

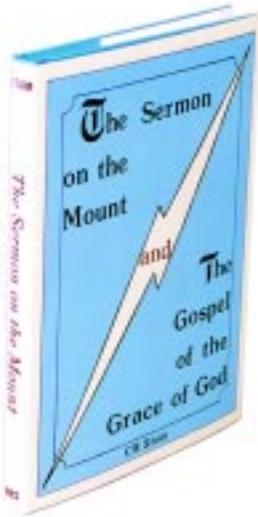
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August 1999



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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.

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The *Berean Searchlight* (ISSN 0005-8890), August 1999. Volume 60, Number 5. No subscription price. The *Berean Searchlight* is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by the *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Road, PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Periodicals postage paid at Germantown, WI. 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,

We are always searching for new mediums to share the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery. So when our dear Brother David Allen of Garland, Texas, agreed to produce an *audio* version of *Things That Differ* we were ecstatic. Dave, who was in radio years ago, has a deep, booming voice that most speakers would give their right arm for. Brother Allen's crystal clear presentation makes Pastor Stam's words literally come alive.

While we primarily had our shut-ins in mind when we were laying the groundwork for this project, the possibilities are endless. For example, you can listen to these tapes commuting to and from the office, bicycling, cutting the grass, working out on the treadmill, traveling, vacationing, etc. Even though you may not be able to retain everything, it is important to remember that the Word of God has a cleansing effect upon our minds. Plus you can always pause the tape, rewind it, and listen again, or consult the book at a later time.

By the time you receive this announcement, Brother Allen will probably have completed *Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ* in the same format. Lord willing, we hope to offer it next month. Thanks, Dave, for volunteering your time and energy to make this venture a reality.

—Pastor Sadler

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From Pennsylvania:

"First of all, I want you to know the love that I have for you all and that I hold you up in prayer daily. God bless Pastor Stam. His unfolding of God's Word has been a blessing not only to me but for other brothers here in this prison who have been blessed to come to see and understand the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery....I'm sure it would be an encouragement not only to Pastor Stam but to Pastor Sadler too, to know the great revolution that is going on here behind prison walls in the lives of men that society may have counted out. All as a result of the ministry of God's grace according to the Pauline revelation and consistent presentation from the *Berean Bible Society*...."

From the Internet:

"Thank you for faithfully sending month by month the *Searchlight* magazine. After the Bible, my best source for rightly divided information for these dangerous times. Keep up the 'good' work soldiers!" (Soon the Commander in Chief is going to decorate all those who faithfully fought the good fight of the faith. So stand fast! Ed.)

From Australia:

"We all appreciate so much receiving the *Berean Searchlight* each month and want to contribute this small amount to assist in the costs which you bear in sending it to us. Thank you very much. Praying for you all and rejoicing in the availability of publications which we can use as tools to further the wonderful message of the grace of God."

From Arkansas:

"I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated your April article *Tradition, How Shall We Regard It?* It so aptly points out how some traditions are good and some not and how some churches cannot see that they are doing the same things as they condemned the Pharisees of doing. By the way, I am a Lutheran."

From Ohio:

"Just a short note to let you know that the wife and I do enjoy receiving your magazine. We read and reread the magazine several times always with the Word of the Lord in view."

From Colorado:

"Though I have been involved with the church most of my life, I heard almost nothing about dispensationalism. I wrote *Grace Gospel Publishers* in Denver and received the first literature I had seen on dispensationalism. Knowing these truths makes studying the Bible much clearer and understandable. I am excited about re-studying the Bible and would like as much information on dispensational truths as I can get."

From the Internet:

"I thank God for your Grace oriented teaching that goes against the normal flow of the Christian church. I attend a church with a grace oriented pastor and associate pastor. The Sunday school is different; Reformed or Puritan theology is taught there. Grace and Law are always intertwined. My pastor...thinks it is ok to use John McArthur's books, even though he doesn't agree with him. There is so much compromise in the church today. The ecumenical movement encompasses everything. Most of these teachings are nothing more than recycled Catholicism (I was raised Roman Catholic). My Sunday school teacher says he is tired of hearing that Jesus is a God of love. Jesus is a God of judgment who we should serve out of fear—what a distorted view of our Lord. If we don't tithe and follow all the rules, we are nothing but a rebel and not truly saved." (Thankfully grace has delivered us from the yoke of bondage. Ed.)

From Virginia:

"I would like to be placed on your mailing list. I would like to study the material that is available through your *Searchlight* and books. I've read several books, purchased from the *Berean Searchlight*, and I enjoyed the teachings."

From Wisconsin:

“Thank you so much for putting out the *Berean Searchlight*. I didn’t know about the Grace message until 1993 when I came to Wisconsin and started going to the church Pastor David Havard pastored. I learned a lot from him and I am still learning. Thank you again for the magazine. Could you please add my daughter to your mailing list?”

From Virginia:

“A friend of mine has shared the *Berean Searchlight* with me. There are many good articles in this magazine on grace. This Christian Brother shared the *gospel of the grace of God* with me, concerning the distinct ministry of Paul to the Gentiles. But when he said Paul’s, *my gospel*, it really made me check the Word of God to see if he was speaking the truth.”

From Wyoming:

“The *Berean Searchlight* is welcomed as it arrives. Thank you. Please send me some of Maurice Reynolds’ ABC’s bookmarks. They are great!”

From Wisconsin:

“I wish to be taken off your mailing list. Now that I am retired, I have time to really study the Bible. As a result, I find your teachings are quite misguided. I do not wish to share in the fate of those who mislead the masses.” (Actually just the opposite is true. It is the masses that are mislead because of the Church’s failure to acknowledge Paul’s apostleship and message. Ed.)

From Illinois:

“I have gotten the *Berean* since it first started. My husband died 20 years ago and I am still living for Jesus. I am 86 now and on limited income. Would love for you all at *Berean* to pray for me and another lady. We cannot find anybody in our Rockford area that believes in God’s grace alone.”

From California:

“Thanks again for sending me so faithfully the *Searchlight*. I am a grace believer the Lord called to be chaplain in a very large hospital over 22 years ago....Every week I have four Bible classes at the local county jail, 3 classes with the female inmates and one with the male workers....We average 80 inmates a week and also have a jail team that goes to other jails every other Sunday afternoon to share our Lord Jesus, many of whom are living in carnality. Thankfully, our Lord has been able to get their attention.” (Let’s pray that Chaplain Gregory’s ministry will reach many of these destitute souls for Christ. After all, He’s rescued many shipwrecked lives from the shoals of sin. Ed.)

From Missouri:

“I’ve discovered the *Berean Searchlight* these many years I’ve received it to be—stimulating, spiritually enriching—motivating to a deeper commitment in both service and witness. Still, like so many others, there is neglect or failure to express its benefits in a tangible way. With this thought in mind, I was prompted to give the enclosed check.”

From Iowa:

“Enclosed is \$.... for you to use as needed. Our prayer is that God will bless you in your work and that many will come to Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We thank God for our redemption through Christ Jesus and His finished work on the Cross.”

From Oregon:

“We look forward each month for the *Berean Searchlight* as we have for the last fifty years. It has been a blessing to us every time. I am mailing you a small check to help keep your expenses paid. My best wishes and prayers for Brother Stam that he remains in good health....May the Lord come soon.”

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

The Present Obsession With the Anti-Christ (Part II)

By Paul M. Sadler

In the beginning God and man lived in perfect harmony with one another. Man was *given* dominion over the earth while the Creator supplied his spiritual needs. Adam *naturally* desired to obey the will of God. But all this changed the day the tempter appeared in the garden to hatch his unseemly plot of deception. Implying that God had withheld something from our first parents, the tempter sought to subvert the commandment of God. He suggested that it would be advantageous for them to eat of the forbidden tree.

“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:4,5).

The moment Adam ate of that forbidden fruit man would never again be satisfied to merely rule under God; rather, he wants to *be* God! There are essentially two sources of power in the world: government and religion. The first represents the things of man; the second the spiritual things of God, which Satan and men covet. Although these two spheres intersect one another, historically it has been God’s will that they remain separate.

For example, under the Law the high priest was exclusively chosen by God to offer gifts and sacrifices for the people. He was an extension of the hand of the Most High. “And no man taketh this honour

unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron” and his successors (Heb. 5:4). So when *King* Saul foolishly intruded into the office of the priesthood by offering a burnt offering at Gilgal, the judgment of God was swift. In fact, the kingdom was taken from him and given to David as a consequence of his actions (I Sam. 13:8-14).

Among the affairs of men, the heads of state and religion so-called have usually tolerated one another historically. Occasionally, however, there were attempts to combine these two powers into one *supreme* power. Consequently, many ancient dictators were arrogantly consumed with self-deification. Nebuchadnezzar’s attempt to erect a gold image of himself is a case in point.

“Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold....in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.... And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up” (Dan. 3:1,6,7).

Carefully note the phrase “all the people, the nations, and languages.” The King’s purpose was to *unify* all the religions of his great kingdom under one head. He was the image of gold. He was

declaring himself to be God. Here the words of Sir John Acton are ever so true: "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely." So it should not surprise us that the Anti-Christ will exploit the religious system of his day, as we shall see, to catapult himself into a position of "absolute power" in the coming day of the Lord.

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another" (Dan. 7:2,3).

Whew! Those are deep waters! If it were not for the Scriptures themselves, we would be hard pressed to interpret this secret code. Like the reed blown in the wind, the four winds speak about movement, divine movement. God is ushering in a *new* phase of His prophetic purpose. It moves the *great sea*, which is clearly a reference to the unsaved *masses* of the world (Isa. 17:12; 57:20).

"And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another." Out of the Gentile nations of the world arises "four great beasts" that Daniel identifies as "...*four kings*, which shall arise out of the earth" (Dan. 7:17). This marks the beginning of the *Times of the Gentiles*. The Times of the Gentiles has to do with *Gentile* world dominion. According to prophecy, it began when King Nebuchadnezzar carried Israel into the Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. Since that time Israel has been under Gentile domination in

one form or another as a chastisement. In part, due to her failure to observe the Sabbath rest of the land (II Chron. 36:21).

With the intervening dispensation of Grace, the Times of the Gentiles, prophetically, has been temporarily suspended. This is another reason why the Anti-Christ cannot be revealed until after the Rapture. Today God is not dealing with the nations as nations. Rather He is saving *individuals* out of the nations according to the Mystery (Rom. 10:12,13). Interestingly, the dispensation of Grace does not conflict with the Times of the Gentiles merely because Israel is still scattered throughout the world. There are nearly as many Jews in New York City (under Gentile rule) as in the land of Palestine (also controlled by Gentile interest behind the scenes). So the "fulness of the Gentiles" must first be *fulfilled* before God will continue His prophetic purpose (Rom. 11:25).

After our departure to glory, the Times of the Gentiles will resume with the establishment of the fourth Gentile World Empire—the Anti-Christ's kingdom. This period will close with the future *destruction* of this kingdom at the battle of Armageddon when Christ returns in power and great glory (Luke 21:24-28).

But before we go any further, let's go back to the beginning and trace the Times of the Gentiles from their inception. Here we should pause a moment to give a brief history lesson. I believe it was Dr. Ironside who said, "History is nothing more than prophesy written afore time." Sometimes to

understand the future, we must first understand the *past*.

Having identified the four beasts that arise out of the sea to be four kings, Daniel now describes these kings and their kingdoms in more detail. Three of the four kingdoms foretold by Daniel are now a matter of history. While Daniel predicted these events years before they actually transpired, we have the privilege of consulting ancient history to witness the amazing accuracy of his words.

“The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it” (Dan. 7:4).

The first Gentile world power was *Babylon*. So King Nebuchadnezzar is the first beast. Babylon was like the lion that stalks its prey unmercifully (II Chron. 36:17-20). Yet it is also said to have the wings of an eagle, which shows a graceful side to this kingdom. Babylon was well known for its magnificent cities and beautiful hanging gardens. In fact, the city of Babylon was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. This kingdom was the crown jewel of Gentile world dominion. Its supreme power, strength, glory and splendor is *unmatched* by that which is to follow.

“And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh” (Dan. 7:5).

The second Gentile world power was Medo-Persia. This kingdom is likened to a bear that lumbers

about devouring what it will. Notice that it is said to have raised up itself on one side. Neither Media nor Persia possessed the military might to conquer Babylon. Therefore, they formed an alliance to accomplish this end. Since Persia was stronger than Media it was the side that “raised up itself,” and became the more dominant of the two.

While King Darius, the Mede, began the campaign against Babylon, the actual consolidation of power came under King Cyrus, the Persian. So then, Cyrus is the second beast Daniel saw (Dan. 6:28; 10:1). It is interesting that all of these kings are referred to as *beasts*—that is, the nature of these kings was beast-like. They had brutal military machines that crushed their enemies under foot. They ruled the world.

“After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it” (Dan. 7:6).

The third Gentile world power was the Grecian Empire under the reign of Alexander the Great. He is the third beast. This kingdom was like a leopard, cunning, swift, and vicious. This is a perfect description of the armies of Alexander the Great.

It is said that Alexander the Great marched his armies days on end to surprise his enemies. As history bears witness, he conquered the world, then sat down and wept because there were no other kingdoms to conquer. The expansion of Alexander’s kingdom made it the larger of its two predecessors. It literally covered the known world of that day.

THE ANTI-CHRIST KINGDOM

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns” (Dan. 7:7).

According to the traditional interpretation of this passage, it is generally believed that the fourth Gentile world power was Rome. This would make Caesar Augustus the fourth king. While this is certainly plausible and worthy of your consideration, it does, however, lack consistency.

First, most historians would concur that Rome never completely conquered the world, at least not in the sense of Alexander the Great. But this is a prerequisite for the fourth kingdom that was to follow, according to Daniel’s prophetic vision. In addition we must not forget that the dispensation of Grace *interrupted* the prophetic program shortly *before* the Roman Empire experienced its finest hour. Consequently, Rome would play a greater role in the expansion of the *gospel of the grace of God*. Although the exploits of the Roman Empire were notable, Rome in all its glory will not be able to hold a candle to the future Anti-Christ kingdom.

The seat of authority of the first three Gentile World Empires was located in the *east*. On the other hand, the seat of authority of the Roman Empire was at Rome, located in the west. This also poses a major problem for those that believe the Anti-Christ kingdom will be the revival of the ancient Roman

Empire. But here again the seat of the future Anti-Christ kingdom is said to be in Babylon, which, as we know, is situated in the east (Rev. 18:1-24). It should be remembered that while the Mystery has had its greatest effect in the west, the hub of prophecy is the *Middle East*. This is not to say that the west won’t play a *secondary* role in the coming affairs of the Anti-Christ.

Perhaps the most damaging argument against this fourth kingdom being the Roman Empire is the prophecy that it will be *destroyed* by the Second Coming of Christ (Dan. 2:40-45). This, of course, cannot be said of the Roman Empire.

We believe the fourth and final Gentile world power to be the *future* Anti-Christ kingdom. This means that the fourth beast is the Anti-Christ. He will be the last world dictator. Daniel says in regard to this kingdom, “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth....” This empire is a kingdom of darkness. It is “exceeding strong” because the Anti-Christ will establish a one-world government (Rev. 13:7).

The great iron teeth of this regime are probably a reference to the largest military machine the world has ever seen. Those nations that oppose him will either be brought into submission or crushed by his military might. After suffering millions and millions of casualties at the hand of God’s wrath, near the end of the Great Tribulation this army is still over 200,000 million strong (Rev. 9:16).

Daniel also states that this beast is “diverse from all the beasts that

were before it....” The Anti-Christ is different because he will be the very embodiment of evil. While the former kingdoms were decades in the making, the man of sin will forge his kingdom from the ashes of broken promises within a three-year period.

Furthermore, the Apostle John reveals that the Anti-Christ kingdom will be an *amalgamation* of the former Gentile world powers. “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea...And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion...” (Rev. 13:1,2). Apparently, the Anti-Christ will assimilate into his empire the power, wealth, splendor, glory, and military strategies of the ancient kingdoms before him. This Kingdom will *cover* the territory of

Alexander’s Kingdom and more, form *alliances* like Media-Persia to consolidate power, and *defile* the temple of God, as did Babylon.

The system the beast uses to bring himself to the pinnacle of *absolute* power is organized religion portrayed as the Mother of Harlots in the Book of Revelation. But once she has served her purpose he has her burned at the stake (Rev. 17:1-7,16). The *coronation* is at hand. The time will be the middle of the tribulation; the place, Jerusalem; the facility, the *temple*. Paul exposes for us the wicked intentions of the man of sin, “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” This is the abomination of desolation (Matt. 24:15 cf. II Thes. 2:4).

To be continued!



QUESTION BOX

“Galatians 4:27 seems to speak of the Body of Christ, yet its corresponding reference in Isaiah 54:1 seems to speak of Israel in a New Covenant relationship.”

When Paul quoted from the Old Testament he often did so to develop a new application. In Galatians 4:19-31 the apostle uses Hagar and Sarah to illustrate that law and grace cannot co-exist. Hagar represents the bondage and futility of the law. As we know, Ishmael was born of the bondswoman after the *flesh* (vs. 23). They are a representation of the works of the flesh, that is, attempting to fulfill the promise apart from God. Consequently both were cast out.

Sarah, on the other hand, was the freewoman to whom Isaac was born according to the promise. While Abraham is the father of faith, Sarah speaks of grace. Thus the promise was fulfilled by *grace*. By way of application, the apostle says: “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1). Unfortunately, the Galatians were placing themselves back under the law in an attempt to do their part. But we are saved by grace alone, kept by grace alone, and live by grace alone!

—Pastor Sadler

Baptism, Past and Present

By Roland N. Icke, M.D.

With Israel temporarily set aside in unbelief, she is numbered with the other nations of the world (Rom. 1:5, 16 cf. 11:11, 12, 32). According to Paul's gospel, God is saving *individuals* out of the nations. Thus, both saved Jews and Gentiles today make up the One Body (Eph. 2:14-16). Israel does not hold the preeminent position over the nations now as she once did. However, in spite of her severe chastening, God is preserving the Jew. After the Church is translated, God will turn again to the chosen nation and *literally* fulfill all the promises He made to the patriarchs and prophets. Clearly, she will again hold preeminence over all the nations, but not until the coming day of the Lord.

More than just the Ten Commandments (over 600, in Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5 and Leviticus) were given to Israel relative to God's covenant with His chosen people. Other commands included ceremonial sacrifices, offerings, "washings", special feasts of remembrance and thanksgiving, health and civil laws, but **none** of these were given to Gentiles unless they became subject to Israel's requirements (as proselytes). Israel was to continue under the covenant of circumcision which God had made with Abraham 430 years before the Law was given. The "children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath....It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever" (Ex. 31:16, 17). The keeping of all these requirements, "works

of righteousness" (of the Law and its *ordinances*), concerned **Israel**: "It shall be *our righteousness*, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He hath commanded *us [Israel]*" (Deut. 6:25).

After Jesus was born, "made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the Law" (Gal. 4:4, 5), He was sent only "unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 15:24). He was the only One ever to fulfill that perfect Law completely, even to His baptism in water by John "that He should be made manifest to Israel" (John 1:31), and "to fulfill all righteousness" which the Law required for a priestly ministry (Ex. 30:18-21; Matt. 3:15). Jesus told His *apostles* to obey the Law (Matt. 23:1-3), and commissioned *them* under that Law to baptize and to teach observance of "all things whatsoever I have commanded *you*" (Matt. 28:19, 20).

Peter followed up on that command and the importance of baptism for salvation (Mark 16:16): when the "heart-pricked" believers at Pentecost asked: "what shall we do?", he replied: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**" (Acts 2:37, 38); and in Acts 10:35, 48, noted: "he that feareth" God and "worketh righteousness is accepted with Him" (even a Gentile). The word, "for" (εἰς) in this setting, means "with a view to forgiveness of sins."¹ What water baptism

meant to a Jew was most clearly stated by “a devout man according to the Law,” when he said: “...be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:12,16). The writer of this present article was “sprinkled” once and “immersed” twice (in different denominations) with the desire to do what God told us to do. A medical colleague (in the Church of Christ) told me: “you could have been baptized a hundred times, but if you were not baptized once *for the remission of sins*, you are not saved!” Is it a water ritual done by man, or the work of the Spirit that gives life to a dead sinner (Eph. 2:1), saves and places him into the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:5; Eph. 5:30,32; Col. 1:18)?

From the resurrected Lord’s revelations to the Apostle Paul, we know that “it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats (though required under the Law) should take away sins” (Heb. 10:4), though it was a temporary *atonement*, a covering which sufficed until Christ’s “once for all” offering of Himself at Calvary (Heb. 10:10,14; Rom. 5:8-11; Eph. 1:7). The animal sacrifices which the Law required only **symbolically** covered sin but did not remove it; similarly, water baptism **symbolized** the washing away of sin, but in itself did not actually remove it. The **faith** of those who did what God required *at that time* was counted for righteousness, not

those “works” themselves (Gal. 3:6). We do not repeat this symbolism today by offering animal sacrifices (Heb. 10:4). Should we observe the water ritual and sacrifices after Christ **abolished** them, and **removed** our sins by “the blood of His Cross” (Eph. 2:13-15; Col. 2:14)?

In the Church, which is the Body of Christ, there should be spiritual unity. Disagreements concerning water baptism have probably caused more disunity than any other of the ordinances which were required of Israel under the Law. Denominational “authorities” disagree about “infant” or “believers” baptism, by sprinkling, immersion or pouring. The Quakers (and several others) believe that the water ritual is not for us (Gentiles) today. We do **not** wish to add to the present confusion and **dis**-unity among believers, by adding more “fuel to

“God’s
Word is
always
right.”

the fire.” Our only purpose is to urge that all of us carefully study the Scripture itself, **in context**, considering *who* is the *speaker*, to *whom*, *when* and *under which of God’s administrations* the statement was made, and *then* follow what God directs **us** to obey. God’s Word is *always* right. Traditions may or may not be right for our dispensation since God “opened the door of faith unto the **Gentiles**” (Acts 14:27).

A study of the 106 references to baptism in the Bible should help us better to understand its meanings

and applications (adapted from Charles Baker's "Real Baptism").² Five different Greek words should be considered:

1. BAPTO (βαπτω) is a verb, always translated "dip," like dipping a cloth (Luke 16:24; John 13:26; Rev. 19:13).

2. BAPTISTES (βαπτιστες) the noun, refers to the one performing the action, such as John the Baptist, but has no bearing on doctrine.

3. BAPTIZO (βαπτίζω) is the verb to baptize, appearing 80 times, and always so translated, except in Luke 11:38, where it is translated "washed." Pertinent references will be considered when necessary, in their contexts.

4. BAPTISMA (βαπτισμα) refers to the result of the action indicated by the verb, always translated baptism, used 22 times in the New Testament.

5. BAPTISMOS (βαπτισμος) indicates the action of the verb, translated *washing* three times and *baptisms* once (Mark 7:4,8; Heb. 6:2, 9:10).

It will surprise many to learn that there are at least 12 different kinds of baptism mentioned in the New Testament, and only 5 have any reference to the water ceremony. These 12 kinds are: Christ baptizing with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:15,16); the Holy Spirit baptizing into the Body of Christ (Rom. 6:3,4; I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27); Death Baptism (Matt. 20:22,23; Mark 10:38,39; Luke 12:50); the Baptism of Fire (Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16); the Typical Baptism of Noah's Ark; Baptism for the Dead (I Cor. 15:29); Baptism

unto Moses (I Cor. 10:2); the Divers Baptisms of the Law (Ex. 30:17-21); Traditional Jewish Baptisms (Mark 7:1-9); John's Baptism of Israel for the Remission of Sins (Matt. 3:6,11-16; Mark 1:4,5; Luke 3:3, 7:29,30; Acts 1:5, 11:16, 13:24); Christ's Baptism by John to Fulfill all Righteousness (Matt. 3:15); and the Pentecostal Baptism for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38,41, 8:12,13,36,38, 10:47,48). It is to be remembered that the Israelites who were *baptized* unto Moses (I Cor. 10:2) went through the Red Sea on **dry** ground; it was the Egyptians who were drowned in the water (Ex. 14:22-29).

Many Christians believe (in theory) that today we should obey everything which the Lord commanded His apostles (and the other Jews) to do while under the Law, yet in practice they choose which of these to follow. Do we tell people today to obey the Law as a condition for eternal life (Matt. 19:17)? Do we sell all we have and give to the poor (Matt. 19:21)? Do we pray that our flight should not be in the winter or on the Sabbath day (Matt. 24:20)? The Lord commanded this prayer. Should we forgive so that we will likewise be forgiven (Matt. 6:14,15), or should we forgive *because we have been forgiven* (Eph. 4:32)? Should we "take no thought" of possible future needs (Matt. 6:25-34); or should we make provision for our own families (I Tim. 5:8)? Some of Christ's teachings while on earth referred only to things in the **past**, some concerned the distant **future**, some had universal application, and some commands were specific and local to

individuals then present (walking on water, fish for coins to pay taxes, go into the city to buy food, bring a donkey for Him to ride, sell all you have and give to the poor, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead).

We need to remember that some things the Lord commanded **before** His saving blood was shed at Calvary were far different from some commands **after** sin's penalty had been paid. The symbolism of Old Testament types and shadows (of things to come) were done away when His once-for-all sacrifice had been made, and the Law (which could not make men righteous) was set aside, and replaced by something *better* (Heb. 8:6, 9:9,10,23; Eph. 2:13-15; Col. 2:14,20). Part of God's eternal plan was kept secret initially.

When preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, all will agree that Jesus **did** command His apostles to baptize with water and to obey the Law of Moses. When Saul of Tarsus was saved, he was instructed by a devout Jew (under the Law) to "be baptized and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). Paul did baptize a few during his early ministry as he was gradually instructed by the resurrected Lord (Gal. 1:11,12) during the **transition period** between Law and Grace. When it became evident to him that he had **not been sent to baptize**, but to preach a new (previously hidden, Eph. 3:2-9) gospel, he was thankful he had baptized "so few." Even these were involved in controversy in the church at Corinth, where the factions between those baptized in the name of Paul, Apollos, Cephas

"We need to remember that some things the Lord commanded **before** His saving blood was shed at Calvary were far different from some commands **after** sin's penalty had been paid."

or Christ, threatened that "the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect" (I Cor. 1:12-17). The church leaders failed to recognize the *spiritual* significance of baptism (identification with Christ, cleansing from sin) and ascribed some saving merit to the water ordinance and those performing it.

Does the One Lord, One faith, One baptism of Ephesians 4:5 mean: One Lord (the resurrected, glorified Jesus Christ); One faith (that new "truth" committed to Paul for the new Church which is the Body of Christ, apart from the Mosaic Law, Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:18); and One baptism our dying to sin with Him in His "*death* baptism" (Luke 12:50 cf. Rom. 6:3-11) at which time the Holy Spirit places a believer into the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13), raising us to walk in "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4)? What is revealed by "nailing" the Law ordinances to His Cross (Col. 2:14), the symbolic nature of those *temporary* ordinances, including "washings," βαπτισμος (Heb. 9:9,10), and the absence of instructions for Timothy or Titus to baptize Gentiles *under Grace*?

The Lord said: "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:7-9). Paul dared not

preach any other gospel than that commanded by His glorified Lord (Gal. 1:8,9) and condemned the “bewitched, foolish Galatians” (Gentiles) for adding Law-works to Grace (Gal. 3:1-3). Paul claimed that the words he wrote were “the commandments of the Lord” (I Cor. 14:37) and “the Word of God” (I Thes. 2:13) and that believers should follow him as he followed Christ (I Cor. 11:1). He never followed Jesus Christ in the flesh (while teaching Jews under the Law), but diligently served the resurrected and glorified Lord Jesus Christ, teaching what **He commanded** (Gal. 1:11,12) concerning God’s *grace* and the reconciliation provided by **His** precious blood (II Cor. 5:16-21).

God’s Word is always true. All of us, as fallible, unworthy mortals, may be grossly biased and wrong in what we say. We are urged to study the Word that we may rightly understand what God wants us to do today as we seek to serve Him worthily (II Tim. 2:15). Christ’s “once-for-all” sacrifice of Himself provided for us a **perfect** (complete) salvation. Nothing we **do** can make it more complete (lest we should boast, Eph. 2:9,13-15), otherwise “Christ is dead in vain” (Gal. 2:21). “Received ye the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by the hearing of faith?...are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” (Gal. 3:2,3, 5:1-6).

“...so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism [entombed, not in water] into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk

in newness of life...our old man is crucified with Him...if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him: Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord...as those alive from the dead...for ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:3-14).

God has **done** for us in Christ what He requires of us. He asks only that we **believe** and thereby be reconciled to Him (through faith alone, Eph. 2:8-10). One made alive in Christ will show evidence of that life. We are not instructed to follow what the Lord (in the flesh) taught His disciples to do while under the Law of Moses. Our “Grace Commission” is found in II Corinthians 5:16-21. When denominations send out missionaries today, they really do *not* want them to follow the command of Matthew 28:20: **(1)**. Preach the gospel of the kingdom (promised to Israel), **(2)**. Go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, or **(3)**. Teach their converts to obey the Mosaic Law. The twelve apostles did not have all the Scriptures that we have today (Gal. 1:11,12; Col. 1:24-26); and post-resurrection (Acts 1:3-8) they still believed that they were *forbidden* to go to Gentiles (Matt. 10:5,6; Acts 11:19), and did not realize that they were not under the Law, but under Grace (Acts 21:20; Rom. 6:14, 10:4).

The Gentiles had never been under the Law of Moses, and therefore, **not ever under any of the Law’s ordinances** (Rom. 2:14). After James, Peter and John heard the revelation given by the resurrected and glorified Christ to the apostle to the Gentiles (Rom.

11:13), they all agreed that Gentiles should **not** be placed under that Law. It had proved to be an unbearable “yoke” that they had been unable to bear. (Read together, Acts 15 and Galatians 2). In Galatians 3, Paul chided the “foolish Galatians” (Gentiles), who had been made alive by the Spirit, for thinking that Christ’s **finished work** at Calvary (Col. 2:14,20) could be improved by works of the flesh (Israel’s covenant requirements or Law/ordinances). Man does not want to believe that there is no good in himself (filthy rags, Isaiah 64:6) and that only what Christ did *for him*, and does *in him*, is worthwhile. Members of the “Church, which is the Body of Christ” (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:18), are **not** part of “spiritual Israel” though there are some important general principles which are parallel. *All Scripture* is for our learning (Rom. 15:4) and is profitable (II Tim. 3:16), but **not all commands** and **commissions** given to **the apostles** for Israel under the Law apply under Grace. The Law’s “types” and “washings” (baptismos) preceded His once-for-all sacrifice, at which time Christ’s blood **removed** sin. The temporarily-imposed “carnal ordinances” (Gal. 3:19; Heb. 9:10) could **not** do so.

What was it that Paul stated had been **abolished** at the Cross by the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14)? It is helpful to realize that the “remembrance” of “the

Lord’s Supper” is *never called an ordinance* in the Scripture (I Cor. 11:23-25). Without man’s help, and upon believing, we were identified with (placed into) the Body of Christ by the divine work of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:13), and not made any more “complete” by one of Israel’s “works of righteousness.”

Our sincere prayer is that the Holy Spirit will enlighten our understanding of God’s Word. A tradition which has been oft repeated from generation to generation will be either true or false, depending upon the **premise** upon which it is based. If the premise is correct, the tradition should be correct. If the premise is **not** correct, no amount of repetition will make it correct, in spite of the reputation and high esteem in which the “authority” is held. God’s Word **from the resurrected, glorified Christ** (II Cor. 5:15-21) is our authority (I Cor. 11:1, 14:37; Gal. 1:8,9,11,12; I Thes. 2:13; II Tim. 2:2,15) based upon His substitutionary sacrifice for our sins at Calvary (Heb. 9:12,26). 

Endnotes

1. A. T. Robertson, (in “A New Short Grammar of the Greek New Testament,” 10th Edition), indicated that “εἰς” can on occasion either be translated: “on the basis of forgiveness of sins,” or “with a view to forgiveness of sins,” and “There is nothing to compel either result. One will translate it *according to his own theology.*” (emphasis mine)
2. Charles Baker: “Real Baptism,” Grace Publications, Inc., 2125 Martindale Ave., S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49509.

“A holy life will make the deepest impression.
Lighthouses blow no horns: they just shine.”

—D. L. Moody

GOOD ADVICE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

A juvenile court judge in an eastern state has some pointed advice for those youngsters who never seem to know what to do with themselves. His remarks, carried by newspapers, radio and TV, gained a great deal of interest. This is in part what the judge had to say:

“Always we hear the plaintive cry of the teenager: ‘What can we do? Where can we go?’ The answer is clear: Go home!

“Hang the storm windows, paint the woodwork, rake the leaves, mow the lawn, wash the car, learn to cook, scrub some floors, repair the sink, build a boat, get a job...visit the sick, assist the poor, study your lessons, and when you are through, and not too tired, read a book.

“Your parents do not owe you entertainment. Your city or village does not owe you a living. You owe the world something. You owe the world your time and your energy and your talents....

“In plain, simple words: Grow up! Quit being a cry baby. Get out of your dream world and develop a backbone, not a wishbone, and start acting like a man or lady. You’re supposed to be mature enough to accept some of the responsibility your parents carried for years. They have nursed, protected, helped, appealed, begged, excused, tolerated, and denied themselves needed comfort so that you could have every benefit. You have no right to expect them to bow to your every whim and fancy. In heaven’s name, grow up and go home.”

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They Feared the People

By Cornelius R. Stam

From the four Gospels and the Book of Acts it is clear that Israel's spiritual leaders were continually afraid of the people. Seven times it is *stated* that they "*feared the people*" or "*feared the multitude*" (Matt. 21:26,46; Mark 11:32, 12:12; Luke 20:19, 22:2; Acts 5:26). In four of these they are kept from taking Christ and putting Him to death for fear of the people. Twice they decline to answer questions for fear of the people. Once they deal gently with the apostles for fear of the people.

It is perhaps needless to say that had these men been *true* spiritual leaders they would rather, like John the Baptist, have had the courage to call upon even the wicked King Herod to repent, and Herod would have feared *them* as he feared John (Mark 6:20). Had they lived honestly before God they could have addressed him as John's predecessor, Elijah, had addressed Herod's predecessor, Ahab: "*As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand...*" (I Kings 17:1).

But how could *they stand* up to Herod? They were themselves more wicked than he. Little wonder they constantly feared the people, and suffered the bondage that always accompanies such fear (Rom. 8:15; Heb. 2:15).

But it is not only men's shortcomings that make them afraid of each other, nor are hypocrites and imposters the only ones ever to be gripped by the fear of man. The world and the devil will do all in their power to make the most

sincere believers afraid of their own shadows, where the service of Christ is concerned. How prone are the servants of Christ to fear men! This is why Paul, by the Spirit, continually urges God's people to proclaim the truth courageously, and even requests prayer that he himself may be given grace to open his mouth boldly.

But, alas, Satan and the world have been largely successful here, for today again many of our spiritual leaders are afraid of the people. They constantly have their hand on the public pulse. In planning their programs and their messages they continually ask: "*Will the people like it?*"

But in the measure that they "seek to please men," in that measure they are *not* "the servants of Christ." Such would do well to ponder prayerfully over the words of Paul to the Galatians:¹

"...do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10).

Since men, called of God to be the spiritual leaders of the people, have failed, the people for the most part have been leading *them*. But the *condition* of "the multitude" generally reflects the condition of its appointed leaders. If the spiritual leaders are lacking in conviction, so will the people be. Hence, as in our Lord's day, not only do the leaders fear the people, but the people fear the leaders too! If only all the spiritual leaders who know in their hearts the truth of the *one body* and *one baptism* would

take their stand openly for it, they would doubtless be surprised to find that this is the very truth the Church is now ready for! But they are afraid to lead their hearers on in the truth, and the people, not knowing that so many of their leaders really believe these things, are afraid to be branded as heretics.

Surely, in these critical times each individual believer should take his stand in the world as a servant of *God*, an ambassador for *Christ*. Personal fears or desires should not enter into his ministry, for he has been left in this evil world for only *one* reason: *to represent God*, faithfully carrying out *His will*; faithfully making known *His Word*.

Should we not, then, heed the words of Paul to Timothy, his son in the faith:

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear [Gr. *deila*, timidity]; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God” (II Tim. 1:7,8).

And should our adversaries, the world and the devil, unite to put us to the test, then let us hear the Spirit-inspired words of the apostle in Philipians and Ephesians:

“...stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; and in nothing terrified by your adversaries...” (Phil. 1:27,28).

“...be strong in the Lord...put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore...” (Eph. 6:10-14).

While others trifle with the precious things of God, let us be faithful to Him, faithful to His Word, faithful to those about us, so that at the close of this short life we, like Paul, may be able to say:

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown...” (II Tim. 4:7,8). 

Endnote

1. With whom, we fear, most modern preachers would have dealt more “diplomatically.”

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THE BBI BYLINE

If Not Now, Then When?

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore
Executive Director, Berean Bible Institute

What do you think of when someone says *"I had the time of my life"*? Usually when this phrase is used it is in reference to a fun or entertaining experience of some kind. In other words, the speaker is implying that what took place during *a certain period of time* was the ultimate experience of his life, at least up until the *point in time* that he made this statement about this *time of his life*. Of course, because of its flippant overuse by people, this phrase, like many others, has become an almost meaningless cliché. But the concept behind this saying should cause every member of the Body of Christ to *take time* to reflect on what they are doing with their *time of life*.

Time never waits, it always moves forward, never backwards. It is constant, always moving at the same speed. And *time that is*

past is gone forever and cannot be regained. Our lives *move on with time* meaning that the *only time* that we can accomplish anything is when we actually utilize the *time available* to us, which is *the present time* because we do not know when *our time will run out*. ***"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is"*** (Eph. 5:15-17). You see, to use another *time worn* phrase, *"Time is of the essence."* If we are going to serve the Lord and ***"make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,"*** we only *have time* to do it now. Is it *time for you* to start preparing yourself to minister the Gospel of the Grace of God? If not now, then when?

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

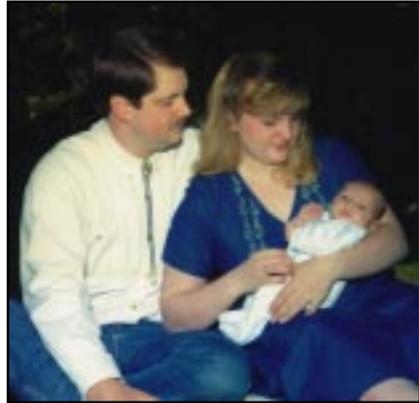
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A BLESSING FROM ABOVE

“Love is a many splendored thing,” especially when it’s the love of God that brings two believers together according to His will. So imagine our delight upon learning that our son, Kevin, and Jessica Harley were to be married.



Shortly thereafter, during one of the marriage counseling sessions, I shared with them that it would probably be best if they waited a year or two before having any little ones. Of course, this was to give them an opportunity to adjust to married life, spend some time alone or travel, if they desired to do so, before having the added responsibility of being parents. Once you become a parent, you’re a parent for life!

I had barely made the statement when Jessie said, “but Mom just told me that she hoped we would have a baby soon—she’s looking forward to becoming a Grandma.” Well, I replied, I’ll speak to our “wanna-be-Grandmother” later, but for now Grandpa’s counsel is best. That was nearly two years ago.

S-o-o-o, we were thrilled beyond words when Kevin and Jessica announced that my wife and I were going to become grandparents. Little Cody James arrived on April 14th, weighing in at 7 lbs. 13 ounces. As you can see, he’s *cute* as a button. Thankfully, both mother and baby are doing well. Oh, yes, and Kevin too! Needless to say, we are most grateful to our heavenly Father for this precious gift.

Incidentally, this is Pastor and Mrs. Harley’s first grandchild as well. Poor Kevin and Jessie, they may get to see their little one now and then! By the time this little guy turns seven he’s going to have accumulated a lot of frequent flyer miles traveling between Milwaukee and Denver. I was sharing with Pastor Harley that the way Cody waves his arms around he just might become a preacher some day. Did I mention that both of his grandpas are pastors?

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth” (Psa. 127:3,4). Don’t forget to pray for Cody that he’ll come to know Christ at a tender age. Thanks for sharing in our day of gladness.

—Grandpa Sadler

CHILDREN

We gave you life,
but cannot live it for you.

We can teach you things,
but we cannot make you learn.

We can give you directions,
but we cannot always be there to lead you.

We can take you to church,
but we cannot make you believe.

We can teach you right from wrong,
but we can't always decide for you.

We can offer you advice,
but we cannot accept it for you.

We can give you love,
but cannot force it upon you.

We can teach you respect,
but we can't force you to show honor.

We can teach you to share,
but cannot make you unselfish.

We can advise you about friends,
but we cannot choose them for you.

We can tell you the facts of life,
but we can't build your reputation.

We can tell you about drink,
but we can't say NO for you.

We can warn you about drugs,
but cannot prevent you from using them.

We can tell you about lofty goals,
but we can't achieve them for you.

We can teach you kindness,
but we cannot force you to be gracious.

We can warn you about sins,
but we cannot make your morals.

We can warn you about Satan's devices,
but cannot keep you from being tricked by him.

We can tell you about the Lord's leading,
but cannot force you to follow Him.

We can teach you God's Word,
but cannot make you obey it.

We can teach you about the Lord Jesus Christ,
but cannot make HIM your Savior.

We can tell you how to live,
but we cannot give you Eternal Life.

—Your Parents

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



PASTOR STAM is doing remarkably well for his age, for which we are most grateful. In fact, my wife and I recently had an enjoyable visit with him and were pleased to find that he's still maintaining a wonderful sense of humor.

Brother Stam was sharing with my wife that he was sure it was a full-time job keeping up with me. He said it reminded him of two pictures he once

saw: The first was of "Louis the V" and the other beside it was of his wife with the caption, "The Other Four-Fifths." Many thanks for your prayers on Pastor Stam's behalf.

THE BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE'S new address is: P.O. Box 40, Germantown, Wisconsin 53022. While the Institute is still holding classes here at the facilities of the *Berean Bible Society*, we are happy to report that this is another step toward the school's future independence.

UPCOMING FALL CONFERENCES

Altoona Bible Church Fall Bible Conference

Your Editor has been invited to be the guest speaker at the *Altoona Fall Bible Conference* to be held at the *Altoona Bible Church*, Altoona, Pennsylvania. The dates of these special meetings are September 18-22, 1999. For times of services and additional information, please contact: Pastor Ken Peebles—Phone: (814) 942-2131.

Midwest Grace Fellowship

11th Annual Fall Bible Conference will be held on September 24, 25, 1999 at Muscatine, Iowa. For additional information, please contact: Mr. Eric Anderson (319) 629-5640 or Pastor Ken Lawson (217) 623-4014.

The Berean Bible Fellowship Fall Conference

The *BBF Fall Conference* this year is scheduled to be held *Grace Bible Church*, Rapid City, South Dakota on October 7, 8, 1999. Theme: *Truths for Today*. For a brochure, please contact: Pastor Joel Finck (605) 341-3257. More next month!

*Gerry and Judy Petras, from the *Berean Church* in Denver, Colorado, took the picture of the lighthouse on the front cover while vacationing in Hawaii. The *Kilauea Lighthouse* is located on Kilauea Point, island of Kauai, Hawaii.

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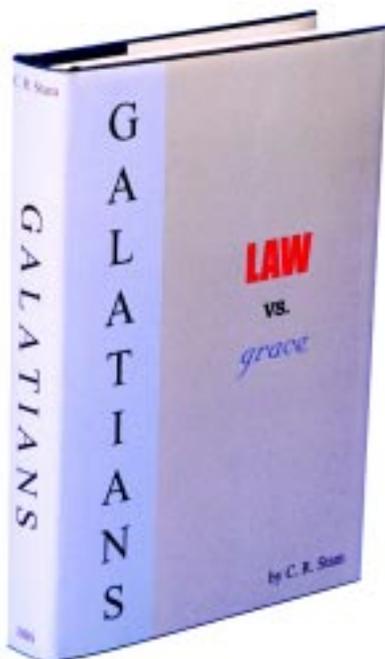
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