

The

# Berean Searchlight

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

November 2003



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## From the Editor to You:

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Dearly Beloved,

*Thanksgiving* is one of my favorite holidays of the year. I'm not sure whether it's the aroma of turkey and stuffing filling the house or the family congregating at home. It's probably a little bit of both. The day begins at the crack of dawn with me helping my wife wrestle that big bird into the roaster.

Vicki loves to cook and bake, and our youngest, Tim, loves to eat. Incidentally, he's 6'4" tall and weighs in at 220 pounds, so it's a match made in heaven! In fact, Tim plans to hold out and only marry a gal who can cook. However, the chances of finding such a gal are pretty remote these days. The fact of the matter is that most young ladies today don't know how to cook, and they have absolutely no desire to learn. Love is: sweep me off my feet and take me out to eat! Thankfully, in the Christian community there are exceptions to this general rule. There's still hope for Tim!

At *Thanksgiving* it's a full-time job keeping Tim from eating everything in sight before the rest of the family arrives. Once the grandkids come they help to run interference for Grandpa. Usually Cody and I set the ambiance for the day by hauling in some logs to build a fire in the fireplace. Katie, now 3, enjoys serving everyone tea and crumpets, which hopefully is a sign of good things to come. Carissa is at that stage, now 1 plus, where she loves to hear herself, so Grandpap sings right along with her, to her amazement and everyone else's as well.

Of course, it wouldn't be *Thanksgiving* without watching at least part of a football game, especially if the *Packers* or *Steelers* are playing. This normally gets everyone psyched up for a game in the backyard. Fear not, I don't play anymore simply because I can't afford to have a 220 pound lineman falling on me at my age. At this point in my life it's a matter of survival!

Around this time the dinner bell rings. After a season of prayer to thank our heavenly Father for His goodness and for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us, we gather around the table to enjoy an unforgettable meal. These are the things of which memories are made. Who says believers can't have a good time! Sadly, what the world calls a good time is usually associated with sin.

We pray that as you gather with family and friends during this holiday, may you have a happy and joyous *Thanksgiving* in the Lord, and may each and every day in Him be filled with *thanksgiving!*

Gratefully yours,

Paul M. Sadler, President



## Thanksgiving

“Being thus arrived in a good harbor, and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven who had brought them over the vast furious ocean, and delivered them from all the perils and miseries

thereof, again to set their feet on the firm and stable earth, their proper element.”  
—William Bradford, *Plymouth Plantation*

The *Thanksgiving Holiday* might not be celebrated in the United States today, were it not for a patient, persistent woman named Sarah Hale. It is well known that the *First Thanksgiving Day* was celebrated by the Pilgrim Fathers in 1621 to give thanks for their first harvest and safe arrival in the New World.

In 1789, President George Washington issued a *Thanksgiving Day Proclamation* to commemorate the first Pilgrim celebration. But Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States discontinued it, calling *Thanksgiving*, “a kingly practice.” After this, *Thanksgiving* was observed by some individual states, and on whatever date suited their fancy.

Then in 1828, Mrs. Hale, the Editor of the magazine *Godey’s Lady’s Book* and author of the poem, “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” began campaigning for the restoration of *Thanksgiving* as a national holiday. She wrote letters and sought appointments with national leaders from the President down. Time after time she was politely rebuffed, sometimes being told it was “impossible” and “impractical,” and sometimes being dismissed with a this-is none-of-your-business scolding.

Finally in 1863 President Lincoln listened seriously to her plea that North and South “lay aside enmities and strife on *Thanksgiving Day*.” He proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November to be the official *National Thanksgiving Day*. This day was finally ratified by the U.S. Congress in 1941. —Selected

While we are grateful that our forefathers saw the need to establish a national holiday to thank God for all His benefits, for the believer in Christ every day should be a day of thanksgiving. We should lift our heart daily in praise and thanksgiving to God for every blessing, both spiritual and material, that He has bestowed upon us. As the apostle says:

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” On behalf of our entire staff, may you and yours have a wonderful and blessed *Thanksgiving Holiday!*  
—Pastor Sadler

# Studies in the Book of Revelation

## Revelation 1:11-20

By Paul M. Sadler



Olive Tree

**“What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks.”**

—Rev. 1:11,12

Having established that John was writing to seven Jewish assemblies in the coming day of the Lord, he is instructed to send what he has written to these assemblies. This was accomplished when the Book of Revelation was included in the canon of Holy Scripture. The same can be said of all the futuristic prophesies of this period recorded in the Old Testament (See Ezek. 37:1-28).

When the trump sounds and the dead in Christ rise and we who are alive and remain are caught up to be with the Lord, all believers will have been removed from the earth at the Rapture.

This naturally raises the question, how will those who make up these seven churches in Asia be evangelized at the beginning of the Tribulation? Before we address this question, we must first consider whether or not there will be a gap between the Rapture of the Church and the beginning of the Tribulation.

Many capable Bible Teachers believe that it will be needful for God to place an intervening period of one year between these two events before He resumes the Prophetic program. They feel it will take at least this amount of time for the Temple to be rebuilt to insure that the Anti-Christ can establish a covenant with Israel based upon the sacrificial system. This position is well worth your thoughtful consideration.

However, the Scriptures have nothing to say about a gap between the Mystery program and the continuation of Prophecy. Since we are living in God's parenthetical age of Grace, which was *hidden* from ages and generations past, Paul would have naturally been the one to reveal this if there was to be a brief interval before the day of the Lord. But the apostle is silent! We believe when the trump sounds at the Rapture it will break the silence of the present dispensation as God declares war on this Christ-rejecting world. This will mark

the beginning of the Tribulation. Both events will be simultaneous.

But there is a greater issue that is often overlooked in this discussion. If there is an interval after the Rapture, God will have left Himself without a human testimony upon the earth, something He has never done in the past. We believe the stage will have already been set behind the scenes for the immediate fulfillment of prophecy following the catching away of the Church. It is true that the sacrificial system will have to be in place at the beginning of the Tribulation, but this could easily be accomplished by using the Tabernacle, as they did in the days of King Solomon, until the Temple is built. Of course, some believe that Israel will rebuild the Temple in her own strength near the end of the current age. It will then simply be used by God to accomplish His purpose in the coming day of the Lord.

### THE TWO WITNESSES

**“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, [3½ years] clothed in sackcloth” (Rev. 11:3).**

It is our firm belief that those who make up the seven churches in Asia will be evangelized by the fruits of the two witnesses. While it is generally believed that they conduct their ministry during the last half of the Tribulation, this view does not align itself with the Scriptures. We know that God pronounces three woes in the Book of Revelation. The first is fulfilled in the first part of the

Tribulation (Rev. 9:12), the second woe in the mid-part (Rev. 11:14), and the third during the latter part (Rev. 12:12). This clearly indicates that the two witnesses will suffer martyrdom in the middle of the Tribulation, since the second woe is a direct consequence of their deaths (Rev. 11:7-14).

As the sound of the trumpet fades in the distance, the two witnesses will immediately appear in Jerusalem, where they will confine their ministry for 3½ years in accord with the Great Commission (Acts 1:8 cf. Rev. 11:8). With the reinstatement of the prophetic program, signs, miracles, and wonders will accompany their proclamation of the kingdom gospel.

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“With the cutting off of the Gentiles at the Rapture, Israel will again be grafted back into her rightful position as the witnesses of God....”

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These two servants of the Lord are called olive trees that *stand* before God (Rev. 11:4). The symbolic usage of the olive tree in the Scriptures is to identify God’s witnesses (Rom. 11:16-24). With the cutting off of the Gentiles at the Rapture, Israel will again be grafted back into her rightful position as the witnesses of God, which the two witnesses here in Revelation represent. They will faithfully bear testimony that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the very Son of God (John 20:31).

On the day of Pentecost when Peter preached the kingdom gospel in connection with the Spirit's miraculous manifestations, it produced amazing results—three thousand souls were saved in *one day*. A few days later an additional two thousand souls were added to their number. As dawn breaks on the Tribulation, God is going to continue the Prophetic program at the point it was interrupted shortly after Pentecost.



Consequently, the testimony and prophecies of these two witnesses will produce the same results as the ministry of the twelve at Pentecost. We believe they will be responsible for the conversion of the 144,000 who are said to be the *firstfruits* redeemed unto God (Rev. 14:1-5). These are 144,000 Jewish missionaries who will evangelize the lost to Christ, which helps us to understand how the seven churches in Asia will come into existence. While we will seek to identify these two witnesses in another lesson, they are sent from God at the beginning of the Tribulation so the testimony of God on earth is *uninterrupted*. If any man attempts to harm them in the days of their prophecy they will experience the swift judgment of God (Rev. 11:5).

## THE SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS AND THE SON OF MAN

**“And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle” (Rev. 1:12,13).**

The Greek word *luchnia* (candlestick) derives its meaning from the Greek word *luchnos* or lamp stand. Both words are closely associated with illumination or light. This reminds us of the golden lamp stand in the Old Testament tabernacle, which had seven lamps that illuminated the Holy Place. No natural light was permitted in the tabernacle, only the light that God foreordained. Thus, the golden lamp stand typified Christ who is the *Light*. “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

As John turned, he saw seven golden lamp stands, which as we have seen are the seven churches in Asia (Rev. 1:20). These kingdom saints had received the Light; therefore they were no longer walking in darkness. In the midst of the seven churches the apostle saw “one like unto the Son of man.” At first it may seem strange that John seemed uncertain whether or not the one whom he was beholding was the Lord Jesus. But we must bear in mind that he had never seen the Lord in this manner before.

John was acquainted with the Son of man in his humanity. He knew Him as the lowly Jesus who was merciful and compassionate to all those who came unto Him, the One that suffered evil at the hands of man: “who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously” (I Pet. 2:23). John had never seen the Lord as He is depicted here in the midst of the seven churches. It was a fearful and awesome sight that left the apostle astonished. We should add, according to John’s gospel, the Son of man is also the Judge of all the earth. All future judgment has been entrusted to Him by God the Father (John 5:22,26,27).

Paul never uses the title “Son of man” in his Gentile epistles simply because as members of the His Body we do not know Christ in either sense. He has made Himself known to us as the Lord of Glory who is the Head of the Church, the Body of Christ. Those who live in the future day of the Lord are going to see the Son of man coming in a flaming fire of vengeance to execute judgment upon His enemies.

**“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters” (Rev. 1:13-15).**

It is strongly implied here that the Son of man is *standing* in the midst of the seven churches. In fact, He is often described as standing in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 5:6 cf. 14:1). This is in accordance with the word of the prophet who foretold the events of the end times: “Arise, O Lord, in Thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded” (Psa. 7:6).

This is why Stephen’s hearers were so infuriated when he saw the Son of man standing at the right hand of the Father (Acts 7:56). They understood that this meant God was about to pour out His wrath upon His enemies. Of course, they could not even fathom the thought that they were the enemies of God. Consequently, they took Stephen outside the city and stoned him. Instead of pouring out His wrath, however, God ushered in the present age of grace, which was kept secret in time past. This is another example that God will resume the prophetic program where it left off. The Son of man was standing before the interruption of prophecy at the stoning of Stephen, and now He is seen standing again by the Apostle John as prophecy resumes.

The Apostle John describes the Son of man as wearing a long flowing garment down to the foot. While this was common attire in biblical times, John seems to be emphasizing that it was the garment of a judge. It was apparently regal. Around His waist was a golden girdle. Gold is a symbol

of deity and rightly so here because the Son of man is also the Son of God. The girdle speaks of strength. It was used to hold up the garment around the waist in preparation for battle. This same garment will be sprinkled with the blood of His enemies during the Battle of Armageddon at the end of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 19:11-16).

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“The description of the Son of Man woven throughout the narrative leaves little doubt that judgment awaits this sin-cursed world.”

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John also noted “His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow,” which is a reference to purity. White is a symbol of righteousness in the Scriptures (Rev. 19:8). Unlike the world where there are often miscarriages of justice due to corruption, God’s judgments are just. Thus “His eyes were as a flame of fire,” searching and exposing the evil deeds of men. Who will be able to stand against Him at that day?

The apostle adds, “and His feet [were] like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace.” Brass speaks of judgment and *fine* brass the execution of it with precision. In other words, the Son of man will crush His enemies under His feet (Isa. 63:3,4). Finally, John says, “His voice [was] as the sound of many waters.” When the Son of man spoke He did so with authority and power, so much so it will cause the earth to quake in

the coming day of the Lord (Rev. 16:17-19).

The description of the Son of man woven throughout the narrative leaves little doubt that judgment awaits this sin-cursed world. But the believer will be secure, even if he suffers martyrdom at the hands of the Anti-Christ. This is substantiated by John’s statement “He had in His right hand seven stars.” As we noted earlier, these seven stars are the messengers or pastors of the seven assemblies (Rev. 1:20). Even though the kingdom saints never enjoyed the assurance of their salvation as we do today, they were nevertheless eternally secure (John 10:27-29). This will be true of the future kingdom saints as well. The seven messengers being held in the right hand of the Son of man are representative of this very truth.

**“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And he laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” (Rev. 1:17,18).**

John was so overwhelmed by what he saw that he fell at the Lord’s feet as if he were dead. But the Lord laid His right hand on the apostle and comforted him with familiar words he had heard before: “*Fear not!*” I have conquered death and I am alive forevermore, and have the keys of hades and death. This is a key passage in our study as we will see next month.

*To Be Continued!*



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Our dear brother, Ken Lawson, is currently serving as the pastor of the *Grace Memorial Church* located in Edinburg, Illinois. Ken is also a well known conference speaker and frequently puts pen to page. On the subject before us, the admonition of the Scriptures is clear: Tradition makes the Word of God of none effect! Sometimes we need to be reminded how important it is to remain consistent with the Word, rightly divided. With this in mind, we're sure you're going to benefit from Brother Ken's insights on the topic of *Tithing*. —Ed.

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## Facts on Tithing

By Pastor Ken Lawson



1. The English word “tithē” as well as its Hebrew-Greek equivalents “*ma`aser*” and “*apodekatoō*” means a tenth.

2. Many Christian churches preach tithing as a means of supporting the work of the Lord today. There are many variations of this theme. Some pay the local church one tenth of their income

after taxes and bills are paid; some pay before. Others demand tithing on unemployment, inheritance, gifts, tax refunds, social security and even gambling winnings. The tithing issue has caused a great deal of strife and division in our churches over the years.

3. The most well known passage on tithing comes from the Old Testament book of Malachi 3:7-10. This Scripture has given rise to the practice of “Storehouse Tithing.” Simply stated, the congregation is exhorted from the pulpit to channel all of their Christian giving through the local church (storehouse). If they wish to give to a Christian organization, radio or television broadcast, etc., it must go through their denominational machinery in order for the local church to get “credit.” Also the pastor and elders often must make the determination if the cause supported by the giver is “worthy.”

4. This use of the Malachi passage is a good example of Scripture being taken out of its historical and dispensational context. “This whole nation” in verse 9 is the backslidden nation of Israel, NOT the present day church (Malachi 1:1; 3:6). They were under the law of Moses as a system of conditional blessing. Believers today are not under the law but under grace (Romans 6:14). As such we have already been blessed by God with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3) and are under a system of unconditional blessing with grace on the throne (Romans 5:21).

5. This should put an end to the common charge that believers who don't tithe are "robbing God" and will be "cursed with a curse." The storehouse mentioned in verse 10 is not a local church but a storage bin or silo in the Jewish temple where the grain from the Hebrew's tithes was stored (2 Chronicles 31:4-12).

6. Under the law only agricultural products were tithed. They included grain, fruit, and livestock. Only products produced within the boundaries of the land of Israel were to be tithed. Jews living in Gentile lands were exempt (Leviticus 27:30-34).

7. Others exempt from the tithing law included the hired hands, fishermen, miners, lumber workers, construction workers, soldiers, weavers, potters, manufacturers, merchants, government workers, and priests. In short, all who were not farmers were exempt.

8. A farmer with only 9 cattle did not tithe because the law specified the "tenth which passeth under the rod." Likewise a farmer with 19 sheep paid only 1 sheep to the Lord's tithe.

9. The Jewish farmers in the land could redeem (buy back) the tithes of their crops with a penalty of one fifth. In other words, if a farmer wishes to keep his tithe of grain worth \$1,000, he could pay the cash equivalent of \$1,200 (Leviticus 27:31).

10. Livestock could not be brought back nor could the farmer exchange a good animal for a bad one or vice versa. Any attempt to substitute any other animal other than the tenth which passed under the rod would be penalized by the farmer forfeiting both the tenth and its substitute (Leviticus 27:33).

11. God ordained the Levites to be the ones to whom the tithe was paid (Numbers 18:21). They were one of the 12 tribes of Israel to whom no inheritance was given in the land. The Lord Himself and the tithes of the children of Israel was their inheritance. It was used for the service of the tabernacle (later the temple) (Numbers 18:20-28).

12. It was unlawful for anyone outside of the tribe of Levi to receive the tithe, such as prophets, preachers, kings or evangelists.

13. The Levites paid one tenth of their tithes to the high priest. Not all Levites were priests but only the sons of Aaron. The priests did not tithe.

14. The Lord Jesus Christ did not ask for or receive a tithe for support of His ministry. Being of the tribe of Judah (not Levi) He could not without breaking the law (Hebrews 7:14; Revelation 5:5).

15. Neither Peter (not of the tribe of Levi) nor Paul (of the tribe of Benjamin) could receive tithes for the support of their ministries.

16. Even the Jews do not practice tithing today because there are no Levites, priests, or temple worship in Jerusalem. Jewish rabbis know biblical law well enough to know that tithing under the present

circumstances is unlawful. According to them, when the temple is rebuilt in Jerusalem with a consecrated altar with priests and Levites officiating, all Jews living within the biblical tithing zones will tithe.

“Even the Jews do not practice tithing today  
because there are no Levites, priests,  
or temple worship in Jerusalem.”

17. Some Christian ministries today continue to support tithing, using the argument that it predates Moses and the law. But this reasoning is not valid, for the Sabbath also predates the giving of the law (Exodus 16:23-29) and yet it is not binding on God's people today (Romans 14:5,6; Galatians 4:9,10; Colossians 2:16,17).

18. Abraham gave tithes to Melchisedec, king of Salem, but this was the spoils of war, not the legalistic tithe of the land which Moses commanded. Also, God did not *command* the tithe, Abraham chose to give it of his own free will (Genesis 14:17-23; Hebrews 7:1-10).

19. The only other scriptural reference to tithing before Moses is Jacob. Again there is no command to tithe. In fact Jacob puts up numerous conditions to be met before he will pay the tithe to the Lord (Genesis 28:20-22).

20. The biblical references which address the tithing issues are: Genesis 14:20; 28:22; Leviticus 27:30-32; Numbers 18:20-28; Deuteronomy 12:6,11,17; 14:22,23,28; 26:12; 2 Chronicles 31:5,6,12; Amos 4:4; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42; 18:12; Hebrews 7:5-9.<sup>1</sup>

21. Paul the apostle to the Gentiles for this present dispensation of Grace does not mention tithing but says a great deal about Christian giving. Romans 15:25,26; 1 Corinthians 9:7-14; 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians chapters 8 & 9; Galatians 6:6-10; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Timothy 5:9-18.

WHO is to give to the Lord's work? The Christian! He gives systematically, sacrificially, and joyfully. TO WHOM does he give? To Christ! FOR WHAT does he give? For the cause of Christ! NOT to a man or to a church, not for gain, but for the Gospel. 

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### Endnote

1. According to Deuteronomy 14:22,23,28; 26:12; and Amos 4:4, the tithe was only given every three years.

*“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart,  
so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity;  
for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7).*

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Sometimes believers become so busy serving the Lord that they forget their roots. This series on “Grace” by Pastor Stam (which began last month with the message: “The Dispensation of Grace, *Mystery or Prophecy?*”) is meant to rekindle our joy for the faith that was originally handed down to us. —Ed.

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## The Unveiling and Shining Forth of Grace

### (Grace—Part II)

By Cornelius R. Stam

**“For the grace of God that  
bringeth salvation hath appeared  
to all men.”** —Titus 2:11

#### THE GREATEST REVELATION OF ALL TIME

To the Apostle Paul was committed the greatest revelation of all time: “*the mystery*,” the secret of the gospel and of God’s eternal purpose (Col. 1:25,26). To him was entrusted “*the dispensation of the grace of God*” (Eph. 3:1-3). His ministry superseded that of Peter and the eleven as, upon Israel’s continued rejection of Christ and His kingdom, *he* became the apostle to the nations (Rom. 11:13). Solemn recognition was given to this fact by the leaders of the twelve (including Peter himself) as they gave to Paul and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship, acknowledging Paul’s divine commission to go to the Gentiles, and agreeing thenceforth to confine their own ministry to Israel (Gal. 2:2,7,9).

In connection with this commission Paul was also the divinely appointed minister of the Church of the present dispensation, “*the Body of Christ*” (Col. 1:24,25).<sup>1</sup> No

other Bible writer has one single word to say about “the Church which is [Christ’s] Body.” None of the other apostles mention it. Not only would we seek in vain for such *phraseology* in their writings, but we would seek in vain for any discussion of the *subject*, for they do not discuss the Church of which believers today are members. But Paul, who wrote more of the books of the Bible than any other writer, deals consistently with those truths which concern “the Church which is His Body” (Eph. 1:19-23).

#### THE REVELATION LOST SIGHT OF

But this great revelation and the glorious truths associated with it have been largely lost to the professing Church.

The Church of Rome ignores the facts we have stated above, though they are clearly set forth in her own translations of the Bible. She insists that the true Church of today is a perpetuation of that which was founded by Christ *while on earth*; a *kingdom* to be established *on earth*, over which Peter and the eleven were

appointed to be heads and rulers during His absence. And even though our Lord said nothing about a *prolonged* absence or of any *succession* of such rulers, Rome declares that her present pope is a successor to Peter and, as such, the Vicar of Christ and supreme Head of the Church on earth. Consistent with this she holds that she is laboring to fulfill the “great commission” given to Peter and the eleven, requiring water baptism for the remission of sins and claiming to possess miraculous powers.



But Protestantism, while boasting freedom from the tyranny of Rome, has by no means emerged entirely from the shadows of the dark ages. She still suffers a Roman hangover. While renouncing papal authority, she nevertheless still clings to the Roman teaching that the Church of today is a perpetuation of that to which our Lord referred in Matthew 16:16-18 and that it *is* God's kingdom on earth. She too seeks to carry out the “great commission” given to Peter and the eleven, though half-heartedly, for she cannot make up her mind whether water baptism is or is not necessary to the remission of sins and is also confused and disagreed as to whether or not she possesses the miraculous

powers of what she calls the “great commission.”

Martin Luther, under God, shook Europe to its foundations with a partial recovery of Pauline truth, but the Protestant Church has done little to further that recovery, so that rather than recognizing the distinctive character of Paul's position as *our* apostle, most Protestants think of him simply as *one of the apostles*, along with Peter and the eleven. In taking so short a step away from Rome the Protestant Church has assumed a very weak position, for if Paul is to be considered as one with the twelve, Rome can easily prove that *Peter*, not Paul, was appointed as their chief (See Matt. 16:19; Acts 1:15; 2:14,38; 5:29, etc.).

### THE EXTENT OF PAUL'S MINISTRY

Since Christendom has strayed so far and so long from the great Pauline revelation, she has lost sight almost completely of the vastness of his ministry and influence, and the extent to which his message once became known in the world. An example of this is found in what Bible scholars have done with Titus 2:11.

It is generally—and correctly—agreed that the *epiphaneia* in this passage connotes a *conspicuous* or *illustrious* appearing, a *shining forth*, and that the phrase “all men” therefore does not signify each individual singly, but all men collectively; *all mankind*. But few can quite believe even that under Paul's ministry the gospel of God's grace shone forth to all mankind,

that its proclamation ever became world-wide in scope. They conclude that Paul could not have meant this in Titus 2:11; that he *must* have meant only that the grace of God, *bringing salvation for all*, had appeared.

This problem seems to have troubled even the translators of this passage, for Bible translators have never been agreed as to its true meaning.

According to some translations, like Darby's *New Translation*, the apostle meant that the grace of God had appeared, *bringing salvation for all men*. According to others, like the *Authorized* (quoted above) he meant that the grace of God had *appeared to all men*, bringing salvation. Still others use guarded phraseology, even to the point of ambiguity, but most take one or the other of the above views. The majority, probably, including some of those apt to be most *faithful* in their renderings, conform in substance to the *Authorized Version* as quoted above. One cannot help feeling that were it not for the translators' doubts that Paul *could* have meant that the message of Grace was shining forth to all mankind, all, or nearly all, would have rendered the passage substantially like the *Authorized Version*. In view of these doubts it is significant that so many *have* rendered it like the *Authorized*.

## THE TWELVE AND THEIR COMMISSION

Apart from Paul's statement in Titus 2:11 there is much Scriptural evidence that his message

*did* shine forth to all the known world. Before considering this evidence, however, let us first observe that the eleven, under Peter, had previously been sent to proclaim their God-given message to all mankind. In the records of their "great commission" three different terms are used to emphasize this fact:

**"Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples of] *all nations*" (Matt. 28:19 cf. Luke 24:47).**

**"Go ye into *all the world*, and preach the gospel to *every creature* [i.e., *all creation*]" (Mark 16:15).**

The reader is asked to remember well these three terms: *all nations*, *all the world* and *all creation*, for we are to find them used again in connection with the ministry of Paul.

The Twelve (Matthias replacing Judas) *began* to carry out their world-wide mission, but never got beyond their own nation. We should always associate Acts 1:8 with Acts 8:1 in our study of the Acts, for Jerusalem, rather than turning to Messiah so that the apostles could go on with their "great commission," started a "great persecution" against the Church there, with the result that "*they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*"

The twelve have often been charged with bigotry and unfaithfulness for remaining in Jerusalem at this time. In fact, however, it was rare courage and fidelity to their commission that kept them in Jerusalem while persecution raged and their very lives were in danger. They remained

at Jerusalem for the same reason that the rest fled: because Jerusalem was *not* turning to Christ. The first part of their commission had not yet been fulfilled, therefore they were duty-bound to remain there.

The twelve did not remain at Jerusalem because they were prejudiced against the salvation of the Gentiles. There is too much scriptural evidence against this. They remained there because they had a clear understanding of the prophetic program and of their Lord's commission (See Luke 24:45; Acts 1:3; 2:4). They knew that according to covenant and prophecy the Gentiles were to be saved and blessed *through redeemed Israel* (Gen. 22:17,18; Isa. 60:1-3; Zech. 8:13). Our Lord had indicated no change in this program. He worked in perfect harmony with it. Even before His death He had insisted that Israel was first in God's revealed program, commanding His disciples not to go to the Gentiles or to the Samaritans but to *"go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (Matt. 10:6), and saying to a Gentile who came for help: *"Let the children first be filled"* (Mark 7:27). And later, in His "great commission" to the eleven, He had specifically stated that they should *begin at Jerusalem* (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8).

Peter certainly indicated his desire that the "commission" under which he worked would bring about the fulfillment of the prophecies and the covenant to Abraham, when he said to the "men of Israel":

**"Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.**

**"Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities" (Acts 3:25,26).**

And Paul, though not working under this same commission, later also bore witness that Israel had been first in God's program, when he said to the Jews at Pisidian Antioch:

**"It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you..." (Acts 13:46).**

**"...if the twelve had gotten their message to all the world 'the end' of that dispensation would have come."**

It was only when Israel persisted in rejecting Christ and His Kingdom that God began to set the nation aside, raising up Paul to go to the Gentiles with the good news of salvation "by grace," *apart from the covenants and prophecies*, and "through faith," *apart from works*. It was then that Paul went to Jerusalem "by revelation" and communicated to the leaders there that gospel which he preached among the Gentiles (Gal. 2:2). And those leaders, including Peter himself, gave to Paul and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship in official recognition of the fact that *Paul* had been

chosen by Christ as the apostle to the nations and that they were henceforth to confine their ministry to Israel (Gal. 2:7-9).

With this official recognition of the divine purpose the apostles at Jerusalem were "loosed" from their original commission to make disciples of all nations, and Paul alone could say:

**"I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office" (Rom. 11:13).**

Arguments are sometimes presented from church history to prove that the twelve did go to Gentile territory; that not more than one or two of them died in Palestine. But even if these arguments could be fully substantiated, this would not enter into the case, for whatever the Circumcision apostles may have done after the agreement of Galatians 2, they had *no apostolic authority among the Gentiles*, and after the declaration of Acts 28:28 they had *no apostolic authority whatever*. What any of them wrote (of the Scriptures) after that, they simply wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, just as any other Bible writer.

Let us mark well, then, that Peter and the eleven, who had originally been sent to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom to "all nations," "all the world" and "all creation," *never completed their mission*. Indeed, had they done so that dispensation would have been brought to a close, for our Lord had said concerning the tribulation period (then imminent, but later graciously postponed):

**"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).**

If, therefore, the pouring out of the Spirit had been followed directly by the pouring out of God's wrath (both predicted in Joel 2 as quoted by Peter in Acts 2) Israel would have turned to God in repentance and the twelve would have proceeded to proclaim "the gospel of the kingdom" to all nations. That dispensation would thus have been consummated; the end would have come. But rather than send the judgment immediately, God interrupted the prophetic program and revealed His secret purpose, sending Paul forth to proclaim to all mankind "the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

## **PAUL AND HIS COMMISSION**

Surely no one even superficially acquainted with the Book of Acts or the Epistles of Paul will question the fact that sometime *after* our Lord's commission to the eleven, *Paul* was sent, as an apostle of Christ, to proclaim to all mankind "the gospel of the grace of God."

It is significant that the three terms employed in the so-called "great commission" to indicate its world-wide scope are also used in Paul's epistles in connection with his ministry. Only, whereas the twelve never got to "*all nations*," "*all the world*" or "*all creation*" with their message, Paul *did* with his.

In closing his epistle to the Romans the apostle says:

**“Now to Him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.**

**“*But now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith*” (Rom. 16:25,26).**

And to the Colossians he writes concerning *“the truth of the gospel”*:

**“Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you...” (Col. 1:6).**

**“...which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven [all creation under heaven]; whereof I Paul am made a minister” (Col. 1:23).**

Various arguments may be advanced to prove that “the gospel of the grace of God” did not actually reach “all the world” or “all creation,” and we do not deny that to those addressed “all the world” would doubtless mean all the *known* world, and “all creation” would likewise mean all the creation *as they knew it*. But the point is that whatever these three phrases mean in the so-called “great commission,” they must also mean in these statements by Paul, for the terms are exactly identical in the original.

We have seen how the twelve did *not* get their message to “all nations,” “all the world” or “all creation,” because, on the one

hand Israel rejected it and on the other hand God had a secret purpose to unfold. But Paul, to whom this secret purpose was revealed, says he *did* get *his* message to “all nations,” “all the world” and “all creation.”

Whereas the twelve never got beyond their own nation in carrying out their commission, it is written of Paul that during his stay at Ephesus *“all they which dwelt in Asia [Minor] heard the word of the Lord Jesus”* (Acts 19:10). To the Romans he writes: *“from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ”* (Rom. 15:19), and speaks of his plans to go to Spain (15:24), plans which may well have been accomplished between his two imprisonments. Even of his helpers it was said: *“These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also”* (Acts 17:6). And to the Romans again he says: “your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world” (Rom. 1:8).

With regard to this last statement it is argued by some that since Paul had not even been to Rome by then, it must be that believers from the Jerusalem Church got as far as Rome under their “great commission.”

We do not accept this as valid, for while indeed there were “strangers from Rome” present at Pentecost, there is no indication that there was any substantial number of these, or that those present were even converted, much less that they started a church at Rome. Thus those to whom Paul wrote at Rome could

scarcely have been converts of the Circumcision believers at Jerusalem. They had doubtless been won to Christ through those whom Paul had reached with “the gospel of the grace of God.”

This leads us to recognize another important fact. We have seen from Matthew 24:14 that if the twelve had gotten their message to all the world “the end” of that dispensation would have come. This proves at the same time that Paul was *not* laboring to fulfill the

“great commission” to the eleven and that he did *not* preach the same gospel as they, for then “the end” would have come in his day, since he *says* that *his* message had gone to “all the world.”

*To Be Continued!*



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## Endnote

1. Composed of Jews and Gentiles reconciled to God in *one body by the cross* (Eph. 2:14-16; I Cor. 12:13), as compared with the *kingdom church*, which had the *reign* of Christ in view (See Matt. 16:15-18; 19:28; Acts 1:6; 3:19-21).

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## Question Box

*“Pastor Sadler, on page 8, the last paragraph of ‘In the Eye of the Storm,’ you mention sharing passages of Scripture which appear to contradict each other. Do you mean you contrast Prophecy truth with Mystery truth? If that’s your meaning, I would like you to share some examples with me. Thanks, in advance, for the ‘ammunition.’”*

You hit the proverbial nail on the head, beloved. Here are a couple of examples from Christ’s earthly (Prophecy) and heavenly (Mystery) ministries.

**“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive” (Matt. 21:22).**

**“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom. 8:26).**

When we compare Matthew 21:22 with Romans 8:26 we have an apparent contradiction. Which passage is true? Both are true! However, if we rightly divide the Word of truth we are to understand that Matthew 21:22 is no longer binding upon us today. The prayer life of the believer in relation to the kingdom was closely associated with the *miraculous*. Thus, whenever a kingdom saint prayed for something in faith, he received it because this was the will of God for them at that time. Their prayer life was in accordance with the miraculous nature of the kingdom (Isa. 35:1-10).

**“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy Word, by stretching forth Thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done....And when they had prayed, the place was *shaken* where they**

**were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the Word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:29-31).**

With the temporary suspension of the kingdom during the age of Grace, according to the Apostle Paul, we don't know what we should even pray for much less how we should pray at times. Thankfully, the Spirit of God intercedes on our behalf with such feeling it cannot be expressed in words. In the administration of Grace we must always pray, “As it is according to Thy will, oh, Lord!” More often than not we find ourselves in the same quandary as Paul:

**“For this thing [his thorn in the flesh] I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (II Cor. 12:8,9).**

This is the nature of grace! Which model is characteristic of your prayer life—Matthew 21:22 or Romans 8:26?

Another example of the importance of distinguishing between the two programs of God is found in John 1:31,33 and I Corinthians 1:17.

**“And I knew Him not: but that He [Messiah] should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water....And I knew him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me....” (John 1:31,33).**

**“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect” (I Cor. 1:17).**

Is water baptism a requirement for salvation today, as it was under the kingdom gospel? The answer is an emphatic: No! We are saved by grace through faith alone (Rom. 4:5 cf. Eph. 2:8,9). During the earthly ministry of Christ water baptism served a threefold purpose: First, it was practiced so Christ could be made known to Israel that He was indeed her Messiah. Second, it *symbolized* the washing away of their sins. And third, it was the means through which believing Israelites were inducted into the priesthood; seeing that Israel was promised to be a kingdom of priests. Within these God-given parameters John the Baptist and the twelve would have been out of the will of God if they had not baptized those who placed their faith in Messiah.

With the introduction of God's secret purpose known as the Mystery, Christ is no longer being made manifest to Israel today. We receive the forgiveness of our sins by the shed blood of Christ, and as members of the Body of Christ we are not the priests of God. Rather, we are God's ambassadors while Christ is in royal exile. Therefore if we want to be in the center of God's will today, we must follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul who was *not* sent to water baptize, but to preach the good news of Christ and Him crucified.

—Pastor Sadler

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Our beloved brother, Dave Allen, has been a great help to us in the work of the ministry. As you know, he is the narrator of our "Books on Tape." From time to time, Dave is a guest contributor to the *Webb City Sentinel*, his local newspaper in Texas. *Putting Poppa in Perspective* appeared in the paper earlier this year. It is a touching account of his childhood, which reminds us of the importance of the biblical injunction to honor our father and mother. —Ed.

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## Putting Poppa in Perspective

By Dave Allen

**"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."**  
—Eph. 6:1-3

Dear Reader: Perhaps you can relate to me—a "Slow Learner," unpossessing of great intellect or sagacity. Throughout my life I have often misperceived and misinterpreted the events I have experienced. Of course, this has led to many mistakes and misunderstandings.

It is my humble prayer that the accompanying narrative will help you put your earthly Poppa in proper perspective. And more importantly to aid in opening the eyes of your understanding to an accurate and appreciative perspective of your Heavenly Father who always desires and provides His best for you. Ephesians 6:1,2 enjoins us to obey our father and mother in the Lord and to give them honor. Swift exercise of these entreaties is the ideal. Even so, delayed appreciation is much preferred over its deficit. Pray for understanding and He will give it to you (Psa.119:125 cf. Eph. 1:15-19). Take it from a "Slow Learner."

**M**emories are unique things. Some are vivid and realistic, while some are hazy and ephemeral. Some are accurate, while some are skewed. Some are enjoyable, and some are far from pleasant. But all were generated from our personal perspective at the time the real event occurred.

Sometimes these memories seem to be indelible, and we can't seem to shake them. Yes, some unpleasant memories we'd prefer to forget! For example:

In 1956 when I was 13 years old, my perspective was that every 13-year-old boy in Webb City had a motor scooter or motorbike. Everyone, that is, except me! Jim Steele had a white Cushman named Rhoid-III. Bobby Foster had a brand-spanking-new Cushman Eagle, the top of the line; Gary Goswick had a Harley Hummer; Larry Weston had a beautiful black B.S.A. Others had Simplexes, Indians and even Nortons.

But me, I only had a pedal-powered 26-inch Schwinn with four baskets on it, so I could deliver all my Joplin Globes, Webb City Sentinels and Wise Buyers. If ever there was a true need for motorized transport, I was the poster boy!

But try as I might with all the persuasive arguments I could muster, Poppa was immovable in his objection. In fact, he was downright unreasonable, a regular *veto* despot, spoilsport, kill-joy, an evil ogre of obstinacy. His answer was always “No. No. No. And I don’t want to hear anymore about it. Not one word!”

How could I reason with such unreasonability, if I couldn’t even bring up the subject?

Time for Plan B—Wordless, yet subtle, subliminal, psychological influence. I wrote off for every motor scooter, motorbike, motorcycle brochure known to man. Soon the postman was staggering up our porch steps laden with heaps of literature beyond the capacity of our mailbox.

Plan C—Scatter them throughout the house. Motorcycles everywhere: on the coffee table, under the coffee table, same for the bedside tables, beside the commode, beside the bathtub, on the bed, under the bed, anywhere there was a flat surface.

Brochures “inadvertently” got in Poppa’s truck, even in his tool boxes. Somehow, he managed to ignore them all!

Time for Plan D—Each time we visited Sears, “Monkey” Wards, OTASCO or Western Auto, I would gravitate to the motor scooter, motorcycle department, as if drawn by some invisible magnet. There I’d be mesmerized by motors of 5, 10, even 15 horsepower. Hypnotized by the curvaceous sleekness of an Italian Vespa...only to be brought out of my trance by Poppa’s finger-snapping instructions. “Let’s go, Dave, time to get home for supper.” Poppa seemed oblivious to my heartfelt yearnings.

Time for Plan E—A plan no truly loving parent could possibly resist. That night, after Mom tucked me in bed and shut the door, Plan E was put in motion. Knowing full well that Poppa always checked on each of us boys before he went to bed, I began to set the stage. First I carefully positioned open motorcycle brochures across my stomach and chest, uppermost being my favorite, a B.S.A. like Larry Weston’s. It bore my personal inscription, “The best gift a father could give.” Propped up with two pillows, I staged the *pièce de résistance*. Fake teardrops from the water glass strewn across that particular page. Purposely leaving on my reading light, I drifted off to dreamland riding my new B.S.A., careful not to disturb the heart-tugging scene.

When I awoke, all my brochures were neatly stacked under my bed. At breakfast, there was no mention of anything even remotely connected to motorcycles or motor scooters. Nor did one magically appear on my birthday nor at Christmas. In point of fact I never did get one, just like I never got a horse when we lived on the farm at “Look Over Lodge.” Poppa was made of sterner stuff than I and immune to my entreaties. At least so I thought at the time from my biased and limited perspective at age 13.

Over the years, as I aged quickly but matured slowly, I expanded my perspective and with greater depth of understanding interpreted the entire motorcycle episode from a more accurate angle. It has become a “Numbers Game” I play each year on my birthday. Here’s how it works:

Take the age you are on your birthday and extrapolate back to the year your father (or mother) was the same age. You should know what is going on in your life on your current birthday. But go a step farther and using pen and paper recreate what was going on in your parents life when they were the same age.

For instance in 1980, I was 37 years old, named “Salesman of the Year” for the second consecutive year for the Grand Lakes region. I’d been married 16 years and had another two years to go before our first and only child, Amanda, would be born.

It was 1956 when Poppa turned 37. He was self employed out of necessity in a stagnant home-building era. He’d run up a \$5,000 tab for supplies at Russell Belden’s Electrical Supply in Joplin. He’d tried to keep it secret, but Mom found out. She went back to work as a grocery checker at Herrod’s Meat Market for the first time since I was born in 1943. To Poppa’s embarrassment she made more than he.

In 1956, Poppa had three mouths to feed—Bob, age 3; Tom, age 9, and me, age 13—while I was reminding him relentlessly with multitudes of brochures of a \$475 B.S.A. motorcycle he could not afford to buy. In the five years since receiving Grandpa Ed’s inheritance, the money which Poppa thought would last a lifetime, hadn’t! He had to sell his dream, “Look Over Lodge,” and move back to town. Born in 1919 with sight in only one eye and later crippled by polio, no employer would hire him. They only saw the liability of his impairments, not his determination and quality work.

Many years later, I learned from Mom that he had tried to get me a B.S.A. in layaway with \$50 down. It was Mom that cancelled it out and applied the \$50 to Poppa’s electrical supply bill. It took her five years, but she paid all \$5,000 off in 1961, the year I graduated from Webb City High School.

Each birthday when I play this game, the result is always the same. I am constantly amazed at how much Poppa and Momma accomplished despite trying circumstances and how consistently they provided their best to me and my brothers. It gives me a whole new perspective of past events. One that is accurate, not biased. A true perspective that always deepens my gratitude for their loving self-sacrifice.

Play the “Numbers Game” yourself. It will give you a fresh interpretation of many bygone misconceptions and an increased appreciation for both your parents. Then if they are still with you, do not hesitate to laud them with the love and appreciation they deserve. For, as they say here in Texas: “The well is seldom truly appreciated till it’s gone dry!”



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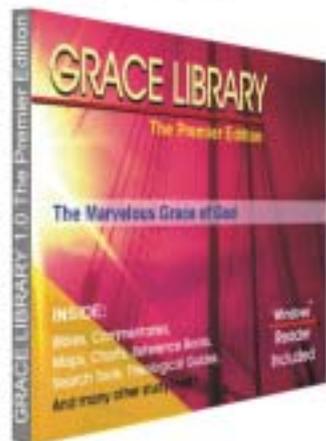
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"I've just ordered 'The Mystery,' and cannot wait to read it, and to pass it on. Each book I've received from BBS has given me a deeper understanding of the Word, rightly divided. Thank you all at BBS; thank God."

**From Nevada:**

"Thank you for your consistent encouragement to 'Search the Scriptures.'"

**From Colorado:**

"First of all, I want you to know how thoroughly I have both enjoyed and appreciated Pastor Sadler's series on the Apostle Peter. The content is so very, very enlightening. Perhaps you already have in mind publishing it in book form." (We have received many such requests the past few months. With God's help, we certainly plan to seek His direction on the matter. Ed.)

**From Australia:**

"I am doing my degree in Christian Theology; however, it is with a *Pentecostal College*. I found so many things wrong with their doctrines—they could not answer all of my questions and tried to spiritualize everything. When I came into your message, it answered all my questions and also made the Bible come alive."

**From Cameroon:**

"Dear brethren, it is a pleasure for me to write to you for the first time. I wish to use this medium to encourage all the readers of *Berean Searchlight* that he who waits patiently on the Lord Jesus Christ will have his reward in Heaven. The *Berean Searchlight* has been a big blessing to me, my friends, and my neighbors. I have never regretted being part of this marvelous publication."

**From Texas:**

"Many thanks for the new series by Dennis Kizonas. His article on 'Tongues' has been especially timely and will be a useful witness tool for friends who are caught up in a 'Holy Spirit' group—not really a church! I look forward to his future teachings of Paul's gospel." (We have received many such responses about Dennis' article on *Tongues*. If you enjoyed it, I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from you. He can be reached via e-mail at: [dennis@gracefortoday.org](mailto:dennis@gracefortoday.org). Ed.)

**From the Philippines:**

"I've received from the mail the book, *Things That Differ*, some copies of the *Searchlight*, and a few booklets by C. R. Stam. I was very joyful upon receiving them. I believe that they will nourish my hungry soul for the truth of God's Word. Thank you very much. I don't know how to express my overflowing joy. The *Berean Bible Society* is indeed a ministry of grace."

**From British Columbia:**

“I also want to say how much I enjoy the *Berean Searchlight* in its new form the last few years. The articles are excellent! I listen to a lot of Pastor Sadler’s tapes and tell my friend they are a great help where there is no Grace Church.”

**From Texas:**

“Your kind letter, which I received a few days ago, lifted my spirits. I was amazed that a man with all you have to do, and all you have on your mind, would take time to write me such an encouraging letter. I trust that when you are 84 some young brother will be as kind to you.” (Pastor Shiflet has been an ardent defender of Paul’s gospel for many, many years. His prolific writings have brought both light and blessing to those seeking the truth. I know Brother Shiflet will greatly appreciate your prayers on his behalf. Ed.)

**From Florida:**

“Thank you for sending us the *Searchlight* each month. I usually read it cover to cover upon arrival. Then I re-read it during the remainder of the month. It is an excellent resource.”

**From Pennsylvania:**

“I just received the August edition and really do enjoy reading and learning more about the character of Paul by Pastor Sadler. Paul’s teachings on the Mystery of grace and gaining more knowledge on the dispensations are really helpful in my walk with the Lord. I’ve been able to share with my daughter the past year, more and more about our walk in faith by living in His grace, which really helped her with her anxiety.”

**From the Internet:**

“I thank God for leading me to your publication that has opened my eyes to the truth of the day. It feels like it all makes sense now, and I pray that your message will be heard far and wide. I especially appreciate your website which has the ‘Bible Study Articles’ section. I use this in my daily Bible study and I thoroughly enjoy reading the articles and searching through my Bible in conjunction with this. I thank God for you, kind brethren, for your work to show the truth, rightly divided.”

**From Ohio:**

“Thank you for the message I just read, *In the Eye of the Storm* by Pastor Sadler. It meant so much to me. Thank you for the *Searchlight* coming into my home every month. I pray you continue in good health, and all the staff.”

**From the Internet:**

“When I read your emails, it is as though they are little life preservers that pull me back to the right path again, reminding me of what I know to be true. Your letters bring peace and love to my heart. That is why I value your correspondence. Not because you say things to me to make me feel better, but because you give me the TRUTH THAT SETS ME FREE.”

**From Florida:**

“I can’t tell you how much your explanations mean to me—a light bulb came on again. This was great—you ought to be a teacher!” (Thanks for the kind word. However, we’re not sure we are up to that challenge! Our hat is off to those believers who teach in public and Christian schools these days! 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

# Northeast Fall Bible Conference

**Location:** *Eastport Bible Church*  
386 Montauk Highway  
Eastport, New York

**Dates:** November 9-11, 2003

**Speaker:** Pastor Paul M. Sadler

For directions and additional information, please contact:  
Mr. Bob Tillinghast (631) 325-0525

## Grace Singles Conference

**Theme:** *Building Christian Character*

December 27-31, 2003



### Featured Speakers:

Joel Finck  
Mike Keshan  
John Fredericksen  
Arlin Stratmeyer  
Kevin Dickey

This is a 5-day opportunity for single Grace believers, age 18 and older, to come together to hear good Bible-based messages on subjects pertinent to their spiritual needs.

### *Special Activities:*

Volleyball, Bowling, Snow Tubing, *Mount Rushmore*, *Crazy Horse Monument*, and much, much more!

### Hosting this year's conference is:

*Grace Bible Church of the Black Hills*  
23781 Pine Haven Drive, Rapid City, South Dakota

For a brochure and schedule of events, please contact: Pastor John Fredericksen, 23781 Pine Haven Dr., Rockerville, SD 57702, or phone: (605) 341-9692, e-mail: <JFredFBC@aol.com>.

# The Difference Between Peter and Paul

## Matthew 16:13-19; Ephesians 3:1-7

By W. Edward Bedore, Th.D.

Executive Director, *Berean Bible Institute*

Peter was the chief, or leader, of the twelve apostles called by the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry to the nation of Israel. Peter was a follower of the Lord Jesus from the time of His baptism by John until the crucifixion. He was also an eye-witness to the fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and ascended to heaven. These things were all requirements of those who would be apostles to the twelve tribes of Israel (see Matthew 19:27-30; Luke 22:28-30; Acts 1:15-22).

To Peter, the Lord Jesus Christ gave **“the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”** Peter’s message was that the long-awaited kingdom of God on earth would soon come. The Messiah was at the Father’s right hand waiting to return to earth to establish the Kingdom of God, where Israel would be restored to a place of prominence and favor as a nation (see Acts 3:12-26).

Paul, on the other hand, was a blasphemer and a persecutor of the kingdom church that Peter presided over. He attempted to put an end to the preaching of Jesus Christ as the long-awaited Messiah. However, because Israel’s national leaders rejected the Lord Jesus as the Messiah, God set Israel and the kingdom temporarily aside (see Acts 6:8-7:60). He saved Paul, the leader of the rebellion, in a miraculous way and commissioned him as the Apostle to the Gentiles. Paul’s gospel message offers salvation to the Jew and Gentile without national distinction through simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 3:19-26). The believer of this new Dispensation of Grace becomes a member of the Body of Christ and looks forward to eternity with the Lord Jesus in the heavenlies (Ephesians 1:3,19-21; 2:4-6; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:1-4).

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### Spring Semester begins January 26, 2004!

For more information about BBI, please contact Dr. W. Edward Bedore at their **new address: Berean Bible Institute**, 116 S. Kettle Moraine Dr., P.O. Box 587, Slinger, WI 53086-0587, or phone: (262) 644-5504, fax: (262) 644-5507.

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

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# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**BEN FRANKLIN** coined the famous saying, “There are two things certain in life—death and taxes!” For Wisconsin residents who place an order for literature or tapes it is important to add 5.6% for taxes. Thus saith the State of Wisconsin! Thanks so very much for helping us out with state business!

**A CHANCE MEETING:** This past summer my wife and I spent an afternoon at the Wisconsin State Fair. While browsing the exhibits we came across a unique collection of lighthouse photographs by Ken and Barb Wardius. We extended an invitation for them to visit BBS, at which time they graciously gave us permission to use their work. Beginning with this issue we will be incorporating these images from time to time into our collage of lighthouses. Ken and Barb have traveled extensively around the State of Wisconsin in search of unique photo opportunities. They have an impressive gallery of photographs on various themes, some of which appear on their website at: [www.execpc.com/~slw81/](http://www.execpc.com/~slw81/). They can also be reached via e-mail: [slw81@execpc.com](mailto:slw81@execpc.com).

**HOMEGOING:** We want to extend our condolences to our dear brother, Paul Pontis, who lost his beloved wife, Jo, on September 7th. We look forward to seeing her again at that day. Although his loss is great, Paul is still very active in the work of the ministry as the following announcement demonstrates.

## *The Real Christmas Story*

By Paul R. Pontis

*The Real Christmas Story* contains a wealth of historical and biblical knowledge. Brother Paul Pontis does the reader a real service as he effectively challenges commonly held traditions surrounding the birth of Christ. Besides being enjoyable to read, this work is also a valuable reference guide.

This publication should be ordered *directly* from Brother Pontis at: 118 Blandina Ct., Baxter Village, Fort Mill, SC 29708. *The Real Christmas Story* is a paperback book containing 121 pages—**Price: \$6.00**, which includes postage and handling!



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\*The picture of the lighthouse that appears on the front cover was taken by Ken and Barb Wardius. The *Wind Point Lighthouse* is located in Racine, Wisconsin. This 112-foot lighthouse was built in 1880.

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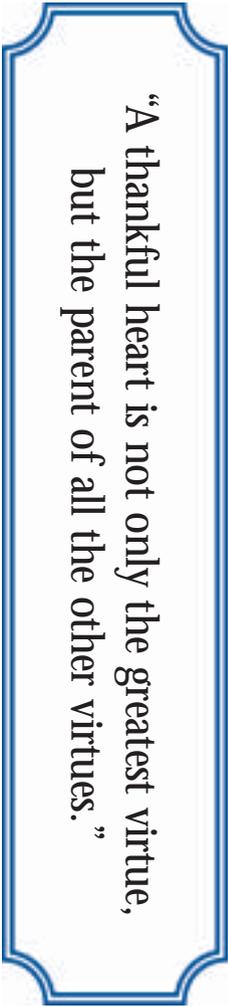
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“A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue,  
but the parent of all the other virtues.”

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