

The

# Berean Searchlight

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

June 2004



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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:

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Dearly Beloved,

Pastor Win Johnson and I were having dinner one evening in Chicago when he paused and said to me, “Brother Paul, always bring the truth down and put it on the bottom shelf so everyone can rejoice in it.” I’ve always felt that this was sound counsel from someone who had faithfully proclaimed the Word of God for decades. The art of preaching and teaching the Scriptures is not to see how complex you can make the presentation, but how simplistic—that’s the challenge!

Paul said to the saints at Philippi: “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.” This should be the desire of every believer, that we might know Him in a fuller sense. As we rightly divide the Word of truth we must proclaim Christ today according to the revelation of the Mystery. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the written page.

With this in mind, we are working on a number of new projects to help newcomers grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For new believers in Christ we are putting together a booklet to encourage them in their newfound Christian life. This handy little guide will address specific areas of the faith where Satan often attempts to discourage a new convert.

If you have ever had the joyous experience of introducing someone to Paul’s gospel you have probably said to yourself, I wish I had something to put into their hands that would explain the grace message in a simplistic way. Good news! Help is on the way! We are working on a 60-page booklet with this very need in mind.

Finally, a new series of charts is also on the drawing board. This will be a 10 or 12 page booklet with a progressive series of dispensational charts highlighting the Word, rightly divided. We believe this will be a great tool to give to a believer who has never heard about the Mystery.

These are all works in progress that must be done in between our other responsibilities. Therefore, please pray that God will give those of us who are working on these projects the time and strength to complete them. If you are in a position financially to lend a helping hand, simply designate your gift: “New Projects.”

Yours in His service,  
Paul M. Sadler, President

# Islam and the Apostle Paul



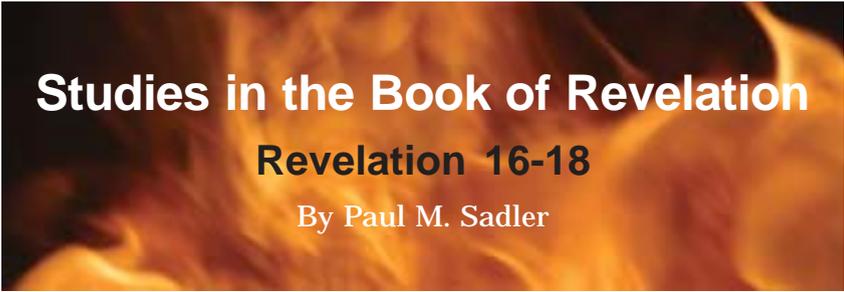
With the Moslem faith in the news so much these days, we know that our readers will especially enjoy this letter from a former Muslim who has now discovered God's Word, rightly divided.

"For years I studied Islam. It was attractive to me as a young black

male for many reasons; I was bitter from a childhood accident, which left me with a serious facial disfigurement. I felt set upon by the American judicial system, and Islam accepted my bitterness, calling America the greatest evil on earth. I learned to read Arabic fluently so I could study the Qur'an in the language in which it was written; I felt the powerful pull of Islam as a young volatile black man. The extreme rhetoric catered to the 'bad' within me, and condoned my 'bitterness.' Yet, spiritually I was unbalanced and incomplete. It took years to realize that contrary to the meaning of Islam (the root word is *salaam*, "peace"), it is not a religion of peace at all but one of discord. I finally departed from it altogether, but it made me even worse; I became a bitter hypocrite and a danger to society. My incarceration is rightly justified.

"I received a copy of *Things That Differ*, and although I've studied many books in the past, this book is blowing me away! It is truly eye-opening and simply incredible! This study material is taking me on quite a journey in better understanding many crucial aspects of the Bible. I am truly amazed at the sound and reasonable proofs offered to answer certain questions of import, i.e., the Church of Rome, Prophecy and Mystery, the Gospels, and many others. It seemed as though whenever a question entered my mind concerning a particular area, the author would elaborate on it so as to ensure that I understood. In a previous letter to BBS I inquired about the Word 'rightly divided,' which I now understand very well. Thank you.

"The information on the Apostle Paul was very informative and inspiring. Islam would especially single out Paul's epistles to criticize the Christian faith. During Jumuah (Friday Prayer) or Taalim Services, the Iman or his assistant would quote passages from Paul's letters to evince the incorrectness of the Christian Faith. We were indoctrinated to believe that Paul 'corrupted' the message of Christ, which necessitated the coming of Islam. How wrong Muslims are, I now realize. The Apostle Paul, as I'm learning, is a crucial part of the unfolding of God's mystery. Israel's position was clarified also, which had remained an unsolved puzzle to me. So much was clarified that at times it was overwhelming. I thank God for your assistance in my growth in the Word."



# Studies in the Book of Revelation

## Revelation 16-18

By Paul M. Sadler

**“And the seventh angel poured out his vial [bowl] into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.”**

—Rev. 16:17-19

Chronologically, the design of the bowl judgments is to bring the Great Tribulation to a close. As the seventh bowl is poured out on this Christ-rejecting world, John hears a great voice in heaven, saying, “It is done!” Like the grand finale at a fireworks display, the closing events of the Great Tribulation will happen in rapid succession. The day of God’s vengeance will end with the Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ.

In the sixteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation the term “great” is used eleven times. We read of a great heat, a great river, a great earthquake, a great hail, etc. The final judgments are so

terrible and so sweeping that if those days were not shortened all flesh would be destroyed from the face of the earth.

Under the sixth bowl the great river Euphrates is dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east (Rev. 16:12). This is significant because Israel’s enemies, for the most part, came from the east, which meant they had to cross the Euphrates River. In this case, God does Israel’s enemies a favor by drying up the river so they can array their forces against the chosen nation. Apparently, the Anti-Christ receives intelligence as to where Israel’s secret hiding place is located. With the Euphrates dried up, one of the major obstacles to moving a large army eastward is removed. What the forces of the Anti-Christ deem to be their good fortune in reality is a “highway of death” to Armageddon (Rev. 16:14-16).

God is now prepared to bring a full end to the wickedness of mankind in the Tribulation. As the forces of evil march eastward, the seventh angel pours out the seventh bowl upon the earth, which results in a catastrophic earthquake. This is not your average quake that is merely destructive in one part of the world;

this earthquake will be global. God will shake the foundation of the earth like a reed that sways violently in a mighty wind. John reports that this quake will be “such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.”

The result of this cataclysmic event is devastating. The apostle relates, “The great city was divided into three parts” (Rev. 16:19). Both Jerusalem and Babylon are called a “great city” in the Book of Revelation. Since the apostle is about to tell us what is going to happen to Babylon later in the passage, we can safely conclude that John’s first reference to “the great city” is Jerusalem (Rev. 11:8; 16:19 cf. 21:10). With the city of Jerusalem divided into three parts, the secret hiding place of Israel (Rev. 12) will probably be exposed. This could well be by divine design as God draws His enemies to the “valley of decision” for one final battle, called the battle of Armageddon (Joel 3:9-16 cf. Rev. 14:14-20; 16:16). According to the Scriptures, this battle will be fought in the valley of Megiddo just outside of the Holy City. It is here that it’s said the blood will run to the horse’s bridle, as Christ tramples Israel’s enemies under His feet.

“And the cities of the nations fell.” The global nature of this judgment is seen here as the cities of the nations crumble. Those great structures that men have designed to touch the sky will one day be brought to rubble. Imagine for a moment in your mind’s eye a global 9/11. This demonstrates that God will have the final word in the affairs of men. “And great Babylon came in remembrance

before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.” One of the last cities standing is Babylon. God will personally deal with the seat of the Anti-Christ kingdom as He did with the cities of the plain—more on this in a moment!

“And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” As we saw in an earlier lesson this earthquake is of such a great magnitude that the islands vanish into the sea and the mountains disappear like the morning mist when the sun rises. But do men in that day repent of their evil deeds? The answer is found in the next passage:

“And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great” (Rev. 16:21). When God pronounced the seventh judgment upon the Egyptians in the days of Moses, the hail smote men and beasts and completely wiped out the crops in the field. But not one hail stone fell on the Israelites in the land of Goshen.

Since the future judgments of the day of the Lord closely follow the plagues of Egypt, God will undoubtedly place a protective hedge around His people when He rains hail out of heaven. Each of these stones are said to weigh a *talent*. While there is disagreement as to the exact weight of a talent, it appears to be the weight of what an able man could lift and carry (II Kings 5:23). So then, a talent was probably between seventy-five and one hundred pounds. Anyone hit with one of these hail stones

will be buried in their tracks. But rather than plead to God for mercy, the ungodly will blaspheme the God of heaven because the plague is so great.

### BABYLON

**“And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel” (Gen. 10:8-10).**

Under the dispensation of human government God reinstated the commandment: “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish [Heb. fill] the earth” (Gen. 9:1). Therefore, it was God’s will for mankind to scatter upon the face of the earth. Whatever form of human government they established was to reflect the known will of God and glorify Him in all ways.

But Nimrod led a rebellion against God and gathered the people to the land of Shinar, which is located in the Tigris-Euphrates River Valley. In defiance to the will of God they built a city and a tower “whose top may reach unto heaven” (Gen. 11:4). Essentially their actions said there is strength in unity apart from God. Their vision was to establish a seat of authority from which would arise a capital city, a one-world government, and a one-world religion.

The name of the city would eventually be known around the world, as a place through which all trade and commerce would pass. The tower or ziggurat on the other hand was a *temple*. Its top rose toward heaven to give them a better vantage point to

study and worship the sun, moon, and stars. Paul says of this period that they “changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature [thing created] more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen” (Rom. 1:25). The fact that God created the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day rather than the first day demonstrates that He is supreme; therefore, He alone is to be worshipped.



In the days of Nimrod men departed from the ways of the Lord on a grand scale. Since the whole earth was of one language and of one speech, God came down and confounded their language causing a state of confusion. Unable to communicate with all the principal parties, they discontinued the building of the city, leaving it unfinished. Hence, the name of the city is called *Babel* or “confusion” because the Lord confused their language. We should add that *Babel* is short for *Babylon!* While this action of God forced men to scatter upon the face of the earth, it has been and always will be man’s desire to unify under the banner of a one-world order. As we will see, the *Babylon* in the days of

King Nebuchadnezzar was merely a forerunner of the Babylon to come, which will serve as the seat of the Anti-Christ kingdom.

## BABYLON AND PROPHECY

**“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation” (Isa. 13:19,20).**

**“And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD. Behold, I am against thee...I will stretch out mine hand upon thee...and will make thee a burnt mountain. And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD” (Jer. 51:24-26).**

As we know, many prophecies in the Old Testament have both a short-term and a long-term view. We believe that the destruction of *Babylon* falls into this category. There is little question that Isaiah and Jeremiah foretold the impending doom of this treasure City of Gold. But has every detail of these prophecies literally been fulfilled? Surely not!

Historically, we know that ancient Babylon existed many years after the fall of the empire. The city, with its beautiful hanging gardens, was absorbed into the Media-Persian Empire and gradually faded in glory. Yet Jeremiah spoke of her fall as being *sudden*. Although the details of this prophecy did not apply in time past, the Apostle John reveals in the Book of Revelation that *future* Babylon

will be destroyed in *one day* (Jer. 51:8 cf. Rev. 18:8).

In addition, Isaiah compares her ruin to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. While calamity did, indeed, befall the Babylon of old, the one yet to come shall be destroyed by fire and brimstone much like the cities of the plain. In similar fashion, it quite literally will be wiped off the face of the earth and be found no more (Isa. 13:19; Jer. 51:26 cf. Rev. 18:8,9,18,21). Those who diligently search the Scriptures agree that this calls for a *futuristic* interpretation. The evidence unquestionably leads us to the conclusion that this is the correct rendering. We know, for example, there was a church located in Babylon in Peter’s day (I Pet. 5:13). In our day, prior to Desert Storm, Iraq was a popular tourist destination. In addition to the vast array of artifacts, many made pilgrimages there to visit the image of Nebuchadnezzar.

Perhaps the most convincing argument that Babylon will be restored is cradled in the words of the prophet. Isaiah pinpoints the fulfillment of this prophecy as taking place in the *day of the Lord* when the heavens are darkened (Isa.13:1,6-11). This, of course, corroborates that the “golden city” will rise again from the ashes of history only to experience a more devastating fall the second time.

## BABYLON THE GREAT

**“Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with**

**the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns” (Rev. 17:1-3).**

Future Babylon will be a city, a political entity, and a religious system. They are seamlessly woven together, so much so that the woman who is the religious system is called the “great city” (Rev. 17:18). In this den of iniquity, she camouflages the political aspirations of the Beast or Anti-Christ with false religion. Thus, she is said to *sit* upon the beast. Her intimate relationship with the kings of the earth will make her wealthy beyond compare. The merchants, and craftsmen, and musicians of the world will turn this city into one of the wonders of the modern world. It is destined to become a treasure City of Gold in the truest sense of the word (Rev. 18:15-18).

The name written on the forehead of the woman is: MYS-TERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. If you want to find the source of idolatry and false religion you need to look no further than Babel of old. When God scattered mankind to the four corners of the earth, men took their idolatrous ways with them into the nations they established. This is confirmed by the numerous zigurats found throughout the world. They refused to retain God in their knowledge; consequently, they invented false religions to satisfy the inherent need to worship something or someone.

The hour is coming when the world will witness the revival of Babylon. The saints in that day will know her as *Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots*. This woman, who is the religious side of the Anti-Christ kingdom, makes the inhabitants of the earth drunk with the wine of her spiritual fornication. The golden cup she holds in her hand is filled with abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. Every idol and false religion and the evil behind them is in this golden chalice. She will unify all the religions of the world under one head. This is the one-world religion of the future day of the Lord.

Those who seek to expose the infidelity of this state-run religion will be executed. The woman is also said to be drunk, drunk with the blood of the saints (Rev. 17:6). Once the Anti-Christ declares himself to be God, he betrays the woman into the hands of the confederation of the ten kings. God will send them strong delusion to believe the lie, after which they agree to destroy her (Rev. 17:16-18). They will then align themselves with the Anti-Christ in their mutual pursuit to exterminate the Jews.

**“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen” (Rev. 18:1,2).**

With the military machine of the Anti-Christ marching toward Armageddon, Babylon comes to God’s remembrance. The cup of her sins is overflowing! Earlier in the Tribulation the martyrs

under the altar in heaven cried with a loud voice saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and *avenge* our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" The answer is found here in the judgment of Babylon. John says, "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath *avenged* you on her" (Rev. 18:20).

As Jeremiah predicted, the fall of Babylon will be sudden. According to John the city will be completely destroyed in one day, in one hour. Those who were made rich by her will mourn as God rains down fire and brimstone upon the treasure city. Their first love will perish before their very eyes. Like the cities of the plain, Babylon will

be brought to ashes, never again to be inhabited. "Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all" (Rev. 18:21).

We are reminded of Peter's admonition that reverberates through the centuries. As he pondered the judgments of God in the coming day of the Lord, Peter said to his hearers, "what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation [behavior] and godliness?" For those who enter the Tribulation this admonition will give them incentive to live for the Lord. It should produce in us a grateful heart that we've been delivered from these judgments according to the riches of His grace.

*To Be Continued!*



## Question Box

*"What does it mean to observe the Lord's Supper 'unworthily' (I Cor. 11:27-29)?"*

The word "unworthily," both in English and in the Greek text, is an *adverb*, not an *adjective*. Thus it cannot describe *the Corinthians themselves*, but rather refers to *the inappropriate manner* in which they were observing the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:17-22).

Personal worthiness is not a prerequisite for partaking of communion. The only worthiness any believer has is his worthiness *in Christ*. We are "accepted in the Beloved" (Eph. 1:6), where we have *perfect* worthiness, making *every* believer welcome at the Lord's table.

The Lord's Supper is a "remembrance" (I Cor. 11:24,25) of what He did for us at Calvary. Thus believers living unworthily lives are the very Christians who *should* partake of the Lord's Supper. They are the ones who stand most in need of remembering the price that was paid for the very sins in which they so thoughtlessly indulge. This precious observance is not a reward for good behavior, it is a testimony whereby we "*show the Lord's death till He come*" (v. 26). —Pastor Kurth

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This is the third of a series of articles that first appeared in 1950 in *Truth* magazine, published by *Milwaukee Bible Institute/Worldwide Grace Testimony*, now the *Grace Gospel Fellowship*. These articles have never before appeared in the *Searchlight*.

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## Moses and the Law

By Cornelius R. Stam

### THE COVENANT OF THE LAW

The covenant of the law was made between God and Israel, with Moses as mediator and angels to witness and confirm the transaction (See John 1:17; Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19).

It was made 430 years after the Abrahamic covenant, in which God had promised repeatedly and unconditionally that Abraham's multiplied seed should be His people and should become the blessers of the world.

This poses a problem, for here, more than four centuries after making these unconditional promises to Abraham and confirming them to Isaac and to Jacob, God begins to add qualifications, saying:

**"Now therefore, IF ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, THEN ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine" (Exod. 19:5).**

Paul faces this problem candidly when he states in Galatians 3:15:

**"Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto."**

Or to state it in modern English: Even a man, after having

signed an agreement would not think of taking from it or adding to it. Once the agreement is confirmed by his signature it must be carried out as agreed.

And then, presenting the problem, the apostle adds:

**"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added..." (Gal. 3:19).**

Would God, then, add qualifying clauses to a covenant already made and confirmed? Yes—indeed, He added a whole new covenant! And to increase the difficulty, Israel confirmed the added covenant, answering in unison:

**"...All that the Lord hath spoken we will do..." (Exod. 19:8).**

Thus what Abraham's seed had once been promised unconditionally now seemed to depend upon a very big "IF"—probably the Bible's biggest "IF," for who could obey God's voice indeed and fully keep His law?

### THE PURPOSE OF THE COVENANT

Thank God, we are also given the solution to this perplexing problem. To begin with, the apostle assures his readers:

**"And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that is**

**should make the promise of none effect” (Gal. 3:17).**

What, then, is the solution?

First, the law was not given, as so many suppose, to help men to be good, but to show them that they are bad. And be it noted that while the covenant of the law was made with Israel, it nevertheless spells condemnation to all the race, for it outlines those standards of holiness to which none of Adam’s children can attain and without which no man shall see God (Heb. 12:14).

**“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: *that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*”**

**“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: *for by the law is the knowledge of sin*” (Rom. 3:19,20).**

**“...It was added because of transgressions...” (Gal. 3:19).**

But did not this very fact make it impossible for God to fulfill the unconditional promises made under the Abrahamic covenant without violating the stipulations of this added covenant? Did not this added covenant specify that they should be His people IF they obeyed His voice indeed? Was it not now impossible for the most godly Jew to be saved? Had not God in fact nullified the whole Abrahamic covenant?

No, for the penalty for the broken law was to be met by God Himself in due time. God had made this added covenant simply to show man his moral and spiritual bankruptcy and that on the

grounds of the added covenant he could never be saved. The unconditional promise made so long ago still stood and every believing Israelite was accepted of God.

## **THE COFFIN OF THE COVENANT**

That God did not mean the Mosaic covenant to make the Abrahamic void is evident from several interesting facts found in the record of the Mosaic covenant itself.

After giving Israel claim to acceptance with Him only IF they obeyed His will, God proceeded to instruct Moses:

**“Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering; of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering....*And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them*” (Exod. 25:2,8).**

And this while He knew they were not obeying His voice and were preparing to dance as heathen about a golden calf!

This seeming indifference to His own solemn word is partially explained as He further instructs Moses:

**“And they shall make an ark.... *And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee*” (Exod. 25:10,16).**

The word here rendered “ark” is really “coffin.” The very same word is used in Genesis 50:26, where we read of Joseph:

**“And they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.”**

Thus the very first article of furniture God commanded for the tabernacle was *a coffin to bury the law in!*

It is unfortunate that this word has been translated “ark” in the Authorized Version. Wherever we read of the “ark of the covenant” in the Bible we should remember it is the “coffin of the covenant.” This will throw light on many, many passages which otherwise might be obscure.



Significantly God commanded that the cover for this coffin should be a “mercy seat” (Exod. 25:17).

**“And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony which I shall give thee.**

***“And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat” (Exod. 25:21,22).***

All this, of course, was symbolic of truths later to be revealed, but it indicates that God did not for one moment mean the Mosaic covenant to make the Abrahamic covenant void, since Christ was to meet the full demands of a broken law by His death.

### **THE COVENANT GROWING OLD**

God would not have added the Mosaic covenant had it not been for the Lamb “foreordained before the foundation of the world” (I Pet. 1:19,20). Nevertheless, having Christ in mind, He *did* add it

and Israel accepted and confirmed it so that, for the time being, it was binding upon them. And this served to demonstrate to them their utter depravity and inability to obey God.

By about 600 B.C. it had been more than fully proven that the covenant of the law could not bring Israel to God and He promised to make a New Covenant with them, putting His law in their inward parts and writing it upon their hearts. This was about the time Israel lost her national supremacy and “the times of the Gentiles” began. The law was growing old. Hebrews 8:13 says of this:

**“In that he saith, A new covenant, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”**

### **THE COVENANT ABOLISHED**

As it was the coming death of Christ that warranted putting the law into a coffin in the first place, so it was the death of Christ that finally abolished this covenant. But all this began to be manifested only after sin had risen to its height and God had saved the chief of sinners, sending him forth with the gospel of the grace of God.

For sometime after the Cross Messiah’s followers still considered themselves under the law. No revelation had yet been given to indicate that they were not. Ananias, that faithful follower of Christ who baptized Saul of Tarsus, was “*a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there*” (Acts 22:12). It was only in

Acts 15, at the great Jerusalem council, that the Jewish believers first agreed that *Gentiles* were not to be under the law. Whether or not the *Jews* were to be under the law was not even discussed. They *assumed* that they were still to continue under the law, for no revelation had been given to the contrary. However, with the fall and setting aside of the nation with whom the covenant had been made, and with the further revelation of Paul concerning both the law and the work of Christ, it became evident that the covenant and dispensation of the law had come to an end.

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“...the very first article of furniture God commanded for the tabernacle was *a coffin to bury the law in!*”

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There are those who suppose the Pentecostal believers should have realized that the law had been nailed to the Cross, but it must be emphasized that not until Paul did God give any revelation to that effect. The “dispensation of the grace of God” was not committed to Peter but to Paul and until Paul it had been a mystery (See Eph. 3:1-3). Not until Paul do we read:

**“BUT NOW the righteousness of God without the law is manifested...to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past...to declare, I say, AT THIS TIME His righteousness: that He might be just and the Justifier**

**of him that believeth in Jesus” (Rom. 3:21-26).**

Not until Paul do we read:

**“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:14).**

## THE LAW AND THE BELIEVER

But while the *covenant* of the law was abolished, the law itself will, of course, remain forever. God has graciously removed the “IF” but this does not alter the fact that His people in every age should seek to obey His voice indeed. Also, the *dispensation* of the law—the ordinances, statutes and all that—has passed away, but the *principle* remains.

**“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:**

**“That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:3,4).**

## THE LAW AND THE NEW COVENANT

Those who suppose that at Pentecost the twelve should have known that the law was done away sometimes think this because the New Covenant was made at Calvary. But the *making* of a covenant is not the fulfillment of it. It is too often forgotten that God merely *promised to make a new covenant* in Jeremiah 31:31, and that *the covenant was not made until Calvary*. It will not be fulfilled until all Israel is saved and they all know the Lord, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

But here again it should be noticed that the New Covenant, while displacing the *covenant* of the law does not displace the law itself. Indeed, by it, God's people will spontaneously fulfil the law. This could not be stated more clearly than it is in Jeremiah 31:33:

**“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”**

### **MOSES, CHRIST AND THE LAW**

As the Old Covenant was made with Israel alone, yet affects the

whole world (Rom. 3:19), so the New Covenant, while made “with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,” affects the whole world too, for by “the blood of the New Covenant” the condemnation of the Old was removed.

Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant (Gal. 3:19); Christ was the Mediator of the New (Heb. 9:15). Moses demanded righteousness, but he could neither give the ability to obey the law nor undo the effects of a broken law. But Christ as the Mediator of the New Covenant, paid the debt of a broken law, offers His own perfect righteousness and by His Spirit enables the believer to live pleasing to God. 

## **Growing Up in Grace Sunday School Ministries**

**“And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 3:15).**

***First quarter of lessons  
available in early August!***



*Growing Up in Grace Sunday School Ministries* is pleased to announce that the first quarter of Sunday school lessons of the newly developed grace curriculum will be available for purchase in early August. This first set of lessons addresses the junior level, ages 9-11. To view a sample lesson or to obtain additional information, you can log on to our website at: [www.growingupinGrace.com](http://www.growingupinGrace.com). If you would like to speak personally with someone about the curriculum, contact Pastor Mike Keshan of the *Berean Bible Society* at: (262) 255-4750.



# Three and a Half Conversions



D. L. Moody was one of the great evangelists in American history. Over a million recorded conversions are listed in his biography. After returning from an evening of witnessing, a friend asked him about that evening's occurrences. D. L. Moody replied, "Praise God. There were three and a half conversions tonight." "Three and a half?" his friend inquired. "You must mean three adults and one child," his friend concluded. Mr. Moody replied, "No. Three children and one adult; for the one adult only has half his life left to give, but the children have their whole lives ahead of them."

**"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh..." (Eccl. 12:1).**

## Northern Grace Youth Camp

### 2004 Summer and Fall Schedule

Gillett, Wisconsin

- Adventure Trip to Devil's Lake and Canoeing the Wisconsin River ..... June 16-20
- Counselor Training ..... June 25-July 3
- 1st Family Camp ..... June 27-July 3
- Junior Camp (Grades 3-5) ..... July 4-10
- Intermediate Camp (Grades 5-7) ..... July 11-17
- Junior High Camp (Grades 8-9) ..... July 18-24
- Senior High Camp (Grades 10-12) ..... July 25-31
- 2nd Family Camp ..... August 1-7
- 3rd Family Camp ..... August 8-14
- Young Adult Retreat ..... August 14-18
- Women's Retreat ..... September 10-12
- Men's Retreat ..... September 24-26
- Fall Youth Retreat ..... October 29-31

For more information about NGYC, please write Camp Director David Green at: 14390 County Road Vv, Gillett, WI 54124, or phone: (920) 855-2759, e-mail: [camp@ngyc.org](mailto:camp@ngyc.org). Be sure to also visit their website at: [www.ngyc.org](http://www.ngyc.org).

# The Rich Man and Lazarus (Cont'd)

## Luke 16:19-31

By W. Edward Bedore, Th.D.

Executive Director, *Berean Bible Institute*

### THE CONSCIOUS STATE OF THE DEAD

The story of the rich man and Lazarus clearly shows that after physical death they were very much aware of their circumstances and what was going on around them. The Apostle Paul stated that for the believer *“to live is Christ, and to die is gain”* (see Phil. 1:21-23), indicating that this is in fact the case.



That he had *“a desire to depart (this life)”* to be with the Lord tells us that he expected to consciously experience something *“far better”* than can be found in this life. This means that at the time of physical death believers will *“gain”* something. As precious as the believer's life *“in Christ”* is in the here and now, it will be greatly enhanced when he leaves it to enter into the presence of the Lord. Paul's statement that *“to live is Christ”* speaks of a purposeful life lived in service to and for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The only way to add to this, to gain that which is better, is to enter into the very presence of Christ in heaven to consciously enjoy perfect fellowship with Him in a way that we cannot in this life. It is only by faith that the believer can find the confidence to face death *“willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”* (see II Cor. 5:7-8).

That the death of a believer brings him, or her, into a situation considered to be *“gain”*, or the increased experience of spiritual blessing, refutes all erroneous ideas such as soul sleep or that the soul ceases to exist at death to be awakened or recreated at the time of the resurrection. To enjoy the life of Christ in this life only to be experientially separated from Him by becoming unconscious or ceasing to exist would be loss, not gain. This would be true even if it was only for a short time. But the fact that we have been given eternal life guarantees that we have **everlasting fellowship** with God. Our life in Christ will never be diminished, only enlarged. That *“the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us”* (Rom. 5:5) mandates the continued conscious existence of the believer after physical death because nothing, not even death, *“shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom. 8:39).

## SCRIPTURAL PROOFS OF THE CONTINUED PERSONAL CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER PHYSICAL DEATH

1. *The Old Testament saints are pictured as being “gathered to their people” after physical death* (see Gen. 25:8; 35:29; 49:29,33; Num. 20:24,26; 27:13; 31:2; Deut. 32:48-50): To be gathered to other people makes no sense, and no meaning, if it only refers to entering into an unconscious state of being. To be gathered to their people speaks of being joined together in a relational way.

2. *His child having died, David expected to eventually go to his son* (see II Sam. 12:13-23): If he had expected to enter into an unconscious state, he would have had no such hope. David fully expected to see his son on the other side of the vale of physical death. David's words, “*I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me,*” show that he did not have the hope of resurrection in mind, but to join his son after he died. Together they would await the resurrection while enjoying each other's company.

3. *Samuel's appearance to Saul and the woman of Endor* (see I Sam. 28:3-20): King Saul was struck with fear over a coming battle with the Philistines, and the Lord God was ignoring his petitions for guidance. He became so frightened and distressed that he sought out a necromancer in a desperate effort to contact Samuel, the departed prophet, who had in better times been his spiritual counselor. It was a frightful shock to this woman when God allowed Samuel to actually appear to deliver a prophetic message from the Lord to Saul. No doubt she either planned to trick Saul or expected a demon masquerading as Saul to appear. Adding to her fear was the realization that the man who had come to her in an effort to communicate with Samuel was actually King Saul, who had a reputation for putting mediums like her to death.

In his appearance Samuel had a recognizable human form and was able to carry on a conversation with Saul. His complaint about being disquieted (disturbed) indicates that he was abiding in a state of conscious bliss that was interrupted in order for him to make this appearance. That it is said he was brought “up” rather than brought “back” shows that he was residing in the lower parts of the earth. We believe that he was in Abraham's Bosom, or Paradise, which at that time was located in the heart of the earth in a place called Sheol, or Hades (see the Repentant Thief on the Cross below).

4. *The Calling of Lazarus from the Grave* (John 11:1-46): Although the “how” is beyond our understanding, the fact that Lazarus responded to the Lord Jesus Christ's command to “come forth” from the grave speaks to us of the continued conscious existence of the soul following physical death.

5. *The Repentant Thief on the Cross* (Luke 23:32-34, 39-43): As they hung on their respective crosses, one of the thieves who was crucified

with Him turned to Jesus with a repentant heart saying, “*Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom*”. Christ’s response was to say, “*Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise*” (see Luke 23:39-43). We know that at the time of His death the Lord Jesus descended to the “*heart of the earth*” where He stayed for three days and three nights (Matt. 12:40) “*and preached to the spirits in prison*” (I Pet. 3:19). This tells us that up to the time of Christ’s sacrifice for the sins of the world, “Paradise” was in the heart of the earth. He promised the repentant thief they would be together in Paradise that very day. This is the same place that is referred to as Abraham’s Bosom in Luke 16:22. From II Corinthians we know that Paradise is now located in “*the third heaven*” (see II Cor. 12:1-4). Obviously this abode of the saved dead was moved from the innermost parts, or the heart, of the earth to the heavenly abode of God. Paradise is the place where the souls of the redeemed reside awaiting the resurrection. Before the price of their redemption was paid on the cross, it was located in the heart of the earth. But, after the full payment was made, it was relocated to the third heaven, or the Heaven of heavens, where God is. There they wait in God’s presence for the time of their resurrection. The souls of all of the redeemed who have died since Jesus Christ’s resurrection have entered into God’s presence there as to be “*absent from the body*” is to be “*present with the Lord*” (see II Cor. 5:6-8).

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“That Moses and Elijah spoke with Christ about His departure...confirms their continued ability to think, remember, and communicate.”

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6. *Jesus Christ’s Direct Teaching that Departed Saints are Alive* (see Matt. 22:23-32): Using a hypothetical situation, the Sadducees challenged the Lord Jesus concerning the resurrection of the dead, which was something that they did not believe in. The Lord turned the tables on them, though, by exposing their ignorance about the subject. First He explained that in the resurrection, marriage would not be a consideration. He then went on to confront them on an important issue concerning the saints who have experienced physical death. He knew that the Sadducees not only denied a literal resurrection of the dead, but also even denied the continued existence of the person after death. To reveal their error, the Lord quoted God’s words to Moses at the burning bush, “*I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*” (Ex. 3:6). Although Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died hundreds of years before the time of Moses, God used the present tense “I am” rather than

the past tense “I was” when identifying Himself to Moses as their God. This shows that they were existing in a conscious state at that time. The Lord Jesus’ remark, in the present tense, that “*God is not the God of the dead, but of the living*” (Matt. 22:32) reveals that they were still alive as He spoke, some 1500 years later. Being alive indicates a continued conscious existence. If this was true before the Cross, it is undoubtedly true of believers on this side of the cross.

7. *The Appearance of Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration* (Luke 9:28-36): It could be argued that Elijah couldn’t be held up as an example because, rather than going through the normal experience of physical death, he was caught up into heaven in an unusual way (II Kings 2:11). However, even though it was under unique circumstances, there is no doubt that Moses suffered physical death and his body was buried (Deut. 34:5-6). Moses, with Elijah, appeared on the mountain after Jesus Christ was temporarily glorified before the eyes of Peter, John, and James. They appeared in a recognizable form and it is specifically stated that they spoke with the Lord about His impending death. This event reveals the continued conscious awareness of those who have departed this life. That Moses and Elijah spoke with Christ about His departure, which was about to take place at Jerusalem, confirms their continued ability to think, remember, and communicate. We don’t have a record of exactly what Moses and Elijah spoke to the Lord Jesus about concerning the death He would die, but there can be little doubt that their conversation centered on what would be accomplished through the sacrifice of Himself for the sins of the world. He would fulfill the prophecies about Himself found in Moses and the Prophets (cf. Luke 24:25-26,44-48).

“For those who die in unbelief, there is no second chance....”

8. *That Jesus Christ Will Bring the Departed Grace Believers with Him from Heaven at the Time of the Rapture of the Church* (I Thess. 4:13-18): Those who have died physically are presently in heaven as their body “sleeps” in the grave. Returning with Christ from heaven (v. 14) when He comes for His Church, they will receive their glorified bodies first (vv. 15-16) and then those still living will receive theirs as they are caught up to be with the Lord (v. 17; cf. I Cor. 15:51-54). That Christ will bring them from heaven with Him can only mean that they are first in heaven with Him.

9. *The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation* (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:9-10,14): While the believers who will die for their faith in Christ during the Tribulation are particularly singled out here, it must be remembered that their status is that of Kingdom saints. That is to say that their hope is to enter into Christ’s Millennial Kingdom along with all of the

other Kingdom saints. Their experience of being martyred during the Tribulation will be unique to the time in which they will live and die, but they will share the same general hope of all of the Old Testament saints. That they are found in heaven after having died indicates that all of the Kingdom saints who have gone before them are there as well. That they are pictured as asking the Lord to bring forth judgment on the earth indicates that they are anticipating returning with Him to receive their inheritance in His Kingdom (see Jude 14-15; Rev. 19:14-16). These martyred Kingdom saints, and all the others, who will accompany the Lord when He returns to earth, are obviously waiting in heaven until the appointed time. That they are specifically said to be wearing robes and bowing before the altar in heaven tells us not only that they will continue to exist in a state of consciousness after death, but also, that they will have a recognizable human form.

### APPLICATION FOR TODAY

The inter-dispensational principle that we learn from the story of the rich man and Lazarus is that it is only in this life that any man or woman has the opportunity to be reconciled to God. For those who die in unbelief, there is no second chance and there is no one to intervene on their behalf. To die without Christ is to be separated from God forever, first in the torments of Hades and finally in the Lake of Fire. As believers, this should move us with compassion for the lost and stimulate us to use every means available to proclaim the Gospel of Grace as far and wide as possible.

We also learn from this story that believers immediately enter into a better place when they leave this life at the time of physical death. Knowing that this is true provides hope and comfort both to believers who are facing death and to those they leave behind in this life.

The Lord Jesus' purpose in telling this story was to warn the self-righteous money-loving Pharisees about the consequences of trusting in the traditions of man and worldly riches rather than in the Word of God (cf. Mark 7:5-13; Luke 12:16-21). He also made it clear that people cannot be convinced of the truth through miracles such as someone being raised from the dead, but are to be convicted of the truth through the agency of God's Word (cf. Rom. 10:17). Those who foolishly reject the message of salvation through the cross will die without hope, while those who accept the gospel as true and place their faith in Christ are reconciled to God and receive the gift of eternal life. *"In the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe"* (I Cor. 1:21). There is no one greater than *"our Savior Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2:13-14); there is no greater message than that of *"Jesus Christ and Him crucified"* (I Cor. 2:1-5); There is no greater calling than to *"the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery"* (Rom. 16:25-27). 

**Berean Bible Institute** was founded for the purpose of helping individual believers prepare themselves for service to God. They seek to do this by providing a full program of Bible and ministry training that gives the students a working knowledge of the whole Bible, grounds them in sound doctrine, teaches them proper Bible study methods, and shows them how to put their knowledge to work in actual ministry. If you have a heart-felt call to be in the ministry, we hope you will consider attending **BBI**.

***Fall Semester begins August 23, 2004!***

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



## **Spotlight on Grace Churches**

This month's church is:

### **Eastport Bible Church**

**Location:** 386 Montauk Highway, Eastport (Long Island), New York  
Phone: (631) 325-8164

**Pastor(s):** Dr. Timothy F. Conklin, Senior Pastor  
Charlie Young, Pastor of Ministries  
Jeremy Herr, Youth Pastor

**Services:** 8:00 a.m. Worship  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School and  
Adult Bible Fellowship  
11:00 a.m. Worship & Children's Church  
7:00 p.m. Evening Service

#### **Additional ministries:**

Men's and Women's small group Bible Studies  
Choir, orchestra and band practice/service  
Men and Women summer softball teams  
Children and Youth mid-week meetings  
Daily 7:00 a.m. prayer session  
Annual Missions Conference  
Monthly Seniors activity

[www.eastportbiblechurch.org](http://www.eastportbiblechurch.org)

# CHRISTIAN HERITAGE TOUR

Tour England and Scotland  
with the Berean Bible Society

**September 9-20, 2004**

*The purpose of this tour is to encourage those who have come to rejoice in the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery and to explore our rich Christian heritage!*



*Holyrood Palace—Edinburgh*

## **Guest Speaker:**

Paul M. Sadler  
President of the  
*Berean Bible Society*

We will be visiting the home of John Knox and John Wesley, Bede's Museum, Gainsborough Old Hall, the meeting place of the Pilgrims, Parish Church of Lutterworth where John Wycliffe, "the Morning Star of the Reformation," spent the last years of his life, Oxford, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, and much, much more!

For a brochure or additional information, please contact the *Berean Bible Society* at: P.O. Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022, or phone: (262) 255-4750, or e-mail: [berean@execpc.com](mailto:berean@execpc.com).

Dr. Henry Hudson has graciously agreed to be our tour guide. Brother Hudson has had a wide and varied career: born in England, served in the British Royal Military Police, missionary, pastor, and college professor. He is an experienced traveler, and has led many tours to Great Britain and Europe. If you have any questions about the tour, Dr. Hudson can be reached at: 850 Brook Village Drive, Holland, Michigan 49423, or phone: (616) 403-1438, or e-mail: [drhth@juno.com](mailto:drhth@juno.com).



*Avon River—Stratford*

# Books for the Home Library



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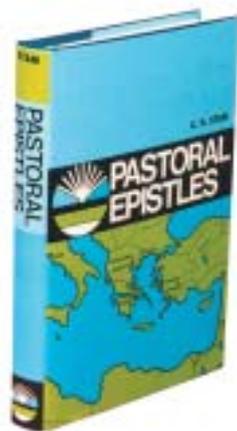
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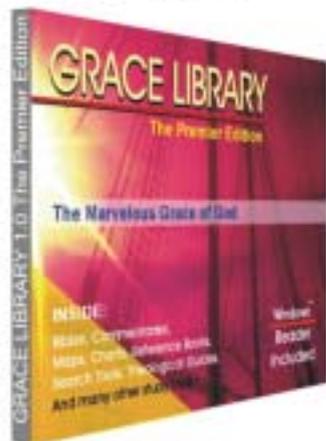
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**Taking the Word of God to future generations.**

**From the Internet:**

"First of all, let me thank you deeply for being such a blessing to me through your ministry. The *Berean Searchlight* you send me faithfully every month has been a true blessing. I've learned so much this past year. And being able to use your website for my personal use and for sharing with close friends, seeking to know more about the Word of God, I just have to thank God for using you so powerfully in such a quiet and simple way. The archive of old *Berean Searchlight* issues is a treasure."

**From Florida:**

"This is the best understanding of Revelation I have ever read. Will these articles be put into booklet form?" (This is under consideration.—RK).

**From Indiana:**

"The articles on Revelation by Pastor Sadler have been very helpful."

**From South Carolina:**

"You have been sending me the *Searchlight*; it's awesome. I wish we had a Berean church down here in Greenwood. All the churches here want to get your head in the water as a testimony unto men, but I sure don't see that in Paul's epistles. I am going to donate some money to you guys, since you've blessed and helped me."

**From the Internet:**

"Thank you so much. I have been on a high since I was introduced to seeing the basics dispensationally."

**From South Africa:**

"A big 'Amen' to your devotion, *The Visiting Preacher*. Thank you for the wonderful work you are doing in spreading the word 'rightly divided.' I am pastor of a small grace church in Pretoria, and learn and enjoy every bit of what I receive."

**From Florida:**

"I love the *Searchlight*; it has led me to a place where I can stand strong in my faith in Christ and help others understand the Word of Truth, rightly divided!"

**From Kentucky:**

"This is a great website. My wife's uncle showed me the grace message and I've really learned a lot of info."

**From the Internet:**

"Those answers were excellent! I will not delete that e-mail for sure. I look forward to sharing them with my roommate later on tonight. But I have another question. Sorry, but now that I know how to rightly divide the Word, I am like I was when I first began reading the Bible and I would bombard my dad with Bible questions every night."

**From Texas:**

"Thanks to a wonderful lady named Barbara, I found your website and ordered many books already. I have found *Things That Differ* very useful." (The Lord could use a few more Barbaras!—RK).

**From Kenya:**

"I read this powerful article through one night from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. and as I read through the articles, I just felt as if it were somebody preaching directly to me until I couldn't risk making a mistake by sleeping as he taught. I need to be well prepared so that when I get into the field I may teach not heresy but the truth according to the gospel of the Apostle Paul."

**From Florida:**

"Things are really making sense now, and I see that some things I had thought of as 'contradictions' are not. Thanks for clearing things up!"

**From China:**

“Last Sunday we celebrated the so-called Easter and it was my turn to speak for the service. Instead of giving sermons I had the opportunity to have a Bible study on the message of the Cross. I used my notes taken two years ago from Mr. Sadler’s lecture in the Philippines. I have been longing to teach them the solid teaching of the Pauline epistles.” (Myra Omictin learned grace under TCM and is now a missionary to China—RK).

**From Wisconsin:**

“Please send extra copies of the February *Searchlight*. It has an interesting article I wish to give to some new Roman Catholic friends. I began to see right division when no one else around me did. Then a *Searchlight* got into my hands, and I was on my way to seeing the fullness of grace.”

**From Tennessee:**

“I would like to give this gift for the Sunday School Program curriculum or wherever there is a need. I think this is a wonderful idea; after all, these children and teens will be the backbone of the church someday.”

**From Virginia:**

“I’ve been introduced, one year now, to rightly dividing God’s Word. Since then my Bible has come alive to me, and I want more than anything to learn more. I would like to present this to others, but need more insight. Please send me any information you may have available.”

**From Wisconsin:**

“It’s so uplifting to be able to study and learn so much through this work. This small gift cannot even begin to thank you.”

**From the United Kingdom:**

“God bless you all at BBS, and thanks again for answering my almost never-ending supply of enquiries! Hope to see some of you in the UK in September...then you can beat me for never giving you a moments rest!”

**From Norway:**

“Let me gratefully express my thanks, since I have not said this in any direct manner before. It is an excellent work you are doing, with the magazine, the institute and the preaching and teaching through articles, books, tapes—the works. I am glad to inform you of a grace assembly possibly coming up here in my county, which is called Vestfold Fylke. My hometown, Toensberg, is 100 kilometers south of Oslo, and the oldest city in Scandinavia. It was founded 1133 years ago by some real mean, not-too-good-lookin’ Wiking warrior kings. God save us all!”

**From the Internet:**

“Thank you for these past few days of ‘Two Minutes With the Bible.’ You do exactly as it should be done, with God’s Word, not diluted with excessive commentary.”

**From Nottingham, U.K.:**

“God bless the BBS and all grace believers across the world! See you at the rapture, if not before!” (Give our regards to the sheriff.—RK).

**From the Internet:**

“My husband is an avid reader of yours. A lot of time he can’t wait for the next month to get here. We are grace believers all the way so it is a pleasure to read your magazine. It’s great knowing there are others who believe the same way we do.”

“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

## 36th Annual Berean Bible Fellowship Conference

**Location:** Cedar Lake Conference Center  
Cedar Lake, Indiana

**Dates:** June 19-24, 2004

**Theme:** *The Wisdom of God* (I Cor. 1-8)

**Daily Exposition Hour:** Pastor Dick Ware

**Keynote Address:** Pastor Floyd Baker

*Guest Speakers from around the country will be present to proclaim the riches of God's grace!*

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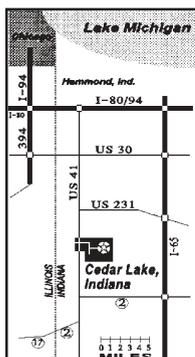
**At the Piano:** Mrs. Virginia Shriver

**Accommodations:** BBF recommends that reservations be made early, although accommodations are often available for latecomers. For reservations, write or phone: *Cedar Lake Conference Center*, Reservations Manager, PO Box 665, Cedar Lake, IN 46303, or phone: (219) 374-5941.

Facilities for travel trailers, motor homes, and tent camping include electric/water hook-ups, dump station, showers, etc.

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

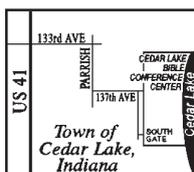
Pastor Floyd Baker at (386) 851-0744 or  
*Berean Bible Society* at (262) 255-4750



**Cedar Lake Conference Center** is located in the town of Cedar Lake, in northwest Indiana, twenty miles south of Chicago.

**By Auto:** US 41 to Cedar Lake, Indiana:

- At the traffic signal in Cedar Lake, turn east on 133rd Ave. 3/4 mile to the traffic signal at Parrish.
- Right on Parrish for 1/2 mile to 137th Ave.
- Left on 137th Ave. for 1/2 mile to the Conference grounds. Enter at the South Gate for parking and registration.



If traveling by air into Chicago's O'Hare or Midway airports, call the Conference Center to arrange pickup.

## **Celebrate Grace Camp**

**Dates:** July 25-30, 2004

**Location:** Near Montrose, Colorado

**Guest Speaker:**

Pastor John Fredericksen  
*Grace Bible Church of the Black Hills, Rockerville, SD*

For reservations and additional information, please contact:  
Jerry & Judy Worthley, 0627 CR 3, Canon City, CO 81212, or phone:  
(719) 276-2469, e-mail: [JerNJudy@hotmail.com](mailto:JerNJudy@hotmail.com).

***Happy Camping!***  
***Don't forget to bring a friend!***

## **Grace Believers' Bible Conference**

### **75th Anniversary of the *Bitely Community Church***

**Dates:** July 30 - August 1, 2004

**Location:** *Bitely Community Church*  
10781 N. Bingham Avenue  
Bitely, Michigan

**Guest Speakers:**

Pastor Floyd Baker, *Berean Bible Fellowship*  
Lee Homoki, *Evangelist/Bible Doctrines to Live By*  
Kenneth Lyon, Pastor of *Bitely Community Church*  
Paul M. Sadler, President of *Berean Bible Society*

Rooms are available at the beautiful *Legends Ranch*  
for those who are interested, please contact:

Pastor & Mrs. Ken Lyon at (231) 745-9595

***Join us for an uplifting time of Bible  
study, fellowship and special music!***

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# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**NORTHERN GRACE YOUTH CAMP** was founded in 1956 for the purpose of introducing youth to the saving gospel of God's grace and encouraging Christians to grow in their daily walk with Christ. By God's grace, they have remained true to that purpose to this day, for the past ten years under the able leadership of Camp Director David Green. See page 16 for a schedule of this year's summer and fall camp activities.

**YOUR LEGACY:** Paul's references to "we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord" (I Thes. 4:15,17) show that he believed he would live to see the Rapture when he wrote his early epistles. By the time he wrote his last letters, however, he seemed to sense that this would not be the case. Thus he wrote to young Timothy and charged *him* to "keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, *until the coming of our Lord*" (I Tim. 6:14). Of course, he made sure that Timothy was "thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16) by leaving him the legacy of his epistles. If the Lord tarries, you too can ensure that the next generation of grace ministries is thoroughly equipped to carry out Paul's charge to Timothy. May we suggest that you prayerfully consider remembering *Berean Bible Society* in your will, thereby assuring that your contribution to the Lord's work will continue on long after you have been ushered into the presence of the Savior to await your reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**SEARCHLIGHT COVERS:** If you would like to submit a photograph for our cover, be sure to take the picture *vertically* to fit the upright shape of the *Searchlight*, leaving enough space above the lighthouse for the name of our magazine. Then just jot down the name and location of the lighthouse and send it all in to us. Digital photos are also welcome, and can even be e-mailed to us as an attachment. Finally, a word of thanks to all of you who have already helped us "adorn the doctrine" inside the *Searchlight* with your attractive pictures on the cover.



*Cape Hatteras*  
By Judy Petersen

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\*The picture of the lighthouse that appears on the front cover was taken by Alan Neubauer of Evanston, Illinois. The *St. Joseph North Pier Lights* are located in St. Joseph, Michigan. Constructed in 1907, this site consists of a pair of active lighthouses on the same pier. The inner pier light serves as a rear range light, allowing ships to line up accurately on the channel from far out on Lake Michigan. The lights also mark the entrance to the St. Joseph River.

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yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will  
increase in learning” (Prov. 9:9).**

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