

The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

March 2002



Feature Articles

<i>The Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter (II Pet. 1:10-21)</i> Pastor Paul M. Sadler	7
<i>Time to Wake Up</i> Pastor Cornelius R. Stam	13
<i>Running to Win</i> Pastor Ricky Kurth	16

Departments

From Our Mailbag	4
Creation	6
Question Box	12
Slouching Toward Holiness?	21
The BBI Byline	24
News and Announcements	25

The *Berean Bible Society* is an organization for the promotion of Bible study by means of newspaper series, recorded Bible lessons, and the distribution of Bible study literature. It is a non-profit organization, a work of faith supported by the gifts of Christian friends.

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

Editor: Paul M. Sadler; *Composition and Layout:* Kevin J. Sadler

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

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

Berean Bible Society Main Office: (262) 255-4750

Berean Bible Society Fax Number: (262) 255-4195

Internet: <www.bereanbiblesociety.org>

E-mail: <berean@execpc.com>

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., CST

The *Berean Searchlight* (ISSN 0005-8890), March 2002. Volume 63, Number 1.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Road, PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756.



From the Editor to You:



Dearly Beloved,

I recall that as a boy playing sandlot baseball the pitcher would occasionally throw a curveball, which froze me in place. It was totally unexpected!

I had a similar experience several weeks ago when Pastor and Mrs. Bedore shared with me that Linda would be leaving BBS to work for the *Berean Bible Institute*. While I am still recovering from the news, I do understand the growing need for BBI to assemble a full-time staff. Actually we are grateful for the degree of interest in the Institute which has produced this need.

Linda is a consummate “pro” at what she does, so she’s going to be sorely missed. But this opens the door of opportunity for someone else to join our BBS family. This particular position is perhaps our most technical at BBS, due to the complexity of our accounts receivable and inventory programs. If there is someone who feels up to the challenge, we would like hear from you. The official announcement is as follows:



Employment Opportunity: The *Berean Bible Society* has an opening for a full-time Administrative Assistant. The qualifications for the position are: bookkeeping experience—accounts receivable, computer skills, secretarial and typing skills. The staff member holding this position is also the primary receptionist at BBS and responsible for the Bookstore. We are willing to train! If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Linda Bedore at: (262) 255-4750, Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. Resumés are being received via e-mail at: <berean@execpc.com>, or by regular mail at: *Berean Bible Society*, PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022.

We are also requesting that applicants give a *brief* explanation of their understanding of Paul’s apostleship and message. In addition, Mrs. Bedore is willing to spend up to 30 days training a new staff member, if need be. We like to remind our staff from time to time that working at BBS is more than a place of employment; it’s a ministry for the Lord.

Yours in His grace,

Paul M. Sadler
President

From New Jersey:

"Over the past several years I have been strengthened and encouraged by *BBS* books, tapes, and the *Searchlight*. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry."

From Texas:

"I recently found a December 2000 *Searchlight* in a stack of old books and was excited with what I found. I was brought up in the Bible Church Movement and tremendously miss the scholarship and truthful teaching you share rather than the traditional denominational slant that has so entrapped our churches today."

**From the Internet—
United Kingdom:**

"Just a quick note to say how much I appreciated the book, *Things That Differ* that I received with my first copy of the *Berean Searchlight*. The timing was perfect. I am utterly convinced that rightly dividing the Word is the only correct way to study and teach His Word. The Lord has used sites such as yours to convince me of this over the last year. I thank Him for your ESSENTIAL ministry....I would appreciate UK contacts if you know of any." (I am happy to report that we have a number of Grace Believers in the UK. Help is on the way! Ed.)

From Ohio:

"We are so thankful for your ministry and the *Berean Searchlight*. May the Lord richly reward you and your staff."

From Kansas:

"I would like to make this contribution to your ministry in memory of my late father. He passed away on 12-27-00. He conveyed to me how much he believed in your work in spreading the Good News about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I listened to him and read your material that you mailed. I joyfully concur. Please start sending me your material. It is of greatest value and a great comfort to me. I thank you all for doing our Lord's work."

From Missouri:

"I do so enjoy the *Searchlight*. Keep up the good work and I pray that God will give you strength, energy and health to do all that you do."

From Pennsylvania:

"Trust you won't be offended. I'm returning 2 copies of *Holding Fast*. I cannot in good conscience give them to anyone I know. Nothing hurts the soul more than controversy, as I know from experience. I'm 70 years old and 40-45 years ago I nearly suffered *shipwreck* because of controversy among older Christians. I also have to say, the very men Mr. Stam disputed with were the men whose writings encouraged and comforted me in the Lord. In a sense, I owe them a debt of gratitude. I do appreciate Mr. Stam's work, which I only learned about in the past 3 years. I have given many of his books to others and will continue to do so." (No offense taken! While controversy can be unsettling, it does serve a purpose. It drives us back to the Scriptures to determine the truth. Ed.)

From Colorado:

"Thank you so much for the *Searchlight* magazine. We look forward to reading it every month. We thank the Lord for your ministry and the preaching of the Word, rightly divided."

From Connecticut:

"Pastor Sadler, I thank God for your inspirational and edifying writings and, of course, the writings of Pastor Stam. I pray that your ministry will continue to grow stronger especially in outreach efforts to our nation's men and women in prison. On a final note, I am interested in information on the three-year program offered by the *Berean Bible Institute*."

From Washington:

"First, let me say how grateful and how much we appreciate the *Berean Searchlight*. It is our ray of light. We become pretty hungry for sound teaching—the meat of the Word."

From California:

“Thank you for so graciously sending me your excellent publication the *Berean Searchlight* for the last several years since my dear friend, Albert Olson, now deceased, requested it for me. Through your publication and his teachings I learned much about the teachings of Paul and the glorious message of the grace of God, and I am most grateful.”

From Wisconsin:

“Thank you for the *Berean Searchlight* we enjoy each month which helps us to understand the Mystery and the grace of God.”

From Indiana:

“Thanks for the *Berean Searchlight* and the publications I have purchased from *Berean Bible Society*. I have thoroughly enjoyed Pastor Sadler’s two books, the one on *Ephesians* and the other, *The Triumph of His Grace*. I really enjoy the new format of the *Searchlight*, if it is new. I read it from cover to cover as soon as it comes. Again, thank you for remembering me in prayer.”

From Colorado:

“I appreciate your stand for the revelation of the Mystery and the Word rightly divided.”

From Florida:

“Thank you for the December *Berean Searchlight*—I enjoy reading all of them. The article *With Him, the Glories of the Life to Come* by C.R. Stam was very well written and easy to understand. I sent it to my sister who is a Jehovah Witness for 35 years. She is not aware of the Rapture and its meaning. I hope the Holy Spirit will open her eyes and she will understand what your article says.” (Since the Jehovah Witnesses believe salvation is by works, you may want to back up one step and share with her that *the Son of God* died for her sins, was buried, and rose again. Ed.)

From Georgia:

“I am enjoying tremendously Mr. C.R. Stam’s book *Things That Differ*. It is very informative concerning the kingdom gospel and the gospel of Grace. Please send me a free subscription to the *Berean Searchlight*. God’s will be done in your organization.”

From Arizona:

“May we be found growing in the grace and knowledge of the truth *rightly divided*. The *Berean Searchlight* is always eagerly looked forward to each month....I was happy to read how the booklet was used in the ministry from Africa.” (The *Searchlight* is sent to over 60 countries around the world. Ed.)

From Illinois:

“Thanks to God for your faithfulness in His work as you study God’s Word rightly divided.”

From New Zealand:

“I think that Cornelius Stam’s book, *Things That Differ* is a CLASSIC. I just keep rereading it again and again. I come from a background of solid teaching by Messianic Jews, i.e. David Cooper and Charles Lee Feinberg, also J. Vernon McGee. Many thanks.”

From Georgia:

“Your literature has blessed us for so many years that we have decided to send a small token of our appreciation each month during the coming year. The Lord richly bless each of you as you serve as His ambassadors in that place in 2002.” (Thanks so very much for remembering the Lord’s work. Ed.)

From Pennsylvania:

“We count it a privilege to be able to give toward our Lord’s work of making available the wonderful message of grace. Perhaps we won’t fully appreciate God’s grace ’til we appear before Him in the heavenlies.”

“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

Creation

By Paul M. Sadler

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day” (Gen. 1:3-5).



I am a creationist. I personally believe that God created all things in heaven and earth in six literal 24-hour days. A proper understanding of creation is essential, since it is the foundation upon which all the doctrines of God rest. Sadly, some in Christendom have sought to erect an elaborate system known as the day-age theory to accommodate the geologic timetable of billions of years. But does this position pass the Berean test?

Those who subscribe to the day-age theory believe that the Hebrew word “day” (*yom*) can refer to a 24-hour day or a long period of time. This is true! For example, the *day of the Lord* is an extended period of time which covers well over one thousand years. Consequently, the context must always be consulted to ascertain the duration of time under consideration. Of course, those who defend this position teach that the days of the Genesis record quite literally cover millions and millions of years, which conveniently accommodates evolution.

Interestingly, when the Hebrew word *yom* is used with a *number*, it always refers to a 24-hour day, without exception. In regard to the Passover God instructed Moses, “Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the *first day* ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the *first day* until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel” (Ex. 12:15). Would we conclude otherwise that the “first day” here is anything other than a normal day? Furthermore, when perimeters are set on the term *yom*, such as “the evening and the morning,” as found in Genesis 1:4, this limits the day to 24 hours.

But perhaps the most conclusive evidence of all that each day was 24 hours is found in Exodus 20:11: “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Here Moses uses the term *yamin*, the Hebrew plural for “days,” which exclusively speaks of 24-hour cycles.

If the Holy Spirit had intended to convey that the days of creation were “eras,” He would have used the Hebrew *olam*, which is defined as “indefinite time.” We accept by faith that God is sovereign and all-powerful; therefore, it was a small matter for Him to speak all things into existence in six days (Psa. 33:6-9).

The Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter

II Peter 1:10-21

By Paul M. Sadler



Here in his own words is the story of a Scottish medical doctor named W.P. Mackay:

My dear mother had been a godly, pious woman, quite often telling me of the Savior, and many times I had been a witness to her wrestling in prayer for my soul's conversion. But nothing had made a deep impression on me. The older I grew the more wicked I became—I was in danger of becoming an infidel.

One day a seriously injured man [laborer] had fallen a considerable distance while climbing a ladder. The case was hopeless; all we could do was ease the pain of the unfortunate man. He seemed to realize his condition, for he was fully conscious, and asked me how long he would last. The patient was alone in the world. His only wish was to see his landlady, because he owed her a small sum, and also wished to bid her farewell. He also requested his landlady send him, "the Book." "What book?" I questioned. "Oh, just ask her for the Book, she will know," was his reply.

After a week of such suffering he died. I went to see him on my regular visits at least once a day. What struck me most was the quiet, almost happy expression which was constantly on his face. I knew he

was a Christian, but about such matters I cared not to talk with him or hear. After the man had died, some things about the deceased's affairs were to be attended to in my presence. "What shall we do with this?" asked the nurse, holding up a book in her hand. "What kind of book is it?" I asked. "The Bible of the poor man—his landlady brought it on her second visit. As long as he was able to read it, he did so."

I took the Bible and—could I trust my eyes? It was my own Bible! The *Bible* which my mother had given me when I left my parents' home, and which later, when short of money, I sold for a small amount. My name was still in it, written in my mother's hand. Beneath my name was the verse she had selected for me. I need not add much more. Be it sufficient to say that the regained possession of my Bible was the cause of my conversion.

It is said the doctor retreated to his office and began poring over the Book. Several hours later he knelt and asked Christ to be his Savior and Lord. Dr. W.P. Mackay later became a minister and writer of the old gospel hymn "Revive Us, Again."¹

The Word of God transforms lives because Christ is the object of its message. It is powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword. God's Word pierces through the stony heart of flesh, convicting the soul of sin and reveals the mind and will of God. Peter experienced its power firsthand when Christ instructed him to "feed My sheep!" A charge that Peter took to heart, as demonstrated in his epistles. The Word of God literally changed his life, and it will

change your life if you simply apply its principles on a daily basis.

LIFE AND LIFE MORE ABUNDANT

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” —II Pet. 1:10,11

Peter charges his hearers to make their “calling and election sure.” Notice that the apostle places this responsibility upon his readers. While those saved under the kingdom gospel had eternal life, they did not enjoy the *assurance* of it, as we do today. In regard to eternal life the gospel of the kingdom teaches:

“That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:15,16).

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand” (John 10:27,28).

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (I John 5:13).

A man who’s released from prison after committing a serious offense is always given a probationary period to ensure that he’s fit to return to society. In like manner, the kingdom saints were placed on *probation*—it was required that they demonstrate they were indeed saved. After speaking of the way of salvation, the Lord

made the following comment regarding deceivers, “Ye shall know them by their fruits” A corrupt tree does not produce good fruit, and vice versa, a good tree doesn’t produce evil fruit (Matt. 7:12-20).

Hence Peter adds, “to make your calling and election sure.” How? “If ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” What things? Those things mentioned in the previous passages, “giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity” (II Pet. 1:5-7). Peter’s hearers could have the assurance of their eternal life if they simply *abided* in these things.

“For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know *them*, and be established in the present truth” (II Pet. 1:11,12).

The entrance here is the *way*. Christ, of course, is the way! He has provided an entrance into the everlasting kingdom by virtue of His shed blood. Peter gives his countrymen some additional incentive to remain *faithful* to the end when he states that the way “shall be ministered unto you abundantly.” In other words, while all the kingdom saints will enter into the millennial reign of Christ, the entrance of some will be *more* glorious than others. Only those who heed the commands of Christ for Israel will hear the Lord say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matt. 25:21).

We learn by *repetition*. Both Peter and Paul understood the importance of this principle, and it is incumbent that ministers of the gospel today follow their example. Paul writes to the Philippians, “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe” (Phil. 3:1). It is *safe* to repeat the Word of God because the saints have different degrees of understanding. It has been correctly said, “The eternal price of knowledge is review, review, review.”

Peter, too, upheld his God-given responsibility when he writes to his countrymen, “Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.” Peter was a circumcision apostle who preached the gospel of the circumcision; therefore, we can safely conclude this is the “present truth” he speaks of here (Gal. 2:7,8). Peter’s hearers were saved and ministered under kingdom gospel, which was inseparably tied to the Abrahamic covenant and circumcision. It was these things that they already knew, but Peter was vigilant to remind them lest they forget their roots.

IN LIFE AND IN DEATH

“Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me. Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance” (II Pet. 1:13-15).

Someone once said that life is like a spinning wheel, each spoke a tale to be told. This was certainly true of the Apostle Peter’s life. As he

“Peter was a
circumcision apostle
who preached the
gospel of the
circumcision....”

neared the end of his earthly pilgrimage, apostasy raised its ugly head. Thankfully, Peter had the strength to fight one last battle. He perceived that things would grow much more intense after his decease, so he effectively puts his countrymen in *remembrance* of the sound doctrines they were brought up under. Once again, the best defense against error is to be grounded in the truth.

As the aged apostle observed the times, Peter knew that he must soon put off his tabernacle, as the Lord had shown him. A tabernacle was a *tent* in biblical times. In this context, we are to understand the physical body is merely the tent that houses the soul and spirit. Peter’s statement “as long as I am in this tabernacle” is most revealing. While we place a high premium on these physical bodies, the true essence of our being is vested in the soul and spirit. This is all the more reason why we should give greater attendance to our spiritual life. So then, when Peter speaks of his “decease” (Gr. *exodos*) he was anticipating his exodus to be with the Lord who bought him.

What the Lord had *shown* Peter concerned the manner of death he would experience. “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake He, signifying by what death he should

glorify God” (John 21:18,19). The day would come, while Peter was attending to the needs of the sheep, that he would be carried away to suffer a *violent* martyr’s death. This is what the Lord meant by the phrase they will “carry thee whither thou wouldest not.” In short, it would not be a natural death, but one premature and repulsive to the flesh. Through it all, the Lord adds, his death would ultimately glorify God. Brethren may we, too, honor and glorify God in life and in death!

After Peter received the revelation about his fate, the narrative states: “Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on His breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth Thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?” Of course this was “old Peter” speaking. What about John, Lord? What’s going to happen to him? “Jesus saith unto him, if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou Me” (John 21:20-23). What a great response! Essentially the Master tells Peter to mind his own business and follow Him! We are not to compare ourselves among ourselves simply because the will of God differs for each life.

THE GLORY OF HIS COMING

“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount” (II Pet. 1:16-18).

Peter is careful to remind his hearers that “we,” that is, the twelve apostles of the kingdom, have not followed cleverly crafted myths and legends of men. Our message is based on the living Word of God and personal experience when we made known unto you the power and coming of Christ, at which time He will establish His kingdom upon the *earth*. This has been the theme of the Prophetic Program since the foundation of the world. In fact, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied how the Lord would return with myriads and myriads of His saints to execute judgment upon the ungodly (Matt. 25:31-34 cf. Jude 14,15). Clearly this was the *hope* of Peter’s hearers both past and future.

“We are not to compare ourselves among ourselves simply because the will of God differs for each life.”

During the earthly ministry of Christ, the Lord said to the twelve these words: “For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom” (Matt. 16:27,28). Note the verb “see.”

Six days later the Word of the Lord was fulfilled when He took Peter, James, and John to a high mountain where He transfigured before their very eyes. This is what Peter means when he said we “were eyewitnesses of His majesty—for He received from God the Father honor and glory.” They had a sneak *preview* of the power and glory of

Christ's Second Coming when He will return to set up His kingdom of righteousness. While they were trying to gather their wits they *heard* the voice of the Father say, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Beloved, Peter had the mother of all experiences. He was there that fateful day—he saw the transfiguration of Christ—he heard the voice of the Father from the excellent glory in the mount. Be that as it may, he pointed his readers back to the Scriptures. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed" (II Pet. 1:19). Peter did not want the faith of these dear saints to rest on his experience, or on anyone else's for that matter; rather, he wanted it to be based upon the Word of God. To paraphrase Peter's thought, "The Prophetic Word is a more sure foundation which you would do well to pay very close attention."

Peter could appeal to a wide array of Prophetic Scriptures to substantiate his teaching regarding the kingdom hope. He could easily *authenticate* his message on the basis of the law and prophets. Interestingly, this was not the case with the revelation given to the Apostle Paul, which was kept *secret* from ages and generations past.

"Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not" (Gal. 1:20).

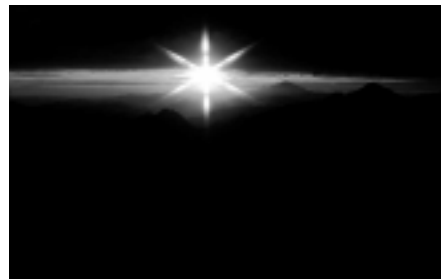
"Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not); a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity" (I Tim. 2:7).

Four times Paul declared "I lie not." In order to authenticate his apostleship and message Paul had to continually appeal to the Godhead to verify that what he taught was ordained of God. Furthermore, he

relied heavily upon the signs of his apostleship to validate his ministry, which confirmed that God was surely with him (II Cor. 12:11,12).

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation" (II Pet. 1:19-20).

In the midst of the night, which will grow even darker with the coming Tribulation Period, the Prophetic Scriptures were like a lamp showing the way to the dawn or *glory* of the Second Coming of Christ. Peter was holding out hope to his readers that in spite of what they may be called upon to endure, soon they would experience the joy of the Lord when Christ, the bright and morning star, returns to usher them into the blessings of the kingdom (Zeph. 1:14-16 cf. Rev. 22:16-18).



"Knowing this first that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation." We believe the sense here is, prophecy did *not originate* with the human writers of the Scriptures, but rather with the Holy Spirit. Prophecy should never be thought of as merely a collection of human thoughts. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Pet. 1:21).

In time past, it was the Holy Spirit who was the wind in the sails of the prophets, carrying them along until the revelation of prophecy was complete. The prophet did not always understand the significance of his words, or that some of his prophecies had both a short-term and a long-term fulfillment in view. Old Testament prophecy is woven together like a fine tapestry which can

only be explained by a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. It has a clear line of teaching throughout, and the fulfillment of its predictions has been 100% accurate.

To Be Continued!



Endnote

1. *Nelson's Complete Book of Stories and Illustrations & Quotes*, Robert J. Morgan, Pages 55,56,680.

Question Box

“Many people believe that Saul, after his vision on the road to Damascus, began to preach Body truth. But in Galatians 1:23 the Scriptures clearly state that Saul now preached the faith which he once destroyed (Peter’s message).”

As we know, Paul spent the first two chapters in Galatians distinguishing his apostleship and message from the apostleship and message of the twelve. In fact, he clearly states that the gospel he preached was “not after man,” that is, the twelve or any other man for that matter. Rather, his message was a direct revelation from the Lord of glory (Gal. 1:11,12). With this in mind, verse 23 must be interpreted in light of the context that precedes it.

“But they [churches of Judea] had heard only, that he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. And they glorified God in me” (Gal. 1:23,24).

We must remember that there was a point in Paul’s life when he rejected Christ and the seemingly ridiculous notion He had risen from the dead. He believed Him to be nothing more than an imposter. But when the Lord of glory appeared to Paul on the dusty road leading to Damascus, his stony heart of flesh melted within him. He could not deny his senses; he believed Christ was who He claimed to be! You see, the fact that Christ was the Son of God who had risen from the dead was common ground between the two programs of God. So it is in this sense the apostle preached the faith that he once sought to destroy.

This is further confirmed by Paul’s statement in I Corinthians 15:11: “Therefore whether it were I [the apostle of the Gentiles] or they [the twelve apostles of the kingdom], so we preach, and so ye believed.” Preached what? Clearly in this context the resurrection of Christ—true, it may have been for completely different purposes; nevertheless, it was a common denominator.

—Pastor Sadler



Time to Wake Up

By Cornelius R. Stam

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

“The night is far spent; the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

—Rom. 13:11,12

DAY AND NIGHT IN SCRIPTURE

Some able Bible expositors have taught that the “day” and the “night” in the above passage must be viewed in a dispensational light. The world’s night, they have suggested, came with the fall of man. Then, when our Lord appeared on earth the day dawned, for He was “the Light of the world” (John 8:12). But the world, including “His own,” rejected Him and night fell again as He left it and ascended to heaven. Nor will the world know the light of day again until He returns to reign.

At first sight this interpretation seems sound enough, but it does not stand the Berean test. As we search the Scriptures, we do indeed find our Lord saying to the people: *“I am the Light of the world,”* but He adds: *“he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”* (John 8:12). It was only His true followers, then, that did not walk in darkness, and they had “the light of life.” This agrees with the inspired testimony of the Apostle John:

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4).

As to the world, which did not partake of this life, John goes on to describe how deep was the darkness of its night:

“And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not” (Ver. 5).

The light shone forth but did not penetrate the dense darkness; the darkness was not diffused by it.

Indeed, so deep was the night when our Lord was on earth that God sent John the Baptist to point men to Christ, the Light.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

“The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through Him might believe” (Ver. 6,7).

It is evident, therefore, that our Lord did not dispel the world’s darkness at His first coming and that, dispensationally, it was not day while He was on earth. We believe, rather, that the world’s night began with the fall of man and that the darkness will not be dissipated until the second coming of Christ to judge and reign. Then the wicked will be

judged and burned up as “stubble” (Malachi 4:1), but for those who fear His name:

“...the Sun of righteousness [shall] arise with healing in His wings...” (Ver. 2).

This is why He is called “the Morning Star” in those Scriptures which apply primarily to the great tribulation (Rev. 22:16 cf. II Pet. 1:19).

But what, then, does the Apostle Paul mean in Romans 13:12, where he says that “the night is far spent” and “the day is at hand”?

OUR NIGHT AND DAY

We believe that the answer to this question is that the apostle is *not* speaking dispensationally in Romans 13:11,12. Certainly, if the “night” of this present dispensation followed the supposed “day” of our Lord’s earthly ministry, Paul could not have written that the night was “far spent.” When he wrote, it had barely begun.

Rather, Romans 13:11,12 should be compared with such passages as II Corinthians 4:6:

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Thank God, the day has dawned for the believer in Christ, though the night be dark about him! And because the day has dawned *“it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”*

Our salvation as believers in Christ is secure, but it is not yet *complete*. No matter how we rejoice in Christ, or how we love to testify to His grace, or how we enjoy the

“What a disgrace to be sleeping at so late an hour, especially when there are battles to be fought and victories to be won!”

study of the Word, there is still more, much more to follow. The dawning of the light which has brought us so much blessing and joy will suddenly burst into full-orbed day when our Beloved comes to catch us away to Himself.

LET US NOT SLEEP

Mark well that it is not the dawn that we are waiting for. For us the day *has* dawned and it is the full-orbed day¹ that is at hand. Could there be a better argument why we should “awake out of sleep”?

We find the same challenge forcefully presented in I Thessalonians 5. After explaining in I Thessalonians 4:16-18 how “we” shall be caught away to meet the Lord and be forever with Him, the apostle goes on in Chapter 5 to say that “the day of the Lord” will come upon this world as “a thief in the night”:

“For when *they* shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon *them*, as travail upon a woman with child; and *they* shall not escape” (Ver. 3).

But the apostle continues:

“But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

“Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness” (Vers. 4,5).

And this is the sole argument upon which he bases his appeal to be awake and alert. He does not urge us to be awake to defend ourselves against the thief, for before our Lord comes as a thief, we will have been caught away. He rather says: the thief will come in the night, but *“Ye are all the children of...the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”*

“Therefore let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober” (Ver. 6).

HIGH TIME TO AWAKE

We should not fail to observe the urgency of the apostle’s inspired appeal in Romans 13:11,12.

“It is *high time to awake...The night is far spent [all but dissipated]; the [full-orbed] day is at hand.*”

What a disgrace to be sleeping at so late an hour, especially when there are battles to be fought and victories to be won! Thus the vigor of his appeal to *“cast off”* the night clothes of indolence and to *“put on the armor of light.”*



This armor of light is nothing less than Christ Himself, as indicated in Verse 14:

“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

Believers are already “in Christ” positionally, but we must “put Him on” experientially (See Col. 3:8-14).

In Ephesians 5:8 the apostle says: *“For ye were sometime [once] darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”* And as we thus *“put on the Lord Jesus Christ”* and *“walk in the light,”* we find that the light is an armor to protect us from sin and to defend us against Satan, who would overcome us and put us to flight.

AWAKE AND ARISE


Finally, while Romans 13:11 bids us “awake out of sleep,” Ephesians 5:14 bids us *“awake...and arise from [among] the dead.”* Believers have already been raised *from the dead* with Christ by grace (Eph. 2:4-6). Too often, however, they are fast asleep—asleep to their responsibilities and opportunities, asleep to the need and the challenge of the hour. Are such Christians of any greater use to God or men than those who are still “dead in trespasses and sins”?

Thus the apostle exhorts:

“Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from [among] the dead, and Christ shall give thee light [or, be to thee a light].

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

“Redeeming [buying up] the time, because the days are evil.

“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:14-17). 

Endnote

1. This is the meaning in the Greek.

“The wages of sin have never been reduced!”

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31).

Pastor Kurth has been a great addition to our staff. As you will see from the article which follows, he has a way of putting the truth down on the bottom shelf so everyone can benefit from it. This particular message was given at the *Grace Singles Conference* on January 1, 2002, at the *Grace Bible Church* of the Black Hills, Rapid City, South Dakota. —Ed.

Running to Win

By Pastor Ricky Kurth



“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain” (I Cor. 9:24).

Did you know that if you are a Christian, you are in a *race*? Imagine being in a race and not knowing it! When this writer turned 40, he realized he was in a race against time, and time was running out! It was time to get *serious* about life! As Christians, we too are in a race—not against each other, but against *time*, and *time is running out!* (Rom. 13:11-14). Its time to get serious about *the things of the Lord!*

While the ancient Olympic games were held in Olympia, the Isthmian games were held in Corinth, and so Paul was using an analogy, the details of which these Corinthians understood, but which must be explained to us. For instance, the “prize” they raced for was *not* Roman citizenship; you had to be a citizen in order to *compete* in these games. Likewise, Paul is not speaking about racing for *heavenly citizenship*, for

you must be *saved* in order to compete in this race. Additionally, it is said that participants in the Isthmian games had to be free of all legal entanglements. If a man were guilty of a felony, or even up on charges, he could not compete. Thank God, *grace* has freed *us* from all legal entanglements! We are “free from the law,” and *cleared of all charges by the blood of Christ!*

At the Olympic or Isthmian level, no runner would even *think* about taking a step *backward* during a race, for such a step would take you in a direction opposite of your goal! And so it is when you sin, you take a step backward from your goal, and you are *losing ground spiritually!* Then too, no runner would think of taking a step *sideways*, for every runner knows that the shortest distance between two points is a *straight line*. Sometimes Christians ask if it’s acceptable for God’s people to watch TV, gamble, or engage in other such marginal activities. While such things are not always wrong, they are often steps sideways, and won’t help you win the race at the *eternal* level.

The writer of Hebrews seemed to understand this too. He challenges us to “run with patience the race that is set before us” (12:1), and his advice is to “lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us.” Obviously the weights he has in mind are not sins, for he

mentions them separately. Doubtless he was thinking of these marginal issues, things that are not steps backward, but things that will *weigh you down* and make it more difficult for you to run the race successfully.

This writer was once working as a house painter in an apartment building that had two sidewalks that led to the door. Since trips back and forth to the truck for equipment take time—and time is money—pacing had to be employed to determine which was the shorter route! But in the race in which we are engaged as Christians, time is much more important than *money*. Thus it behooves each of us to examine our Christian lives and cast aside any extra weight, straighten out the curves, and eliminate all steps backward and sideways.

When Peter walked on the water through the storm to our Lord, do you think he meandered hither and yon to admire the crashing waves and great ocean swells? *Hardly!* No doubt the raging sea caused him to set a straight course for the Lord. May the storms that rage in *your* life cause you to do the same!

Peter's experience teaches us another valuable lesson, "for when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid" (Matt. 14:30). In order to see the wind, he must have taken his eyes off the Lord, and the writer of Hebrews tells us that we should always be "looking unto Jesus" (12:2). Runners know they must *focus on the goal*. Sin and marginal issues are a distraction that cause us to *take our eyes off the prize!*

Our Lord is described here in Hebrews 12:2 as "the author and finisher of our faith." Many race courses are straight lines, and the starting line is *different* than the

finishing line. Obviously, Hebrews 12:2 speaks of the more circular form of race course, where the starting line is the *same* as the finishing line, for our Lord is the beginning of the Christian life, but He is also *the goal!*

But while Christ is our goal, what *specifically* are we racing for? I'm glad you asked! God doesn't expect you to engage in a race for an unknown prize. Philippians 3:14 says:

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

So what *is* "the prize of the high calling of God"? Well, before we can determine what "the *prize* of the high calling" is, we must first define "the high calling of God." Paul speaks here of our *high* calling as opposed to Israel's *low* calling. While believers in Israel were promised an *earthly* hope, believers today are promised a *heavenly* hope. Thus Israel's hope is a *low* calling only in a *geographical* sense.

"...while rewards may not be important to you, they are important to God."

But what then is "the *prize* of the high calling"? Again, we find the answer when we compare what we have to what Israel has. The prize of Israel's *low* calling was greater opportunity to rule and reign with Christ *on earth*. The twelve apostles were promised *thrones* in Christ's earthly kingdom (Matt. 19:28), and faithful Jews in general will be rewarded with authority over the peoples of the Gentiles (Luke 19:17,19).

As the parable in Luke 19 indicates, the extent of their reign will be in direct proportion to the extent of their service. What then is “the prize of the *high calling*”? Surely it is the extent of our reign with Christ in the heavens, which will be in direct proportion to *our* faithful service for Him.

To win this prize, Paul says that he concentrated on “one thing” (Phil. 3:13). Before 1871, D. L. Moody was interested in many things: the YMCA, social issues, Sunday School work, etc. But after the great Chicago fire devastated his city and took many lives, he determined to focus on one thing—*evangelism!* Similarly, there are many issues that Christians today can be distracted by: politics, protesting abortion and gay rights, etc. But let us, like God Himself, focus on *one* thing, and work with Him to “have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (I Tim. 2:4).

But after we extend a lifetime of effort in this race, can it be that only “*one* receiveth the prize” (I Cor. 9:24)? No, Paul offers this by way of *contrast* to the way participants in the Isthmian games were rewarded. How heartening to read Paul’s words earlier in this epistle, where he speaks of how when “the Lord come...then shall *every man* have praise of God” (I Cor. 4:5). His words in Chapter 9 are given to encourage us to run *as if* only one were going to receive the prize, that is, with the same intensity as the Isthmian runners.

“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible” (I Cor. 9:25).

Here Paul turns our attention from the racetrack to the Isthmian

wrestling arena. We know from Ephesians 6:12 that “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,” the demons that *currently* reign in the heavens, fallen angels who aren’t looking forward to members of the Body of Christ taking their place. We must wrestle against the “doctrines of devils” (I Tim. 4:1) that these rulers of darkness teach. We must try to enlighten those whom they would keep in spiritual darkness.

As we strive, we must remember to be “temperate” or *moderate* in all things. Pastor Stam’s father was a workaholic city missionary. He died a premature death, and Pastor Stam never forgot this lesson. He tempered his own ministry by occasionally taking time out for his diversions, which included photography, chess, and other interests.

The Isthmian wrestlers strove for “a corruptible crown,” a leafy laurel that time would corrupt in just a day or two. But we strive for an “incorruptible” crown. Today we often use the word “corruption” to apply to *government*, when elected officials abuse the public trust. Thank God, when we receive our crowns and begin to rule and reign with Christ, there will never be any corruption in *our* heavenly government, as there was ages ago when a third of the angels abused God’s trust and corrupted the government in the heavens.

“I therefore so run, not as *uncertainly*, so fight I, not as one that beateth the air” (I Cor. 9:26).

As we run this race with Paul, there are three things we are not *uncertain* about. First, we are not uncertain about *our salvation*, for

as we said, we are not competing for heavenly citizenship. Second, we are not uncertain about *our rewards*. We trust God when He says that every man shall have praise of Him. Lastly, we are not uncertain as to *the rules of the game*. The rules in professional football have changed over the years, and one thing is certain: if you play by the rules of a previous era, you'll be penalized! Likewise in the dispensation of grace, if you play by the rules that God gave to Israel, you are certain to be penalized!



When Paul says “so fight I,” he has switched arenas again, this time to the boxing ring. Boxing is a studied art, but it all boils down to two essentials: hit, and don’t *get* hit! A hard-hitting boxer who can’t avoid his opponent’s blows will not succeed. But an artful dodger who can’t strike a blow is just as ineffective! As Christian boxers, some chant: “We don’t smoke and we don’t chew, and we don’t run with them that do!”—but they don’t do anything else either! They can dodge Satan’s darts, but can’t land a punch for the Lord. But we also have the opposite type, heavy hitters who are preaching and teaching and have the devil on the ropes, but who never learned to duck, and soon are down for the count, having disgraced their ministry by falling into sin.

Paul was not “one that beateth the air,” and neither are we! The only time a boxer engaged in beating the air, or “shadowboxing,” was when he was *training*, and you and I are *never without an opponent!* Our Berean Bible Institute students may be in training, but as far as God is concerned, they are *already engaged in the conflict!*

“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (I Cor. 9:27).

The phrase “keep under” is a peculiar phrase used only one other time in the Bible, and in a way that tells us precisely what Paul means. In II Chronicles 28:10, we read:

“And now ye purpose to keep under the children of Judah and Jerusalem for bondmen and bondwomen unto you...”

Obviously, when Paul says we should keep under our bodies, he means we should keep them “as bondmen and bondwomen” unto us. Our physical bodies make wonderful servants, but poor masters. We must keep under them lest we find ourselves “a castaway.”

This doesn’t mean we might lose our salvation. In Romans 11 we read that God “cast away” the people of Israel (v. 1-15), but that didn’t mean that faithful Jews who died in faith lost their hope! It rather means that as a people they were sidelined from competition, because they didn’t follow the rules!

Paul knew from personal experience what this was like. After he had “preached to others” that we are not under law but under grace, he took a Jewish vow (Acts 21:18-26) that would have ended in an animal sacrifice (v. 26). Rather than let him cast such a dishonorable

shadow on the Cross of Christ, God interrupted the vow (v. 27), had him arrested (v. 32) and subsequently imprisoned, cast away or sidelined because he didn't follow the rules.

Indeed, it is this unfortunate event in Paul's life that prompted the passage we are now considering. In I Corinthians 9:20, Paul regretfully admits:


“And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law; that I might gain them that are under the law.”

Paul says that he did this “that I might *by all means* save some” (v. 22). But are we to use *all means* to reach the lost and teach the untaught? No, we must be careful “lest that *by any means*” we are *too* zealous and break the rules! Paul's words here are not given to encourage us to emulate his methods, but rather as a *warning* not to follow in his footsteps. He means for us to admire the *zeal* that motivated his actions, but to *temper* this zeal with an unwavering determination to *play by the rules*.

We know that Paul was willing to give up his rewards and be “accursed from Christ” for his brethren in Israel (Rom. 9:3). This *sounds* noble, and we are tempted to say, “Amen! You go, Paul!”, and be willing to give up our own rewards for the sake of those about us. But Paul learned the hard way that *God doesn't approve of it, and it doesn't work anyway!* Compromising the rules *never* accomplishes the goal, it only brings loss of rewards. Thus Paul tells Timothy:

“And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive *lawfully*” (II Tim. 2:5).

This passage in II Timothy has yet another tie to our text in I Corinthians 9. The Greek word for “castaway” is the negative form of the word translated “approved” in II Timothy 2:15. Thus, if we don't *rightly divide* God's Rule Book, we will end up a disapproved castaway! Every Isthmian contestant knew he must do more than just *follow* the rules of his competition, he also knew he must not *mix* the rules with those of other events. For instance, while it is perfectly all right to *punch* an opponent in the boxing ring, a runner who slugs a man who is gaining on him will find himself disqualified! It is likewise within the rules for *fencers* to use a foil, but the *boxer* who tries to use one is disapproved! In the same way, Christians today must be careful not to mix the rules given to us through the Apostle Paul with the rules given to the people of Israel, or we will end up “ashamed” at the judgment seat of Christ.

Perhaps you are thinking that you aren't concerned with obtaining rewards, you would be embarrassed to reign with Christ, you are not the type who wants to rule and reign over anyone or anything. When you get to Heaven, you'll be content to be “a doorkeeper” in the house of God (Ps. 84:10). If this describes you, you should know that while rewards may not be important to *you*, they are important to *God*. God is *tired* of watching the Academy awards and all of men's other award shows, and seeing *all the wrong people* rewarded for *all the wrong things!* God is *eager* to see the *right* people rewarded for all the *right* things. May God help us to be as eager to be rewarded as He is to reward us! May God help us to *get in the game*, and *live fervently for Him!* 

SLOUCHING TOWARD HOLINESS?

“People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.”

—D. A. Carson in *For the Love of God*

Spring Bible Conferences

Northern Indiana Regional Meetings

Location: *Holiday Inn*, I-94 & US 421
Michigan City, Indiana

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2002

Guest Speakers:

Ricky Kurth, Pastor of *Faith Bible Church*, Steger, IL
Joe Watkins, Director of *Things To Come Mission*, Indianapolis, IN
Paul M. Sadler, President of *Berean Bible Society*, Milwaukee, WI

Contact Person:

Mr. Dick Hunt (219) 767-2294

Midwest Bible Conference

Location: *Grace Gospel Church*
5730 Adams Avenue
Ashtabula, Ohio

Dates: May 3-5, 2002

Theme: *The Acts of the Apostles*

Speaker: Pastor Paul M. Sadler

Contact Person:

Pastor David Adams (440) 992-9008



I Corinthians

By C. R. Stam

Like the Church today, the Corinthian believers were superficial in their perception of the truth, and unbelievably permissive in their moral conduct. Also, as a congregation they despised Paul's apostolic authority. Thus, the intent of this epistle was to correct the unruly conduct of these saints.



II Corinthians

By C. R. Stam

It is interesting, indeed, to note how many profound doctrines are discussed in *II Corinthians*, in contrast to all the rebukes, corrections, instructions, etc., found in *I Corinthians*. Two of the greatest of these are, perhaps, the New Covenant and the doctrine of reconciliation. This companion volume is a must read!

A commentary on a specific subject, in this case I & II Corinthians, is always preferable to a commentary on the whole Bible, which is usually very limited in its treatment of most passages due to the enormity of the task set before the authors.

***\$9.00 each or purchase
the set of two for \$16.00***

THIS OFFER ENDS MARCH 31, 2002

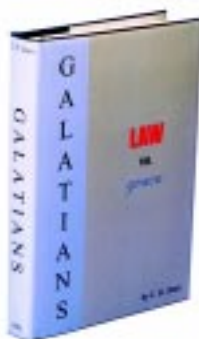
(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)

Orders up to \$20.00, please add \$2.00 for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add 10% for postage and handling.

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

Study to Show Thyself Approved of God, A Workman That Needeth Not to Be Ashamed



Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians

By Paul M. Sadler

Can you name seven of our spiritual blessings in Christ?

Explore the wonders of God's grace!

An expositional commentary!

Takes a fresh look at our standing and state!

CLOTHBOUND

SCRIPTURE INDEX

SPECIAL PRICE: \$12.00

Galatians

By C. R. Stam

A fresh new look at a number of age-old problems!

A comprehensive study on the *unique* character
of Paul's apostleship and message!

Shows how legalism had sapped the spiritual vitality of the Galatians
and the course of action the apostle took to deal with the matter!

Answers the difficult questions that most commentators avoid!

CLOTHBOUND

SCRIPTURE INDEX

SPECIAL PRICE: \$11.00

THESE OFFERS END MARCH 31, 2002

(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)

Orders up to \$20.00, please add \$2.00 for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add 10% for postage and handling.

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



THE BBI BYLINE

Is Berean Bible Institute For You?

Berean Bible Institute's program is not an easy one. And it is not meant to be easy, but has been purposely designed to be a Bible and ministry training center that will prepare individuals for the realities of ministering the Word of God "rightly divided" in our sin cursed world. In other words, *BBI* is for those who are willing to invest the time, resources, and hard work necessary to properly prepare themselves for the work of ministry.

Do you feel called to go into the ministry but don't know where to begin? If so, *Berean Bible Institute* can help you prepare by providing a balanced and extensive Bible education along with the necessary ministerial training. If you are serious about serving the Lord and willing to put out the effort to do so, then *BBI* is for you.

Fall Semester Begins August 26, 2002

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

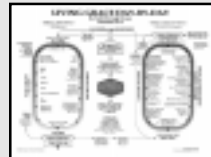
Practical Living Charts

Berean Bible Institute has produced 2 charts entitled: "The Two-Fold Application of God's Grace in the Believer's Life" and "Living Grace Day-By-Day." These charts deal with the practice of living grace daily. Both charts are 8 1/2 x 11 inches and are in full color.



Set Price: \$5.00

(Price includes postage and handling)



Pauline Letters Chart



Berean Bible Institute has produced a chart outlining the order, structure, and purpose of the letters of the Apostle Paul. This chart is 11 1/2 x 17 inches, in full color and can be used in conjunction with personal Bible study or as a teaching aid for group study.

Price: \$4.00 each

(Price includes postage and handling)

Orders: *Berean Bible Institute*, PO Box 40, Germantown, WI 53022

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A GRACE PIONEER CALLED HOME: The staff of the *Bible Edification Ministries* wrote to inform us that on December 19, 2001, Fred Bachand, founder and president of BEMA, fell asleep in the Lord. "Fred's objective in his ministry has always been to present the Word rightly divided, and to make all men see 'what is the dispensation of the Mystery.' With perfectionism and accuracy as his guidelines, he became a faithful steward of God's Word.

"BEMA came into existence over 30 years ago with the inspiration and support of a few faithful believers. It was Fred's desire that this ministry continue and we will carry on the work as the Lord leads and provides. We feel a tremendous loss at his passing, but rejoice that he is in God's care until that glorious day when we, the Body of Christ, will all meet the Lord in the air 'and so always together with the Lord we shall be.'" May God richly bless these dear saints as they faithfully continue Brother Bachand's legacy.

NEW BIBLE CLASS: Our good friends Lee and Stella Wasson have started a Bible Study in their home. The group is currently meeting on Monday and Tuesday evenings twice a month. Pastor Floyd Baker, who recently relocated to Florida from the frozen tundra of Wisconsin, is the Bible teacher. If you live in Pasco, Hernando, or Citrus County be sure to stop by to hear the sound teaching of the Word. For additional information and directions, please contact: Mr. & Mrs. Lee Wasson at (352) 688-4427 or e-mail <leestela@atlantic.net>. God's very best to these dear saints as they share the gospel of the grace of God.

NEW LOCATION: *Grace Bible Fellowship* of Ridgeley, West Virginia has relocated. The assembly is now meeting at #2 Hunt Club Plaza. For times of services and directions, please contact Pastor & Mrs. Brent Biller at (304) 726-4063. Best wishes to these dear saints as they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

BROTHER CHUCK BARRETT recently accepted a call to pastor the *Grace Bible Church* at Nokomis, Florida. The assembly is located at 111 Tamiami Trail, Nokomis, FL. If you live in the area, or you're a snowbird from the north, by all means attend the services and enjoy the fellowship with those of like-precious faith. For more information and times of services Pastor & Mrs. Barrett can be reached at (941) 966-3936 or e-mail <cbarrett62@hotmail.com>. May God richly bless the Barretts as they make known Christ and Him crucified.

*The picture of the lighthouse that appears on the front cover was taken by Gail Wilver of Naples, Florida. The *Yaquina Head Lighthouse*, erected in 1873, is located north of Newport near Agate Beach on Oregon's north central coast. It is Oregon's tallest lighthouse. Gail adds, "The black, smooth lava rocks make a pleasant clicking sound as the waters of the Pacific Ocean wash over them."

PRICE LIST

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS BY CORNELIUS R. STAM—FOUNDER

(Clothbound—Gold Stamped)

<i>Book Title</i>	Price
Acts, (Commentary) Volumes I & II	18.00
Acts, (Commentary) Volumes III & IV (w/Bible Index)	18.00
Author's Choice, The	9.00
Baptism and the Bible	8.00
I Corinthians (Commentary)	10.00
II Corinthians (Commentary)	10.00
Divine Election and Human Responsibility	8.00
Galatians (Commentary)	12.00
Hebrews, Who Wrote It and Why?	8.00
Holding Fast the Faithful Word (w/Bible Index)	12.00
Lord's Supper and the Bible, The	7.00
Man, His Nature and Destiny	10.00
Moses and Paul (w/Bible Index)	7.00
Our Great Commission (w/Bible Index)	8.00
Pastoral Epistles (Commentary)	10.00
Paul, His Apostleship and Message (w/Bible Index)	9.00
Romans (Commentary)	10.00
Satan In Derision	9.00
Sermon on the Mount, The	8.00
Suggestions for Young Pastors	8.00
I & II Thessalonians (Commentary)	9.00
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index)	9.00
True Spirituality (w/Bible Index)	9.00
Two-Fold Purpose of God, The (w/Bible Index)	7.00
Two Minutes With the Bible	10.00

(Paperbacks)

No Other Doctrine	5.50
Present Peril, The	5.50
Satan In Derision	5.50
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index)	7.00

WRITINGS BY PAUL M. SADLER—PRESIDENT

(Clothbound—Gold Stamped)

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (w/Bible Index)	10.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (w/Bible Index)	14.00
Triumph of His Grace, The (w/Bible Index)	11.00
Are You Secure? (Booklet)	1.00
Historical Beginning of the Church, The (Booklet)	3.00
Institution of Marriage, The (Booklet)	4.00
Supernatural Sign Gifts of the Acts Period, The (Booklet)	4.00
Trials and Temptations (Booklet)	2.00
Water Rite, The (Booklet)	1.00

SPECIAL OFFERS

All 26 Clothbound Books by C. R. Stam, Plus "The Present Peril" and "No Other Doctrine"	175.00
Set of Current Booklets by C. R. Stam	35.00
Set by C. R. Stam (Books and Booklets)	210.00
Set on Acts by C. R. Stam (w/Bible Index)	30.00

BIBLE STUDY BOOKLETS BY CORNELIUS R. STAM

Abiding Trinity	\$0.50
Ambassadors for Christ	0.50
Charismatic Movement, The	0.50
Courage for the Conflict	0.50
Faith of Christ, The	0.50
Fulfillment	0.50
Gift That Includes All Others	0.50
Hope for the Bereaved	0.50
Lord's Prayer, The	0.50
Love of Christ, The	0.50
Methuselah and Paul	0.50
Now is the Time	0.50
Our Oneness in Christ	0.50
Panoramic View of the Program of God, A	0.50
Pentecostal Signs Being Restored?, Are the	0.50
Rapture of the Church, The	0.50
Rome's Greatest Blunder	0.50
Simple As Can Be	0.50
(Spanish Translation also available)	
Sonship	0.50
Standing, Walking and Running With Paul	0.50
Truth Aflame	0.50
Unanswered Prayer	0.50
(Spanish Translation also available)	
Unpardonable Sin, The	0.50
When the Lord Became Angry	0.50
Why Was Christ Baptized?	0.50
Will There Be Tears In Heaven?	0.50
Answer to Catholicism, The	\$1.00
Apostolic Authority of the Twelve, The	1.00
Believer's Walk, The	1.00
Dimensions of the Mystery, The	1.00
Early Ministry of Paul, The	1.00
God and Man	1.00
God's Plan of Salvation Made Plain	1.00
Knowledge of the Mystery, The	1.00
Logic of the Plan of Salvation, The	1.00
Lord's Supper, The	1.00
New Evangelicalism, The	1.00
Paul the Masterbuilder	1.00
Power of God versus The Power of the Occult, The	1.00
Preaching of the Cross, The	1.00
Saul the Sinner and Paul the Boaster	1.00
Seven Times a Failure	1.00
That Blessed Hope	1.00
This is That	1.00
Water Baptism	1.00
We Know a Secret	1.00
Is Salvation Certain?	\$2.00
Writings of John	2.00
Your Faith In God's Word	2.00

20% off on any order of 25 or more CRS booklets of the same title

3/1/02—PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Orders up to \$20.00, please add \$2.00 for Postage and Handling

Orders over \$20.00, please add 10% for Postage and Handling

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

**“Beware! Error often rides to its
deadly work on the back of the truth.”**

THE BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT
N112 W17761 MEQUON ROAD
PO Box 756
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022-0756

PERIODICALS
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI