

The Berean Searchlight

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

August 2011



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

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From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write these words, the cause of Christ has suffered yet another embarrassing setback, as yet another prediction for the Rapture has come and gone without fulfillment. The damage that has been done is far too extensive to fully document in this brief space, but you've all heard the stories. The faith of sincere believers has been shaken. Some who spent their life savings to warn the world of the end are now left to pick up the pieces of their shattered financial lives. And since the media referred to the man who made this prediction as a "Bible scholar," unbelievers now have yet another reason to scoff at Christianity, laugh at the Bible and Bible teachers, and dismiss anyone who tries to share anything from the Bible with them.

In the past, those who have tried and failed to date the Lord's coming have sought to account for their failure in two ways. Some have explained that the date they set was accurate, but that the Lord's coming was a "spiritual" coming. Others have scrambled to cover themselves by admitting to a miscalculation, and setting yet *another* date. The Bible teacher behind this latest debacle has resorted to *both* excuses, and now warns that the end will come in October.

Thankfully, we serve a God who proved He can bring good out of bad when He took the worst thing that ever happened, the crucifixion of Christ, and turned it into the best thing that ever happened, the salvation of our souls. And so we trust that you will join us in prayer that the disillusioned followers of this discredited ministry will now begin to question its leader, and that grace believers everywhere will be able to use this sad event to lead these brethren to an understanding of the truth.

There is something we can learn from all this. Christians who believed that the Lord was coming on May 21st were spurred to live for Him as never before, enthusiastically telling their friends and loved ones to be ready. While this failed prediction has no doubt left some questioning if the Rapture will come at all, we who "love His appearing" still believe that we should be "*looking for that blessed hope*" (II Tim. 4:8; Titus 2:13). With that in mind, may each of us catch the wave of this misguided enthusiasm, and may His coming find us all busily redeeming whatever time we have left in the service of the Christ that loved us, and gave Himself for us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ricky Kurth



A MEMBER OF THE OLD GUARD IS CALLED HOME



Our good friend and fellow laborer in the gospel, Warren Keiper, was ushered into the glorious presence of our Lord on June 12th, just eight days shy of his 88th birthday. Warren and his wife Shirley have faithfully served as missionaries in Brazil, where they proclaimed the gospel of the grace of God for over 42 years.

One of Warren's and Shirley's early converts to Christ in Brazil was Bernardo Craesmeyer, who married their daughter Carol. Bernardo and Carol and family, along with Warren's son Leo and his wife Con, continue to carry on the work in their respective ministries to the praise of His glory.

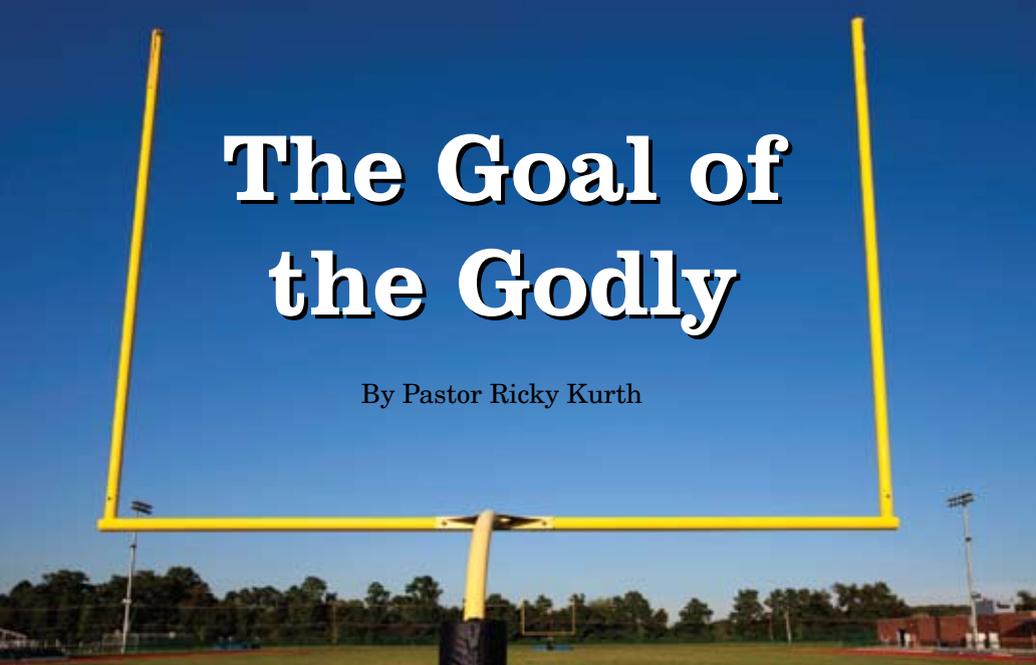
As Warren carried the gospel of Christ to "the regions beyond," he understood the importance of training the newly saved nationals in the Word, rightly divided. This, of course, is the Pauline way. The result was that several grace churches that were established in southern Brazil are now being led by Brazilian nationals. You can see the wisdom in Warren's approach because he knew that one day he would be with the Lord, but the work would continue in his absence. That day has now come!

I, for one, always appreciated Warren's faithful stand in the defense and confirmation of Paul's gospel. I observed over the years that every time there was a crisis over some unsound doctrine in the grace movement, Warren was always on the right side of the issue. This was the fruit of years of studying the Word of God. He had a deep burden for lost souls that will be surely rewarded at that day when the trump sounds.

May God comfort you, Shirley, with the full assurance that your beloved Warren is safe and secure in the everlasting arms. As Paul writes, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him" (II Cor. 5:8,9). It's reassuring to know that Warren is alive and well and busy in the Lord's service. In this we rest!

Greetings to all those who rejoice in the riches of His grace in South America, and be assured that we will be keeping Warren's entire family before the throne of Grace in your time of loss.

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



The Goal of the Godly

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

A message given June 21st, 2011 at the 43rd annual Bible conference of the *Berean Bible Fellowship* in Cedar Lake, Indiana.

“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death” (Phil. 3:10).

Probably everyone would agree that it is important to *set goals* in life, and the Apostle Paul seemed to be of the same mind. Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, he declares here that it was his purpose in life to “*know Him.*” Even though he’d known the Lord for about thirty years by the time he penned these words, he longed to know Him *better*, and this should also be the goal of all who long to live godly in Christ.

That I May Know Him

Now you wouldn’t think that coming to know Christ better would be a goal for Paul, consider-

ing all the trouble that knowing the Lord had caused him in the past! It started the day he met Christ and was stricken blind, leaving him unable to see for three days (Acts 9:9). How many of you, if stricken blind the day you met a man, would say to yourself, “Wow, I think I’d like to get to know that man *better*”? Then over the next three decades, knowing Christ caused Paul an immeasurable amount of trouble and *a world of hurt* (II Cor. 11:23-33). So why would anyone want to get to know a man like that *better*? Ah, you know the answer to that. It was because he believed that knowing Christ *was worth it*.

Now how ‘bout you? We’d wager to say that since you’ve known Christ, your life hasn’t been a peaches-and-cream bed of roses

either. Even if you haven't been subjected to the kind of physical abuse experienced by the Apostle Paul, do you remember how much easier your life was before you came to know Christ? Your money was all your own, with no spiritual obligation to support the Lord's work. Your time was also your own, to do with as you



pleased. You could sleep in on Sunday morning, and you didn't have to rush home from work on Wednesday to make it to midweek Bible study at church. No one *mocked* you for your faith, gave you the cold shoulder, or made your life difficult because of your outspoken testimony. You didn't have any of those concerns *before* you knew Christ! But now that you know Him, we're guessing that, like Paul, you consider it all worthwhile. And like Paul, we trust that it is your goal to get to know Him *even better* through His Word.

But while getting to know Christ is a worthy goal in life, it is important to get to know the *right* Christ. If you are wondering if there is a *wrong* Christ to get to know, Paul says that in his day some were preaching "*another Jesus*" (II Cor. 11:4), and this other Jesus is still being preached today.

This other *Jesus is Christ*, but He is "*Christ after the flesh*" (II Cor. 5:16), the Christ presented in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

If you are not sure why getting to know this Christ can be risky, remember that while He was here on earth, "Jesus Christ was a minister *of the circumcision*" (Rom. 15:8). If you're a Gentile, His earthly ministry was not for you, and following the instructions He gave while here on earth can lead you astray. What you need is a minister *for Gentiles*, and happily God has provided you one! The Apostle Paul says that he was given grace, as he says, "that I should be the minister of Jesus Christ *to the Gentiles*" (Rom. 15:15,16).

So the Christ that you want to get to know is the Christ who spoke "*wholesome words*" *through the Apostle Paul* (I Tim. 6:3). You want to get to know the Christ who through Paul tells us Gentiles that "we are not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:15), not the Christ who told the Jews to obey the Law (Matt. 23:1-3). As you know, many more contrasts like this could be drawn if we had the space. And yet sadly, this other Jesus is still the Christ that is preached by most preachers today, and just as Paul feared in II Corinthians 11:4, most Christians are bearing with such preachers.

The Power of His Resurrection

Of course, there is nothing wrong with *studying* Christ after the flesh, for Paul himself tells us that "all Scripture" is "profitable" (II Tim. 3:16). But getting to know Christ after the flesh will not

help you get to know “*the power of His resurrection*” (Phil. 3:10), the second phase of the goal of the godly. Studying the four gospels can teach you the *fact* of His resurrection, for all four gospels record it. But you cannot learn about the *power* of His resurrection there, neither at Pentecost, nor anywhere else in Scripture, until we get to Paul’s epistles.

Here we should point out that Paul was not speaking of coming to know the resurrection power that God will use to raise us from the dead after we die. We don’t have to know a thing about *that* power, for raising believers from the dead is all in God’s capable hands. Neither is Paul talking about coming to know the ability to *bestow* resurrection power to those who had died. Paul already knew all about that power (Acts 20:9-12)! No, Paul speaks here of coming to know more of the power that Christ’s resurrection gives us *to say no to sin*. That’s something no one can do until they come to know Christ.

If you are thinking that you know plenty of unbelievers who seem to be able to say no to sin, we would suggest that it only *looks* like they say no to sin; the Word of God says otherwise. God says that even “*the plowing of the wicked is sin*” (Prov. 21:4). While there is nothing sinful about a farmer plowing a field, God says that when an *unbeliever* plows his field *it is sin*. That’s because *everything the unbeliever does is sin*. Even “wonderful works” like prophesying or casting out devils are considered “iniquity” when done by unbelievers (Matt. 7:22,23 cf. Isa. 64:6). Despite the fact that

God Himself required animal sacrifices, when they were done by unbelievers, God considered it “*an abomination*” (Prov. 15:8). The unsaved man is “*without strength*” to say no to sin (Rom. 5:6), but once he gets saved, he comes to know *the power of His resurrection*.

This doesn’t mean that, when tempted to sin, Christians feel some mysterious power come over them that *prevents* them from sinning. This writer used to read verses like our text and thought that when tempted to sin, other Christians felt the power of Christ’s resurrection literally coursing through their veins, and were somehow supernaturally *prohibited* from grieving God’s Spirit (Eph. 4:30). If you think the same thing, and wonder why you do not feel what you assume other saints feel, we would rush to assure you that the power of His resurrection doesn’t *keep you* from sinning, it merely enables you to



say no to sin. Before you were saved, you *had* to sin, because everything you did was sin! But now that you know Christ, you have the power to say no to sin, and when you do good works, *God no longer considers them sin*.

Now that you *can* say no to sin, *don’t you want to?* For many years in our nation’s history, women

were not allowed to vote. Once they were given the opportunity, most women who loved their country welcomed the chance to do what they couldn't do before. Similarly, we would think that all who love the Lord would welcome the opportunity to do what they couldn't do before: *say no to sin*.

That's the power that Paul wanted to know *more* of, and the power you should want to know more of as well. Just remember that there is nothing mysterious about it. You just have to suck it up and be a man or woman of God and *just say no to sin*.

There *is*, however, one thing that will help you with this, the thing that Paul just mentioned—*getting to know Christ better!* The more you learn about the unseen wrath of God that Christ bore on Calvary, and the countless blessings that His sacrifice there procured for you, the less you will want to disgrace the grace that saved you.

The Fellowship of His Sufferings

But there is more to the Christian life than simply saying no to sin and doing good works. There is also the third phase of the goal of the godly, the final thing that Paul declared he wanted to get to know better, "*the fellowship of His sufferings*" (Phil. 3:10). Elsewhere the apostle states that it was his goal in life to "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ" (Col. 1:24).

Now here we must be careful to note that he was not speaking about sharing in any afflictions *for our sins* which Christ left behind, for we read that Christ "*by*

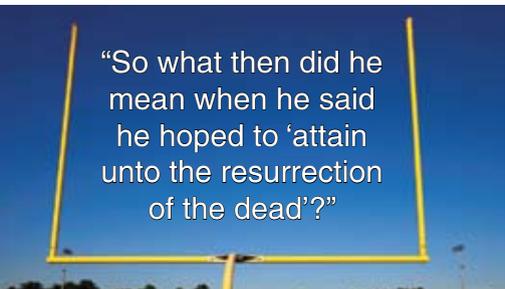
Himself purged our sins" (Heb. 1:3) without any help from us. God is not impressed when unbelievers try to pay for their sins by suffering the loss of meats and other things during Lent, etc. The only suffering for sin that avails with God is the suffering Christ endured on Calvary.

So what afflictions *did* Christ leave behind for us? What sort of things can *we* suffer that will enable us to enter into the fellowship of His sufferings? Well surely, like Paul, we can "*suffer reproach*" for the cause of Christ (I Tim. 4:10), something the dictionary defines as contempt, scorn or derision. And since "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall *suffer persecution*" (II Tim. 3:12), this affords us yet another opportunity to enter into the fellowship of His sufferings.

Some might protest that it is impossible to suffer persecution in the United States, where our Bill of Rights assures us of freedom of religion. But the Bible defines persecution as more than just the mistreatment, harassment, or physical abuse we normally associate with this word. Galatians 4:29 says that Ishmael "persecuted" Isaac, but when we check the record we find that Ishmael persecuted his brother by *mocking* him (Gen. 21:9). Thus if you've ever been *mocked* for your faith, you have entered into precious fellowship with the One who was mocked by the very people who should have been bowing before Him (Mark 15:31).

If the Lord were here, the world would be causing *Him* to suffer reproach and persecution at their hands. Since He is *not*

here, the world is only too happy to cause *us* to suffer these things. It reminds us of when Richard Nixon lost California's gubernatorial race in 1962, and then held a news conference to announce that he was retiring from politics. In a famous quote, he told the members of the press, "you won't have Nixon to kick around any more." In a similar fashion, the world doesn't have Christ to kick around any more, *but they have us!* And if you dare stand boldly for the Lord Jesus Christ, you too will suffer the rejection that men would gladly give the Lord were He here to receive it.



"So what then did he mean when he said he hoped to 'attain unto the resurrection of the dead?'"

It is this rejection that Paul longed to know *more* of. Now you think about that! After all that Paul had *already* gone through for the cause of Christ (II Cor. 11:23-33), he wanted to know *more* of the fellowship of His sufferings! This reminds us of the time boxer Ken Norton broke the jaw of Mohammed Ali with one powerful punch. Ali shook off the blow and began motioning to Norton to *hit him again*, as if the wallop had meant nothing to him. Norton later related that he could literally hear the broken bones rattling around in his opponent's jaw, and yet he was beckoning for even more punishment! *That was the Apostle*

Paul, and that *should* be every one of us! Rather than letting the rejection of men get us down, we ought to determine to take the best shot the world can give *and keep coming back for more!*

Being Made Conformable Unto His Death

Having said that, you don't *have to* enter the fellowship of His sufferings, for participation in this fellowship is optional. But if you choose to enter into it, you'll find yourself "*being made conformable unto His death*," as Paul himself experienced (Phil. 3:10). On the cross, the Lord suffered what *you* should have suffered. When you now suffer the rejection that *He* would be suffering if He were here, you are made conformable unto the selflessness of His death.

And when you do this, you let the world know that *Christ is alive and living in you*. Paul said that he was "always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (II Cor. 4:10). When you live for the Lord and for others in the midst of a world filled with people living only for themselves, you show forth the life of Christ. When you say "not my will, but Thine be done," you show forth the life of the One who said it first, in the very shadow of the Cross.

Attaining Unto the Resurrection

Now if you are wondering why anyone would long to be made conformable unto the Lord's death, Paul goes on to explain that he did it "*if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection*

of the dead” (Phil. 3:11). Now here again, we must be careful to note what Paul was *not* saying. He was not saying that he willingly suffered the things that he suffered in the service of the Lord to ensure that he would someday rise from the dead and go to heaven. The apostle knew that we are saved by the things that Christ suffered, and not by any sufferings of our own. So what then did he mean when he said he hoped to “attain unto the resurrection of the dead”?

Well, if the word “attain” were to appear in the very next verse, do you think that might tell us what Paul had in mind? Of course it would! The context of any verse of Scripture is always key to understanding it! And so when we read in verse 12, “not as though I had already *attained*, either were already *perfect*,” it tells us that attaining the resurrection of the dead was equivalent to attaining *perfection*. At the Rapture, the dead in Christ will rise from the dead *to sin no more*, and it was this perfection that Paul longed to realize *now*, in *this* life. The great apostle was not satisfied to wait for the perfection that the resurrection will bring us, *and neither should you be!* He wanted to attain this perfection without delay, “*by any means*” possible (v. 11).

Now how about you? Are you willing to seek to attain unto the resurrection of the dead *by any means*? Before you answer, let’s review the means he has already delineated. Paul was willing to come to know more of Christ and the power of His resurrection, saying no to sin and yes to good works, sharing in the afflictions

He left behind as he was made conformable to His death by living for the Lord and for others rather than for himself. Those are *severe means!* But they are methods that you too must be willing to adopt if you long to attain unto the resurrection of the dead *in this life*. Giving yourself wholly to the Lord and His service is your only hope of getting anywhere near to the perfection for which your heart yearns.

But we hasten to add that if the great apostle Paul had to confess that he had not attained unto the resurrection of the dead, *you probably won’t either*. So what should you do? We recommend you do what Paul did, and “*follow after*” (Phil. 3:12). Follow after *what*? Follow after perfection! Why? For the same reason Paul followed after it: as he says, “if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus” (v. 12).



What a great word to describe what happened to Paul on Damascus Road! This word that means *to take* or *to seize* is usually used by law enforcement when a *suspect* is apprehended. But if it be a word usually associated with bad guys, what better word to use when describing how the murderous Saul of Tarsus was

apprehended while en route to commit further atrocities against the disciples of the Lord.

Why the Apprehension?

Since Paul here declares that it was his desire to apprehend that for which he was apprehended, we must now ask *why* the Lord apprehended Paul. Was it to get him to stop killing the saints? Yes, but *much more than that*. Was it to save his soul from hell? Again yes, but *much more!* The reason God apprehends any of us is “*that we should be holy and without blame before Him*” (Eph. 1:4), and it is *this* that Paul longed to apprehend!

Now we need to make clear that the moment God saves us, He *makes us* holy (Eph. 4:24) and without blame (Col. 1:21,22) *in Christ*, and at the Rapture our state will be made to match our standing. But in the meantime, each one of us should be interested in apprehending that for which we were apprehended *now*, in *this* life.

This is the key to the Christian life, to simply *be who you are in Christ*. God apprehended you to make you holy and blameless, and then *made you* holy and blameless in His sight, and now asks you to *be* holy and blameless in your daily walk with Him. That’s what Paul did! Remember when he reminded the Thessalonians of, as he says, “*how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you*” (1 Thes. 2:10). He then asked them to recall that “*God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness*” (4:7), and challenged the Philippians to “*be*” blameless (Phil. 2:14,15).

Beloved, God didn’t just save you to keep you out of hell. That’s just a *pleasant side effect* of your salvation. God saved you to make you holy and unblameable, so that you can enter into the fellowship of His sufferings, and be made conformable unto His death, and it should be your heart’s desire and prayer to God *to apprehend that for which you were apprehended*.

One of the most popular television programs in the 1960s was *The Fugitive*. Fictional character Dr. Richard Kimble was wrongly accused of killing his wife, and police Lieutenant Philip Gerard pursued him *relentlessly* in an effort to *apprehend* him. He never gave up. That’s how we should pursue the perfection of the resurrection of the dead. Never give up! Never give in! It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.

Conclusion

The Apostle Paul had spent countless hours studying God’s Word, and had received innumerable revelations from the Lord. Yet it was his stated goal—his *passion in life*—to know Him *more*. Is that your passion, your goal in life? We hope you are never satisfied with your knowledge of Christ, and that your goal in studying His Word is to get to know *Him* better.

The world has an expression: “It’s not *what* you know; it’s *who* you know.” While this is often true in worldly things, it is *always* true when it comes to behaving holily and unblameably. We close by encouraging you to *get to know Christ*, and make it your goal in life to apprehend that for which you were apprehended of the Lord. 



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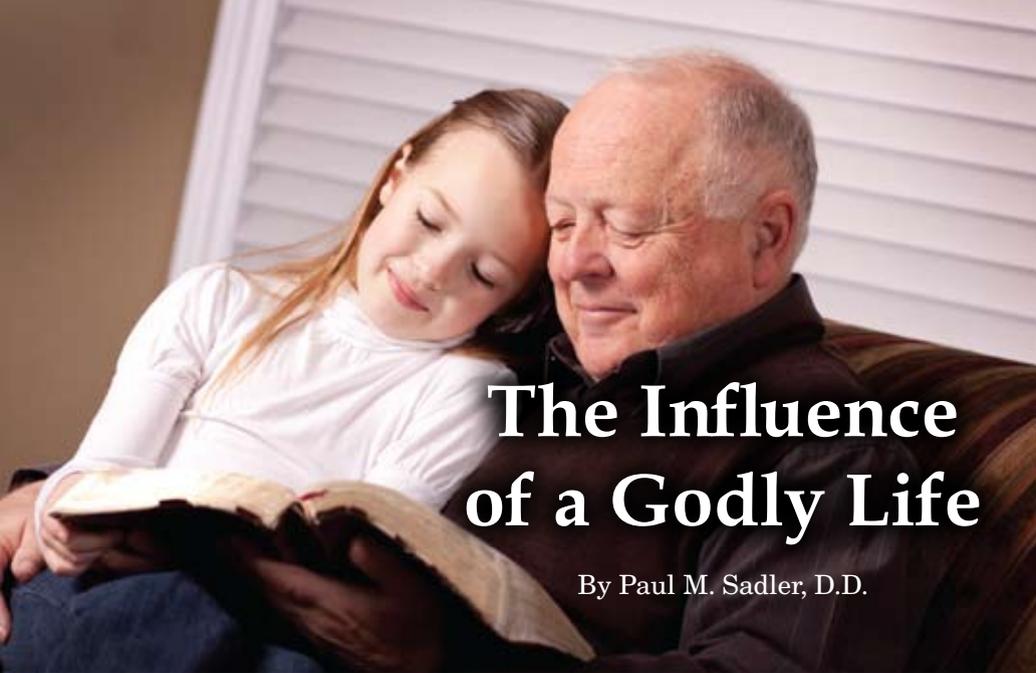
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"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts" (I Thes. 2:4).





The Influence of a Godly Life

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

According to the *Asia-Pacific Institute of Biblical Studies*, “Robert LeTourneau, successful businessman and consecrated Christian, tells of an early experience when he had little capital to set up manufacturing for himself, so he sold some patents on machinery to a well-known businessman. Then this man asked him what wages he would ask to enter his service as an employee. LeTourneau was not too eager to do this, so he named a price that was high. The man accepted him at once.

“Then he said, ‘You have some machinery in that little shop of yours, haven’t you?’ And when LeTourneau assented, his new employer told him, ‘Make a list of every piece of machinery you have, together with the amount you would be willing to take for it.’ LeTourneau did so and, when he presented it to the business executive in his office, he was handed a check for the entire amount, as the businessman said, ‘All your equipment is mine now.’

“Mr. LeTourneau adds: ‘I said to myself, this man is a very keen business executive. Why did he buy me out? I did not have to study very long before the answer became clear to me. I had been engaged to give my undivided attention to his affairs, and he did not want me to return to my old interests. The experience taught me a great lesson: God demands that we sell out to Him. We must have no side issues or distractions.’”

This account rings so true because when we are totally sold out to the things of the Lord, our lives will be an open book. We become epistles “known and read of all men,” as we are going to see.

PAUL'S COUNSEL

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Rom. 15:4).

We emphasize, and rightly so, that it is important to rightly divide the Word of truth. The Word of God makes a clear distinction between God’s eternal purpose for the earth and His purpose for our exaltation with Christ in the heavenlies. But we must always bear in mind that there are strands of truth that cross dispensational boundaries. We call them *principles*. For example, the importance of living a godly life is not only a consistent theme in Paul’s writings, but it is also taught in time past.

We can learn a great deal from Paul’s counsel here, that there are many important lessons to be gleaned from the lives of those believers who lived before us. Sadly though, not all believers live for the Lord. Lot is a good example of what not to do! Lot’s righteousness is said to have been vexed, which simply means he was distressed and tormented because he lived in the midst of the ungodly at Sodom. But he did so of his own volition. If you want to understand more fully what God thinks of those who reject Him and live in ungodliness, you need only read Genesis 19:12-29.

The life and times of Daniel serves as a testament, for time and eternity, how living a righteous life is well pleasing to God. It also demonstrates how our lives touch the lives of both the saved and unsaved. The story about Daniel’s life is more than a story about lions. His life is a prime example of the *influence of godliness*. He consistently applied the Word of God to his everyday life with remarkable results. To Daniel it wasn’t an on-again, off-again matter when it was convenient; it was his life. This is the key to godliness! You see, it is one thing to have a knowledge of the Word of God, but it’s an entirely different matter to apply it in your daily walk with the Lord.

I think most have been raised from childhood with the following moral compass, which is based on the Scriptures: When we do right we will be rewarded, and when we do wrong we will be punished. But in the household of faith, this isn’t always the case. Sometimes wrong is rewarded, and we’re punished for doing what is right as believers. The narrative in Daniel chapter six is a case in point.

KING DARIUS’ SEARCH FOR HONORABLE MEN

“It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage” (Dan. 6:1,2).

Darius, who was the king of Persia, wisely adopted a chain of command by first appointing 120 princes to oversee all the affairs of state.

They primarily attended to political and legal matters and oversaw the collection of taxes. The king then appointed three presidents over the 120 princes. They were responsible to watch over the princes so that the king didn't suffer any financial losses. They weeded out any corruption or illegal acts. Daniel was one of these three presidents and so was a trusted advisor.

We want to pause here a moment to say that we are never too young to serve the Lord, nor are we ever too old. Joseph was only 17 when he was sold into Egypt. In the years that followed, God providentially used him to spare both Egypt and Israel from a famine that lasted seven years. On the other end of the spectrum, Daniel was about 80 years of age when he held this position in the king's court. He wasn't sitting in a rocking chair in his golden years (rusty to some) passing the time. Not Daniel—he was faithfully serving the Lord. As



a result, God, in His sovereignty, moved in the heart of the king to promote Daniel to the second highest position in the kingdom.

“Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm” (Dan. 6:3).

Normally, advancement in the world is based on who you know or how well you perform your duties. With God, on the other hand, it's who you are. Daniel's relationship with the Lord was rock solid. He was an honest, righteous man who always sought the face of God in prayer. Unlike many before and after him in the faith, there is not one word of warning, criticism, or rebuke ever spoken of him in the Scriptures (cf. Ezek. 14:14,20).

Interestingly, the Lord has His people in every walk of life to testify of His greatness. This was true of Daniel who held the highest position in the realm; and also of Mary, the mother of our Lord, who was the poorest of the poor (Luke 1:46-56). Always remember, when others learn you are a believer, they will watch you like a hawk. If you don't think so, simply say or do something inappropriate, and they will be the first to point out your indiscretion. As the old hymn by Philip P. Bliss says, “Dare to Be a Daniel!”

THE PILLARS OF A GODLY LIFE

Daniel is said to have had an “excellent spirit” or preeminent spirit (Dan. 6:3). In other words, he had a great *attitude*. He was approachable; you could talk to Daniel and always feel you were receiving a

fair hearing. He paid close attention to what was being said, which showed an interest in those who engaged him.

The first place your attitude shows up is at work or school. We've all had to deal with someone who had a bad attitude. They usually are very difficult people to work with, so you try your best to avoid them because you know that everything you attempt to do to help them only leaves you with a sense that they are superior. Usually, in their minds, everyone is always against them!

As Daniel carried out his responsibilities, he wasn't jealous of others, as others were of him. He wasn't ambitious and trying to move up the corporate ladder, as they say, in his own strength. Nor was he unreasonable; in fact, he was just the opposite. He had a great work ethic; therefore, those who worked alongside him found it to be an enjoyable experience. Those of the king's court naturally sought him out for his wisdom and vast knowledge of the affairs of state and life in general.

“Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him” (Dan. 6:4).

Notice that Daniel wasn't just faithful in church or at the synagogue where believers are expected to be respectable. He was also equally faithful in carrying out his secular responsibilities in the kingdom of Darius, and was completely trustworthy with his use of time, finances, and goods.

When those who conspired against Daniel searched through his personal effects, there was nothing lacking. There was no hidden dirt whatsoever; therefore, the presidents and princes who spied on him found absolutely NO fault or error in him. Why? Daniel was a just man (Prov. 20:7). You see, a life of *purity* can stand up under the most intense scrutiny.

Not to be deterred, the presidents developed a new plan to destroy Daniel that was nothing short of diabolical. Since they were well aware that the prophet believed in the God of Israel and prayed three times a day facing Jerusalem, they knew this was an area where he would be vulnerable. So they appealed to the overweening vanity of the king:

“King Darius, live forever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions” (Dan. 6:6,7).

Notice that they wanted Darius to declare himself to be a god for thirty days. This wasn't unusual in itself because most ancient kings often believed themselves to be a god or at least an extension of the

gods. But what is important to note about this request was the motive behind it. Clearly the wicked were out to get rid of Daniel once and for all, and they were convinced they had the perfect plan to accomplish their end. But, as we will see, they would live to regret their actions.

Did you catch the lie in verse 7 that was propagated by these unscrupulous men? They stated, “**all** the presidents...have consulted together,” which, of course, was untrue. Daniel, who was chief among them, wasn’t consulted. So the web of deception and lies was carefully spun together to have Daniel thrown to the lions.

One thing the conspirators quickly learned about Daniel was that he was a godly man who *walked consistently* with his God. As we learned a moment ago, he prayed three times a day facing Jerusalem, the city of God. It is important to remember that Israel at the time was in captivity, so she was outside the land. Daniel simply went before the Lord in prayer as he normally did. Even in the face of certain death, he refused to alter his routine. He had such a close relationship with the Lord that he knew God could and would deliver him from the mouths of hungry lions, if that was His will.

Once the conspirers entrapped Daniel, they piously approached the king to remind him of his airtight decree and how Daniel had broken it. According to the Law of the Medes and Persians, the decree could not be changed (Dan. 6:15). Not even the king, as much as he wanted to, could save Daniel from its consequences. The king believed Daniel to be an honorable man whose conduct was above reproach. Consequently, Darius labored to the going down of the sun to release Daniel, but to no avail.



DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

“Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions....And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel” (Dan. 6:16,17).

Darius had such a love and respect for his trusted advisor that he suffered through a long, restless night, hoping Daniel’s God would do what he was unable to do—deliver Daniel! After the den was sealed with the king’s signet, Daniel was left alone with a dozen or so vicious lions.

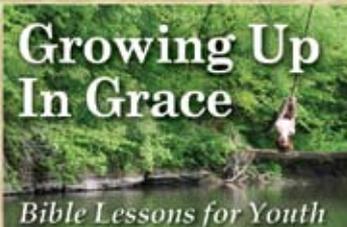
Those who deny the supernatural have concluded that the reason no harm came to Daniel was because these were all old, *toothless*

lions. Personally, I have never seen a toothless lion, have you? The reason no harm came to Daniel that night was because God sent an angel to protect the prophet and shut the lions' mouths. God is not only involved in the affairs of men; He is also in complete control of His animal creation.

Darius arrived at the den at the crack of dawn to see if his friend was still alive. The king cried out to Daniel with a mournful voice to which Daniel replied, "O king, live forever. My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me" (Verses 21,22). Darius was so relieved that he immediately had Daniel hoisted out of the den.

Knowing that he had been deceitfully manipulated by those who accused Daniel, the king had them, their wives, and their children cast into the lions' den. He wanted to purge his kingdom of these liars and deceivers as well as their posterity, who would have the same tendency. What happened next is proof beyond a shadow of a doubt that Daniel's deliverance from sure death in the lions' den was indeed a miracle: Before those who accused Daniel hit the floor of the den, they were torn into pieces by the lions (Dan. 6:24). So much for toothless lions!

The influence of a godly life is far-reaching. We must ask ourselves, though, how would we fare under similar circumstances? The day may well come that we too will be tested at the hands of evil men prior to the Rapture. Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might, and remember the steadfast faith and courage of Daniel! 



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Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:23

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and / pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

LESSON 33

THE BIBLE & SCIENCE

Part 2

By Steve Shober, BS, MS, ND

The Bible and science help us marvel at His handiwork.

ENGAGE

Scientific discoveries help us understand what God has done. True science does not harm our faith; it actually confirms the absolute accuracy of God's Word.

ENLIGHTEN

Introduction

The one constant truth is that we can have absolute trust in His Word. The Bible is a book primarily about spiritual matters, i.e., the things that are eternally important to all people. It alone holds the truth on such matters. On matters of science, good biblical interpretation and true science should agree, so there should be no conflict between the two. Problems arise from wrong beliefs or with poor science, **but the Bible itself is never wrong**. In general, science is nothing more than humans discovering what God has done. This week we will look at some hoaxes and misunderstandings to see how both science and biblical interpretations have been wrong. Then we will look at some marvelous agreements between science and Scripture.

Hoaxes and Misunderstandings

Scientists, mischievous people, and religious people have had a long history of perpetuating hoaxes (a deception in order to prove a point). People do this to promote their cause. The hoaxes and misunderstandings shown below reveal how dishonest and untruthful people can get.

1. Giants: The internet and books have many references to giant human beings being discovered. Some people want to provide proof for Genesis 6:4, which notes that before Noah's flood, **“There were giants in the earth in those days.”** As an example, what has been used for proof is the result of a photo contest designed to purposely make convincing photos of improbable things. For this contest people made: a small human fairy with wings, a Starbucks symbol in

ancient cave paintings, a Cyclops' skull, and a giant human (really reconstructed mammoth bones with a fake skull). No real giant was discovered. Unfortunately, this intentional, fake giant has been used as proof of the Bible by some Christians who were deceived.

2. Piltdown man: in the early days of the creation-evolution debate it was argued there was no 'missing link'; a creature somewhere between apes and man. It was said that if a missing link could be found that would really provide evidence that evolution was correct. Conveniently, in 1912, in Piltdown, England, the skull of the missing link was found. Actually, this missing link's skull was the lower jawbone of an orangutan combined with the skull of a fully developed modern man. This was an intentional deception, by a scientist(s), to prove evolution. No one today believes this is the missing link, just a hoax. Interestingly, it took scientists 40 years to discover the error.



3. Man and Dinosaur Footprints: as you know, according to evolutionary theory, dinosaurs and man did not live anywhere near the same time (millions of years separated them). So, it would be impossible to find a human fossil

next to a dinosaur fossil, or the footprints of the two side-by-side. Yet in the Paluxy River, near Glen Rose, Texas, believers in creation found just that, man and dinosaur footprints together in the same rock layer. This would mean they existed during the same time period, and this would cast doubt on the whole evolutionary theory. Books and movies have been made of this. Fortunately, when honest, properly trained Christians examined the site they found the supposed man footprints were not human at all. The books and movies have been taken off the market because of this error. In spite of the truth, some Christians still promote this error. We do not promote evolutionary teaching, nor do we condone foolish errors trying to promote our beliefs.¹

The Bible and Science Agree

Clouds and Rain: the Bible makes it clear that one of the marvels of our world was the creation of the firmament (the atmosphere), clouds, and rain (the basic effort of the second day in Gen. 1:6-8). As you know, without an atmosphere and rain, life on earth could not exist. Job 36:27 says, "**For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof.**" He established this cycle for ever and ever, Ps. 148:4-6. God mentions many times (Jer. 10:13, 51:16; Ps. 135:7; and Job 36:27) about the creation of water vapor and the formation of rain. In addition, the Bible mentions the hydrological cycle of how mist/vapor goes up to form clouds, the clouds condense to form rain, the

rain waters the ground, it then runs into rivers which empty into the oceans. The oceans never fill-up because the water evaporates to start the whole cycle again (Eccl. 1:7 and Isa. 55:10). When the Bible speaks of scientific things it speaks with authority because the Creator knows!



Hygiene: The recognition of germs as the cause of many diseases was primarily proven by Louis Pasteur (1822-1895 AD). Throughout history there have been major pandemics (large areas or worldwide outbreaks of infectious diseases) because of a lack of proper hygiene. Most of these outbreaks could have been prevented by personal hygiene, clean water supplies, and proper sewage disposal. One pandemic killed 20-30 million people in Europe alone. Even doctors would go from one patient to another without washing their hands; they were often a primary cause for the spread of disease. Long before anyone had an idea of germs, the Bible established dietary laws and hygiene principles (Lev. 15:13 and Deut. 23:12-13) to protect His people. Isolation of the infected, destroying contaminated items, washing, bathing, cleaning

clothes in running water, and disposal of waste were ways to prevent germs from spreading and causing outbreaks of disease. Only the God of creation knew about germs and how to prevent them from harming His people. While the Bible may speak in simple terms, it is scientifically correct.

Nature of Humans: the Bible makes it clear that humans are very special in God's creation. We are different because we are composed of three parts; no other created thing has these three parts. We are made of a body, a soul (our mind, emotions, personality), and a spirit (that part of us which knows there is a God), 1 Thess. 5:23. Only our body is composed of material things, the other two parts are not seen. The invisible parts of us are the most important. Our body will die, but our soul and spirit live forever (our body will be resurrected and made new when Christ comes at the Rapture). The fact our soul and spirit live forever is why salvation is so important.

Much of the Bible talks about the relationship between the three parts. If one of these parts suffers it will affect the other parts. Each part depends upon the other. For example, if we are mentally or emotionally upset (soul), it will eventually affect our body, and vice versa (Prov. 14:30, 15:30, 16:24, 17:22). Many mental and physical diseases can have their source in our body, our mind (soul), or our spirit—showing the connection between the three parts of our make-up, just as the Bible describes.

What makes us different than animals is the fact we have a spirit.

This required a special creation by God. Genesis 1:27 reads, “**So God created man in his own image...**” Scientists cannot find a spirit in living humans so they surely cannot find a spirit in the fossil record. For anyone to speak of the evolution of mankind is to be ignorant of our spiritual nature. The higher animals have a mortal soul (which will die), which makes them aware of themselves and things around them. However, they have no spirit, so they have no clue about the supernatural. No amount of training or evolution can make an animal aware of God because such awareness comes only from the spirit. No one can explain how a ‘spirit’ comes into existence by evolution. God alone can explain our origin!

Age of Mankind: the difference between biblical beliefs and scientific proclamations often comes to light on this topic. The topic will not be covered completely in this lesson, but the student deserves some insights into the age of mankind.

First, please be aware Bible believers have alternative views of the creation account in Genesis. Considering only the acceptable views, some believe in a young earth and some an old earth; but all believe that mankind was a special creation by God, not an evolutionary process. Thus, regardless of one's view of the age of the earth, the issue is how the Bible compares with science on the age of mankind. Scientists have to admit they know only a tiny fraction of all that can be known; so science itself is changing in its understanding of mankind's origin.

Second, biblical dates can be a problem. Bishop Ussher (1581-1656 AD) established dates for the events of the Bible (shown in many Bibles). His dates are fairly reliable going back in time, until the events in early Genesis. Then Ussher's dates are doubtful. He indicated the earth was created in 4004 BC (he even gave the date as October 23rd). The method he used to establish these early dates is now suspect as to accuracy. He used the Bible's genealogies (listings of who begat whom) in Genesis but did not know the ‘begetter’ could be the grandfather or great-grandfather, not the actual father of the ‘begat.’ Thus, we now recognize the earth could be older than 6,000 years.

Discussion:

Ussher's dates may have caused great harm for Christendom, why?

(Thoughts: when European missionaries went to the Orient and showed them that creation took place in 4004 BC, the people quickly rejected the Bible because they had historical records showing people lived before 4004 BC. An open door was closed and false religions prospered in their cultures.)²

Finally, what has anthropology (scientific study of humans) found? What evidence could they use to show the approximate date of mankind's (Homo sapiens) origin? The evidence of spiritual things would give an indication of when mankind came on the scene, since we are the only created being with a

spirit. So what are spiritual things? Evidence of the use of hand tools or opposing thumbs won't work because primates qualify. Burial of the dead (elephants do something similar), and decorating living areas (bower birds do this), won't work because they are not things of the spirit. Spiritual things would be those things that relate to God and worship of Him. So, things of the spirit would be evidence of divine worship, religious relics, altars, or temples. Anthropologists searching for evidence of religious relics and altars find such evidence dates back to around 8,000 years.² Thus, science indicates the first spiritual beings (humans) were not millions of years ago, as often reported. The difference between our understanding of the Bible and science seems much less than before.

ENERGIZE

Summary and Application

There are many hoaxes in this world. However, scientific and biblical training will help keep you from believing them. The Bible and science agree on the need for, and workings of, the hydrologic cycle. The understanding of hygiene in the 1800's was only confirmation of what God had revealed thousands of years before. Humans are unique in all of creation; we alone have a spirit. Our spirit knows there is a God and desires a relationship with Him. Anthropologists and Christian beliefs are in closer agreement than before on the possible dates of human origin. Knowing science helps a person appreciate and stand in awe of the

greatness of our God. A Christian can be a scientist and maintain a strong faith in Christ. Honest, sincere Christians can have a positive impact upon science.

Gospel

Your spirit knows you need a special relationship with God. The Bible teaches you can't create this relationship; it comes from God through faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior.



Encouragement

Adult Christians praise the Lord for teens who trust in Christ and who are willing to stand for Him. You have the strength of the Holy Spirit within you to continue, even though it may seem impossible at times. Thank you for your faith and for bringing honor to Him in every part of your life. His rewards and blessing are beyond anything science can reveal. You are to be thought of very highly for trusting in His Word (which does reveal the ultimate truth). 

References

1. Collins, John; *Science & Faith: Friends or Foes?*; Crossway Books, 2003.
2. Ross, Hugh; *The Fingerprint of God*; Whitaker House, 1989.

Time Well Spent

By Pastor Kevin Sadler



BBI's first students and instructors

There were eight students who began at *Berean Bible Institute* in its inaugural year of 1996. We likened ourselves to the eight who got on the Ark before the flood. Having graduated this past May, it took me fifteen years to finally get off the Ark! Some have asked why it took me so long. One reason is that this is a benefit provided by the school, to go part-time. Since my wife and I were raising a family during this time, I just took a class or two per semester as I was able so that I wouldn't be gone from my family too much. The other reason I kept on going was because I loved the school and how God was using it to change my life in a way I could never fully explain.

Having been raised in a grace home, I knew the Bible accounts of the Old Testament, the Gospels and the Acts record. I knew Paul was our apostle. I knew we were under grace and not under law. But BBI taught me how it all fits together. It helped me to understand more fully the dispensations and the two programs of God of prophecy and the mystery. The school taught me how to rightly divide the Word, not only for its correct interpretation, but also for its right application. I learned the reasons why I believe what I believe, and to be able to defend it, confidently share it with others, and proclaim it from the pulpit. BBI trained me in God's Word from Genesis to Revelation, and the school's systematic, structured teaching of the Bible was just what I needed in my life. Through the Word of God, BBI has changed my outlook on life and my worldview and has taught me to look at this world with God's eyes.



2011 BBI Graduates
Kevin Sadler and Justin Becker

Not only did BBI equip me in God's Word, but also for ministry. The classes offered at the institute prepared me for pastoral, teen, and children's ministries, as well as godly leadership in the church and home. It also equipped me to conduct weddings, funerals, the Lord's Supper, and counseling.

One of the many benefits of the school is the interaction with the students and instructors in the classroom setting. The classmates that I've gone to school with really challenged me. In the first class I took at BBI, I remember questions being asked by my fellow students about theology and verses that I didn't even know were in the Bible! But this pushed me and challenged me to grow. And the variety and number of instructors I've had at BBI over a fifteen year period is pretty staggering. But all their various interpretations and angles to look at the Bible, their different styles of teaching, and their love for the Lord and His Word have impacted me greatly.

Believe it or not, fifteen years went fast! But it really was time well spent, because what all of this has done together in my life is that it's helped me to know Christ better, to know my Savior more deeply for who He is, what He's done, and what He's doing today under grace. For this I will forever be thankful for *Berean Bible Institute*. 

BEREAN
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Become Part of the BBI Team

Pray I want to challenge you to pray for us. Paul gives us a perfect example of this when he exhorted the Ephesian church to pray for him as he boldly proclaimed the gospel of the Grace of God. We need you to partner with us as we continue to faithfully carry out our ministry as a training institute for the grace movement. I believe God has some wonderful days ahead for us at *Berean Bible Institute* and I want to encourage you to be a part of what God is doing through your prayer.

Participate I want to challenge you to consider taking a course from *Berean Bible Institute*. You may not know this, but we currently have our complete first year of courses available via distance studies. You can begin taking courses in the comfort of your own home. Our first year curriculum is designed to be a foundation for those who want to grow personally and be better prepared to serve the Lord in the local church or wherever He leads.

Partner Finally, I want to challenge you to be a regular financial giver to *Berean Bible Institute*. We could not exist without the generous and sacrificial giving of our partners. Please prayerfully consider becoming a financial partner with us as we press on and stand for the truth of God's grace.

Serving together,
Dr. Robert E. Nix
President, *Berean Bible Institute*

Fall Semester Begins August 22, 2011!

For questions or additional information, contact *Berean Bible Institute* at 262-644-5504, email: bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org, or visit the BBI website at www.bereanbibleinstitute.org.



BBS Letter Excerpts

From Georgia:

“What a blessing! I always knew there was more than what I heard from the pulpit. Traditions, what a waste! *Things That Differ* is a must-read to open one’s mind to the truth of this age of grace.”

From our Inbox:

“I wish that I’d had Pauline grace teaching 47 years ago, but God has been most gracious and merciful to me and finally I’m getting good strong meat. Wow! Glory to God and, on a scale from one to ten, you guys are into infinity. Your whole website is a total feast! I love everything here! Wow! I’m listening to C. R. Stam’s Bible Time for the second time. Have I written ‘wow’? Wow again!”

From New Mexico:

“Wow! Thanks so much for that explanation. It really seems to be coming together for me. The Bible is starting to make sense (if you know what I mean).” (We know what you mean!—Ed).

From Pennsylvania:

“This is without a doubt the best book I’ve read on the Rapture [*The Triumph of Grace*]. I’ve shared it and everyone else agrees.”

From Oregon:

“I’d like to continue receiving the *Searchlight*. I am currently incarcerated, and every bit of godly teaching brings a little light to this dark place.”

From Florida:

“I was raised as a Mormon and had the opportunity to read your ‘baptism for the dead’ article. Yes!...I now believe that if you leave this life without Christ, there is no second chance for salvation....I thank you and our God for the truth I now embrace....I no longer follow mortal man and worthless religious traditions of men.”

From Florida:

“My mom gets the *Berean Searchlight* and I would love to have it.” (What a coincidence, we would love to send it!—Ed).

From Tennessee:

“I was in a denominational church for many years, and whenever I questioned anything, they gave the same contradictory answers. Very confusing. When I read your publication, it was like a light bulb coming on.”

From our Inbox:

“I normally do not write to you about the *Searchlight* articles, although I read each issue. However, I just finished the January testimonial by Pastor Sadler. It is without comparison the best one I’ve read in my now 59 years.”

From New Mexico:

“I appreciate being able to so freely use the charts on your web site. There are many people in our church that are extremely eager to learn and understand more about the dispensations and grace.”

From Canada:

“*Growing Up In Grace* Middle School Books 1,2,3 will be used for Bible study in our home church of two, consisting of my wife and myself.”

From Indiana:

“I have been getting the *Searchlight* for several years and want to thank you especially for the article in February titled ‘A Spiritual Workout.’ I had been having trouble reconciling Philippians 2:12,13 with Ephesians 2:8,9. This has given me the understanding I’d been looking for.”

From our Inbox:

“Thank you for all of your help in answering these questions. I really appreciate receiving the *Searchlight* and the emails of the *Two Minutes* with the morning Bible studies. They are wonderful and have really helped my family in understanding the Bible!”

From Facebook:

“I have some sermons of Pastor Sadler’s from probably ten or more years ago, and have listened to them many times, to where I almost know them word for word....Soon when I get a little older I will be a Berean pastor down here in the south, to defend the truth in the Bible Belt. Until then I will defend as I come across people everyday.” (We’re glad to hear you are already partaking of Paul’s grace in the defense of the gospel [Phil. 1:7].—Ed.)

From Missouri:

“I don’t believe I have ever read a *Searchlight* where every article instructed the heart as the December issue did. My thanks to each and every one who contributed.”

From Facebook:

“I’m reading Pastor Sadler’s book on Ephesians....Great book, Pastor Sadler!”

From Pennsylvania:

“Appreciated the article on *The Tongues of Men or of Angels*. I learned more history and understanding of that phenomenon than when I was participating in it!...It was certainly enlightening and beneficial to read *Are You Laboring in Vain?* Feeling like I was ‘spinning my wheels’ definitely has crossed my mind! And *Why the Hush* surely encourages us to be ‘meet for the Master’s use’....This entire January issue seemed to speak to me personally more than usual.”

From Georgia:

“My friend is from a cultic background....She was abused by her mother and she learned bad thought habits that still bother her and keep her from enjoying her life in Christ. The article you sent will help her heal, and also help her to share with others.”

From Ohio:

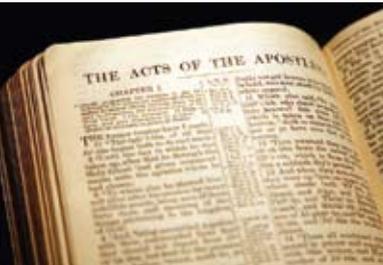
“*Now That I Believe* is different than anything we have ever seen. My husband is always looking for something to give to a new believer. He loved it.”

From California:

“I am 96 years old and need your magazine!”

From Nevada:

“Thank you for keeping me on your mailing list. I enjoy the *Berean Searchlight*. I can always count on the U.S. Marines and the Bereans.” (Semper Fi!—Ed.)



“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

Question Box

“Will the armies of Revelation 19:18 ride on horses, or are these horses symbolic of tanks or other advanced weapons?”

It has often been theorized that the horses on which the armies of Antichrist will ride at Armageddon must be symbolic of tanks or some other more sophisticated weapon of war, since such superior armaments are now available. However, we believe the Word of God must be taken literally here.

One of the first principles of hermeneutics teaches that a verse of Scripture should always be taken literally unless it is clear that it must be understood otherwise. For instance, if it be asked if the Nile was literally turned into blood (Ex. 7:20), we know that it was, for the next verse says, “and the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank” (v. 21). If it be asked if the moon will literally be turned into blood (Joel 2:31), we believe that here the language is symbolic. In this case, the absence of any qualifying information in the context suggests that Joel is predicting the moon will turn blood red in color. In addition, when the Apostle John is allowed to see a fulfillment of this prophecy, he reports that “the moon became *as* blood” (Rev. 6:12).

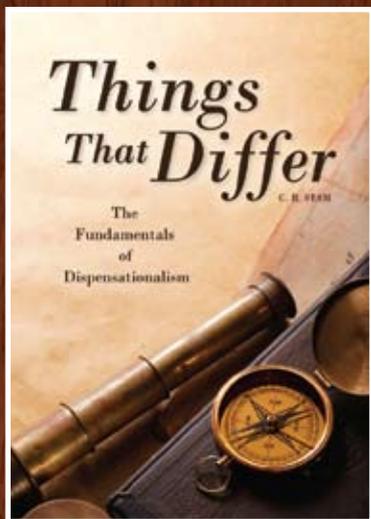
As we apply this principle to your question, the birds of the air can eat the flesh of horses (Rev. 19:17,18), but they cannot eat the steel of tanks, and so we believe the horses at this cataclysmic battle will be made of flesh. Corroboration of this conclusion can be found in Ezekiel 39, where we read that in the aftermath of the battle of Gog and Magog (v. 1-8) God’s people will be asked to burn the bows and arrows and spears left behind (v. 9). Since these weapons will be *burned* and eliminate the need to fell trees for firewood (v. 10), this calls upon us to believe that these weapons are not symbolic of more highly developed weapons of steel.

Any number of causes might render armies incapable of entering combat with more modern weaponry. We are told that a global nuclear war would render electronics useless, for instance, and running out of oil would bring all machinery to a grinding halt. Whatever the explanation, we must believe God’s Word and leave it to Him to work out the details.

—Pastor Kurth

Things That Differ

By Cornelius R. Stam



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News and Announcements

Grace Revival for Evangelism IX: *Bible Doctrines to Live By Ministries* is pleased to welcome grace believers from near and far to the *Green Lake Conference Center* in Green Lake, Wisconsin, the site of this year's annual challenge. Dr. Paul M. Sadler, Evangelist Lee Homoki, and Pastor Joel McGarvey are just a few of the faithful men of God who will be on hand to hold forth God's rightly divided Word. Jan Bultema will convince you there is no better way to spend the first week in October (4-7) when you call her for further information at (888) 220-3618.

Berean Bible Fellowship Fall Conference: "What Does Grace Teach Us?" is the question that will be answered at this year's fall classic, as seven grace pastors address this practical theme. Whatever you have planned for October 8-9, it can't compete with this blessed annual event, hosted this year by *Grace Bible Church* of Madison, Wisconsin. The warm and loving people of GBC are hoping you'll contact Pastor Wes Barteck for further details at madisongbc@att.net. Be sure to ask about the *BBF Youth Conference*, meeting separately that weekend!

Nebraska Church Prospect: In late August, *ASL Bible Church* will begin ministry in the Omaha and Council Bluffs area. Deaf evangelist Pastor John Schumacher would like to hear from any culturally deaf grace believers or non-signing persons interested in learning the grace message. American Sign Language (ASL) classes or one-on-one tutoring will be available. All services will be conducted in ASL, but interpretation for other communication modes can be offered. All are welcome, whether or not you know ASL. Pastor Schumacher can tell you all about it: ASLBibleChurch@gmail.com.

Berean Grace Fellowship of Pennsylvania has a new location! If you live near the *Holiday Inn Express* in Lebanon, you can take in the ministry of long-time Bible teacher Carl Kline, and fellowship with the saints who bring you the annual April conference at the *Kenbrook Retreat Center*. So whether you live in the area or are just passing through, contact Bill Schaeffer with any questions at (717) 949-3020 or hitnmis@verizon.net.



The *Norah Head Lighthouse* is located in New South Wales, Australia and was sent to us by Missionary Andy Hollier. The light was built in 1903 due to many shipwrecks in the area. After its completion, Latin words were engraved above its entrance: "Once a danger, now safe."

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“Those who, when they were full, enjoyed God in all, when they are emptied and impoverished can *enjoy all in God.*”
—Matthew Henry

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