thank God for your salvation.

Beloved, the unsaved are dangling over the lake of fire by one thin thread of human existence. The only thing that is standing between them and eternal judgment is the good news of Christ and Him crucified. May the Lord give us a burden for lost souls, for "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

# The Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter

## II Peter 3:10-18

By Paul M. Sadler

The writings of Peter lay special emphasis on future events. We speak of time past in connection to the Law, time present in regard to grace, but it is the latter part of our Bibles, known as the Hebrew epistles, that deals extensively with the consummation of all things. As Peter closes this epistle, he passionately warns men about the judgment to come. Sadly, humanity is like a train headed for a washed out trestle, yet men choose to go about life's pursuits oblivious to the urgency of their plight. In the words of Jonathan Edwards, who preached the unforgettable sermon entitled, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*, "O sinner! consider the fearful danger. Unconverted men walk over the pit of hell on a rotten covering, and there are innumerable places in this covering so weak that they will not bear their weight, and these places are not seen. The wrath of God burns against them."



Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Even though God has been longsuffering these many centuries, the world will soon witness the Almighty "trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored." In that day He will most assuredly "loose the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword." Those who have problems accepting God's wrath fail to understand the holiness of God, which is the very essence of His character. Robert J. Morgan shares these insightful comments concerning the character of God:



Crematorium

The Bible presents a God who is the absolute of perfection, who is a God of love, and yet who is simultaneously a God of wrath. A.T. Pierson compares it to an arch. You have the love of God supporting one side and the wrath of God supporting the other side; without either of them the entire thing would fall down.

God would not be God if He did not have the capacity of wrath. Why? I was reading the other day about a young, handsome, dapper fellow, a medical doctor, who always wore crisp and well-tailored clothing. He handled himself with polish and smoothness. He always bore the fragrance of expensive cologne. But his very demeanor made him all the more fiendish, for his name was Josef Mengele, the *Angel of Death* at Auschwitz. With the flick of his well-washed and perfumed hand he personally selected 400,000 prisoners to die in the gas chamber.

Mengele conducted horrible experiments on people, hoping to produce a superior race. One observer said, “He would spend hours bent over his microscope, while the air outside stank with the heavy odor of burning flesh from the chimney stacks of the crematorium.” He had a special fascination for children who were twins. He would give them horrible injections, operate on their spine to paralyze them, then begin removing parts of their body one at a time for observation.



Auschwitz  
Prisoners

Now, what would you think of a person—or, for that matter, a God—who could see that sort of indescribable evil without feeling any anger? If God could watch the hurt and the evil in this universe with no feelings of indignation and fury, He would be defective in His character. He wouldn't be God at all. So I submit that rather than apologizing for the doctrine of the wrath of God, or ignoring it, we should appreciate it as a vital and wonderful part of God's divine character.<sup>1</sup>

## UNIVERSAL JUDGMENT

**“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”**

—II Pet. 3:10

According to the Scriptures, this is *man's day* (I Cor. 4:3). Simply look around and you will see what a fine mess he has made of things. Humanism has replaced the Word of God as man's final authority. Evolution claims man evolved from animals so it should not surprise us when men behave like animals.

Consequently, serial killers roam the earth killing the innocent, while so-called religious leaders look the other way as their colleagues molest the young. Corporate leaders, who have no moral standard whatsoever, see nothing wrong with robbing their shareholders blind and stealing the life savings of their employees. After all,

“business is business,” they say! But the greatest tragedy of all is the man or woman who stands in the pulpit and leads souls to perdition. What shall their end be?!

Shall the justice of God pass by these evil deeds of sinful man? I think not! Peter states in no uncertain terms that the “day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.” Immediately after the Rapture, the next major event on God's calendar is *the Lord's Day*, as the foregoing phrase implies. It will be a day of wrath—a day of trouble, a day of vengeance, a day of darkness, thick darkness (Isa. 63:2-6 cf. Zeph. 1:14-18). Although the day of the Lord is usually closely associated with the Second Coming of Christ to the earth, it is actually an *extended* period which covers the following events:

1. The first three and one-half years of Jacob's Trouble, known as the Tribulation (Isa. 13:6-9; Matt. 24:3-14; Rev. 6:1-17).

2. The latter three and one-half years is called the Great Tribulation, which concludes with the battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ (Isa. 13:10,11; Matt. 24:15-26,27-44; Rev. 16:13-16; 19:11-19; 20).

3. The judgments of Israel and the nations, and the establishment of the millennial kingdom (Matt. 25:14-46; Rev. 20:4).



4. The battle of Gog and Magog, at which time God puts down the final rebellion against His righteousness (Rev. 20:7-9).

5. Then comes the end of time as we know it, when the kingdom is delivered into the hands of the Father and all the unsaved dead are resurrected and made to stand at the Great White Throne Judgment (I Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 20:11-15).

6. Simultaneously God will purge the present heavens and earth with fire (Rev. 20:11 cf. II Pet. 3:10-12).

It is difficult to ascertain the exact extent of this period, but we do know that it covers at least one thousand seven years (Dan. 9:27 cf. Rev. 20:4). With these things in mind, Peter transports his hearers to the *last* event of the day of the Lord when he states:

***“...the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”***

As we see, the present heavens and earth are being preserved for a future judgment by fire. Like the days of Noah, this judgment will also be universal, but far more reaching. The combination of a “great noise” and the elements melting “with fervent heat” seems to indicate some type of a nuclear holocaust. In Paul’s letter to the Colossians we learn, “by Him all things consist,” that is, they are literally held together by His almighty power. What God chooses not to hold together, in the form of a judgment, could result in a sweeping nuclear discharge that would utterly destroy everything within His chosen parameters. History gives us some idea of how devastating such a judgment would be. The destructive atomic force released upon Hiroshima in World War II leveled

90% of the city. This beckons the question, where will you be when God destroys the world?



The world prides itself on its accomplishments. Peter calls them “the works that are therein.” But whether it’s the architectural wonders of the world, or those famous inventions named after men, they will all perish at that fateful day. Man’s achievements will pass away in His wrath like the morning dew. Once again, this is a solemn reminder that only those things done for Christ will have eternal value.

As is frequently the case, warnings of judgment are often followed by an admonition to live a godly life. Thus the apostle adds, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness” (II Pet. 3:11). If the holiness of God is properly brought into focus through the lens of omnipotence, it will produce a greater reverence for the Lord. It’s a great motivator! The primary goal of every believer should be to please the Lord, unlike the scoffers who questioned the counsel of His will.

### **THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY**

**“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall**

**be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (II Pet. 3:12,13).**

As we leave the day of the Lord, the heavens and the earth are still ablaze. But out of the ashes comes a new day, the *day of God*, which introduces us to the eternal state. We believe this phrase is synonymous with the dispensation of the fulness of times spoken of by the Apostle Paul.

**“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him” (Eph. 1:10).**

The gathering “together in one all things in Christ” here has to do with God’s eternal purpose for the heavens and the earth. Peter and Paul are in full agreement that the distinction between these two realms will remain throughout eternity. “Looking for,” is an indication that Peter’s hearers were anticipating the day when they will reside on a new earth, with the Lord who bought them. It is not God’s purpose to create a new heavens and a new earth after the destruction of the former things of old. According to Vine, the term “new” in II Peter 3:13 is the Greek word *Kainos*, which denotes “not new in time, recent, but new as to form or quality, of different nature from what is contrasted as old.”<sup>2</sup> In other words, the heavens and earth are going to pass from one state of existence to another. God is going to simply *renovate* what we presently see around us, as the Scriptures confirm:

**“Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever” (Psa. 104:5).**

**“One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever” (Eccl. 1:4).**

As the heavens and earth are restored to a state of perfection, it will mark the completion of God’s plan of redemption, which included the creation (Rom. 8:18-23). Although heaven and earth will most likely be open to one another in eternity, a distinction will remain, as we have seen. Our inheritance as members of the Body of Christ will encompass the heavenlies where we will be seated with Christ. This, however, doesn’t mean we won’t have access to the earth. In all likelihood we will. For example, I am a resident of Wisconsin, but earlier this year I had an opportunity to visit with members of the Body of Christ in the Philippines, half a world away. After my time with these dear saints came to an end, I returned home. In eternity, heaven will be our home where we will reside and serve Him (II Cor. 5:8,9; Eph. 1:10; 2:6).

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**“It is not God’s purpose to create a new heavens and a new earth after the destruction of the former things of old.”**

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The new earth will be inhabited by the nation Israel and the other prophetic saints, according to the promise of God. During the prophetic program Israel held a pre-eminent position over the nations that will continue throughout the eternal state. She will have the honor of having the names of the twelve tribes inscribed upon the twelve gates of the New Jerusalem.

Furthermore, the wall that surrounds this fifteen-hundred mile enclosure is said to have twelve foundations wherein are emblazoned the names of the twelve apostles of the kingdom. Interestingly, Paul's name will not be among them. Why? He is the apostle of Grace, the *one* apostle, ordained of God to make known the heavenly ministry of Christ (Gal. 1:1,11,12 cf. Rev. 21:1,2,12,14).

### A FINAL CHARGE

**“Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation” (II Pet. 3:14,15a).**

Peter's words here were no doubt comforting to his hearers, but they will be even more significant in the coming day of the Lord. When the Lord said to His disciples, “Let not your hearts be troubled,” regarding His betrayal, He was sincere! The Lord always wants what's best for His own. He didn't want them concerning themselves with circumstances that were beyond their control. After all, worry is a *sin*! Rather it is His will for them to place their faith in Him, who is in control of all things. They were to trust the promises of God which would anchor their souls in hope—then and only then would they be “found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” This will be particularly needful for those who endure the future horrors of the tribulation period.

Peter answers for us the critical question of why God isn't dealing with Israel as a nation during the administration of Grace, when He says, “And account that the

longsuffering of our Lord is salvation.” Today, God is fulfilling His secret purpose among the Gentiles. *The longsuffering of our Lord is salvation*, that is, for the Gentiles. Once the fulness of the Gentiles is complete at the Rapture, then God will turn again to His chosen nation. Then all believing Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:25,26). Peter adds:

**“Even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction” (II Pet. 3:15b,16).**

Our hats are off to Peter! He never became bitter or resentful that Paul had rebuked him publicly for going back on his word and separating from the Gentiles when some came from James. He humbly acknowledged his wrong as this passage confirms. For the sake of the Lord's work he did not allow himself to become entangled in the web of self pity. This is a lesson all believers need to take to heart.

The wisdom given to Paul spoken of here by Peter is the *hidden* wisdom of God. Of course, this is the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery (I Cor. 2:6-8 cf. Rom. 16:25). If we remove Peter's parenthetical thought for a moment, we are left with the following thought, “Even as our beloved brother Paul...hath written unto you.” We personally believe that the writing to which Peter refers is Paul's letter to the Hebrews. Of course, we are well aware that there are those brethren that believe otherwise and we certainly respect their convictions. In fact,

you would do well to ponder their arguments, as a good Berean. Since we have addressed this matter in the past, we will not take the time to do so here, only to say that the writing to which Peter speaks was not only an *epistle*, but also *Scripture*, as the context bears out.

One thing about Peter, he always spoke his mind, “As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest.” What things? Seeing that the list is so lengthy, especially as far as a Jew was concerned, we’ll just mention a few; the longsuffering of God among the Gentiles, the dispensation of the fulness of times, the inheritance of the Gentiles, etc. You see, these things were hard for Peter to understand, in light of the promises to Israel. Peter was still sorting all this out in lieu of Paul’s apostleship and message. On the other hand, the “unlearned and unstable” were twisting the Scriptures to discredit and challenge Paul’s authority, and they did so to their spiritual destruction.

We want to focus our attention for a moment on the statement, “as they do also the other Scriptures.” Although it was not Peter’s intention to take up the matter of canonicity, he does give authenticity to Paul’s epistles by way of inference. In fact, this statement weighed heavily upon those who would deal with the issue of the canon years later.<sup>3</sup> We also find it of interest that the terminology “other Scriptures” distinguishes Paul’s epistles from the prophetic Scriptures, which follow the prophetic theme. This

*“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”*

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“If the holiness of God is properly brought into focus through the lens of omnipotence, it will produce a greater reverence for the Lord.”

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should not surprise us, since the things found in Paul’s revelation were kept secret from ages and generations past, but now are brought to light in his epistles alone.

Having adequately prepared his hearers in advance of what lies ahead, Peter closes with these words of wisdom, which demonstrate the influence of Paul’s message at the time: “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen!”

*The End*



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## Endnotes

1. *Nelson’s Complete Book of Stories and Illustrations* by Robert J. Morgan, Thomas Nelson Publishing, Nashville, Tennessee, Pgs. 502,503.
2. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, W.E. Vine, World Bible Publishers, Iowa Falls, Iowa, Pg. 109.
3. *Canon*: “The Greek word *Kanon* means a rule or measuring stick....In fact, the very word *Scripture*, as it is used in the New Testament, carries the idea of canonicity, or that which measures up to the divine standard, that which is the authoritative Word of God”—Pastor Charles F. Baker, *A Dispensational Theology*, Grace Bible College Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

# Three Men in the Book of Psalms

By Cornelius R. Stam

**T**he Book of Psalms concerns just three men: *The Good Man*, *The Bad Man* and *The Forgiven Man*. Or, we might call them *The Perfect Man*, *The Ungodly Man* and *The Forgiven Man*. The very first Psalm strikes a contrast between the good man and the bad man, and Paul, in Romans 4:6-8, cites Psalm 32 as a classic description of the forgiven man.

## PSALM 1

Many Bible commentators believe that Solomon wrote Psalm 1 as an introduction to the Psalms of his father, David. We tend toward this view for the following reasons: (1) Psalm 1, especially in Verses 1 and 2, employs the *kind* of language so often used by Solomon in his Proverbs. (2) The word “scornful,” or “scorner,” occurs *only here* in the Book of Psalms, but often in the Proverbs. (3) It would be very *natural* that Solomon should write an introduction to the Psalms, most of which were composed by his illustrious father. (4) In Acts 13:33 *some* old MSS quote Psalm 2 as Psalm 1, because they considered Psalm 1 to be only an introduction to what was really the first Psalm. We believe they were mistaken, for not all the Psalms were written by David and, indeed, the introduction to the Psalms, though written by Solomon, is itself also a Psalm. Thus we believe the *Authorized Version* is correct in rendering Acts 13:33, “*as it is also written in the second Psalm.*” The above fact, however, indicates that the belief that Psalm 1 was written by Solomon is by no means new.

## THE PERFECT MAN

The writer of Psalm 1 first shows us the *negative* side of the good man; he tells us what the good man will *not* do:

**“Blessed is the man that  
“walketh not in the counsel of  
the ungodly,  
“nor standeth in the way of sinners,  
“nor sitteth in the seat of the  
scornful” (Ver. 1).**

Note how sin has a tendency to deter one from making moral and spiritual progress. The Psalmist shows how the blessed man is *not* influenced by this deterrent. He does *not* walk in the counsel of the ungodly and then, as a result, stand in the way of sinners, so that soon he is found sitting in the seat of the scornful. *He seeks his counsel from God* and continues to make progress, morally and spiritually. This, the *positive* side, is found in Verse 2.

**“But his delight is in the law of  
the Lord, and in His law doth he  
meditate day and night” (Ver. 2).**

Mark well, he does not merely *submit* to the law of God; he *delights* in it, meditating in it *day and night* so as to understand it more perfectly—with a view to carrying out its instructions more acceptably. David and Solomon, of course, were under the Mosaic Law, but the principle applies equally to the man who, under any dispensation, sincerely seeks to do the will of God. Such a man, says the Psalmist,

**“Shall be like a tree planted by the  
rivers of water, that bringeth forth  
his fruit in his season; his leaf also  
shall not wither, and whatsoever he  
doeth shall prosper” (Ver. 3).**

The man who *desires* and *seeks* to do God's will is indeed like a tree *planted* by the riverside, where its roots can run deep and be assured of abundant nourishment, so that its leaves may remain green and its fruit may be depended upon. Jeremiah 17:7,8 confirms this principle:

**“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.**

**“For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”**

Yet, in the final analysis we must ask ourselves how many of us have *consistently* avoided even listening to the advice of the ungodly, and have rather *delighted* in the revealed will of God, meditating in His Word day and night? How many of us have *consistently* borne fruit to God's glory? The answer is: Only one, *the Lord Jesus Christ*, the perfect Man. In Psalm 40, a Messianic Psalm, we have the words of our Lord:

**“I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea Thy law is within My heart” (Ver. 8).**

And while He was on earth, He said:

**“...I do always those things that please Him” (John 8:29).**

Thus the “blessed man” of Psalm 1 is the *perfect* Man, the God Man, our Lord Jesus Christ.

## THE UNGODLY MAN

Now, by contrast, the Psalmist writes of the *ungodly* man, but just what is an ungodly man? An ungodly man is simply a man who is *not godly*. Many people equate ungodliness with immorality, blasphemy

and evil deeds, but these are merely the fruits of ungodliness.

If I should introduce an unsaved but self-righteous friend to another and say, “He is an ungodly man,” he might well be offended. Yet, if I should introduce him as “a *godly* man,” would he not be embarrassed? Well, if he is *not* godly, is he not *ungodly*?

Psalm 14 speaks of the ungodly man. He is “the fool,” who “*says in his heart...no God.*” He keeps God out of his business (“Business is business.”). He keeps God out of his politics (“One should not mix politics and religion.”). He keeps God out of his social relationships (“One has to have *some* fun.”). He keeps God out of his educational systems (“The mind is the highest court of appeal.”).

Psalm 14 does not refer to the atheist, as some have supposed. The words “there is,” in Verse 1, appear in italics in our *King James Version*, indicating that they are *not* contained in the original. Also, it does not say that “the fool” *does not believe* there is a God. He *says in his heart*, “No God.” Finally, Verses 2,3 make it clear that *all men* are included in this category.

**“The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.**

**“They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”**

Thus the Psalmist proceeds in Psalm 1:

“*The ungodly,*” he says, “*are not so*” (Ver. 4). They are not like trees planted by the waterside, bearing luscious fruit consistently and in abundance. They are rather like the Roman believers *once had been*. Of these Paul later asked:

**“What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?” (Rom. 6:21).**

*“The ungodly,”* the Psalmist continues, *“are like the chaff which the wind driveth away”* (Ibid).

If immature believers tend to be “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14), how much more is this so of the ungodly! *They* are indeed as *“the chaff which the wind driveth away.”* As the wheat is flailed on the thrashing floor, the grain remains, but the slightest breeze blows the chaff away.

This contrast is further drawn for us in the words of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:12 where, speaking of Christ, John says:

**“Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor,**

**and gather His wheat into the garner [barn]; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”**

From all this it is clear that ungodliness is itself sin, the root from which other evils grow. Indeed, this is also evident from the words with which the Psalmist closes this meditation:

**“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

**“For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish” (Vers. 5,6).**

Thus the ungodly are not only useless, carried away like the chaff with the faintest breeze; they are also *guilty* and will, like chaff, be burned with the unquenchable fire of God’s judgment.

*To Be Continued!*



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With many departing to “feel good ministries” these days, Pastor Fredericksen exposes the underlying problem in the following article. In addition to being the Chairman of the Board here at the *Berean Bible Society*, John serves as the senior pastor of the *Grace Bible Church of the Black Hills* in Rapid City, South Dakota. —Ed.

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## No Other Doctrine But Right Division

By Pastor John Fredericksen



**F**or many years a family in a northern state lived on the banks of a river. As time passed, more children were added until the total was ten, plus the mother and the father. Each year as winter approached the father would gather the children to his side and, in no uncertain terms, explain that no one was to ever go out on the ice. One Monday, three of the children decided to walk across the frozen ice as a shortcut on their way to school. Some of the older children begged them not to, and reminded them of their Dad’s stern warning. “Nothing is going to happen to us. Just leave us alone. We’ll be just fine.” So off the three children went. Because the water was more shallow at first, the ice was quite thick. So, with a false sense of security, the three children began to run. Suddenly, the ice beneath their feet began to crack, and all three plunged into the icy water, never to be seen again. In a spiritual sense, many of God’s children are doing something very similar.

When the Apostle Paul writes to Timothy at Ephesus, he says, “I besought thee...that thou mightest **charge some that they teach no other doctrine**” (I Tim. 1:3). What one is taught doctrinally is of the utmost importance. That’s why Timothy was to be very careful himself to “hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard of me” (II Tim. 1:13), then “the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (II Tim. 2:2). If Timothy, and those teaching with him, were consistent about teaching *no other doctrine* other than what Paul taught, this sound doctrine would “save” (or deliver, I Tim. 4:16) all who heard it from spiritual error. But the opposite was also true. If anyone taught or exposed themselves to doctrines which were contrary to what Paul taught, it would have devastating effects. In other words, it would be like playing on thin ice.

**What doctrines were so precious and important, that nothing else was to be listened to?** No sermon or article can adequately articulate all of the important things that the Apostle Paul taught. However, let’s take a look at a number of things that we must hold dear to our understanding, and consistently demand from the teaching of anyone that we sit under. We learn from Romans 6:14 that we

are **“not under the law, but under grace.”** The practical impact of this is that we do not try to implement portions of our Bible that were written exclusively to Israel. From Romans 11:13 we see that **Paul is “the apostle of the Gentiles.”** Peter, James, and John wrote Scripture, but confined their ministries to the nation Israel. Their writings dealt largely with the tribulation or millennial kingdom. Only Paul claims to be, or calls himself, the apostle of the Gentiles. He further urges that **we are to “be followers of me”** (I Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17). So, someone who is sound in doctrine will recognize Paul’s letters as the exclusive “commandments of the Lord” for believers today (I Cor. 14:37).

Our apostle had no tolerance for anything other than **the pure “gospel of the grace of God”** (Acts 20:24; Gal. 1:6-12). He demanded that it always be taught in a crystal clear manner. That meant salvation being proclaimed as a gift of God’s grace, apart from man’s works, and received through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 3:24-28). Beyond this, Paul taught that he was **not sent to baptize**, “lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect” (I Cor. 1:17). Today there is only “one baptism” (Eph. 4:5 and that is the baptism of the Holy Spirit which places us into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation (I Cor. 12:13). Once saved, **we are eternally secure**, because we are “sealed” with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit “unto the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30). Our security is not based on our performance but in the power of God. Paul also taught that **miraculous**

**signs such as “tongues” and “prophecies” have been “done away”** with by the completion of Scripture (I Cor. 13:8-11). Therefore, any today who would claim special revelations from God, or miraculous powers, are deceivers. Today God uses His written Word to provide all that we need for our doctrine and daily walk.

Paul asked some of his converts **“if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward”?** (Eph. 3:2). They needed to understand that the days in which we are living, and the program we are under, are different from anything at any other time in history. In the preceding chapter, he explained that “in time past” Gentiles were not a part of God’s dealings. Israel was His exclusive focus of outreach, and Gentiles were rarely saved, and only then by becoming a Jewish proselyte. “But now” (Eph. 2:13) Gentiles “are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” Paul summarizes the above doctrines and more, by telling Timothy that **“rightly dividing the Word of truth”** (II Tim. 2:15) is the only way to be approved unto God. It is not enough to teach about “Jesus,” nor to teach general Biblical principles for “Christian living.”

Parents are very wise to refuse to allow their children to attend other churches or youth groups, where these basic Pauline doctrines are not understood or consistently taught. This may not be easy or popular, but the Scripture warns us about exposure to wrong doctrine, and tells us to avoid it. If all believers would follow this practice they would not only be obedient to Scripture, but also avoid being “tossed to and fro...with every wind of doctrine.”

**What happens when we listen to unsound doctrine?** Three things can happen. One, we can *become a spiritual "shipwreck"* (I Tim. 1:19). Hymenaeus is an example. He had "swerved" and "turned aside" (I Tim. 1:6) from the sound doctrines of Paul, believing and teaching others that the resurrection had already past. Two, we can *"overthrow the faith of some"* (II Tim. 2:18). This happened continually to the converts of the Apostle Paul. The Galatians were so "bewitched" that they no longer understood the gospel that saved them, and they desired to go back under the Mosaic Law. The believers at Colosse, though saved, ceased to properly esteem the Lord Jesus Christ as their "Head," and began the practice of worshipping angels (Col. 2:18-19). Three, believers can *"depart from the faith"* (I Tim. 4:1). This certainly does NOT mean they can lose their salvation. Rather it refers to saved believers departing from the sound doctrines of the Apostle Paul, as their guide for living today. All of this could have been, and can be avoided if we will simply obey what God says about allowing **no other doctrine** to influence us.

In 1970, a woman by the name of Rose heard the gospel of God's grace and trusted Christ as her Savior. Soon after she was introduced to a host of dispensational literature. She was thrilled to see the difference between Israel and the Body of Christ, being under the law as opposed to being under grace. She became a well-grounded Grace believer, and even lead a cousin by the name of Maria into the Grace message. Eventually Rose began to attend a church that believed in miraculous Pentecostal signs. When her husband became ill, those in

her church told her with certainty that her husband would be healed of his cancer. They knew this because they had "heard from God." Even though she had known God's Word rightly divided, exposure to such false doctrine had her so confused that she believed what they told her and became utterly dismayed when her husband died.

"...the Scripture warns us about exposure to wrong doctrine, and tells us to avoid it."

Maria became a well-grounded Grace believer also, through years of reading Grace literature and listening to Grace teachers on tape. She regularly listened to Christian radio. Several of the preachers on the radio, though nationally recognizable, had her utterly confused. Some taught that if you didn't live in a certain way you would lose your salvation. Maria spent months in spiritual agony, until she made the decision that she would listen to "no other doctrine" than that of grace. Only then was her peace and joy and certainty of salvation restored.

On October 31, 1983 Korean airlines flight 007 departed from Anchorage, Alaska for a direct flight to Seoul, Korea. Unknown to the crew, the computer flight navigation system contained a one-and-a-half degree routing error. At the point of departure, the mistake was unnoticeable. One hundred miles out, the deviation was still too small to be detectable. But eventually the giant 747 strayed into Soviet airspace. Soviet radar picked up the error, and fighter jets scrambled to

intercept. Over mainland Russia, the jets shot down flight 007, and all on board lost their lives. This tragedy occurred because of only being a little off course to begin with. Spiritually we can come to a tragic end ourselves by swerving off the course of doctrine that is consistent with the doctrine that Paul teaches in his letters.


Some will attend other churches and think that it will not have an ill effect upon them. Surely, they think, I can benefit from grace teaching and non-grace teaching. Others will read literature, attend conferences, fellowship in social church events and otherwise generally expose themselves to errant doctrine. But the effect will be the same as it was in Paul's day. The Corinthians began to *question the authority of the Apostle Paul*. They became *confused* about the value of working for the Lord, and *increasingly carnal* in every way. Little by little they became willing to *compromise sound doctrine and justify* associations that they knew were wrong. Later they became *antagonistic and hypercritical of him*. The result was that Paul had to waste valuable time to confirm his ministry and sound doctrine before them. Unfortunately, some were unretrievable. In other words, some *departed from the faith* just like those that Paul warned Timothy about.

Paul warned Timothy in II Timothy 4:3,4 that **“the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears: and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”** (a story or teaching that is untrue). In the days just before the Rapture,

Grace teaching will not be popular. Even those who know it will begin to think these truths are boring. They will want something new, exciting, entertaining, something that will draw crowds. They will want to soft pedal Grace truth, and have itching ears for other doctrines. Many will abandon a church that stands for sound Pauline doctrine to attend other “ministries” less worthy of their loyalty. I wonder if one of the arguments won't be that what they are doing **makes them feel closer to God**. In Grace circles we are continually hearing this explanation from those who are listening to doctrines that are not compatible with what Paul teaches. Recently, one ministerial student, one college student, and one older mature gentleman commented that attending a non-grace church made them *feel* like they were really worshipping God for the first time. The real issue is how does God feel about what doctrine they are now standing for and with? Now we are reminded of the Scripture that tells us “unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required” (Luke 12:48). Those of us who have been privileged to understand God's Word rightly divided must stand true to what is true, and to allow our emotions to soar with the joy of doing what is right.

Early in aviation history, pilots had to learn the lesson of inertia. When flying through clouds or fog which prevented them from seeing the horizon, they could not feel the plane's wings beginning to bank right or left. Initially pilots followed the myth of instinct: They believed they could *feel* the turn of their plane, and many banked unknowingly into a spiral dive that ended in a crash. Pilot William Langewieshe writes,

“instinct is worse than useless in the clouds.” The only way for pilots to fly through the clouds is to rely on instruments like the artificial horizon gauge. This is a gyroscoped line that stays level with the earth’s surface and unerringly indicates when the wings bank left or right. In the early days of this instrument, the biggest problem fliers had was relying on their feelings instead of

this instrument. When it comes to spiritual matters, our feelings, experiences, or what is most popular is not a reliable guide for us to follow. Today God uses the instrument of His Word. It is unerring, if we are willing to rightly divide it and accept **“no other doctrine”** than what is taught by the inspired writings of the Apostle Paul. Stand true to Paul’s doctrines of grace. 

## Question Box

*“We Bereans delight to point out that our Lord’s earthly ministry was primarily to Israel, using Matthew 10:5,6, “Go not into the way of the Gentiles...But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel,” and Matthew 15:24, “I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” However, it is a little disturbing to me that the parallel accounts in the other Gospels do not mention that restriction. See Mark 3:14,15; 6:7-12 and Luke 9:1-6, and also in the sending out of the seventy in Luke 10:1. Is there a good explanation for this variation?”*

It is important to remember that each writer of the four Gospels present Christ in a different light—Matthew portrays Him as the King of Israel, Mark, the suffering servant. Luke lays emphasis upon His humanity, while John proclaimed His Deity.

As we know, the Messiah was to descend from the royal seed; therefore, Matthew introduces his narrative with these words: “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David.” The birth of Christ was in fulfillment of the promise God made to David regarding the establishment of an everlasting throne and kingdom. Luke, on the other hand traces the genealogy of Christ all the way back to Adam, which identifies Him with humanity. So then, Matthew’s Gospel *emphasizes* the order of God’s plans and purpose; that is, Israel must first accept the King before the gospel would be extended to the Gentiles. This explains why Matthew recorded that the twelve were to confine their ministry to Israel.

Furthermore, even though the Synoptic Gospels individually offer a comprehensive view of the Great Commission, each writer gave details that the others were not led to record. For example, Matthew states that the Lord sent forth the twelve, but Mark adds that they went out two by two into the highways and byways of life (Matt. 10:5 cf. Mark 6:7). Luke expands upon this to inform us that the Lord also appointed seventy to precede Him in every town and city where He planned to minister (Luke 10:1).

—Pastor Sadler

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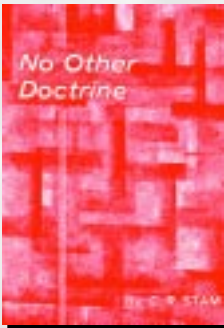
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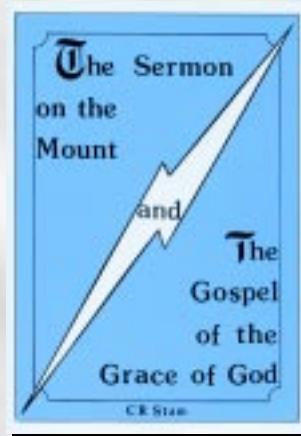
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## THE BBI BYLINE

### The Prototype

#### I Timothy 1:15-16

By W. Edward Bedore, Th.D.

Executive Director, *Berean Bible Institute*

**“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**

**“Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting” (I Tim. 1:15-16).**

A prototype is an original model, the first in a series, the pattern of that which is to follow. The first model of a certain type of airplane would be a prototype of those like it that were to be manufactured, the first of a kind. The Apostle Paul uses the Greek word “protos” (translated “first”) in describing himself as “*a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him [Jesus Christ] to life everlasting.*” It is from “protos” that we get our English word prototype. What Paul was saying is that he was first in time and place. He was an original model. We know that Paul was not the first person saved, as the Bible gives us many examples of men and women who placed their

faith in the living God in both the Old and New Testaments before Paul ever came on the scene. What could he mean then?

When we recognize that Paul was referring to a new, never before revealed dispensation, it becomes clear that he means that he was the first saved under this new program of God, the dispensation of Grace (see Ephesians 3:1-7 and Galatians 1:11-12).

The gospel Jesus Christ preached during His earthly ministry was the “gospel of the kingdom,” which says that He will one day rule here on earth with Israel as the premier nation in that kingdom. This is the subject of prophecy. The gospel (good news) revealed by the resurrected, ascended, glorified, and highly exalted Lord Jesus Christ Himself from heaven to Paul was the mystery (secret) “gospel of grace,” ushered in with Israel’s rejection of her Messiah. Now without distinction Jew and Gentile are saved and placed into “one Body” with a heavenly hope.

**“Only one life ’twill soon be past.  
Only what’s done for Christ will last.”**

*“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14).*

***Spring Semester begins January 27, 2003***

For more information about *Berean Bible Institute* contact: Dr. W. Edward Bedore, PO Box 40, Germantown, WI 53022, or phone: (262) 255-4094, fax: (262) 255-4195, e-mail: <berean@execpc.com>.

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## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**OUR “DEAREST” ROSEMARY:** We just received word that Rosemary Cummings has been called home to be with the Lord. Rosemary was led to the Lord by Pastor Stam and served as his personal secretary for 8 years, followed by another 7 years as my secretary. She was a professional in the truest sense of the word. Mere words could never convey what she meant to us here at the *Berean Bible Society*. Rosemary was instrumental in helping me transition from the pulpit ministry to the current position I hold as the Editor of the *Berean Searchlight*. When it came to grammar she was an authority. Everyone at the office consulted with her, whether the question was about a verb tense or a dangling participle.



Rosemary with letters for Pastor Sadler to sign.

Rosemary had the sweetest spirit. I never once heard an unkind word come from her lips. Even though she suffered terribly with a bad back for many years she never complained, but busily went about the Lord's work. She loved the Savior dearly and looked forward to that day she would be with Him. We are going to miss “our Rosemary,” but thanks be unto God that she's with the Lord, which is far better.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** On July 21st the *Falls Bible Church* in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, called Brother Jim Penney as their pastor. The past year Jim has served as the associate pastor of the *Faith Bible Church* under the ministry of our own Ricky Kurth. Brother Jim is also proficient in the original languages and has agreed to teach Greek this semester at the *Berean Bible Institute*. God's very best to Pastor & Mrs. Penney and family as they share Christ and Him crucified in these new opportunities of ministry. For times of services or additional information, please contact Pastor Penney at (262) 252-4080 or E-mail: <[PastorPenney@aol.com](mailto:PastorPenney@aol.com)>.

**BEST WISHES:** Brother Bill Petri recently accepted the call as the pastor of the *Beacon of Grace Bible Church* in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. If you are within traveling distance, Pastor & Mrs. Petri would like to extend a warm welcome to visit the assembly. The church is located at: *Woodland Public School*, 1511 Seventh Street, St. Catharines, Ontario QEW, Exit #51. For more information, please contact Jim & Yvette Bartkiw at (905) 562-7170 or E-mail: <[naturesbest@sprint.ca](mailto:naturesbest@sprint.ca)>. May God richly bless these dear saints as they labor together to share the gospel of the grace of God with a lost and dying world.

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\*The picture of the lighthouse that appears on the front cover was taken by Alan Neubauer of Evanston, Illinois. The *Grosse Point Lighthouse* is located in Evanston, Illinois. It was constructed in 1873 as the lead navigational marker in waters just north of Chicago Harbor. For 67 years it functioned to ensure the safe passage of commerce and people. The building in the foreground was the Keepers' Quarters.

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