

# The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

August 2008



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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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Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the years we have done our level best to hold the line on price increases of our literature. We have always sought to keep our writings affordable, seeing that it is our desire to get this wonderful message of Grace out to others who have yet to see the riches of God's grace. In fact, many brethren have commented that they don't see how we are able to sell our literature so reasonably.

One of the ways we accomplish this is by having five or six printing companies quote on what they are willing to do the job for, in quantities of one to three thousand. The company with the lowest bid, of course, gets the job. Normally, we order 3,000 copies of our booklets at a time, which substantially reduces the cost of each booklet. However, recently printing costs have soared so dramatically we've been forced to only order 1,000 copies per run. The problem is this increases the cost of each booklet. When you factor in that we have over 50 booklets to keep in print, it can be a daunting task to keep pace with the demand.

When we decided to change over to four-color covers on our literature this also increased the cost somewhat, though only slightly. But everyone agrees that this has been long overdue. If your materials are dated with a 50's and 60's appearance a potential reader is less likely to take the book or booklet seriously. First impressions, as they say, are lasting!

With the above in mind, beginning August 1st we will be increasing the price of our small booklets from \$.50 to \$1.00 each and the larger ones from \$1.00 to \$2.00 each. This at least will help cover our printing costs, with a little to spare. A bit of good news in all of this, we are increasing our quantity discount price from 20% to 25%. If you order a quantity of 25 or more we will give you a 25% discount off your total. Our hope is to encourage you to have additional copies on hand to share Paul's gospel with others. A smaller booklet such as *Simple As Can Be* or *Unanswered Prayer* will make a great addition to your mailings. The postage will remain the same on a normal letter or card—I checked on your behalf!

Thankfully, it will not be necessary at this time to increase the price of our hardcover or paperback books. Usually we make price adjustments on these works on a case by case basis. Thanks for your prayers and faithful support as we labor together to make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery.

In His glorious service,  
Paul M. Sadler, President



# 50th Anniversary Celebration

of

# Things To Come Mission





# The Regions Beyond

By Paul M. Sadler

**“To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man’s line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”**  
—II Cor. 10:16,17

Throughout the Scriptures it is clear that God has always had a *worldview* when it comes to the salvation of lost souls. He promised Abraham that through his seed “all families of the earth [would] be blessed” (Gen. 12:3). This was echoed under the Great Commission when the Lord said to Nicodemus, a Jewish ruler, that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

The Syrophenician woman, who was a Gentile, is a good example. She took her place at the *foot* of Israel’s table and was wonderfully saved by simply believing in the name of Israel’s Messiah (Matt. 15:21-28; John 20:31). Of course, after speaking to the Son of David she would have immediately been water baptized to express her faith, in accordance with the terms of salvation under the kingdom gospel (Matt. 28:19,20 cf. Mark 16:16).

Today, we are operating under the Commission of Reconciliation, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. During the administration of Grace the Gentiles are offered salvation *in spite* of Israel. She is no longer the channel through whom we must go to be saved. God is saving individuals out of every nation today, including Israel. Whosoever will may come by simply believing Christ died for their sins, was buried, and rose again (I Cor. 15:3,4 cf. I Thes. 4:14).

If we are followers of Paul as he followed Christ, we too will be desirous to reach the lost beyond our shores. This was the vision of



Vernon and Darlene Anderson



Joe and Pauline Watkins



IGBI Lupagan



Jon and Jan Shriver, former missionaries to the Philippines

*Things to Come Mission* in 1958 when they established a beachhead in the Philippines to proclaim Christ and Him crucified. Since those humble beginnings thousands have come to trust Christ as their personal Savior.

Historically, most missions send their missionaries to the foreign field to oversee those whom they've won to Christ. Normally, this would be a lifetime commitment. *Things to Come* operated under a completely different premise, one that was clearly Pauline. They trained pastors and teachers in the Word, rightly divided, and placed them in charge of the local Grace assemblies. Like the Apostle Paul, TCM was then free to move on to evangelize the lost in the next barrio.

As the work grew, TCM established the *International Grace Bible Institutes*, which now number four, to train men and "Bible women" for full-time Christian service. The goal was to one day completely turn the work over to the Filipino nationals. By the grace of God this was achieved several years ago. TCM stateside no longer has a full-time resident missionary in the Philippines. Mission accomplished!

The Grace Movement in the Philippines is alive and well with over 400 independent Grace churches proclaiming the gospel of the Grace of God. They also have a national Board of Directors that organizes national Grace conferences and has *general* oversight of the local assemblies, assisting them in the Lord's work as needed.

In a recent letter Pastor Jun Pie-lago, the president of the TCM Board of Directors in the Philippines, quoted from TCM's Vision-Mission Statement, which reads:



TCM President Jun Pielago



Transportation to the various venues

“*Things to Come Mission, Inc.* endeavors to follow the global ministry concerns of the Apostle Paul as he follows Christ. It envisions to establish a Grace church in every municipality and city in the Philippines, and commits itself to **win** the lost; **edify** the saints; **plant** reproducing Grace churches; and **produce** committed believers in the teachings of grace whose lives are Christ-like in character.”



## THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

The TCM Board in the Philippines planned the entire *50th Anniversary Celebration* held in Ozamis City this past April. They were initially expecting 1,000 brethren to be in attendance over the course of the week, but to their amazement, and ours, well over 1,500 attended this auspicious occasion. Needless to say, the Board was scrambling to accommodate and transport that many saints to the various venues around the island. Amazingly, they quickly made the necessary adjustments within 24 hours. In addition to their travel expenses, these dear saints *sacrificially* paid for their own registration to cover the cost of their meals and help with the operating costs of the conference. And they did so gladly to be under the sound teaching of the Word, rightly divided.

It was an honor to receive an invitation to be one of the guest speakers at the *50th Anniversary*, the theme of which was, *Continuously Teaching the Mystery*. I was one of many team members who made the trip from various countries. I know I can speak for all of those who made up the team that we were all impressed at how well everything was organized. It was a clinic on how to effectively coordinate



a national event. I've had the privilege of speaking to large groups over the years, but this was the first time I've addressed 1,500 Grace believers. As I looked out over that sea of faces I could not help but think "what great things God has done." As we have seen, it all began with a *vision* that became a reality!

The *goal* now is to establish Grace churches in every town and city in the Philippines, a goal that is well within reach. But the good news doesn't end here—TCM's vision is to reach out to Southeast Asia. Our Filipino counterparts have sent missionaries to Indonesia, which is predominately a Muslim country; therefore, the gospel is opposed on every hand. It can be a dangerous place to preach Christ. Also, Filipino missionaries are serving in Cambodia and will soon be sent to Thailand where the darkness is even greater.



Brother Anderson's challenge

Noel and Annabel Maquiling

One of many touching moments during the week was the evening that Brother Anderson spoke. Since 1958 Vernon's love for the Filipino people has shown forth like a beacon of hope in the midst of a stormy sea. He shared with his sons and daughters in the faith,





Vernon and Ben Anderson

many of whom he personally led to the Lord, how the members of the Body are *interdependent* upon one another.

“Independence says, ‘I don’t need you, and you don’t need me.’ Dependence says, ‘I need you, but you don’t need me.’ Interdependence says, ‘I need you, and you need me, and we both need the Lord, and He needs us.’” To il-

lustrate his point he had a young lady named Annabel come forward to stand with him on the platform. Annabel is the wife of one of our young Filipino pastors who needed open-heart surgery to repair a serious valve problem. It was a life and death situation! With no health insurance and very little money, the prospects seemed bleak. While the doctors who would perform the surgery were willing to donate their services, the hospital cost was astronomical.

At this point, the Church, the Body of Christ became involved. Grace believers from around the world began to pray *daily* that the Lord would supply Annabel’s needs. Some provided meals and transportation for the family. Others were actively engaged in fundraising. As a result, a number of donors and churches stepped forward with generous gifts and offerings, which eventually completely covered all her hospital expenses. As Annabel stood by Vernon, he shared how Annabel was alive and well because of other members of the Body of Christ. Just as the members of our human body are interdependent upon each other, so too are the members of the Body of Christ. Body life is *interdependence!*



Prior to one of the services, Brother Watkins and I were sitting together chatting when one of the TCM Board members approached Joe to remind him that he would be officiating at the *Ordination Service* that evening. Joe turned to me and said: “That’s news to me!” But he rose to the occasion and brought a challenge from the Book of Acts that the 8 young men standing before him will not soon forget. It was a practical example of what Paul said to Timothy, “be instant in season, out of season” (II Tim. 4:2). In other words, always be *prepared* to preach the Word, or to give a testimony, because you never know when you might be called upon to do so.

## ABOUNDING IN THIS GRACE AS WELL

Throughout the course of our stay I lost track of how many brethren came up to me to convey their gratitude for sending them the *Berean Searchlight*; it had to be well over one hundred. These dear saints wanted us to know that the reason they appreciated receiving the *Searchlight* was because the articles were written in a manner they could understand.

I have often shared with our young people who are going to minister the Word that the challenge is not to see how deep and complex you can make a message, but how *simplicistic*. Pastor Win Johnson once said to me years ago when I was a young pastor: “Brother Paul, take the truth down from the top shelf and put it on the bottom shelf so all can rejoice in it and benefit from it.” That’s sound advice for all those who minister the Word.

Here I would like to pause a moment to say a word to our readers. Your generous support has made it possible for us to send the *Searchlight* overseas to help our Filipino brethren grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks so very much for abounding in the *grace of giving* that those in the regions beyond might be grounded in the faith that was first delivered to us by the Apostle Paul.



Just before our departure, the BBS mail-room, at the request of *Things to Come Mission*, sent 840 copies of our writings to the Philippines. The order included: *Acts*, *Dispensationally Considered*, *Moses and Paul*, *The Triumph of His Grace*, *The Institution of Marriage*, and the *Water Rite*. Upon our arrival, this set of Grace works was presented to those Filipino pastors who had not yet received a copy of these writings by Pastor Stam and myself. The gift set was made possible due to a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous.



Team members Hansen and Young



Evangelist Jun Catalina



Man on a mission!  
Evangelist Joel McGarvey



The Filipino people have great respect for pastors, teachers, and missionaries, which was demonstrated in their closing ceremonies. During our visit, they dedicated the new *IGBI School Building* in Lupagan, to the Lord, in honor of the Andersons' and Watkins' labor of love among them. In addition, the new *Bill Heath Library* was dedicated in tribute to Bill and Eunice. Both services were a fitting capstone to a week of memorable events.



The day before our departure I was invited to preach at the *Grace Gospel Church* where Rogato Alcontin serves as pastor. Pastor Alcontin invited two other Grace churches to join us as we dedicated their new church building to the Lord's service. It is a beautiful open-air facility that can easily accommodate 500 people.



The building was designed after a Chinese concept to place the main meeting hall on the second level for better air circulation. The heat and humidity in the Philippines can be oppressive at times, but if you can take advantage of the breeze that is usually blowing it makes it far more tolerable. During the course of my message I reminded the brethren that while we were meeting in the beautiful facility they erected, the Church is not the building where we meet, but the called-out ones who gather there to worship. It is the blood-washed saints of God who make up the *true* Church.

There are some occasions in life that leave an indelible impression on us and this was one of those times. The *50th Anniversary Celebration* was an event that we and our Filipino brethren will cherish for many, many years to come. Anniversaries have a way of doing that for us. They give us an opportunity to reflect on past accomplishments and help us prepare for the future.



Faithful laborers in all things

## More Pictures from the Philippines!





# OUR ONENESS IN *Christ*

## THE GLORY OF THE ONE BAPTISM

By Cornelius R. Stam

**“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?” —Rom. 6:3**

To help our readers understand the main thrust of this article, we take its general headings and subheadings and gather them together in the following inversion:

### HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH US

- A. His baptism into our race.
  - A partaker of human nature (sin apart).
- B. His baptism into our guilt.
  - Numbered with the transgressors.
- C. His baptism into our death.
  - Our death made His.

### OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH HIM

- C. Our baptism into His death.
  - His death made ours.
- B. Our baptism into His righteousness.
  - Numbered with the saints.
- A. Our baptism into Himself.
  - Partakers of the divine nature.

Note the comparisons in this inversion, and observe that as the Lord Jesus Christ died *our death*, we believers now live *His life*. As He was made one with us, we are now made one with Him, by the one divine baptism of which the Apostle Paul has so much to say.

Many of our denominational brethren are very defensive about their views on baptism. They may discuss their divergent opinions among themselves, but between those who *do* believe that water baptism is included in God’s program for today and those who *do not*, the subject is not exactly an open one! This is partly because some lean heavily on tradition, which so often makes void the Word of God. It is also partly due to the fact that others, who have come to see the simple Scriptural solution to this doctrinal question, sometimes become smug about their knowledge. They needle, or even hold up to ridicule, those who do not yet see it. Both attitudes are of the flesh and should be overcome.

We do not by any means seek to neutralize the importance of

the baptism question, however, and heartily wish that all of our brethren in Christ could clearly see the glory of the “one baptism” of Ephesians 4:5!

## **OUR LORD’S IDENTIFICATION WITH US**

### **A. His Baptism into our Race (A Partaker of Human Nature)**

Have you ever thought of our Lord’s birth into the human race as a *baptism*? It was just that; the beginning of the “one baptism” by which our blessed Lord and we have been made one.

“Calvary is ever the  
meeting place between  
God and the sinner....”

It is a mistake to suppose that baptism, in Scripture, always refers to *water* baptism. Actually, the word itself denotes complete and thorough identification. *Water* baptism, when in order, symbolized a thorough cleansing, but the Scriptures also speak of other baptisms. To get the sense, the usage, of this word clearly fixed in our minds, let us consider two passages from Paul’s epistles:

**I Cor. 12:13: “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body....”**

Clearly this passage speaks of the fusion of believers “into” the Body of Christ as a whole, so that they are now *part of that Body*.

**Gal. 3:27: “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”**

Note the phrases: “baptized *into* Christ” and “have *put on* Christ.” Here too the thought is that of the believer’s complete identification with Christ, so that he and Christ are now *one* (See also I Cor. 12:12,27).

Thus, while the particular word “baptism” is not used of our Lord’s incarnation, this truth is most certainly there. At His incarnation our Lord did not merely *come to this earth to be with us*. Rather, He was *born into* the human race to become *one of us*. It has been well said that the Son of God became the Son of man that the sons of men might become the sons of God. Our Lord was *baptized into* the human race, born of a virgin, “*in the likeness of sinful flesh*” (Rom. 8:3), “*in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin*” (Heb. 4:15).

We do not mean to imply that He relinquished His deity while on earth, but rather that He was *truly man* as well as *truly God*. Luke, “the beloved physician,” has the most to say about our Lord’s baptism into the human race and, in his record of Christ’s earthly ministry, proves beyond a doubt that He was a partaker of human nature, sin apart.

### **B. His Baptism into our Guilt (Numbered with the Transgressors)**

Unquestionably the baptism of John<sup>1</sup> was a baptism of repentance and confession of sins. There is a whole volume of Scripture to substantiate this statement, but we quote one passage which is sufficiently clear:

**“John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach *the baptism of repentance* for the remission of sins.**

**“And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the River Jordan, *confessing their sins*” (Mark 1:4,5).**

In the light of this fact is it not strange to read in Matthew 3:13:

**“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.”**

Why should the holy Son of God be baptized? He had no sins to confess. He had nothing to repent of. He needed no cleansing. The Jews had expected Messiah to *baptize*, not to *be baptized*. This is why they had asked John: *“Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ...?”* (John 1:25).

Little wonder that John, greatly embarrassed by our Lord’s coming to be baptized”:

**“...forbad Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me?” (Matt. 3:14).**

But the Lord persisted, saying:

**“...Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness” (Matt. 3:15).**

Obviously, our Lord did not mean here that this baptism in itself would fulfill all righteousness, but simply that this was one of the things necessary to the fulfilling of all righteousness.

But why would our Lord’s baptism with water be necessary to the fulfilling of all righteousness? For a very important reason, revolving around the fact that this baptism was *a confession of sin*.

Since our Lord had no sins to confess there can be only one reason why He submitted to this baptism. He was identifying Himself with sinners. To “fulfil all righteousness” and settle the account between God and man, He must be “numbered with the transgressors,” confessing their sins as His own and bearing their shame and disgrace.<sup>2</sup>

This was the second step in our Lord’s identification with us;<sup>3</sup> an integral part of the “one baptism” of Ephesians 4:5, though not yet revealed as such.

But there was a third step; a baptism which was to identify Him with us even more intimately than had His baptism into the human race and His baptism into our guilt.

### **C. His Baptism into our Death (Our Death Made His)**

Some time after our Lord’s baptism with water, He said to His disciples:

**“But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how am I straitened<sup>4</sup> till it be accomplished” (Luke 12:50).**

In the light of Mark 10:38,39, and in the light of the fact that He had already been baptized with water, it is evident that our Lord referred here to His baptism into death at the cross, soon to take place. See Him as He stands before Pilate:

**“And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto Him, Hearest Thou not how many things they witness against Thee?”**

**“And He answered him to never a word, insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly” (Matt. 27:12-14).**

But *why* did He not answer? He was not guilty of all those crimes. He could have tied His accusers up in knots, exposing their sins at the same time.

Ah, but He was willingly bearing the blame for *their* sins—and for yours and mine. Standing there, speechless and condemned in our stead, He carried His purpose through.

He had identified Himself with men to save them. He had been numbered with the transgressors in the *confession* of sin; now He was to be numbered with them in the payment of its *penalty*, dying on a cross between two thieves, to “*put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*”

This was the baptism that caused Him to use such expressions as: “*How am I straitened till it be accomplished!*” “*Now is My soul troubled.*” “*Oh, My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.*” This was the baptism that made Him “*exceedingly sorrowful,*” and caused Him to “*sweat, as it were, great drops of blood,*” and finally wrung from His lips that awful cry: “*My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?*”

*The death of the cross!* This was the culmination of His baptism into the human race. How sad that thousands of clergymen are leading their hearers astray by their false teachings about Jesus of Nazareth and the Man of Galilee, supposing that He came into the world to show us how to live,

when the Word of God declares distinctly that “*Christ Jesus came into the world to SAVE sinners,*” that He “*gave Himself A RANSOM for all, to be testified in due time*” through the Apostle Paul, the chief of sinners saved by grace (See I Tim. 1:15; 2:6,7).

But this is still not the complete story of the “one baptism.” As our Lord willingly identified Himself with us sinners we must, by an act of faith, identify ourselves with Him. There is only *one place* where this can possibly be done: *at Calvary!*

## **OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST**

### **C. Our Baptism into His Death**

#### **(His Death Made Ours)**

How the Word of God through Paul still thunders its rebuke to those who minimize the character and value of the death of Christ at Calvary, and who thus fail to understand *how* believers are “*baptized into Jesus Christ!*” With a distinct tone of reproof, the apostle asks:

**“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death” (Rom. 6:3).**

His meaning is simple enough. It is only as we become one with Christ *in His death* that we become one with *Him*. Calvary is ever the meeting place between God and the sinner who would be saved. As our Lord went to Calvary to die our death, so *we* must go to Calvary and acknowledge in faith: “This is not *His* death He is dying. “The soul that *sinneth...*

shall die,' *Sin*, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.' 'The wages of *sin* is death.' But He is no sinner. He is dying *my* death, and I believe, and gratefully accept His love and grace and acknowledge Him as my Lord and Savior."

Only when we have placed our trust in Him who died our death, are we baptized into *His* death, *His* death now becoming ours, redemption's price "paid in full." And only thus do we become one with Him, "*baptized into Jesus Christ.*" No man has ever been "*baptized into Jesus Christ,*" without having been "*baptized into His death.*"

This is how the Apostle Paul consistently viewed the death of Christ in its relation to the believer.

**"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him..."** (Rom. 6:6).

**"I am crucified with Christ..."** (Gal. 2:20).

*"Crucified with Christ!" "Baptized into His death!"* What a glorious truth to know and embrace!

## **B. Our Baptism into His Righteousness**

### **(Numbered With the Saints)**

Does it not follow further, that as Christ was baptized into *our* guilt, so we have now been baptized into *His* righteousness? Did He not "fulfil *all* righteousness" in His payment for our sins? And is not this righteousness now ours, since we have been "baptized into Jesus Christ," the righteous One? Is not this what the apostle meant when he wrote by inspiration:

**"...Christ Jesus...is made unto us...righteousness..."** (I Cor. 1:30).

**"...by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous"** (Rom. 5:19).

**"...the new man...is created in righteousness and true holiness"** (Eph. 4:24).

**"For God hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"** (II Cor. 5:21).



This the Church of Rome fails to see. In the teaching of Rome only those who have been dead for hundreds of years can ever become saints. But God's Word teaches that as our Lord assumed our guilt, we who believe receive His righteousness—here and now. As He was "numbered with the transgressors," *we* are *now* numbered with the saints! God sees us, not in our poor selves, but "*in Christ.*" This alone explains how the apostle could write to the failing believers of his day—even to the careless Corinthians, as "sanctified [Lit., saintified] in Christ Jesus" and "saints by calling" (I Cor. 1:2). The apostle called himself "less than the least of all saints" (Eph. 3:8), which indicates that though once a persecutor of the Church, he nevertheless considered himself a saint. This

is because sainthood depends, not upon our conduct, but upon our position before God, and the poorest believer is a saint in God's sight because God sees him "*in Christ*." Could there be a greater incentive to love Him and live for Him?

### **A. Our Baptism into Christ Himself**

#### **(Partakers of the Divine Nature)**

As we have seen, those who have been baptized into the death of Christ (His righteous payment for sin), have thus been baptized into Christ Himself. They became one with Him in His death. This was the point of contact.

Does it not follow from this that since Christ arose from the dead and ascended to the Father's right hand, "far above all," His resurrection and ascension are likewise *our* resurrection and ascension, and that in Him we now have a position at God's right hand?

When Peter writes in his second epistle about "*multiplied grace*" (1:2), and about the "exceeding great and precious promises" by which believers become "*partakers of the divine nature*" (Ver. 4), we do not believe he is referring to kingdom promises. We believe he got this from Paul, as II Peter 3:15-18 would indicate.

Certainly only those "baptized into Jesus Christ" can now be "partakers of the divine nature" and of the divine position which is ours in the risen, glorified Lord. See what the Apostle Paul has to say about this:

**"...so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death.**

**"Therefore we are buried *with Him* by baptism 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*" (Rom. 6:3,4).**

Is not this partaking of the divine nature and living the resurrection life of Christ?

**"For *in Him* dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily,**

**"And ye are *complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.***

**"*In whom* also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made *without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ:***

**"Buried *with Him*<sup>5</sup> in baptism, wherein also ye are risen *with Him* through the faith of *the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead*" (Col. 2:9-12).**

Here too the believer is seen coming forth in resurrection life *with Christ*.

**"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us,**

**"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together *with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)***

**"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places *in Christ Jesus*" (Eph. 2:4-6).**

These are some of the glorious results of our baptism into the death of Christ. By becoming one with Him *in His death*, we became one with *Him*, and thus came through *with Him* to resurrection life and heavenly glory! *This* is the "one baptism" which has come to mean so much to us who recognize

the distinctive character of the revelation committed to Paul for believers today. May God help us to appropriate and enjoy the rich spiritual blessings that are bound up in this "one baptism." Nor will this take away from our appreciation of the birth of Christ. Rather it will deepen our appreciation of this wondrous event by which Christ was baptized into humanity, and will cause us to rejoice the more in His victory over sin and death and His present exaltation "far above all."

No longer do we know our Lord  
As "the Man of Galilee."  
Exalted now in highest heav'n  
At God's right hand is He.  
And yet, we well remember  
That to make us one with Him  
He came as Son of man to die  
In this dark world of sin.

Baptized into the human race,  
Baptized into our death,  
He took our guilt upon Himself  
Endured the shame and wrath.  
So now, by faith in Christ alone  
In heav'n we take our place;  
Forever justified from sin,  
The trophies of His grace. 

### Endnotes

1. After whom the "Baptists" were originally named.
2. See the writer's pamphlet: *Why Was Christ Baptized?*
3. Should the reader object that He was there identified with Israel and not with us, we reply, that Israel was then the only nation still recognized by God, and thus represented the whole human race. Cf. John 2:24-3:1: "*He knew all men...He knew what was in man,*" and then: "*There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.*"
4. Or, "*What a spot I am in.*"
5. Note: not "*like Him.*"

# Wisconsin Bible Conference

Grace Bible Church of Lancaster

Dates: August 30,31, 2008

**Location:** *Youth & Ag Building*  
Grant County Fairgrounds  
916 E. Elm Street (County Road A)  
Lancaster, Wisconsin 53813

**Speaker:** Pastor Les Feldick

**Theme:** *The Grace Message in Simple Terms*

For additional information, please contact:  
Mel Fogel (608) 348-7574, Jack Trumm (608) 794-2410,  
or John Steiner (608) 763-2378



# The Wisdom of Man

vs.

# The Wisdom of God



By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

Proverbs tells us that “*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*” (Prov. 1:7). What is in view here is not knowledge for the sake of knowledge. Nor is it the technical knowledge required for carrying out the duties of one’s job or profession. The subject of the Proverbs is the knowledge of God and His ways and how this knowledge is to be incorporated into the individual’s day-to-day lifestyle. The Apostle Paul also points out that the knowledge of God is essential to having a life-style that is pleasing to God (see Col. 1:9-10).

When the knowledge of God is correctly applied to a person’s life, it is transformed into “wisdom” which may be referred to as “skill for Godly living.” Engineers, doctors, lawyers, and other professionals must study for years to gain the knowledge to enable them to engage in the practice of their chosen line of work. But it is not until they actually begin putting into practice what they have learned formally that they will become proficient at what they do. And the same is true for the carpenter, electrician, athlete, teacher, banker, cook, salesman, delivery driver, farmer, mechanic, etc., etc. Knowledge about how to do something does no good until one begins doing it. If believers are going to demonstrate godliness in their lives, they must first learn of God and His ways and then seek to live accordingly by putting their knowledge into practice in their *thoughts, words, and actions*.

When we fear something we can flee from it, fight it, or submit to it. Of course, we know that the believer has “*not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father*” (Rom 8:15; also see II Tim. 1:7). Being redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, every believer is made completely acceptable to the Father in His Beloved Son (see Eph. 1:5-7). Being at peace with God (Rom. 5:1), there is no need to fear His judgment. However, it is proper to bow our hearts and lives to Him in appreciation of what Christ has done for us and to express awe and utmost reverence for the magnificence of His very being. This can only be truly demonstrated through submission to His will.

Godly living is successful living, regardless of one's social status or material wealth. The way of "wisdom" and the way of "foolishness" are contrasted in Proverbs to highlight the benefits of "wisdom living" and explain the consequences of "foolish living," i.e., living outside of the will of God. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul contrasted these two ways of living as walking in the flesh (foolish living) and walking in the spirit (wisdom living) {see Gal. 5:19-26}. Below are some other comparisons from Paul's Epistles.

## PRINCIPLES OF FOOLISH LIVING

### Man's Way

1. Concentrates on exercising power over others (Gal. 4:17).
2. Demands personal rights and freedoms (Rom. 14:15).
3. Generates self-centeredness by asking "what's in it for me?" (I Tim. 6:5).
4. Lives for the moment by focusing on short term goals that will produce immediate but superficial achievements (II Tim. 3:4).
5. Cultivates the desire to be served by others through exploitation (Gal. 6:12-13; I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 3:6).
6. Determines to push ahead and strive for success by whatever means available to get ahead and be "successful" in the world's eyes (II Tim. 3:2).
7. Seeks the praise of men (Acts 20:30) by trying to appear Godly through their own power (II Tim. 3:5).

## PRINCIPLES OF WISDOM LIVING

### God's Way

1. Concentrates on becoming submissive to God's will (Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 1:9).
2. Humbly accepts personal responsibilities (I Cor. 10:3-11:1).
3. Generates genuine concern for others by asking "how can I help?" (Phil. 2:5-8; Tit. 3:8).
4. Lives for the future by focusing on long range goals that will produce lasting achievements (I Cor. 3:8-15; Col. 3:1-4).
5. Cultivates the desire to serve others through edification (Rom. 14:19; 15:1-3; Phil. 2:1-4).
6. Recognizes the need to patiently wait on the Lord to open the door of opportunity to be "successful" in God's eyes (Eph. 6:18-20; Col. 4:2-6).
7. Seeks the approval of God and to glorify Him (I Cor. 10:31; Eph. 5:15-18; Col. 3:23-24). 





# A Tribute to our Beloved Mother

**“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints” (Psalm 116:15).**

After a long illness, the Lord took our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Lenava Mack—in her 86th year—home to Heaven on May 10, 2008. Now in the wonderful presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, she and Bernie (her beloved husband of 52 years and our dad) are rejoicing together in the love and grace and peace of God. Mom trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour after the tragic death of a close friend. She often told how this traumatic experience troubled her and the question she asked, “Where is my friend now?” lingered in her mind, while a voice seemed to respond: “*What about you, Lenava?*” It was through this event, and upon hearing the good news of God’s saving grace, that she simply believed “Christ died for [her] sins” (I Cor. 15:3) and the Lord gloriously saved her.

Through the ministry of Pastor Douglas Lee, the radio broadcasts of J. C. O’Hair and the writings of C. R. Stam, God opened her eyes to see that the former dispensation, with its Pentecostal powers, gave way to a new program, a new dispensation, and a new gospel—the Gospel of the Grace of God—as proclaimed by the Apostle Paul. Mom became a real soul-winner for the Lord Jesus Christ, witnessing to friends and loved ones—including our dad—about their soul and the Savior. With their love for the Gospel of Christ and as capable Bible teachers, Mom and Dad held Bible studies in their home and helped establish *Faith Bible Church* in Steger, Illinois. Above all, they made certain that we heard the Word daily and clearly understood the way of salvation. Scripture was read daily and the local Christian radio station was on continuously for us to hear. So we can truly say we all are without excuse. Perhaps their epitaph should read, “Faithful and true to the Lord and to each other.”

If our mom could speak with you now she would ask that same question that haunted her: What about you? Do you know where you will spend eternity? Mom knew and so can you if you simply put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins and is our risen Savior.

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

With love,  
The Mack Family

## Question Box

*“If eternal life is a free gift of God...how do we interpret Galatians 6:8...how can it be in the sense of sowing and reaping?”*

**“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Gal. 6:8).**

In writing to the Galatians, Paul is not talking to *unbelievers* to tell them how to get saved, but rather to *believers*. And since there is no corruption in Heaven (Matt. 6:19,20), we know he is talking to believers about reaping what they sow in *this* life. As believers, we *already have* eternal life as a present possession, and do not have to wait until death or Rapture to reap it.

Hence Paul is saying that if we sow to the Spirit, we will reap everlasting life *now*, in *this* life, i.e., *the benefits* of eternal life. Living a godly life is a blessing in and of itself, a taste of Heaven right here on earth! Thus Paul tells *believers*, “to be spiritually minded is *life*” (Rom. 8:6), and “if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, *ye shall live*,” i.e., *really live, live it up*, spiritually speaking (Rom. 8:13).

All of this is similar to what Paul said to Timothy:

**“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...” (I Tim. 6:12).**

Here again Paul is not talking about *obtaining* eternal life, but rather *laying hold* on the eternal life Timothy already possessed, similar to how you might “lay hold” on a sheep you already possess to rescue it (Matt. 12:11). Here Paul is introducing a thought that complements Galatians 6:8. When we live for ourselves, we lay hold on *this* life. When we *get in the fight for the faith*, we lay hold on *eternal* life. A battle-scarred veteran soldier has laid hold on his citizenship in a way that non-veterans can never fully understand or appreciate. And those who fight the good fight of faith similarly lay hold on their *heavenly* citizenship.

This is also similar to I Timothy 6:17-19:

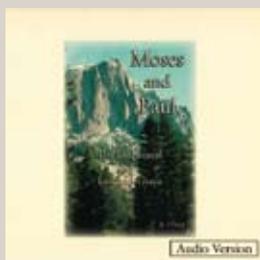
**“Charge them that are rich...that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute...that they may lay hold on eternal life.”**

Wealthy believers who are spending their riches on themselves are laying hold on *this* life, while those sacrificially supporting the Lord’s work are laying hold on *eternal* life.

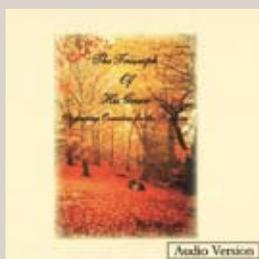
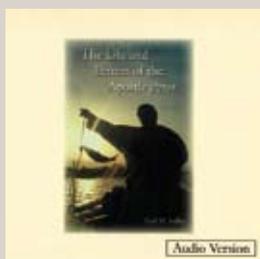
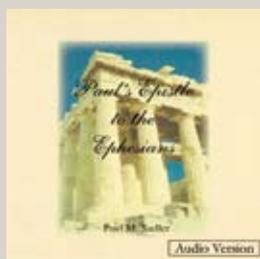
—Pastor Kurth

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Narrated by Dave Allen



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When you place an order for any of the above CDs, please be sure to **clearly** state **Books on CD**, with the title of the set you'd like to receive. Orders can also be placed online at [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org).

Orders up to **\$30.00**, please add **\$4.00** for postage and handling.

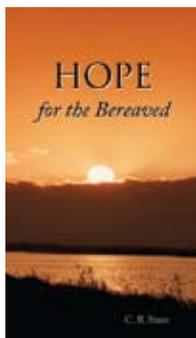
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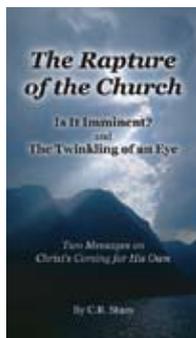
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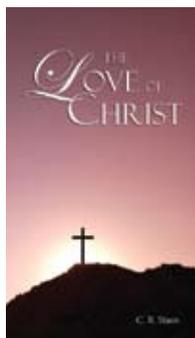
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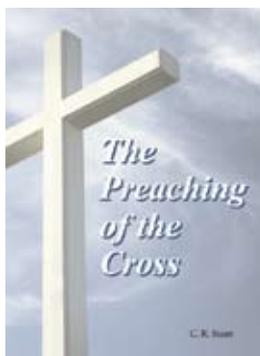
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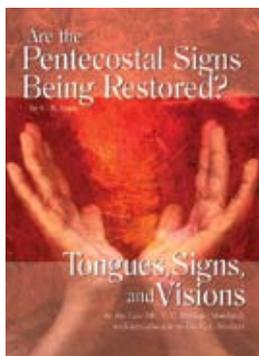
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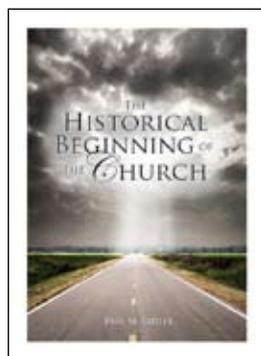
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## BBS Letter Excerpts

### **From the Internet:**

“Thank you for your web site. I have trusted Christ as my Savior today. I have struggled for years trying to earn my salvation. Today I read your web site and the Lord showed me that there was not anything that I could do except believe. Thanks again.”

### **From Pennsylvania:**

“I really got saved under Pastor C. R. Stam back in 1983 in my cell when listening to him on the radio. The subject was about water baptism. It seemed as though a light came on that I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that God was speaking through that man. I have been studying the Grace Message ever since!”

### **From Ohio:**

“I have a continual craving for the Word, rightly divided, and thankfully you help to satisfy it!” (It is good to give in to cravings if you crave the right thing!—RK).

### **From Minnesota:**

“Your explanation of Paul’s message of repentance...was the missing piece of the puzzle for me. I also enjoyed the article by Pastor Stam on the believer’s repentance.”

### **From Florida:**

“Thank you for helping me understand the General Epistles. I somewhat knew by studying, but now I feel more at ease when I explain it to others.”

### **From Indiana:**

“Although I’m no Johnny-come-lately as far as walking with my Lord, I must confess that I’m learning truth that I never knew about. I thank God for allowing me to live this long, and coming to know Him like I’ve never known Him before since I’ve started to read His Word, rightly divided...I lived a life of trying to live by the laws, and understood them, always trying and miserably failing to please God... I now understand so many things of which I was completely ignorant.”

### **From the Philippines:**

“Just a short note to express how we deeply appreciate your visit and participation during the recently concluded anniversary conference. Your fellowship with us brought great encouragement and was a real blessing to many of us and the work here.”

### **From Pennsylvania:**

“I’ve been attending church services and Bible study here, and had the opportunity to share the gospel of the grace of God according to the Mystery revealed to Paul. I have yet to receive any non-reception.” (Are you sure you’re not writing from Heaven?—RK).

### **From Kansas:**

“Thank you for heading me in the direction of ‘all spiritual blessings in heavenly places’ (Eph. 1:3). By knowing them, we can appropriate them by faith in prayer, and our life is changed to the praise of His glory.”

**From Louisiana:**

“I came across your web site and have begun to listen to Pastor Stam’s audio and reading from his library.”

**From Australia:**

“I’m a bit disappointed in this last issue and the prominence given to the article on global warming...I find it difficult to accept that the Bible actually shows us that ‘this global warming scare is false.’”

**From Florida:**

“*What About Global Warming* by John Willson is a great article and addresses the fear many people have today. I see video after video being posted today on various Christian video sharing sites that imply indirectly or directly that the end is near and the four horsemen of the apocalypse are getting ready to mount and ride.”

**From Arizona:**

“We are really excited to know you are coming here to *Grace Bible Church* this year.” (See you in Glendale on October 31st!—PS).

**From the Internet:**

“Today’s *Two Minutes* really hit home; anger is my downfall. Just like the shotgun, or in my case, the machinegun; as the ‘bullets’ fly everywhere spraying everything! People cross the road when I approach and who can blame them? As a believer, it’s not good—Satan scores every time!”

**From Ohio:**

“Thank you for the literature that my late husband received from you. The books he bought helped him to see the Grace message. And the Lord used him to teach and preach the Word, rightly divided.”

**From Pennsylvania:**

“Thank you so much for the enormous effort you made by driving to and from Pennsylvania to share your wonderful words of encouragement and edification. Sometimes out here in the far reaches of the Grace Movement we find ourselves almost giving up hope of such warm, live and meaningful encouragement.”

**From Minnesota:**

“I’ve enjoyed your *Philippians* articles and *Song of Solomon*. Keep up the good work.”

**From the Internet:**

“God richly bless you for your reply to me. I spent much time reading the articles on the Berean page and they were a blessing to me and answered most of my questions on tithing and also on the subject of revival.”

**From Minnesota:**

“According to my checking record, I seem to have forgotten to send you last month’s donation. So sorry, but at 89 years, forgetting is something I do best.”

**From the Philippines:**

“Thanks so very much for your articles on the *Mysteries of the Kingdom*. A very informative and down-to-earth treatment on this very controversial subject. Thanks for your excellent exposition on the book of joy, *Philippians*, and your uncompromising stand on the Word, rightly divided.”

**From Illinois:**

“Enclosed is a donation. I’ll try to make it monthly. I am 90 years old.” (It is never too late to get serious about supporting the Grace message.—RK).

“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

# Canadian Regional Meetings

**Dates:** September 20,21, 2008

**Location:** *Beacon of Grace Church*  
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

**Speaker:** Paul M. Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*

For additional information, please contact:

Jim Bartkiw at (905) 562-7170  
or e-mail: [naturesb@vaxxine.com](mailto:naturesb@vaxxine.com)

**May God richly bless these  
meetings to the praise  
of His glory!**

# Keystone State Meetings

**Dates:** September 27-28, 2008

**Location:** *Grace Family Bible Church*  
2243 Mill Road  
Duncansville, Pennsylvania

**Theme:** *A Peek at the Peaks of Prophecy*

**Guest Speaker:**

Pastor Ricky Kurth  
Associate Editor, *Berean Bible Society*

For additional information, please contact:

Pastor James Zaebst at (814) 696-4366  
or at [Pastorjim@atlanticbb.net](mailto:Pastorjim@atlanticbb.net)

***All are warmly welcome!***

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# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Where in the World is God Today?** is a good theme for a Bible conference held at a secular college campus, and Tony and Barb Sistelos are expecting students and faculty alike on September 19-20 for their *TBS Ministries* Indiana Bible Conference at Indiana State University. For more information, you can contact them at [sistelos@juno.com](mailto:sistelos@juno.com), or at 812-299-1047. Rick Owsley, Ed Bedore, Roy Kelsey, Don Sommer, and Jim Tollar could use your support as they endeavor to bring the Grace message to the hallowed halls of academia, and we know you'll be blessed by the teaching of the Word on these "perilous times" (II Tim 3:1-5).

**Acknowledging the Truth Which is According to Godliness** is a good theme for a Bible conference to be held at a Bible institute. The theme is drawn from Titus 1:1, of course, and speakers Rob Nix, Ricky Kurth, Tim Board, Richard Ware, Ken Lyon and Dan Wolgast will be teaching through the entire epistle of Titus, verse by verse. Why not join BBI students, faculty and alumni for this penetrating look into Paul's final pastoral epistle. For more information about this October 17,18 conference, contact the school at [bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org), or at 262-644-5504.

**Christ, Our Foundation** is a good theme for a Bible conference to be held just about anywhere, so we've scheduled one for November 7,8 at the *Highland Springs Resort*, 10600 Highland Springs Ave., Cherry Valley, CA 92223. Paul M. Sadler, Jerry Barrett and Harold Petersen have been invited to come break the bread of life at this California regional meeting. Please contact conference coordinator Sherry Hanna at 909-795-6677 or at [bbscalifconf@yahoo.com](mailto:bbscalifconf@yahoo.com), as close to August 31st as possible, to obtain a registration packet. There will be no conference fee, but a head count will help arrange auditorium seating and plan the Saturday luncheon.

**Paul's Use of the Old Testament** is a subject that puzzles many a grace believer, and so the *Berean Bible Fellowship* plans to address this question when they meet for their Fall Bible Conference on October 10th and 11th at *Grace Bible Church* in Yankton, South Dakota. Such texts as Acts 13:38-41, 28:25-31, Romans 4:17-25, 10:11-21; 15:4-13, I Corinthians 10:1-15, Galatians 3:6-16 and II Timothy 3:8-17 will be carefully considered and rightly divided. For further information, contact host pastor Joel Finck at [joelfinck@parsonspublishing.com](mailto:joelfinck@parsonspublishing.com) or at 605-463-2070.

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Mike Szafranski of Venice, Florida took our cover lighthouse photo. The *Key West Lighthouse* is located in Key West, FL. Lighthouse keeper was one of the first non-clerical U.S. government jobs open to women, and Barbara Mabrity "manned" this light for 38 years.

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