

# The Berean Searchlight

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

January 2011



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

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# From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

About a year ago, we featured a series of articles entitled *The Measure of the Ministry*, a study that we hoped would encourage young men to consider entering the pastorate. With that in mind, we are thankful to be able to share with you how God's Word touched the heart of one young man in response.

The story actually begins a couple of years ago, when I began receiving calls from Josh Dennis, the son of grace teacher Larry Dennis, who had obviously been successful in his efforts to instill in his son a deep level of interest in spiritual things. Although not yet out of his teens at the time, Josh expressed to me an interest in serving the Lord with his life in some capacity. Later, as he read each month's installment of *The Measure of the Ministry*, the Lord began to work in his heart, and he soon determined to train for the ministry *as a grace pastor*.

And so it was that a few weeks after getting married, he and his wife Marcia uprooted their lives in Alaska and replanted themselves in Steger, Illinois, to train for the ministry in your editor's home church, intending to supplement this hands-on training with classes by extension from our *Berean Bible Institute*. Josh's hunger for God's Word could be seen in the calls he sometimes made to me from the side of the road, where he and Marcia had pulled over to examine the Scriptures after a discussion of something they learned in church raised questions that they couldn't answer.

But after attending the November leadership conference at *Berean Bible Institute*, Josh finally decided to heed the advice that I had been giving him all along, and he now plans to move to Wisconsin and attend BBI full-time. While we will miss them both, we are eager to see the kind of man that God will make of him before he returns to our church to serve as an intern three years from now.

In light of all this, we know that Larry and Dorothy Dennis are very thankful to see all of the effort they extended in Josh's spiritual upbringing coming to fruition. But I wanted to share this story with you, for your prayers and support of our ministry enabled us to be here to water the seed that Josh's parents had planted, and so it is only right that you too should have the opportunity to rejoice with them in all that God is doing in this young man's life.



Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Ricky Kurth



# Why the Hush?

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

**“And unclean spirits, when they saw Him, fell down before Him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.**

**“And He straitly charged them that they should not make Him known” (Mark 3:11,12).**

Have you ever wondered why the Lord did not want these “unclean spirits” to make Him known? We believe it was because He didn’t want the likes of *them* telling others about Him. That is, He knew that the testimony of such sinful, unclean creatures would *hurt* Him, not help Him. He already had enough people thinking He was “in cahoots” with devils (Matt. 12:22-24). If people heard devils *testify* of Him, well, that wasn’t exactly the kind of testimony He needed!

We often wonder if the Lord feels the same way today when instead of unclean *spirits*, unclean *believers* testify to others about Him. We’re not suggesting that only saints who get straight “A”s in conduct should be allowed to witness, for none of us is perfect. Nor are we saying that God can’t *use* the testimony of sinful men, for if He can use Balaam’s donkey to speak His words, He can certainly use carnal believers. But we can’t help but think that if God “had His druthers,” He’d much rather use a saint who has purged himself of uncleanness and is “meet for the Master’s use” (II Tim. 2:21).

We believe the same principle applies when it comes to pointing people to Paul as our apostle. In Acts 16:16, “a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination” followed Paul, saying:

**“These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.**

**“And this did she many days. But Paul, *being grieved*, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her” (v. 17,18).**

What the devil was saying was true, of course, but that didn’t stop Paul from hushing the testimony being offered by such a questionable source. And so when we as grace believers try to convince our brethren that Paul alone is the servant of God that shows unto us the way of salvation in this dispensation, our testimony will be received much more readily if our lives “adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things” (Titus 2:10). Anything less would cause Paul, if he were here to see it, to be as grieved with us as he was with the damsel possessed with the spirit of divination.



# The Gospel of Salvation

## My Personal Testimony

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

### **The Powers of Darkness vs. the Power of the Gospel**

**“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” —II Cor. 4:3,4**

There are numerous ways in which Satan attempts to blind the minds of the unsaved. Perhaps his most effective means is through organized religion. Sadly, countless souls have gone to a Christless eternity because they were led to believe that, if their good works outweighed their folly, they would go to heaven. But let’s be clear from the outset: The good news of salvation is vested in a person, and that person is the Lord Jesus Christ. The only way to receive the forgiveness of your sins is by believing Christ died for

your sins and rose again (I Cor. 15:3,4 cf. I Thes. 4:14).

In my case, Satan used my own pride and self-confidence against me to keep me in darkness. But God was going to shine the light of the glorious gospel into my heart and teach me a lesson I would not soon forget, as we are about to see. I’ve often said that God glories in diversity. If you stop to think about it, no two conversions to Christ are the same. Each believer’s testimony is as unique as a snowflake.

Here’s one example! William was born in a log cabin in Ames, Iowa in 1862. He was named for a father he never met, his father who didn’t return from the American Civil War. He lived in utter poverty as a young man and, when he was ten years old, William and one of his brothers were sent to an orphanage in Davenport, Iowa because his mother was unable to

provide for them. William never finished school, so he struck out on his own at age fifteen, working at a number of odd jobs for the next few years.

At age eighteen, he was noticed for his prowess at baseball and was given a tryout by a team later known as the Chicago Cubs. After an impressive tryout, William made the team thanks to his incredible speed, which made him an extremely valuable player. For the next five years he played big league ball. During this time, William became a brash man who was given to hard living and hard drinking.



Then one day in 1887, after leaving a Chicago saloon with some of his teammates, William stopped to hear a group of gospel singers. The singers were a part of the Gospel Wagon from Pacific Garden Mission. They shared the gospel with him and invited him to services at the Mission. He visited the Mission that day and returned frequently when he was in town. Then one night he went forward, believed the gospel, and his life was changed.

Four years later, the call of the Lord proved to be stronger than the roar of the crowd for William, as he walked away from his sports career and devoted himself to full-time Christian ministry. After

working for various ministries, William conducted an evangelistic crusade in Garner, Iowa in 1896 where 268 people were led to Christ. “The Baseball Evangelist” was off and running. And from that time on, William Ashley Sunday, or Billy Sunday, was never without invitations to preach.

His evangelistic campaigns were conducted all across the U.S. and it was said that he shook a community when his crusade came to town. The Lord used his electrifying preaching style, as thousands upon thousands trusted Christ. One of his popular mottos for his crusades was: “Get Right with God. Do It Now!” He fervently preached Christ, exposed sin, and warned against the dangers of hell. Many literally fainted at the horrors of hell described by Billy Sunday. God used Billy Sunday in a tremendous way, as He can anyone with a willing heart.

### **Confidence in the Flesh**

**“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one....There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. 3:10-12,18).**

My wife Vicki and I, unknown to each other at the time, attended the same Sunday school class growing up. We had some of the same teachers in different years and were both taught all the stories in the Bible—from “in Adam, all have sinned” to the story of Calvary, how Christ died for our

sins—but it was like water running off a duck’s back. I didn’t see the truth nor did I desire to see it. I was living in darkness and happy to dwell there. Little did I realize the peril I was in at the time.

Vicki and I were introduced to one another and married in the late Sixties. Shortly after we began the journey called married life, I was hired by *Mine Safety Appliances Company* of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In addition to providing all types of safety equipment for the mining industry, they also produced hard-hats for construction workers and firemen. Like most young couples, we were seeking the American dream, to have our own home and raise a family. I quickly worked my way up through the company, making the dream a reality.



Like the Apostle Paul, I had a great deal of confidence in the flesh before I was saved. I was self-confident, ambitious, and felt I could take on anything life handed me. With that type of attitude, in the world, you tend to go places. The problem was it nearly took me to the point of no return, spiritually speaking. Before I knew it, I was given a supervisory position on the second shift, in the injection molding department. I counted

this a real accomplishment at the time because I was chosen ahead of others who had far more seniority than I had. But what I counted gain for me then, I clearly see now was loss for Christ.

When you work the second shift, as a supervisor, you are pretty much your own boss, which was perfectly fine with me! It was my responsibility to keep all the hydraulic injection molding machines running smoothly and make sure the twenty or so workers put in my trust did their jobs correctly. I was mechanically inclined and enjoyed working with people, so this was right up my self-confidence alley. But God was about to bring me down from my self-constructed ivory tower, so much so that I had to look up to see the bottom of the barrel.

About a year later, the plant manager called me into his office to let me know that he was transferring a first shift employee named Joe Grill over to my shift. Since daylight was the primary production shift, this usually meant there was some type of a problem with the employee that they really didn’t want to deal with. Normally it was someone who was unable to keep up with the cycle of the machine, which created all kinds of time-consuming problems that were often difficult to correct.

A week later, the plant manager, true to his word, introduced me to Joe. Afterward, I took him to his machine and showed him how to place the inserts in the mold for the run that evening. As I was standing there watching him work on the parts coming out of the machine, Joe said, “May I ask you a question?”

I said, “Sure (my first mistake—at least, this was my thought at the time), what is it?”

“Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?” I never answered, but the first thought that crossed my mind was that now I know why they transferred him to second shift: They didn’t want to hear it and neither did I. It wasn’t enough that I had to navigate through personnel issues and quality control problems; now I had a religious fanatic on board to deal with every night.

Seeing that Joe was such a good gate operator, I put him on jobs that required perfect timing to catch the gate (my second mistake). The “gate” is the time between the mold opening, removing the part, and the mold closing again. These particular jobs were sensitive to humidity and changing temperatures in the plant. You see, injection molding machines operate under extreme conditions: extreme hydraulic pressure, extreme water temperature to heat the mold, and extreme temperatures to melt the plastic. It was not uncommon for me to stand at a machine for two or three hours to correct a problem with a part that wasn’t forming properly.

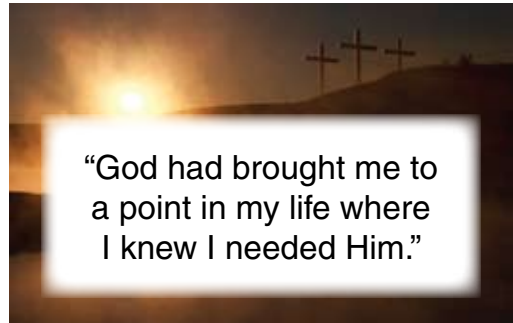
Of course, Joe saw this as an opportunity to share Christ with me. Under the circumstances he had me as a captive audience. Joe was a fundamental, independent Baptist, so he wasted no time getting to the heart of the matter. He took me down the Roman road beginning with Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

“Paul,” he said, “you’re a sinner and the only way you can be

saved from your sins is by trusting Christ as your personal Savior.”

I responded with the typical response of the natural man. “Joe, I’m not the bad guy you think I am. I’ve never murdered anyone, I provide for my family, don’t kick cats, and would be the first to stop to help someone with a flat tire along the road.”

“That’s all well and good,” Joe said, “but none of those things will save you or get you to heaven.” He knew the Scriptures like the back of his hand and immediately quoted Romans 3:12—“There is none that doeth good [before God, he added], **no, not one**—which includes you!”



A few days later I found myself at his machine again, trying to resolve another molding problem. This time Joe made sure I understood that the Bible says, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). “Everyone looks forward to receiving his wages,” he said, “but this is one payday you will regret for all eternity if you die in your sins.” He told me that those who rejected Christ would experience eternal separation from God in the lake of fire, after the Great White Throne Judgment.



Joe wasn't overbearing with the gospel but he never missed an opportunity to tell me and others about the Savior. I distinctly recall having one conversation with him where he said, "I'm concerned about you, Paul, and want you to know that God loves you."

I replied, in no uncertain terms, "Joe, don't worry about me. I'm fine. I've got everything under control."

He said, "Someday God is going to show you that you're not in control of everything in your life." Little did I realize that He was going to teach me that lesson sooner than later.

A few weeks after this conversation, Joe approached me at the beginning of our shift and asked if I could give him a ride home after work. I reluctantly agreed (my third mistake), knowing full well that he was going to deliver a major discourse the entire way to his house. To make matters worse, this was the middle of winter, it was snowing outside, and Joe lived in a remote location out in the country, which meant this was going to be a long, slow ride home. If you have ever traveled through Pennsylvania, you are well aware that the back roads are narrow and have curves that leave you with the feeling that you're coming around to meet yourself. This is the state where the famous "Horseshoe Curve" is located. But there is one more characteristic that's also notable: steep grades which normally aren't protected by guardrails. Most times they put a little cross at the side of the road if you go over the edge.

Well, as I expected, two minutes after we got into the car,

Joe started down a new section of the Romans road. I began to wonder how long this road was. He quoted Romans 5:8 & 9 from memory—"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." Joe went on to say, "Paul, Christ died for you. He shed His blood for you! You see, it is not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy He saves us from the judgment to come. But you have to believe that Christ died for your sins and rose again." He concluded with, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13). Finally, we arrived at his house. As he was getting out of the car, he said, "I am going to pray for you that God will somehow get your attention so you will see that your eternal destiny is at stake."

When he closed the door I said to myself, "Hallelujah! Now I can finally have a quiet ride home"—or so I thought.

### **God Has Unique Ways of Getting Our Attention!**

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Isa. 55:8).**

It was still snowing lightly and the roads were absolutely treacherous. As I was making my way home, I came to a blind curve in the road. When I entered the curve, which was on a downward grade, I could see the reflection of emergency lights on the trees, but was unable to see what was up

ahead. As I slowly came around the bend, I could see a car had spun out on the right side and was teetering on the edge of the cliff. On the other side of the road was a State Trooper's car and a tow truck behind it, with a cluster of lights shining on the scene.

Since the road was *glare* ice, I immediately began pumping the brakes to slow down and try to stop. However, instead of slowing down, the tires lost traction on the ice and the car started to slide sideways, while at the same time picking up momentum on the downward slope. If I continued at the angle I was sliding, I would push the car over that was dangling off the edge of the road, with the driver still in it, and also take out the State Trooper's car.



When the State Trooper and tow truck driver saw what was about to happen, they both started running. Everything I did to try to bring the car out of that spin only made things worse. To complicate matters even more, the car seemed to be picking up speed like a sled going down a hill. Just before impact I took my hands off the steering wheel, threw them in the air, and yelled, “*God, help me!!*” To

this day I cannot say exactly what happened, but this I do know: Just before impact, it was as if the finger of God pushed the front end of the car straight, allowing me to slide between the two vehicles without hitting either one.

Stunned, with my hands still off the steering wheel, I was facing a new problem. Now I was the one heading for the cliff. I believe it was Albert Einstein who said that he believed the fastest thing in the universe was the “speed of thought,” and I’m inclined to agree with him. After a split second, I came to my senses and decided that, just before I felt the right front tire hit the berm, under the snow, I would cut the tires to the left and slam on the brakes. Thankfully, it worked. The car abruptly stopped and the back end slid around, leaving me pointed straight down the hill again. I never did get out to see how close I came to the edge, but it couldn’t have been more than a foot or two.

I sat there staring straight ahead, literally shaken to the core. The question that kept racing across my mind was, “Why did I call on God? Maybe I do need Him!” Mark these words and mark them well, He got my *undivided attention* that snowy night!

The next thing I remember was the State Trooper pounding on the window. I rolled down the window and the Trooper, who was holding onto the door handle to keep from falling on the ice, asked me if I was okay. I’ll never forget the next thing he said: “That was some piece of driving son. It is nothing short of a miracle that

you made it between us without hitting one of us!”

I said, “Thanks,” but as I was rolling up the window I remember saying to myself, “It wasn’t me!”

### **The Hour of Decision**

**“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness” (Rom. 4:5).**

For the next three or four weeks after the Lord got my attention, I listened carefully to everything Joe had to say from the Scriptures without letting on that I was paying attention. It was during this time I came under deep conviction that I wasn’t right with the Lord. Many of the things I had learned back in Sunday school served to confirm what Joe was saying from the Scriptures, which caused me to ponder whether perhaps all this was true.

I pause here for a moment to say that, if you are a Sunday school teacher, always remember that your labor of love is not in vain in the Lord. In many cases, only eternity will bear out the fruit of your labor. I know, for example, two of my Sunday school teachers passed away before my conversion, so they never knew what a profound impact they had on my life, and I am sure Vicki would say the same.

God had brought me to a point in my life where I knew I needed Him. But how was I going to break this news to Vicki? I was sure she was going to think her husband had lost it! Up to that point, we had never talked about spiritual things, prayed together, or even gone to church. Unable

to bear up any longer under the weight of my sin, I decided one evening that when I got home, I would tell her what was happening in my life.

It was about one o’clock in the morning when I opened the front door to find her sitting on the living room sofa crying. I sat down beside her, put my arm around her, and asked, “What’s wrong?!” Although I had seen her cry before when she wasn’t feeling well, this was different.


Her reply took me completely by surprise. She said, “We’re not right with the Lord. I’m so afraid He is going to return in judgment, and then what’s going to happen to Jodi [our baby girl]?” She too remembered what she had been taught in Sunday school, which the Lord used to bring her under conviction. After I shared with her what was on my heart, we both sat there crying together. While I had worked myself into a frenzy as to how to break the news to her, the Lord had already gone before me to prepare the way.

We went to bed that night determined that in the morning we were going to seek out someone to explain to us how to be saved. We agreed the next day that we would go see Pastor Weldon Causseaux, the Baptist pastor who had married us. Both Vicki and I held him in high regard because he had always taken a personal interest in us. He had also shared the gospel with us during our marriage counseling sessions, but at the time it fell on deaf ears. He vividly told us about all that Christ had accomplished for us on the Cross. Since the work was already finished on our behalf, all

we needed to do was believe that Christ personally died for our sins, was buried, and rose again (I Cor. 15:3,4 cf. I Thes. 4:14). He shared how our sins were put to Christ's account and how His righteousness would be put to our account the moment we believed.

After Vicki and I trusted Christ, Pastor Causseaux had us pray to thank God for the eternal salvation we now enjoyed in Christ. In that moment of time, the burden of my sins was lifted and I felt like a new man. Indeed I was a new creature, in Christ. Weldon shared with us that, in all his

years of ministry, he had led many a lost soul to Christ, but this was the first time he led a couple to the Lord on the same day. "Apparently," he said, "the Lord has something very special for you two in His service." And Joe, of course, was like a kid in a candy shop when he learned of our conversion to Christ!

If you are yet in unbelief or if you're trusting in religious works to get you to heaven, it is our sincere prayer that this personal testimony will bring you to Christ. In Him is life, and life more abundantly! 



## ASHAMED

By Cornelius R. Stam

Some time ago, we noticed in the flyleaf of a young man's Bible, a list of autographs of "great" preachers. At the top of the page, one had been scratched out with a penknife. Our curiosity aroused, we asked him what had happened.

"That was Pastor J. C. O'Hair's signature," he answered.

"And you scratched it out!"

"Yes," he replied, "these other men would never sign with his name there!"

This young man's heart had once been thrilled with the gospel of the grace of God and the truth of the mystery, but before a few "great" preachers, he had become ashamed of the one whom God had used to open these truths to him.

Popular opinion! What a powerful enemy to the truth!

Little wonder that some faint-hearted Christians should be ashamed of those who boldly proclaim the mystery when we realize there was danger that even godly young Timothy might be ashamed of Paul! Let us who mean to be faithful, however, remember that the words of Paul to Timothy are also the Word of God to us:

**"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God" (II Tim. 1:8).**



The following Sunday school lesson is from Middle School Book 2, *Christ in My Life*. To order, call 262-255-4750 or visit [www.growingupingrace.com](http://www.growingupingrace.com).



Key Verse: **Ephesians 4:31-32**

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

**LESSON 25**

## **CHRIST-HONORING RELATIONSHIPS**

By Lori Gardner

Part 1

Lesson Theme: Biblical guidelines for building godly relationships at home, school, and work

### **ENGAGE**

Did you know that the way we relate to those in our family, at school, and work may influence the way they see Christ?

## **ENLIGHTEN**

### **Introduction**

We come into contact with a lot of different people during our lifetimes. The relationships we form with others not only help shape who we are, but can also influence the way others relate to God. Our conduct and our actions can either interest people in the Lord or they could be what turn them completely against Him. Whether at home, school, work, or play, we should be determined that all the relationships we develop over the years will be healthy, happy, and Christ-honoring.

### **Family**

The people that know us the best and irritate us the most are usually family members. Does it seem that your parents know just how to "push your buttons"? Have you ever felt that they were being unreasonable? You may wonder why they never let

you have your way or why they keep interfering in your life. It may seem as if you are always in the middle of conflict. Sometimes our homes can seem more like a battlefield instead of a place where everyone feels loved and accepted. What do you do in these situations? God's Word gives us some very specific instructions that tell us how to conduct our daily lives as believers.

We are told to honor our father and mother (Eph. 6:2). That means to look at them as if they are a very valuable prize. Treat them with respect even when you don't feel like it. After all, everyone has to obey and honor someone. Even most parents are told what to do on a daily basis by their bosses, the government, etc. The Bible tells parents they are to love their children enough to discipline them (Prov. 22:6, 13:24, 29:15). So, your attitude toward them can actually make it easier for them to fulfill God's will.

One of the major causes of battles between young people and their parents is the fact that teens don't want to be treated like children, and that's perfectly normal. You are not a child anymore, but that means that you have more responsibility in the way you relate to your parents. They need to know that you are mature enough to make good decisions. The surest way to show them you are not mature is to get angry, scream, slam doors, or walk away in disgust. Instead, listen carefully to what they are saying. Then, respond by speaking kindly and respectfully to them. You can still let them know your point of view in a clear and polite way. They will notice and, in time, see that you really are maturing into a respectful adult. Just remember, act as a child and you will be treated as a child.



Don't forget to pray! However, don't pray to get your own way (Eph. 6:18). Pray that God will give you the right heart and attitude when listening to your parents' direction (Phil. 4:6). Pray that you will be able to interact with them in a godly way, and that you will handle each situation with maturity. You will be amazed at what can happen!

## Discussion

### **What should your attitude be toward a step-parent, step-brothers and -sisters, or others that live in your home that are not blood relatives?**

(Thoughts: trust that your parents are doing the best they can, treat all adults with respect, treat everyone within your household as a member of your family).

The same principles apply to your brothers and sisters. Some of the most heated and long lasting arguments we ever have are between us and our siblings. However, some of the best friends we will ever make can be with our siblings, as well. Your brothers and sisters do not have to be your enemies. In fact, the Bible says that we are to "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love" (Rom. 12:10). That means we need to cherish and have a fondness for our relatives. Follow after the things which make for peace (Rom. 14:19). Just realize that it sometimes takes work.

Commit yourself to Ephesians 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." These are words that we all should live by. Even when someone close to us is being hateful and mean, we are to show kindness toward them (Eph. 4:32). It may take time and a whole lot of patience, but kindness will eventually overcome.

Pray for your brothers and sisters when they seem difficult to you and try to look at them as Christ might see them. You may start to see them in a whole new light. Then it will become easier to deal kindly with them. You may even become friends with them! After all, you're family; you have a lot in common.

## School

Another place where we develop a lot of our relationships is at school. Some of these relationships will come and go, but the memory of some will remain with you forever. Have you ever thought how others at your school will one day remember you? Will people say you were the funny one, the cute one, the troublemaker, or the smart one? Will you be remembered for your testimony for Christ?

First Thessalonians 4:11 says, "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you." That verse means you should eagerly work at being still, quiet, and holding your peace. We all know someone that comes to school only because they are forced. They don't enjoy it, so they try to make it difficult for others as well. This verse is a good guide for all students. Don't disturb or distract others, and concentrate on your own work. All believers, whether students or adults in the working world, are to submit to authority (1 Tim. 2:2). It is your teacher's job to keep order and discipline in the classroom so that all can learn. If the class does not submit to the teacher's authority, chaos breaks out and everyone's time is wasted. If you have to be in class, you might

as well make the most of it. Strive to learn! Be on time and be prepared. Things will run much smoother that way. Study hard, admit when you need help, and never cheat. The only one that you really cheat will be yourself. Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him."



Remember to show respect to classmates, teachers, and even to the kids who seem weird to you. Colossians 3:12-14 says believers should *put on* mercy, kindness, humbleness, meekness and long-suffering. Sometimes we have to forbear one another (or put up with others), even when it's not easy. Verse 13 also tells us to forgive anyone that has a quarrel against us and above all, *put on* love (v. 14). This attitude is something that we are to put on as if it were a very precious and expensive garment. We are to wear it at all times and use it in all the relationships that we have in life.

It also helps to get involved in worthwhile projects and activities during your school years. You can get to know people and form really good friendships in the process. Through all your time at school, it

is also important to just be yourself. Be the kind of person that God wants you to be. You don't have to be a carbon copy of everyone else in order to be accepted. It may not seem fair, but people will judge you by the company that you keep. If you hang around troublemakers, you will be considered a troublemaker. So, keep in mind, your actions speak loudly to others.

## Discussion

**How are we to relate to the classmates that are really “different,” such as the mentally handicapped, or the bullies? What about those that may pressure you to conform to their world?**

(Thoughts: this is where we can really apply the words of Colossians 3:12-14 and “put on” the character traits that are pleasing to the Lord).

## Work and Leisure

As you get older you will probably be working out in the world. This will give you plenty of opportunities to develop relationships with people from all types of backgrounds. Keep in mind that your job is important to someone. You have been hired for work that needs to be done, and you will probably get paid for it. Whether it is working at a fast food restaurant, babysitting, or mowing lawns, the way you perform your duty matters. Strive to do your best even when the boss is not watching. Stay busy and don't waste time because that is actually a form of stealing (Eph. 4:28). Ephesians 6:6-7 says to do

every task as if you are doing it for the Lord.

Try to build a good reputation for yourself (Prov. 22:1). It's important that your customers, co-workers, bosses, etc. see you as someone they can trust. You may be the only real contact they have ever had with a Christian. They should see Christ working in and through you in everything you do. “And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men” (Col. 3:23). If you are doing your job out of real love for the Savior, it will be obvious to others.

Even though you are growing up and becoming an adult, you will probably still have plenty of free time. How should you spend that time? Most teenagers would say they want to be with their friends as much as possible. That's normal. However, choose your friends with care. Spend time with people that will encourage you and help to build up your relationship with the Lord. We all have a tendency to become like our friends. If your friends are not believers or if they have no desire to serve Christ, it will probably not be a healthy relationship for you. That does not mean that you can't be friendly to them, it just means you shouldn't spend the majority of your leisure time with them (2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:11). Strive to be the kind of friend that encourages others in their relationship to the Lord (1 Thes. 5:11).

With today's technology we have the ability to spend a lot of time with people that we may have never met in person. Cell phones give us the ability to call, text message, and surf the internet all at the same time. This can be great fun and a



useful tool at times, but be careful. We need to use the same common sense and Biblical guidelines when building relationships through technology as we do in person. When you send something over your phone or computer to someone else, make sure it is appropriate. Let all your messages, pictures, stories, etc. be Christ-honoring. If you wouldn't be comfortable sending something to your parents or grandparents, then it's probably not appropriate to send to anyone!



There are people out there whose only real knowledge of you is what you send them. It's important to think about the message you send. What kind of witness are you to them? Could they develop a desire to get to know Christ because of your contact, or are you sending a different kind of message altogether?

The most important relationship you will ever have is with the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have a real desire to seek His will and follow the instructions in His Word, you will be blessed. Whether at home, school, work, or play, you will have many opportunities to develop relationships with a variety of people. Those relationships can have a huge impact on the way others see

the Savior. All believers should strive to have everyone see Him living and working through us. After all, the way we relate to others could make Christ seem so attractive that they will have the desire to know Him better.

## **ENERGIZE**

### **Summary**

The relationships we form with others can actually influence their opinions about God. Our conduct can either interest people in the Lord or make them want to turn away from Him. That's why we should strive to develop healthy, happy relationships that bring honor and glory to Christ. God's Word can help us as we deal with people in our homes, at school, or the workplace. It tells us to submit to authority, have the attitude of a servant, and to do everything as if we are doing it for the Lord.

### **Application**

There will always be people in your life that seem difficult. It will make it easier to deal with them if you follow the instructions in Colossians 3:12-14. "Put on" godly characteristics such as mercy, kindness, humbleness, meekness, longsuffering, and above all, love. Wear them as if they are a precious garment or coat. This will allow others to see Christ working in and through you.


### **Gospel**

The relationship that matters the most is the one you have with the Lord Jesus Christ. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, He gave us an entry into something that we could never have access

to on our own: an eternal relationship with God. It is not something that any of us deserve. He offers it to us as a gracious gift. Once you accept His gift of salvation, you will enter into the greatest relationship a person can ever have. Your sins are forgiven, your future is sealed, and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in your heart to lead and guide you. Then as you yield to His direction, you will be able to form relationships with people that are pleasing and honoring to Him.

### Encouragement

Are there times when everyone around you seems difficult? Do you have trouble within your family? Do the people at school give you a hard

time, or do you hate your job? You are not alone. Everyone at one time or another has felt the same way. It helps to remember that the Lord knows exactly what you are going through. During Christ's earthly ministry, He had some very difficult relationships with others as well. He was hated by His own people. He was mocked, falsely accused, betrayed by a friend, and physically tortured. He knows everything that you are feeling. He gives comfort and guidance in every situation. He can lead you as to how to deal with all the people in your life. Thank you for not giving up when it seems no one cares. What a blessing it is to see young people standing strong in their relationship with Christ! 

## Question Box

*“Is Christ the rock in Matthew 16:18?”*

Since the Lord planned to build a church on it, the rock must be a foundation, and so it must be *Christ Himself* (I Cor. 3:11). But in the context, we believe the rock is *the confession* Peter had just made *about* Christ when he said, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (v. 16). You see, that was *the gospel* in those days, the only thing they had to believe to be saved (John 8:24; 20:31). When people believed this gospel, they were added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:36,47). That's how you build a church, by adding people to it!

Of course, we know the Lord's church was *the kingdom church*, for He mentions giving Peter the keys to the kingdom in the very next verse (Matt. 16:19). If Peter was given the keys to “the church which is His body” (Eph. 1:22,23), we should look to his epistles for our instruction, not Paul's. But Paul clearly says that *he* is the “masterbuilder” of the church built on a *new* confession: “*Christ died for our sins*” (I Cor. 3:10,11; 15:1-4).  
—Pastor Kurth



# The Tongues of Men or of Angels?

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

Not long after the turn of the 20th Century, the religious experience known as “speaking in tongues” began to sweep across Bible churches throughout the land. This phenomenon prompted many prospective missionaries to rush to the foreign field without the benefit of language training, convinced that their newfound spiritual gift would enable them to speak fluently in the native tongue of their chosen field. They soon found that such was not the case, however, and were forced to reluctantly return to receive this training.<sup>1</sup>

## The Tongues of Men

It is true that when the gift of tongues was introduced at Pentecost, it empowered men with the supernatural ability to speak in a known, identifiable human language with which they were not familiar. We know this because the specific languages in which they spoke are listed for us in Acts 2:4-11. We also know that God gave this gift to the Jews because He intended to make the nation of Israel “a kingdom of priests” (Ex. 19:6) to minister His word to the Gentiles (Isa. 61:6), and what good is a priest that doesn’t speak your language? Remember, Zechariah predicted that “ten men shall take hold *out of all languages of the nations*, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you” (Zech. 8:23). At Pentecost, the fulfillment of this prophecy was at last in view, and so God gave the gift of tongues to the apostles so they could communicate with Jews of other tongues at Pentecost, and with Gentiles of other tongues later.

But as we know, the people of Israel rejected God's offer to make them a kingdom of priests when they stoned Stephen, prompting God to put Israel's kingdom "on hold," and causing the gift of tongues to "cease" once God's Word was perfected soon after (I Cor. 13:8-10). Because of this, no one has been able to speak in tongues for nearly 2,000 years now. Sincere Pentecostal believers who try to duplicate this gift may mean well, but they are not able to speak in known, identifiable languages as men did at Pentecost.

### **The Tongues of Angels**

But when we try to explain this to our Pentecostal friends, they often argue that years after Pentecost, the Corinthians were given a *different* gift of tongues. They contend that when Paul spoke to the Corinthians about "the tongues of men *and of angels*" (I Cor. 13:1), that this was a reference to "an *unknown* tongue" (14:2) spoken by angels, and that *this* is the gift God gave to the Corinthians, and which He continues to give men today. Of course, since none of us "speak angel," it is impossible to verify that those who speak in tongues today are speaking in a legitimate language, as the foreigners visiting Jerusalem were able to do at Pentecost (Acts 2:11).

With this article we hope to address this contention, and show that the Corinthian gift of tongues was the same as the gift given at Pentecost, and that this ability to speak in known, identifiable languages ceased as God said it would, and that it was *not* replaced by an ability to speak in a tongue that was exclusive to angels. Our primary intent in so doing is to assure new grace believers that they are not missing out on any "second blessing" that God is giving to other believers. But we also hope that these thoughts will help you convince others that their Pentecostal friends really don't have a God-given gift of tongues, to the end that they might avoid being swept away with this error.

### **The Tongues of Men and of Angels**

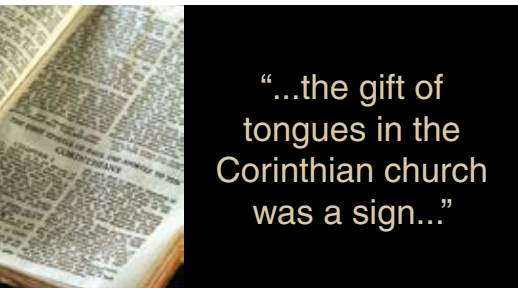
To begin with, the word for *tongues* in the Corinthian epistle is the same word, in Greek as well as in English, as that used of the ability to speak in identifiable human languages in Acts 2. With that in mind, it is unlikely that God would use the same word to describe a different gift. In addition, no other spiritual gift mentioned in Scripture is ever said to have evolved into a different form. No one reading I Corinthians 12:9 would conclude that the gift of healing found among the Corinthians was any different than the gift of healing found among the apostles at Pentecost (Acts 3:1-9), so why would we think the gift of tongues was different in Corinth than it was at Pentecost?

Furthermore, there is no indication in Scripture that angels have their own private language. Whenever they speak to men, they speak in the languages of men with no need of an interpreter. This is also

true when angels speak to animals (Rev. 19:17), to God (Rev. 7:11,12; 16:5), or to other angels (7:2,3). In each of these cases, the angels who spoke used words that John understood as he was recording their words, with no need of an interpreter.

We find further proof that the Corinthian tongues were known, identifiable languages when Paul encouraged those who spoke in tongues to seek to *interpret* their words (I Cor. 14:13), arguing:

“Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth *the room of the unlearned* say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?” (I Cor. 14:16).



When Paul says that *unlearned* men could not understand the Corinthians when they spoke in tongues, this clearly implies that *learned* men *could* understand their tongues. In those days, learned men like the Apostle Paul often spoke more than one language, as learned men often do today. But no amount of learning

could have equipped a man to understand the Corinthians if they were speaking in a tongue known only to angels.

All of this helps us come to the conclusion that when Paul speaks of “the tongues of men and of angels” (I Cor. 13:1), the tongues of men and of angels *are one and the same*. This wording may sound strange to us, but it is similar to Revelation 21:17, where John gives the dimensions of New Jerusalem’s wall in cubits, then hastens to add that the cubits of which he spoke were “according to the measure of a man, *that is, of the angel*.” John is saying that the cubits of angels were the same as the cubits of men and, using similar phraseology, Paul is saying that the tongues of angels are the same as the tongues of men.<sup>2</sup>

### The Purpose of Tongues in Corinth

Next we need to consider *the purpose* of the gift of tongues in Corinth. To quote the Apostle Paul, “tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not” (I Cor. 14:22). Of course, tongues were not a sign for unbelievers *in general*, but specifically for unbelievers *in Israel*, for “the Jews require a sign” (I Cor. 1:22), and the Corinthian church “joined hard to the synagogue” in Corinth (Acts 18:1-7). And so it was that the presence of the gift of tongues in the Corinthian church was a sign to the unbelieving Jews in the synagogue next door.

But a sign of *what*? We needn’t guess, for right before telling us that tongues were for a sign, Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah (I Cor.

14:21). In Isaiah's day, Israel was rebelling against God, and God had tried speaking to them *in Hebrew* (through the prophets) about their rebellion. When they persisted in their revolt, God vowed to speak to them in a language they would surely understand (Isa. 28:11), the language of *chastening*.

When our children persist in rebellion after we warn them in plain English of the consequences, we must then deliver the consequences by speaking to them in a language they are sure to understand, that of *spanking*, or *physical chastening*. And so it was that when the children of Israel persisted in rebellion against God their Father, despite



His warnings in Hebrew of the consequences, He vowed to deliver the consequences by speaking to them in “another tongue” (Isa. 28:11), i.e., *the language of their enemies*.


God fulfilled this vow by allowing Israel to be taken captive by Assyria, and when Judah followed her in rebellion, He permitted Nebuchadnezzar to carry her into captivity as well. And when this happened, it was a sign to God's people, a sign of *judgment*. It was a sign that God had taken the blessing that made Israel the head of the nations when they were obedient under King David (cf. Deut. 28:1,13) and had given this blessing to “a stranger” (Deut. 28:15,43,44), a stranger named Nebuchadnezzar, making *him* “the head” of the nations (cf. Dan. 2:38b).

It is important to understand that this is why Paul quotes Isaiah 28:11 to explain the gift of tongues in Corinth. You see, after Israel crucified the Son of God, and persisted in their rebellion against God by stoning Stephen, God took the blessing of Israel and gave it to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46; 28:27,28). And so it was that when the Jews in the Corinthian synagogue found themselves worshipping next door to Gentile believers who spoke in “another tongue,” it was a sign unto them, a sign of *judgment*. When God took one of the miraculous signs that the Jews considered “*our signs*” (Psa. 74:9) and gave it to the Gentiles, it was a sign to Israel that they were being judged by God.

All of this gives further proof that the tongues spoken in Corinth were the languages of *men*, not some angelic language that was unknown to men. If the phrase “another tongue” in Isaiah 28:11 speaks of a language of men and not an exclusive language of angels, and Paul quotes this passage to explain the gift of tongues in Corinth, then we must conclude that the tongues in which the Corinthians spoke were also the tongues of men, for otherwise Paul's comparison is not analogous.

Some might object that when Paul says, “he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him” (I Cor. 14:2), that this proves the unknown tongue in Corinth was *not* a language of men. But if I speak in German in a room where no one else speaks German, then “no man understandeth” me. Of course God does, so it can rightly be said that I speak “not unto men, but unto God.”

### **The Purpose of This Article**

In closing, should the reader search the Scriptures and find that these things are so, we would hope that this information, which refutes the claims of modern Pentecostals, not be used to attack them, but rather to gently help them and others see that the gift of tongues has ceased. If from there you are able to lead someone to an understanding of God’s rightly divided Word, and all the blessings that come with this understanding, what a day of rejoicing that will be! 

### **Endnotes**

1. An eye-witness memory that *Berean Bible Society* founder Pastor C. R. Stam once shared with us.
2. If angels have a *native* tongue, it would perhaps be Hebrew, which just might be the natural tongue of God Himself. The Hebrew language has no past or future tense, making it a fit tongue for the great “I AM” that dwells in eternity, and those that dwell in Heaven with Him (cf. Acts 26:14).



## **Grace Bible Church Spring Bible Conference**

**REVISED Dates:** March 12-13, 2011

**Location:** *Grace Bible Church*  
1309 Painted Post Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

### **Guest Speakers:**

Paul M. Sadler, Ed Bedore, Joel McGarvey,  
Wes Barteck, Kevin Sadler, Floyd Baker, Jr.

**Theme:** “Why Grace?”

For additional information, please contact:  
Pastor Wes Barteck at 608-222-2205 or [madisongbc@att.net](mailto:madisongbc@att.net)



# Are You Laboring in Vain?

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

**“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (I Cor. 15:58).**

What wonderful words of assurance! Who among us has not felt, at some time or another, that our labor for the Lord *is* in vain? At such times, what a comfort it is to rest in this unconditional, unqualified, God-given guarantee that our labors for Him are *not* in vain!

But how could Paul say such a thing, in light of his words to the Galatians, where he said,

**“I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain” (Gal. 4:11).**

Here the apostle seems to fear that his labors to establish the Galatians in the doctrines of grace *would be* in vain if they continued to hanker after the Law.

And what about Philippians 2:16, where Paul exhorts the Philippians to be:

**“Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”**

Here it sounds as if Paul’s labor *would be* in vain if the Philippians failed to hold forth the word of life, and follow his other instructions in this passage.

Then to top it off, there is also I Thessalonians 3:5 to consider, where Paul told the Thessalonians,

**“...I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.”**



Here again, Paul appears apprehensive that all of the labor he had bestowed upon God's people might be in vain if the temptations of the tempter succeeded in luring the Thessalonians away from the faith.

In view of statements like these, how could Paul state so categorically that the labor of the Corinthians was *not* in vain? Did they do better work than he did? Surely not! We feel the answer lies in the assurance Paul gave them that their labor was not in vain "*in the Lord.*" While it was possible that the labor of even the great apostle Paul might be in vain in the Galatians, in the Philippians, and in the Thessalonians, it is *not* possible that any of our labors are in vain *in the Lord.*

Why is that? Well, remember that Paul says of the Judgment Seat of Christ that "every man shall receive his own reward *according to his own labour*" (I Cor. 3:8). Notice that we are going to be rewarded according to our *labor*, not according to the *fruit* of our labor. That is, God intends to reward us based upon *our* faithfulness, not on the faithfulness of those upon whom we bestow our labor. If this were not so, even Paul's rewards would be few, for after all of the labor he extended in Asia, all in Asia turned away from him (II Tim. 1:15).

And so if the unfaithfulness of the ones upon whom you bestow your spiritual labor has you thinking that all of your efforts have gone for naught, remember that your labor might be in vain *in them*, but your labor is not in vain *in the Lord.* You have God's Word on it!

Of course, if there isn't going to be a Judgment Seat of Christ, then your labor for the Lord *is* in vain. If the reader is wondering why we might say something like that, remember that some among the Corinthians were insisting that there is no such thing as the resurrection of the dead (I Cor. 15:12). And if there is no resurrection, there will be no Judgment Seat to follow, and if there isn't going to be a Judgment Seat, then our labor is in vain! This progressive faulty reasoning was threatening to bring all labor for the Lord in Corinth to a screeching halt! No wonder the apostle begins this resurrection chapter by first assuring the Corinthians that *their faith* was not "in vain" (15:2,14,17), then moved on to assure them that *their labor* was not in vain.

While some spiritual leaders avoid teaching doctrine because doctrine is, in their minds, not very practical, the apostle Paul was of another mind. Disbelief in the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead was threatening to put a stranglehold on the faith and labor of the saints at Corinth, but the airtight case Paul made for the resurrection in this blessed chapter explains why he could say we "*therefore*" have all the incentive we need to be "always abounding in the work of the Lord."

And so if sometimes it feels like you are just spinning your wheels and getting nowhere with people as you labor for the Lord, we close with yet another unconditional promise from the apostle of grace:

**"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).**





## BBS Letter Excerpts

### **From Kansas:**

“Thank you so much! My eyes have been opened. I truly know what it means when Jesus says ‘the truth shall set you free.’”

### **From Kenya:**

“Berean materials have transformed my life from darkness into true light.”

### **From our Inbox:**

“For years my father has been trying to teach us about right division. I just never paid much attention. Now I want to know what it is he’s been trying to teach us all these years. I want to know where to start. I want to have the understanding my father does.” (We’re sure both your father and your Father are pleased about this.—Ed).

### **From Ohio:**

“Rightly dividing has changed my life. It is so wonderful, the assurance I now have because I know what I believe, the freedom I now have because now I know the truth. I don’t know why I had to live forty years so miserably.”

### **From our Inbox:**

“Thank you so much for the daily email. I am also sharing ’em with my group friends on Facebook.”

### **From Tennessee:**

“We are in a home Bible class and receive your *Searchlight* every month and enjoy it so much.”

### **From Pennsylvania:**

“We are blessed by the teaching of our small independent church, but the teaching we receive from the *Searchlight* greatly enhances our spiritual journey.”

### **From Alberta:**

“I just love getting my *Searchlight*, and read every page when it comes. Thought it was time to send you a love gift.”

### **From Pennsylvania:**

“The Martinsburg conference was enjoyable...It is amazing to us that there are no registration fees for these conferences...Kevin Sadler gave a full study of ‘right division’ and ‘right application.’ He just spelled the truths out minute after minute...‘Informational blizzard’ is what pops into my mind, and that is meant in a positive sense. I think that at whatever place a person was in their understanding, they could grasp more of the truth from his presentations.” (The apple didn’t fall far from the tree with Pastor Sadler’s son Kevin!—Ed).

### **From Colorado:**

“I am currently again teaching the video series *What It Means to Be a Grace Believer*. The group loves it, and wants to read Mr. Sadler’s book as well.”

### **From the Philippines:**

“I am very excited to receive the *Berean Searchlight*. I’m so thankful to God for showing me this website.”

### **From West Virginia:**

“I have been a Christian for ten years now. I was working towards ordination in a denominational church. Then a coworker of my wife gave me a copy of *Things That Differ*. Wow!...I have downloaded and listened to your studies in Galatians. Again, wow!... I have been doing what I can do to teach others about Paul’s ministry, but for some reason people have been slow to understand something that hit me like a bolt of lightning!”

### **From Colorado:**

“I was introduced to BBS about ten years ago and it has totally changed my walk and shown me the truth. I was having so much trouble before because of the difference between the kingdom plan and the grace plan through Paul. Because of the *Searchlight* and many of the great books by Pastor Stam and the rest of you, I have come to see the Scriptures in the way our Lord intended. I want to serve our Lord by being true to His Word rightly divided, and by living it out in all parts of my life.”

### **From Facebook:**

“I was recently led to the BBS website where I have been *blessed, blessed, blessed* through your Bible studies!...God has certainly increased my faith through your planting and watering...I lead the church’s prison ministry at the local jail and I personally have witnessed the redeeming power of Christ when the Scriptures are taught rightly divided.”

### **From Colorado:**

“God bless you all at BBS. Your ministry has meant the world to me in the past, and continues to do so.” (From a former prisoner.—Ed.)

### **From Michigan:**

“Thank you for the article on worship. It was just really great, especially in our area, where they define worship as everything else.”

### **From Illinois:**

“Hey, great articles in the *Searchlight* this month, as usual. The full assurance study is terrific and the worship article is very enlightening (and encouraging).”

### **From Wyoming:**

“If my small contribution helps one person to see the Word rightly divided, then to God be the glory.”

### **From South Korea:**

“Thanks a lot for sending the *Searchlight* continuously. I appreciate it! By the grace of God I study the Word of God, and am very thankful...We do pray for your ministry.” (We thank God for the prayers of the saints on our behalf.—Ed.)

### **From South Carolina:**

“Thanks for your site. It’s a great resource site and study help. God bless your ministry.”

### **From the Philippines:**

“We thank you for shining your *Berean Searchlight* here in our home, and also here in our Bible school....”

### **From Colorado:**

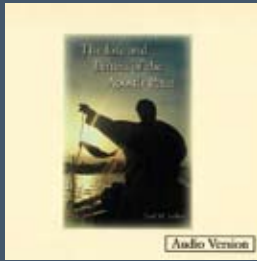
“Thank you so much for taking time to write to us about tongues. Your answer makes sense...I must admit that I have not read one sentence from the *Searchlight* that little old dumb me does not love and believe. My wife and I are both young people in the Word, but with your help, we are learning and growing up.”



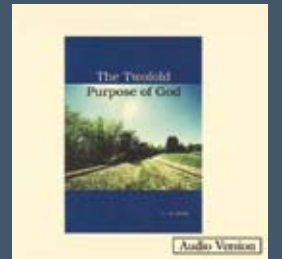
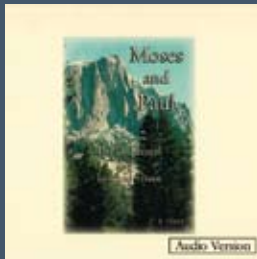
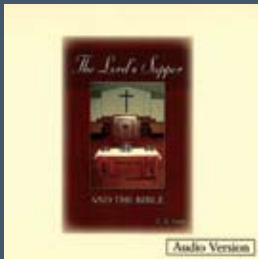
“These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”  
—Acts 17:11

# Books on CD

Narrated by Dave Allen



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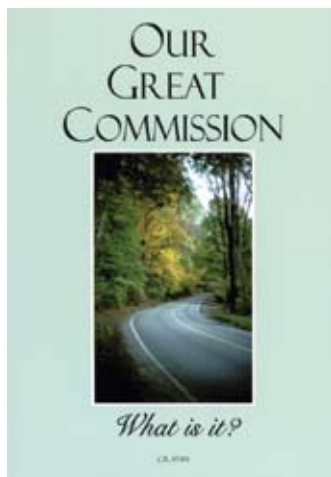
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# News and Announcements

**More Minutes:** We have now added 40 new *Two Minutes with the Bible* daily devotionals to our email rotation. But don't worry, unlike your cell phone bill, these extra minutes with the Bible won't cost you a thing, and all the rollover minutes from the other 546 articles will remain in circulation free of charge as well. If you would like to receive *Two Minutes*, just go to our web site and click on "Daily Email Devotional" to sign up.

**New Lending Library Address:** In the wake of a recent computer crash, Directors Sam and Ruth Castrova have decided to move to a new email address: [srcastrova@nc.rr.com](mailto:srcastrova@nc.rr.com). If your tape or CD request is overdue, just contact them to see if your order was lost in the crash.

**Homegoing:** Our good friend and co-laborer in the gospel, Leonard Finley, was called into the eternal presence of our Lord on November 15th at the age of 89. Leonard was well known in Grace circles for his stand for the truth of Paul's gospel. He touched the lives of many precious souls as a Sunday school teacher and as a member of the *Midwest Grace Fellowship*. Leonard will be missed by us all, but thankfully he is in glory where he continues to serve the Lord. We extend our love and condolences to his dear wife, Evelyn, to his son, Byron, and to Byron's wife, Maribeth.

**Clarification:** We received a few letters asking why we made reference to "our Seventh Day Adventist brethren" in our September issue. While we would agree that Adventism is a cult, a grace pastor friend of ours was led to the Lord by an Adventist pastor, and he says that he had many brethren among them in the years he was with them. We did not mean to imply that all Adventists are saved, any more than if we had referred to "our Baptist brethren," but we felt a word of clarification was in order.

**New Grace Church:** Pastor Ted Dean and the saints at *Grace Bible Church of Tampa Bay* would like to invite grace Floridians in their area, and seasonal snowbirds as well, to drop by and share in the fellowship they are enjoying around God's rightly divided Word. For more information, contact Lynn McMillan at (813) 986-4148, or at [lynn.mcmillan46@yahoo.com](mailto:lynn.mcmillan46@yahoo.com).



The cover lighthouse photo is of *Souter Lighthouse* in the village of Marsden in South Tyneside, Tyne and Wear, England. The light was built in 1871 due to the dangerous reefs directly under the water in the area. *Souter Lighthouse* was the first light to use electricity.

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