

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

May 2017



Feature Article

A Faith-Full Mother, *by Kevin Sadler*5

Articles

A Nation for This Dispensation, *by Dave Stewart*15

The Hope of Eternal Life, *by Kevin Sadler*19

Preach the Word!, *by Ricky Kurth*21

Departments

Be Strong.....4

Question Box.....20

The Two Programs of God.....25

News and Announcements30

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” (2 Tim. 2:15), to *energize* the Christian life, and to *encourage* the local church.

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

Editor: Ricky L. Kurth—**Graphic Design:** Jessica Sadler (Book specials: Christine Mulholland)

Reader’s Rights & Responsibilities: BBS respects a reader’s right to hold views that differ from those of our writers. If a reader has a serious concern with a specific article, it is his or her responsibility to act in a manner that endeavors to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. This can best be accomplished by contacting the editor, who will then forward your concerns to the author of the article in question. We promise to address all concerns in a timely manner.



You can reach us at:

BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY
 N112 W17761 Mequon Road
 PO Box 756
 Germantown, WI 53022

Main Office: (262) 255-4750 — Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, CT

Internet: www.bereanbiblesociety.org

E-mail: berean@bereanbiblesociety.org

The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), May 2017. Vol. 78, Number 3.

The *Berean Searchlight* is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Periodical postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756 and additional mailing offices.

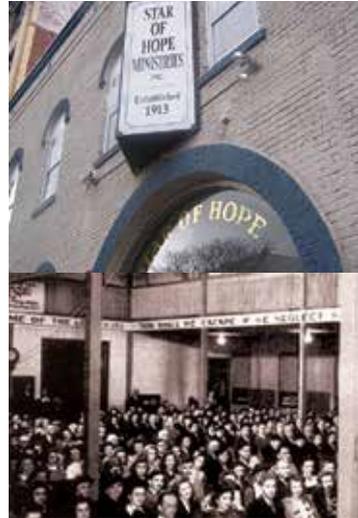


A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 2010, after attending a Bible conference in West Virginia, our family went to visit New York City. Pastor Dennis Kiszonas graciously offered to be our guide for a tour of the city. Since we were staying in New Jersey with a dear friend, I asked Pastor Kiszonas if we could stop by *Star of Hope Mission* in nearby Paterson before going into the city. Pastor Cornelius R. Stam spent much of his childhood working at this mission with his father, Peter, who founded it in 1913. In that day, missionaries and well-known preachers came to *Star of Hope* and faithfully preached the Word with clarity and authority. Many were saved through this ministry's zeal for the Word of God and the unadulterated gospel of grace.

Arriving at the mission and going through the front door, I noticed a picture of Peter Stam prominently displayed in the foyer. However, right away I could see that the mission was no longer about proclaiming the Word of God. It had become a mission which was meeting only the community's need for food and clothing. While this is admirable, how much more important are the spiritual needs of the soul? *Star of Hope* had been founded to preach the Word with a burden for the salvation of souls, but they've turned away from this original purpose to focus on meeting physical needs. In old pictures we have here at BBS, around the auditorium of *Star of Hope* were Bible verses painted at the top of the walls, verses such as Hebrews 2:3: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation." As we toured the building, we saw boxes of food and clothing stacked high, blocking those verses and making them barely visible.



It reminded me how, over time, a ministry can lose sight of its primary purpose and how easy it is for other things and programs to take the place of what is most important: the eternal destiny of souls and the Word of God. What about the ministry you're involved with? Is the gospel of the grace of God and preaching the Word, rightly divided, the main purpose? When many of the Lord's followers left Him during His earthly ministry, He asked the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" (John 6:67). Will we also go away from the Lord in His heavenly ministry and from the things that matter most to Him? May it never be.

Grace to you,

Pastor Kevin Sadler, President



BE STRONG

There was once a young man who stood in the shadow of a great leader. When that leader passed away, it fell to his young apprentice to pick up the reins of leadership. As he did so, he faced his circumstances with a certain amount of understandable doubts and fears. Then someone encouraged him, telling him to be strong and exhibit courage, because God would enable him. The leader was Moses, his apprentice was Joshua, and the encourager was the Lord Himself (Josh. 1:1-9).

God likewise challenges believers in the dispensation of grace to be strong. Paul told grace believers to "...quit you [or act manly] like men, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13) and to "...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10). We must not cower in fear nor surrender to Satan who is waging spiritual warfare against us. We must be strong!

We can do so by remembering God's power is available to us. Paul prayed the saints would comprehend "...the exceeding greatness of His power [is available] to us-ward who believe" (Eph. 1:19). The Lord offers us His power, and wants us to have it. Believe it! *God's power is accessed "by His Spirit in the inner man"* (Eph. 3:16). We can never triumph over Satan in our own strength, but we can when we allow God's power to flow in our lives in our inner man. Nourish your inner "new man" in Christ!

Our inner man is empowered by equipping ourselves with "the whole armour of God" (Eph. 6:11). This can be summarized by choosing to have a consistent daily walk in truthfulness and righteous behavior as our standard (v. 14), being always prepared to give the gospel (v. 15), protecting our minds through faith in God's Word (v. 16), living in the confidence of our eternal victory (v. 17a), using the Scriptures to slice through Satan's lies (v. 17b), and being constant in prayer (v. 18). Be vigilant in clothing yourself with apparel that enables you to have victory in your daily life!

Paul's admonition is "...and having done all to stand, stand therefore..." (Eph. 6:13-14). **Have you done all you need to do to stand victorious today?** *Are you remembering God's power is available to you? Have you been spiritually strengthening your inner man? Will you consistently equip your soul with the whole armour of God?* Be strong believer! God will enable you if you look to Him for His power to overcome whatever you face today. —Pastor John Fredericksen

A Faith-Full Mother

By Pastor Kevin Sadler



A young woman left for college one autumn. Before she left, she asked her mother to look after the potted violets and her aquarium in her bedroom. Her mother, who often seemed distracted, assured her that she would water the plants and take care of the fish. The daughter left with assurances from her mother that everything would be cared for.

Two weeks after leaving, the girl called home, and in the course of the conversation, asked how the violets were doing. The mother apologized that she'd forgotten to water them and that they all died. A couple of weeks later, the daughter telephoned and inquired about the goldfish, the mother confessed that she had been busy and had neglected to feed them, and had found them all dead. After a long pause, the young woman asked with anxiety in her voice, "And... how is Dad doing?"¹

Unlike this mother, the mother in the following account was anything but neglectful, for she did everything in her power to secure her daughter's healing from the Lord.

A Courageous Mother

"Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil" (Matt. 15:21,22).

In the beginning of Matthew 15, Christ is in Northern Israel in Galilee, where He is confronted by Pharisees and scribes who had traveled from Jerusalem to see Him. When they gathered, they asked the Lord about their tradition of washing of hands when eating bread; Christ broke into a discourse condemning the legalistic traditions and commandments of men (like them) which makes the Word of God "of none effect" (v. 6). After His confrontation with these Jewish leaders, He actually left Israel and went farther north into Gentile territory, "into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon" (v. 21). In this context of tradition and being "defiled" and unclean, Christ now goes to where "defiled," unclean Gentiles were.

Tyre and Sidon were cities located in the region of Phoenicia (modern Lebanon), and were coastal cities on the Mediterranean Sea. Sidon was about 25 miles up the coast from Tyre. These cities are mentioned often in the Old Testament and were the chief cities of the region of Phoenicia. Both Solomon's temple and the second rebuilt temple had lumber provided from this region (1 Chron. 22:4).

The parallel passage in Mark 7 tells us that, arriving in this area, Christ "entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but He could not be hid" (v. 24). Here in Phoenicia, somewhere near Tyre and Sidon, in a house, where Christ came for a time of seclusion, His rest was interrupted by a woman from this area.

Matthew calls her "a woman of Canaan" (Matt. 15:22). Mark calls her "a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation" (Mark 7:26). She was a woman in a culture dominated by men, and so her status in society was low. Not only that, but she was a Gentile, a non-Jew, who didn't enjoy the privileges of God's chosen people. Being a Gentile at this time, she fit the description given by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:11,12:

"...being in time past Gentiles in the flesh...That at that time ye were...aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

Positionally, she was an outcast, excluded from Israel, and entirely outside the covenants of

promise made to Israel. She was a Phoenician of Syria, descended from the Canaanites who inhabited Palestine before Joshua's conquest. The Canaanites were ancient foes of the Jews. When God gave Israel the land and told them to go in, He instructed them to totally eliminate the Canaanites (Deut. 20:17). However, because of Israel's disobedience, some had survived Israel's invasion of the land under Joshua, and this woman was a descendant of the survivors.

So for a woman, a non-Jewish woman, a non-Jewish woman descended from Israel's enemies, to come to Christ took great courage. She crossed great cultural, racial, religious, and historical barriers in doing so. Being a mother takes courage, courage to stand up for and protect your children, and raise them in this broken world.

A Humble Mother

When she came to the house, she cried unto Christ on behalf of her daughter, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David" (Matt. 15:22). She came to the Lord, not demanding anything. She knew she was unworthy and undeserving. She was the complete opposite of the spiritual pride of the Pharisees and scribes. She humbly cried out and just begged for mercy. Her physical position reinforced her humility, for Mark 7:25 tells us that, when she came in to Him at the house, she "fell at His feet."

She believed in His authority, power, and being ruler over all. In seeking Him out and calling

Him “Lord,” she believed in His ability to meet her need, that He could deliver her daughter from a demon possession. Knowing He was Lord, she knew that He had complete authority over the supernatural kingdom of Satan, and sovereignty over darkness and demons.

Furthermore, in calling Him “Son of David,” she placed herself squarely on Jewish ground. Using this title revealed her faith in Jesus as Israel’s Messiah, that He was the “righteous Branch” out of King David, and was therefore Israel’s ultimate King and Messiah (Jer. 23:5,6).



“Being a mother takes courage...to stand up for and protect your children, and raise them in this broken world.”

The Gospel of Matthew, in 1:1, begins with this title being given to Christ: “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the Son of David.” The book of Matthew proves the truth of the title “Son of David” being given to Jesus Christ, that He is Israel’s King, and that the covenant made with David of an everlasting King, Throne, and Kingdom would be fulfilled in Him. This Gentile woman rightly saw Jesus Christ as God and King, as Sovereign and Royal, and in her belief of this, she brought her need to

Him humbly, at His feet, begging for mercy.

This humble mother brings her need to Christ, and at His feet she tells Him how her daughter was “grievously vexed with a devil.” Mark 7:25 says she “had an unclean spirit.” Her daughter was possessed with an unclean, filthy, wicked demon. “Grievously” refers to the severity and seriousness of the case. The girl was badly demonized and tortured by the demon within her. Mark 7:25 says her daughter was “young,” and Mark 7:26 says she besought the Lord “that He would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.”

Each day this mother saw the horrid effects of demon possession on a firsthand basis. Every day she was reminded of the suffering of her young daughter. Every day she was reminded of how helpless she was to stop the problem. As so often with a mother, her child’s pain became her own. In faith and humility, she does not bring her child to the Lord, nor does she ask Him to go to her. In her agony and distress, she just brings her need and pleads and spreads her grief before the Lord.

A Determined Mother

“But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us” (Matt. 15:23).

Christ says nothing to this grieved mother. Did He care? Yes. Did He have compassion for her? Yes. So why didn’t He say anything?

In God's plans and purposes under Israel's program, there was a distinction between Jew and Gentile. In that program, God had separated Jews from Gentiles for the purpose of redeeming both groups, and all men, not just for saving the Jews alone. Here in Matthew, Christ had already forbidden His disciples from going to the Gentiles: "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles...But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 10:5,6). In John 4:22, the Lord Himself said, "...salvation is of the Jews."

"Do you understand God's program for today and your place in it?"



God's plan at that time, under that program, was for Israel to be a light to draw the Gentile nations to Himself, and salvation came through the Jews, through them to the world. The Jews were God's channel of blessing, through whom all men at that time would come to find salvation. Thus, Israel needed to be reached first, and they were the priority in Christ's earthly ministry and in His disciples' ministries.

Christ and the disciples worked with Israel first to be that bright light to draw the world to God

and to His salvation through Israel. Christ always operated in perfect accord with the Father's will and His plans and purposes. So Christ's silence to this grieving mother is in obedience to the Father. His silence speaks of His love for the world, and of His mission and purpose in His earthly ministry. Christ, of course, was compassionate with this woman's plight, but yet He was wholly given to God's will and God's program of that time.

This determined mother then turns to the disciples. Mark 7 says the woman had "besought" Christ to send the demon out of her daughter. "Besought" means she kept begging Him over and over. Then she turned to the disciples and did the same. Now, in Matthew 15:23, the disciples "besought" and begged Christ over and over to send her away, to send her out of the house, anywhere but there. The disciples became impatient and annoyed by her persistent crying out, and asked the Lord to "Send her away," because she kept crying after them. Like it's been said, "When mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy!"² Mothers have ways to make things happen. This mother was not discouraged by discouragement.

The Lord, though, continued in His silence. She kept crying out to the disciples, but the Lord sat there and said nothing. Between the woman crying out and the disciples begging the Lord, there was quite a ruckus going on in this house. I imagine the disciples pleading with the Lord,

“Heal her and send her away; it’s okay. It’s no big deal. You’ve done it for thousands. Please give her what she wants and get rid of her. She isn’t going to give up until You do!”

Pastor Van Morris tells of an elderly woman who “walked into a local country church. A friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. ‘Where would you like to sit?’ he asked. ‘The front row please,’ she answered. ‘You really don’t want to do that,’ the usher said. ‘The pastor is really boring.’ ‘Do you happen to know who I am?’ asked the woman. ‘No,’ said the usher. ‘I’m the pastor’s mother,’ she replied indignantly. ‘Do you know who I am?’ the usher asked. ‘No,’ she said. ‘Good,’ he replied.”³ Mothers who protect their children can be a frightening thing, and the disciples were learning about this firsthand.

A Selfless Mother

“But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me” (Matt. 15:24,25).

After the disciples asked the Lord to send her away, He reminds them that He was not sent (by the Father) but to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Again, the Father’s will when He sent the Son was to send Him, Who is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), to Israel to reach the lost sheep of Israel, so they who were lost might be found (Luke 19:10). Christ’s first responsibility was to

Israel and to preach the gospel of the Kingdom to them (Matt. 4:17). Israel was still the apple of God’s eye at that time (Deut. 32:10). For to her was “the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the Law, and the service of God, and the promises” (Rom. 9:4). Under this program, she held a position of pre-eminence above the Gentile nations. Christ was reinforcing to the disciples the need to stay on the plan, to carry out their ministries in accord with the Father’s program and mission at that time.

After Christ had spoken these words, this mother came and worshipped, probably kneeling or prostrating herself on the ground, and implored Him, “Lord, help me,” an expression of total dependency and confidence. These three words are such a powerful prayer. There are just times in life, when things get tough or in times of suffering, when this is all we can say, and all we need to say: “Lord, help me.”



Selflessly on behalf of her daughter, putting her child’s needs first as a mother does, this woman humbly begs the Lord for His help. This mother identifies herself with her daughter, as for

the Lord to help her daughter would be to help her. Elizabeth Stone is quoted as saying that having a child “is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.”⁴ This mother’s heart was broken because of her child’s suffering. Such mothers only want what’s best for their children and turn to God, falling at His feet and beseeching Him in prayer for His help and mercy on behalf of their children. That kind of faith, hope, and love in our mothers is to be honored.

A Devout Mother

“But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table” (Matt. 15:26,27).

The Lord tells her that it is not good to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs. The “sheep” in verse 24 were, by Mosaic Law, clean animals and represent the nation Israel. Here, “children” also refers to the Jews, while the “dogs,” which were unclean animals, are the Gentiles. The Greek word for “dogs” here is a domestic dog or puppy.

Christ gives her a picture here, an analogy of a home at mealtime, saying that it is not right or proper to take the bread away from the children sitting at the table and throw it down to the dogs sitting at their feet. If you have a pet dog, you know all too well that stare you get when you’re eating and your pet

is hoping that you’ll toss them some food. But Christ says that it is a basic principle of life that, when the pet dog comes around the table, you don’t take the food out of your children’s mouths and give it to begging pet dogs.



The Lord’s analogy shows how the Jews had a privileged position with God in being His covenant “children,” while the Gentiles had a much less privileged position, as “dogs.” Christ could not overlook the distinction between Jew and Gentile in God’s plans and purposes at that time (Lev. 20:26).

In verse 26 of Matthew 15, the Lord is asking, “Is it proper in God’s plans to take the physical and spiritual blessings that rightfully belong to Israel and bestow them on a Gentile?” Or, “Is it appropriate in God’s purposes to interrupt My ministry and mission to Israel in giving her bread and blessing at this time, and give My service and blessing to you, a Gentile, and feed you before them?”

Mark 7:27 reads, “Jesus said unto her, *Let the children first be filled*: for it is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.” So the children were the priority to be fed, before the feeding of the dogs. Israel was

the priority under that program at that time, before the Gentiles. Pastor Charles Baker said on this subject, “God’s order was for Israel to first be filled with her blessings before the Gentiles were to receive blessing...Israel must first be blessed before she could in turn pass on the blessings to the Gentiles.”

The woman’s response here is remarkable: “Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” First, she’s not insulted! She agreed, and humbly understood her place as an unclean, Gentile “dog.” She did not presume to think she had a prominent place in God’s program at that time as Israel did. She did not believe that she had any right to deprive God’s chosen people of God’s privileges, blessings, or mercies. And she does not argue that her needs make her an exception. She knew she was undeserving of God’s blessing, and with complete absence of pride, self-reliance, or self-righteousness, she simply appeals to grace.



She said, in effect, “You are right! I am only one of the little dogs under the table, but crumbs fall from the table to the floor. That’s all I need.” The woman claimed her rights under God’s

program at that time. She didn’t demand a spot at the table; she didn’t want the children’s portion; she was content to accept her place. But she wanted the privileges that went along with *that* position. She knew that what could be hers as a Gentile dog were *crumbs*. And she was willing to accept any blessing, even a tiny one, that might fall from the table of the children of Israel. There need be no interruption to Christ’s mission. All she requested was a crumb to fall; just a small benefit of His overabounding grace would be enough to meet her need.

This humble mother understood God and His Word and His program at that time and accepted her place in it. *Do you understand God’s program for today and your place in it?* We are living now in “the dispensation of the grace of God” (Eph. 3:2). Today, under grace, a change has taken place, and God has concluded both Jew and Gentile “in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all,” says Romans 11:32. Today, no nation or nationality has priority, “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:12,13). Today, salvation is “by grace... through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8,9). Salvation is in just trusting that “Christ died for our sins...was buried...and...rose again” (1 Cor. 15:3,4). Trusting

this gospel of grace, we become members of the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27), and we have a heavenly hope (Col. 1:5). Today “we are ambassadors for Christ” sent out by God to beseech anyone and everyone to “be ye reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:20), and to “make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery” (Eph. 3:9).

A Faith-Filled Mother

“Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour” (Matt. 15:28).

This mother had accepted her place, believed God’s Word, and persisted in her plea. Christ was touched by the woman’s faith, and even commended it, telling her, “great is thy faith.” She had great faith because she had so little on which to base it. She was a Gentile outside the covenants, outside the law, outside the promises, outside the land, in an area where the Lord had not been doing His miracles and teachings. So based on her position and the amount of content and information she had, her faith was “great.” By contrast, when the Lord said to the disciples, “O thou of little faith” (Matt. 14:31), it was little relative to all they knew and to all they had been exposed to and all they had seen and heard. They should have had a greater faith.

Verse 28 of Matthew 15 says that this woman’s daughter was made well from that very hour forward. Mark 7:30 says that, after this mother quickly scurried

home, “she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed,” resting quietly and peacefully.

It is said that miracles happen at the feet of Jesus. This woman cast herself at Christ’s feet in faith and a miracle happened in her life and in her daughter’s life. Maybe there is someone in your family who needs Christ, who needs to be saved, or needs to turn their lives to Him. We should follow this woman’s example: go to the Lord and throw ourselves at His feet, and pray, and pray persistently for him or her.

There are many special virtues to recognize in this woman’s example as a mother, virtues such as courage, humility, selflessness, faith, hope, love, determination, persistence, protection, wanting what’s best for her child, and feeling her child’s hurts and pain. For these kinds of things and for so much more, we should thank our mothers and honor them on Mother’s Day. 

ENDNOTES

1. John Williams III, “Jesus and the Canaanite Woman,” Sermon Central, accessed March 27, 2017, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/jesus-and-the-canaanite-woman-john-williams-iii-sermon-on-parable-general-50036?page=2>.
2. Tim Nichols, Ricky Giles, and Gilles Godard, songwriters, “When Mama Ain’t Happy,” lyrics © EMI Music Publishing, Warner/Chappell Music, Inc., Universal Music Publishing Group.
3. Van Morris, Senior Pastor, Calvary Christian Center, Mt. Washington, KY, contributor; Preaching Today, “Usher Seats Pastor’s Mother,” accessed March 27, 2017, www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2004/July/15420.html.
4. Elizabeth Stone Quotes, accessed March 27, 2017, https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/251288.Elizabeth_Stone.

49th Annual Conference
of the
Berean Bible Fellowship

June 18-22, 2017

*"A Peculiar
People"*

Hosted By:
Community Bible Church
1427 W. Main Street
Tipp City, Ohio 45371

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

Community Bible Church:
www.cbctipp.com (937) 667-2710,
or Tim Kenney at (937) 325-9316
or Dave Brown (BBF President)
at pineridge@tds.net

Visit the BBF website at:
bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com



Location:

Community Bible Church
1427 W. Main Street
Tipp City, Ohio

Dates:

June 18-22, 2017

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

Bible Hour Teacher:

Pastor Wes Barteck

Young People's Programs:

Teenagers: Every morning
9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Children: Every morning
9:00 a.m. to Noon

Nursery 7:45 a.m. to Noon
6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

College/Career Meeting:
Sunday night

This conference is free to attend!

For more information about ac-
comodations or to get a lunch menu
to prepay for meals you can find an
order form, menu and other details
on the *Berean Bible Fellowship* web-
site or the *Community Bible Church*
website.

There are accomodations within
walking distance to the church.

Midwest Grace Fellowship

BIBLE CONFERENCE

Dates: July 7-9, 2017

Location: *Wellsville Manor Care Center*
304 W. 7th Street, Wellsville, Kansas

Theme: *"Our Spiritual Battle"*

Speakers: Pastor Kevin Sadler, Mike Keshan

Contact: David Tidd (620) 365-6004

Bitely Bible Conference

Dates: August 4-6, 2017

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

Speakers: Pastor Kevin Sadler,
Pastor Don Webb, Pastor Dan Wolgast,
Pastor Matt Ritchey, Mr. David Gross

Theme: *"Holding Fast the Faithful Word"* (Titus 1:9)

For directions or more information, please contact our hosts:

Pastor Ken & Regina Lyon at 231-689-1941
or kenlyon1952@gmail.com

A NATION for This Dispensation

By Dave Stewart



In light of all the political unrest pervading our country, and even the world today, we can't help but wonder if we dispensationalists wouldn't do a better job of creating a more suitable nation. If a sincere and thoughtful group of mid-Acts grace believers came together to design and build a country, what would it look like? How would it work? While God does not fulfill His will through nations today as He did in time past, still, a country uniquely patterned after this dispensation would be a blessed place indeed.

So first, before we set out to build our "dispensationally correct" country, we will need to give it a name. Therefore, seeing we recognize the God-given title of this present age as "the dispensation of the grace of God,"

If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward (Eph. 3:2).

...we propose for our nation, the name, GRACELAND. (And we sincerely hope that Elvis won't mind.)

As to the building of Graceland, we propose the following:

Proposition 1 Graceland cannot be built from an existing country, simply taken over and reformed. If our nation is to fit the dispensation of the grace of God, it must be a new creature.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature (Gal. 6:15).

In this age, God is not reforming the old man, but rather He is building "one new man" (Eph. 2:15). Therefore, Graceland must be a new nation, designed in this dispensation, and created for this dispensation.

Proposition 2 Graceland, unlike other countries, cannot be made of a single family with a common ethnic ancestry. If our new nation is to represent this dispensation, it must be comprised of people from all nations.

By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name (Rom. 1:5; 16:26).

There would be Jews, and Gentiles of all stripes, from every family on earth, and yet there would be neither Jew nor Gentile, but only Gracelanders, in our new nation.

Proposition 3 In addition to recognizing no ethnic division, Graceland would show no preference to the rich and powerful. Our “nation for this dispensation” would see the poor and weak as being noble under its law. There would be no difference in

the rights and opportunities afforded to the poor as those enjoyed by the greatest among us. In fact, Graceland, if it were to honor the calling of this age, would be an entire nation comprised of the outcasts of the world, for that is where the calling of God is most powerful today.

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world...the weak things...And base things of the world...things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

Proposition 4 Not only would Graceland be conceived in this dispensation, but if our new nation is to recognize the fundamental working of the age of grace, it must also be conceived in liberty.

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Cor. 3:17).

Graceland would build into its very foundations the spirit of liberty, for liberty is the framework in which the Spirit of God moves today. And once liberty has been established, Graceland would fight with all it has to maintain and to hold fast to that same spirit.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (Gal. 5:1).

Proposition 5 Among the chiefest of its liberties, Graceland would recognize that where matters of faith are concerned there can be no law.

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for...the law is not of faith (Gal. 3:11,12).

If our nation is going to fit this age, then there can be no law respecting the establishment of a religion, nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof, because in Graceland we would know that law and faith don't mix. Not in this dispensation they don't.

“If...grace believers came together to design...a country, what would it look like?”



Proposition 6 Graceland would acknowledge the God-given right of its people to peaceably assemble. For what is the meaning of “the church,” if not a peaceable assembly?

And when he [Barnabas] had found him [Paul], he brought him unto Antioch. And...a whole year they assembled themselves with the church...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. (Acts 11:26).

Proposition 7 Every Gracelander would be a free partaker of the fruit of the labor of his own hands.

...he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope (1 Cor. 9:10).

While the ideals of some may be well intentioned, to create a nation whose fruit flows “from each according to his ability, to each according to his need” (Karl Marx), this ideal is misplaced. And it is misplaced for one simple reason. It is not what God is doing today. If it were, it would work, but it’s not, so it doesn’t.

To build our nation under a law of “common wealth” may be in keeping with the Christians of early Acts,

Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them...and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need (Acts 4:34,35).

...but it would not be consistent with the working of God in this age. Any nation built upon the truths of a former time is destined to fail. But in Graceland, we would know better. Our nation would promote the honor, both of labor and of charity. It would be understood that if a man will not work, then neither should he eat (2 Thes. 3:10). But it would be equally understood that if a man cannot work, he will eat without shame at the table of those who can.

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth (Eph. 4:28).

Proposition 8 In Graceland we would acknowledge, not just the meaning of grace, but the reason for it. We would recognize that we are imperfect beings, prone to error, and susceptible to wrong.

For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do (Rom. 7:19).

Therefore our new nation would not replicate the arrogance of former nations, nations like the Medes and the Persians, who foolishly bound themselves by their own unchangeable laws (Dan. 6:8). But in Graceland we would confess that only God is unchangeable.

Therefore, in Graceland, we would have the wisdom and the foresight to make our laws amendable. If we truly understand the grace of God, we will acknowledge that one day our children and our

grandchildren will discover flaws in our building. And when that day comes, they will need the ability to correct our mistakes, and to right our wrongs.

While the spirit of Graceland may not afford us infallibility, it gives us nothing if not humility. Therefore to make the laws of Graceland amendable is not just the least we can do, it's also the best.

Proposition 9 In Graceland there can be no liberty more honored, more revered, than the freedom to preach, for it is in this freedom that the wisdom and saving power of God reside today.

For...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe (1 Cor. 1:21).

Our nation must afford the liberty, not only to speak soft and pleasing words, but to speak words that seem harsh, foolish, or even offensive to some (1 Cor. 1:23; Gal. 5:11). For right or wrong, good or bad, the freedom to speak without fear must be honored and fiercely defended in our nation. For the day we forfeit this sacred calling will be the day we forfeit Graceland.

Proposition 10 Our nation should have a simple mission statement; a brief but all-encompassing motto to describe its national purpose. Therefore, we propose as the motto for Graceland, the old Latin phrase, *E Pluribus Unum*: Of Many, One. This is exactly what God is doing in this dispensation of grace, so it should be the motto for Graceland.

If you and I were to build a nation like Graceland, people would see it and say, "Well, clearly this country was designed by those mid-Acts dispensationalists. I mean, look at it! Every aspect is built to suit their 'dispensation of the grace of God.'" And in the case of Graceland, they would be right.

But what if such a nation was conceived without us? What if a country like Graceland was created by people who knew little of the dispensational truth that you and I cherish today? A new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. A nation built from all the nations of the world, refusing to allow faith to be mixed with law, and which held as its prime liberty, the freedom to preach. If such a country existed we could no more deny the hand of God in it than if we grace folk had built it ourselves. And we would be, of all men, most grateful for it. 



In the April issue we mistakenly announced that Jason Summers had prepared Paul M. Sadler's Ephesians commentary in e-book format, when it was actually Jason Randolph. We hasten to amend the Jason and receive the chasten that is our due, and offer Brother Randolph our sincere apology.

The Hope of Eternal Life

By Pastor Kevin Sadler



“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2).

Dr. Tony Evans says this about eternity: “If we were to empty the Pacific Ocean, the largest body of water in the world, we’d be left with a hole that’s beyond imagination. If we were then to fill that hole with sand and make a pile as high as Mount Everest, we’d be talking about a lot of sand because Mount Everest is the tallest mountain peak in the world. Since the ocean is fairly deep and Mount Everest is fairly high, we’d have a fairly sizable sandpile! Now, if we had a bird that would take one grain of sand from that sandpile every 100 billion years, how long would it take the bird to finish the sandpile? I don’t know that in human language we have such a number. It is probably beyond numerical count. Whatever that number is, when the bird finishes the last grain of sand, you will have been in eternity your first second.”¹

It is glorious to think of spending eternity with Christ in heaven, but it’s also heartbreaking to think of those who will be in the lake of fire forever. Our faith rests on the sure hope of eternal life. We can live our lives for Christ confidently and courageously, knowing that nothing we do for the Lord is ever in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). We have certainty in what we believe. The “hope” Scripture holds out is not a hope-so hope. Our hope is a complete certainty, a confident expectation. It is a destiny.

Eternal life is both a present possession and a future hope. It doesn’t just begin when you die; we have it at conversion, the moment we trust Christ as our Savior. God is “eternal” (Deut. 33:27), and having “eternal” life means we have been given God’s life, which is Christ in us (Col. 1:27; 3:4). Our future hope of eternal life is in the sense that we confidently look forward to eternal life in its final, victorious form when we’ll be in our eternal home in heaven, having received our eternal, incorruptible, glorified bodies (2 Cor. 5:1), dwelling in Christ’s presence forever (1 Thes. 4:17).

All the truth of the Bible and the hope of eternal life is based in God Himself. Our faith is secure by virtue of God’s unchanging character and the fact that He cannot lie. God is Truth and free from all deceit (Deut. 32:4). Numbers 23:19 says, “God is not a man, that He should lie.” Hebrews 6:18 tells us it is “impossible for God to lie.”

God's character backs up our absolute hope of eternal life. If He said it, it's true, He cannot lie, and it will happen.

From eternity past, "before the world began," God promised what He was going to do for those who believed (2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 1:2). God is a promise-keeping God. What He has said, He will do. You can place your soul's eternal destiny in His hands, and you don't need to be anxious about it. We can rest in Him because we can count on Him and on His character. When (not if) we find ourselves in heaven one day, we'll praise Him saying, "The Lord was faithful, faithful to me, faithful to all His promises."

1. *Tony Evans' Book of Illustrations* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009), p. 91.

Question Box

"I can understand why Romans 10:17 might say, 'faith cometh by hearing the Word of God.' Why does it rather say, 'faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God'?"

It is sometimes taught that an unsaved sinner is so spiritually "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1) that he cannot even *hear* the Word of God in the gospel, let alone respond to it in faith. It is argued that if you go to a funeral and tell the deceased to rise up out of the coffin, he cannot even hear the words of your command, let alone respond to it. It is then argued from this that the Spirit must first regenerate a lost sinner so that he can hear the gospel and believe it.

While that sounds logical, the Lord Jesus gave a different explanation for how a sinner who is "dead in sins" is "quickened" (Eph. 2:5) when He said,

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

The Lord here asserts that *His words* "are spirit." That is, His words have the spiritual power to raise a dead sinner from spiritual death. The Lord also taught that His words "are life." Thus, if a sinner must be given life in order to be able to hear the gospel, then the Lord's words are able to give a dead sinner all the life he needs to hear and respond to the gospel in faith.

This is why Romans 10:17 is worded in that manner. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, to be sure, but *even the hearing* comes by the Word. —Pastor Ricky Kurth



Preach the Word!

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

A message preached June 29, 2016, at the
Berean Bible Fellowship conference in Tipp City, Ohio.

Back in the 17th century, a violinmaker named Antonio Stradivarius began making violins that are considered to be the finest in the world. No one is really sure why his instruments sound *so* amazing. It is said that he died without revealing his secret. By now, of course, his violins are centuries old, so some of them are in better shape than others. But the one that has survived in the most pristine condition is one that some say *has never been played*.

Now that's something that collectors *love* to hear, for it adds to the value of a collectible if it has never been used. But it's something that music lovers *abhor* hearing, for they know that the great master violin maker created that instrument to be used to make beautiful music, *not* to lie silent in a display case somewhere under heavy guard.

All of this is reminiscent of how 2,000 years ago the greatest Master of all finished *a Book*, the Bible. And when we come to

2 Timothy 4 in our Bibles, the Apostle Paul has just finished telling Timothy that this Book *is verbally inspired of God* and is profitable for things like doctrine and reproof and correction and instruction in righteousness (3:16,17). In other words, it was created to help us make beautiful music *in our lives* by honoring the Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do. It was created to teach us how to live in harmony with who God has made us in Christ.

With that in mind, Paul doesn't tell young Pastor Timothy to take this valuable masterpiece of divine inspiration and put it in a display case somewhere under heavy guard, where it might be seen and admired but never used. He rather tells him to take this word from God and *preach it!*

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom;

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove,

rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:1,2).

The word “therefore” ties the apostle’s charge here to the words he just finished speaking at the close of the previous chapter. This means that “the word” he is charging Timothy to preach is *the word of the Scriptures that are inspired of God* and given to us for our profit (3:16,17). He is saying, as it were, “The word of the Scriptures is inspired of God and spiritually profitable, *therefore preach the Word!*”

Pastors, we only have *one Book* that has the power to save the mortal souls of men, and then lead them in the paths of righteousness and build them up in the faith. We *dare not* let a book like that go unheard. If it is a crime to let a Stradivarius go unplayed, it is an *eternal* crime to let the Word of Almighty God go unpreached. And so it is that as I continue to call on men to step up and train for the ministry in the wake of Pastor Paul M. Sadler’s home-going, I charge grace men everywhere to rise up and *preach the Word*.

In the Bible, a “charge” was *an extremely serious thing*. It was a serious thing for Abraham to go to the Promised Land and father the Hebrew nation, so God *charged him* to do so (Gen. 26:5). It was a serious thing for Moses to then lead that Hebrew nation out of Egyptian bondage into the wilderness, so God *charged him* to so lead them (Ex. 6:13). It was a serious thing to lead the nation out of the wilderness into

the Promised Land, so God issued Joshua *a charge* to do it (Deut. 3:28). And it was an *unfathomably* serious thing to protect the Lord Jesus Christ until He could finish His Father’s work before dying for our sins (John 4:34; 5:36; 17:4), and that’s why God *charged* the angels with His care (Psa. 91:11,12 cf. Luke 4:10,11). And if the Apostle Paul uses that same word “charge” to command young Pastor Timothy to preach the Word, we have to conclude that it is an *equally* serious matter for pastors to *preach the Word of God!*

Now as a grace believer, you may be wondering, “What else would a pastor preach?” for grace pastors tend to preach the Word. But if you are wondering about this, it is probably because you don’t spend your time watching Christian television, the vast majority of which is void of the sound preaching of the Word. But just watch a few messages on TV or the internet, and you’ll soon see that just because a man has a Bible in his hand *doesn’t mean he’s telling you what it says*.

If you’re a pastor, the Apostle Paul is *charging* you to preach God’s Word. There are 823,156 words in the Bible, *and you only have one life to preach them*. Why take the time to preach anything else? If you aspire to train for the pastorate, I charge you to determine here and now that you will never choose to preach anything less than “every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4).

If you attend a church where the pastor is *not* preaching the

Word, it is your responsibility as a child of God to *demand* it. The Apostle Peter wrote,

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2).

How does a newborn baby “desire” milk? Does he say, “Excuse me, Mother, may I have some milk?” No! A baby screams



bloody murder at the top of his lungs, shrieking, “I WANT MY MILK!” Thus if a pastor isn’t preaching the Word of God, the people of God must *clamor for it!* That is, if they want their pastor to live up to something that God charged him to do “before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

If you are not sure what it means to charge someone before someone else, consider that when Moses learned he had to die, he asked God for a successor.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua...and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight” (Num. 27:18,19).

The reason God told Moses to charge Joshua “before Eleazar” and “before all the congregation” was to make him *accountable* to them. This means that after

Moses died, if Joshua *refused* to lead them into the Promised Land as God had charged him, he would have to *answer* to Eleazar and all the congregation. And this means when Paul charged Timothy *before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ*, it was to make him *accountable* to God and His Son to *preach the Word*. This is an account that every pastor will have to give in the day when “we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ” (Rom. 14:10), where “every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (v. 12).

This is why Paul went on to remind Timothy that the Lord “shall judge *the quick and the dead* at His appearing and His kingdom.” There aren’t but two kinds of Christians in the world, *the quick and the dead*: those who are “absent from the body” and “present with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8), and those who are absent from the Lord and present in the body. And our apostle tells us that no matter which category we find ourselves in at His appearing, we are all going to have to give an account of our lives to Him. With that in mind, man of God, why not say with Paul,

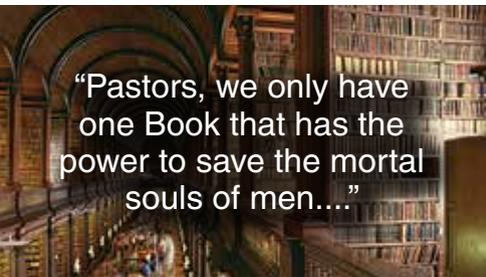
“Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ...” (2 Cor. 5:9,10).

If you are curious as to why Paul says the Lord will judge the quick and the dead “at His appearing *and His kingdom*,” it is because your position in God’s

eternal kingdom will be determined in that day when we stand before the Lord. This is why Paul told Timothy in this very same epistle,

“If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him...” (2 Tim. 2:12).

Does the word “reign” there sound like something we might do with our King in His eternal kingdom in Heaven? In the measure we suffer for the Lord, in that measure we will reign with Him. You may not feel that you suffer much for Christ, but every dollar you put in the offering plate is a dollar you suffer the loss of, and every moment you spend serving Him in the humblest of ways is a moment you suffer the loss of as well, for it is a moment you could have spent serving your own selfish desires.



are charged by God to *preach the Word of God*.

And they are charged to preach it “instant in season, out of season.” What’s that mean? Well, compare what it means to be “continuing instant *in prayer*” (Rom. 12:12). The best example of this is found when Nehemiah’s king asked him, “For what dost thou make request?” (Neh. 2:4). When that man of God went on to say...

“So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king...” (vv. 4,5)

...that’s an example of being “instant” in prayer! And it demonstrates how to *preach the Word* “instant” as well. Just as Nehemiah had a prayer on the tip of his tongue, ready to roll off at a moment’s notice, so pastors must have the Word of God on the tip of their tongues, ready to preach the Word at the drop of a hat.

This means that preaching the Word isn’t something that’s done exclusively from the pulpit. It is also done in response to questions people ask in everyday situations of life, as Nehemiah prayed *instantly* in response to a question from the king.

One of the ways a *pastor* suffers is *by preaching the Word*. He suffers opposition from the adversary, who does *not* want the Word preached. He often suffers opposition from God’s people, who sometimes *also* do not want the Word preached. Occasionally he even suffers opposition from his church board of directors, who want something more popular preached. But in the face of any and all opposition, men of God

And preparing for this kind of preaching is a whole lot harder than preparing to preach the Word from the pulpit, where a pastor can look things up that he doesn’t know ahead of time as he prepares his message. The only way to prepare to preach the Word *instantly* is to “meditate” on the things of the Word, and obey God’s command to “give thyself *wholly* to them” (1 Tim. 4:15). If a man of God wants to be able to preach

instantly, he has to *saturate his heart and soul with the Word* so that it is *instantly* at his disposal to share with others at a moment's notice as the everyday situations of life arise. It is the highest on earth.

Look at how giving Himself wholly to God's Word made the Lord instant in ministering it:

“Then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him, How is it that Thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me...for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered...If thou knewest...who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water” (John 4:9,10).

Do you see how *instantly* the Lord jumped on something this woman said in order to share the gospel with her? How many times have you missed an opportunity to witness to someone, only to later think something like, “When she said the word *water*, why didn't I jump on it and speak to her about the Water of Life?” If your mind was as saturated with the Word of God as the Lord's was, *you could preach it as instantly as He did.*

If your heart *yearns* for this sort of instantaneousness in your life, say a silent *amen*. If your heart craves this sort of instantaneousness *in your pastor*, add a silent *amen and amen.* 



THE TWO PROGRAMS OF GOD

God's program for the earth is identified as *Prophecy*, while His program for the heavenlies is known as the *Mystery*. A program is defined as “...a plan or procedure for dealing with some matter.” For instance, we might watch a documentary of American history followed by a documentary

on wildlife. Both are programs, but they deal with two entirely different subjects. The same is true with God's Word. The theme of God's Prophetic program embraces *Christ's reign upon the earth* in the future millennial kingdom. On the other hand, the *Mystery* points to *our exaltation with Christ in the heavenlies.*

Just as the great Continental Divide separates the rivers flowing toward the Atlantic from those flowing toward the Pacific, in like manner the Word of God is divided into two parts—*Prophecy* and *Mystery*. Sad to say, many dear saints have proceeded down the wrong side of the Continental Divide of Holy Scripture. They are peacefully floating down the *Prophetic* river unaware that a dangerous falls lie ahead. Indeed, they will be saved because the Lord cannot deny Himself, but they will suffer terrible *loss* at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Cor. 3:9-15). Those whose eyes have been open to see the *Mystery* are proceeding down the proper side of the *divide*. They should be prepared, however, to shoot the rapids, inasmuch as those who stand for the truth of Paul's gospel will face almost unbelievable opposition. Thankfully, these waters flow into an ocean of *eternal reward* at journey's end.

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



BBS Letter Excerpts

From our Inbox:

“I’ve done everything there is to be saved by the Lord. I am not convinced in the least that I am. My wife does not believe that I am. And I’m starting to lose hope that I will be. I’ve read Romans, and have done what Paul says. Any insight or words of encouragement would be very helpful.”

From California:

“I found one of your periodicals in an old, badly beaten-up box of books here in prison that was slated for the dumpster...Please put me on your mailing list, as my new-found interest in God has been piqued!”

From Minnesota:

“Thank you for the *Searchlight*. It is food for the soul and dessert for the brain. So much of the writings out there are mindless repetition with no evidence of thinking! (I know because I was like that at one time too.)”

From North Carolina:

“Thank you sire for answering my question. I had long sought the answer...There is no need to wonder why I no longer attend a church. You...and Don Samdahl are my pastors now.” (I hear “sire” can be used for “an elderly man,” so the shoe fits!—Ed).

From our Inbox:

“I listened to your sermon, ‘Figures of Speech,’ and I loved it! Spot on, good bread, Bro!...I’m gonna make a video. You inspire me.”

From California:

“Thank you brother, the whole video is good teaching. This past weekend the family got together and with the Bible in our hands I showed them...Thank you once again for your words and concern...I have no words to express the love I feel for your ministry.”

From Virginia:

“I posed the question to you about discerning the will of God for a reason, and I’m not left disappointed or confused. I could not simply read Part Four of this study that you sent me, so I found the previous three and read them all...There were many profound thoughts while reading this afternoon.” (This *Searchlight* series on “Discerning the Will of God” is now available in booklet form.—Ed).

From Ohio:

“I had a discussion with a pastor tonight about Hebrews...Wrong division results in confusion, doesn’t it? Thanks so much for the references. Now, I can discuss it intelligently with him.”

From New York:

“I receive your publication...and I love it! It is easy to read and understand, and has a powerful message. I am 70 years old and in prison. I am in the evening of my life. I don’t have much money, but I feel in my heart that I must somehow thank you for everything you are doing for me, so I am enclosing five dollars.”

From Indiana:

“Just finished reading ‘That Explains It,’ your *Two Minutes* article. It never ceases to amaze me how you put those comparisons together and what a clear picture you paint of some things that are hard to understand!... This article was on the bitterness Christians who work for their salvation feel towards the message and messengers of free grace! Never understood it so clearly!...I feel like the richest kid on the block—no fooling!”

From Ohio:

“I was so thrilled after reading ‘Truth or Consequences’ to be reminded I am liberated from religion and the Law. Learning to rightly divide changed my life and filled my heart with joy knowing I have full assurance of understanding. This article by Kevin Sadler was such a blessing. I would love to be able to buy it in pamphlet form to share with friends and loved ones.”

From Connecticut:

“There was a particular article I would appreciate if you could send me...‘The Mystery of Godliness’...I enjoyed it very much and would like to read it again and keep it for reference.”

From North Carolina:

“Thank you for the book, *Redemption, A Dispensational Review* by C.O. Griggs. I had set it aside thinking it was a throw away, since it was free, but then lately I started reading it. I must say, it is the best book I have ever read. It’s like a gold mine of answers. I’m ordering more copies to share with my two friends.” (We’re giving them away to make room for new inventory, but they may be gone by the time you read this.—Ed.)

From Florida:

“Pastor Kevin Sadler, I want to say that I enjoyed the conference in Nokomis, and that it was wonderful to meet you and your family...Thank you for the beautiful booklet, *The Rapture vs. The Second Coming!*”

From our Inbox:

“Where can I get the reference sheets for the messages...John 11:30-37...John 11:20-29.” (All the reference sheets are now posted alongside the MP3 audio messages.—Ed.)

From Arizona:

“Just a note of thanks to Pastor Kevin Sadler for his article: ‘I Will Not Forget Thy Word.’ That was very insightful and encouraging to me. I had recently prayed for a better understanding of the distinctive work of the Holy Spirit and this article answers some of my questions...What a great article! That’s a keeper, to be read and re-read every time I find myself away from God’s Word too long.”

From Florida:

“Please resume sending the *Two Minutes with the Bible* to my new email address. It really is *great* to start the day with...and...look back and read lots of the old ones.”

From Georgia:

“There are a lot of things that are hard for me to understand and so I have to search for answers. Most of my questions are answered through study of the books and writing shared at BBS. There was one thing that troubled me greatly just...but I found an article...on the BBS site and it gave the correct understanding... Thank you for having it available, for it gave me peace of heart and mind.”



“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

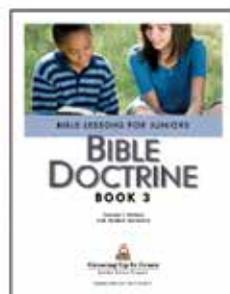
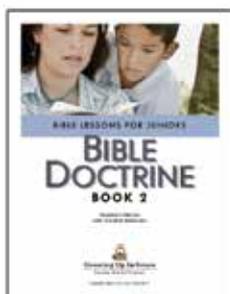
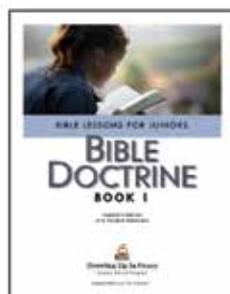
Mothers have a unique opportunity to help their children grow up in grace. To assist them, and all teachers, we are offering these Mother's Day specials.



Bible Lesson Manuals for the Junior Level

Bible Doctrines Book 1, 2, or 3

Price: \$35.00 per book plus s&h* (Reg. \$39.00)



Buy the set of three books for \$100.00
plus s&h* (Reg. \$117.00)

Special prices end May 31, 2017

*Orders up to \$30, add \$4 for shipping and handling; orders over \$30, add 15% Wisconsin residents, please add 5.6% sales tax to books and shipping.

(262) 255-4750 or www.bereanbiblesociety.org

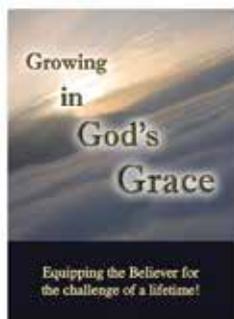
Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures. May this literature encourage you to teach others, also.



Let's Get Growing!

Growing in God's Grace

by John Fredericksen



Paperback 96 pages

Price: \$6.00 ea
plus s&h* (Reg. \$8.00)

The Key to Understanding The Scriptures

by Paul M. Sadler

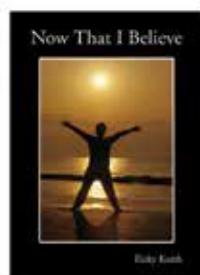


Folded Chart

Prices: \$0.50 ea
25 pk for \$10.00
plus s&h*

Now That I Believe

by Ricky Kurth



Booklet 40 pages

Prices: \$3.00 ea
10 for \$15.00
plus s&h*

News and Announcements

The Memoirs of C. R. Stam: In keeping with our founder's wishes that men not glorify him after his passing, our BBS Board of Directors agreed to limit the publishing of his memoirs to a single printing. If you missed out on one of these editions, but would like to read the personal reflections of the writer who brought you so much understanding of God's rightly divided Word, this volume is now available in e-book format. You can download your copy from our online bookstore, or from Amazon, for a nine-dollar charge.

It's Time to Celebrate Grace! *Celebrate Grace Camp* will meet again this year at the *Mountaintop Retreat* in Montrose, Colorado. Former camp directors Jerry and Judy Worthely have handed the reins over to David and Danette Bradford, who have invited Pastor Jim Tollar to bring this year's messages. Jim is the pastor of *Grace Bible Church* in Beloit, Wisconsin, and also serves as our business manager here at BBS. You're sure to be blessed by the Dispensational Survey messages he has planned, so abandon any previous July 21-23 plans and contact David and Danette at dx2pluspm@zoho.com, or at (719) 539-4772, to let them know you are coming.

New Virginia Grace Bible Study: After they didn't teach him the grace message at *Dallas Theological Seminary*, our new friend Don Samdahl learned it from a rancher in Oklahoma named Les Feldick! If you would like to attend the Bible study that Don teaches in Lexington, just leave him a message on his website at www.doctrine.org, and he'll get back to you to let you know when and where they meet.

New Minnesota Grace Church: Deaf evangelist Pastor John Schumacher has been faithfully preaching and signing the grace message for the deaf for the past five years in Nebraska, so we are more than happy to make you aware that his church is on the move. He'll now be ministering Pauline truth at 3575 Lexington Avenue South, Apartment 234, in Eagan, Minnesota. Even if you're not hearing impaired, you'll enjoy his ministry of the Word, so be sure to get in touch with him at deafraven@aol.com if you live near his new location.



Heceta Head Lighthouse is located in Florence, Oregon, and is still a working lighthouse. From a height of 205 feet above the ocean, it casts its beams more than 20 miles out to sea. It is the brightest light on the Oregon coast. It is said to be the most photographed lighthouse in the U.S.



Media Price List

DVDs

The Miracles of Calvary	\$15.00
What it Means to Be A Grace Believer	\$15.00

USB Drive

USB Drive (423 Messages).....	\$15.00
-------------------------------	---------

PowerPoint Download

Rapture vs. Second Coming.....	\$8.00
--------------------------------	--------

E-books

Acts Volume 1.....	\$9.00
Acts Volume 2.....	9.00
Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ.....	9.00
Growing In God's Grace.....	5.00
Memoirs of Cornelius R. Stam.....	9.00
Moses and Paul.....	5.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.....	9.00
Paul's Epistle to the Philippians.....	9.00
Revelation Volume 1.....	9.00
Revelation Volume 2.....	9.00
Studies in James.....	6.00
Things that Differ.....	8.00
Two Minutes with the Bible.....	8.00
Two-Fold Purpose of God.....	5.00

Audio Books on CD

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ.....	\$21.00
Studies in James.....	15.00
Life and Letters of Peter.....	27.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.....	45.00
The Triumph of His Grace.....	24.00
The Two-Fold Purpose of God.....	6.00

Things That Differ	27.00
Moses and Paul	6.00
True Spirituality	18.00
No Other Doctrine.....	15.00
The Lord's Supper.....	9.00

Bible Time Messages by C.R. Stam on CD

Apostolic Authority.....	\$1200
Author's Choice	24.00
Christmas.....	18.00
Colossians.....	24.00
1 Corinthians Volume 1.....	27.00
1 Corinthians Volume 2.....	27.00
2 Corinthians Volume 1.....	24.00
2 Corinthians Volume 2.....	24.00
Ephesians.....	33.00
Galatians Volume 1.....	21.00
Galatians Volume 2.....	21.00
Lord's Return.....	6.00
Metaphors of Paul.....	6.00
Philippians.....	21.00
Pauline Apostleship.....	18.00
Rapture.....	21.00
Romans Volume 1.....	36.00
Romans Volume 2.....	33.00
Salvation Volume 1.....	36.00
Salvation Volume 2.....	33.00
Sermon on the Mount.....	15.00
1 Timothy.....	21.00
2 Timothy.....	24.00
Titus.....	9.00
Thessalonians.....	27.00
True Spirituality.....	18.00

Orders up to \$30.00, please add **\$4.00** for Postage and Handling

Orders over \$30.00, please add **15%** for Postage and Handling

Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency

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

PERIODICALS
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI
AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES



**"In this world of give and take, there are not
enough people who are willing to give what it takes."**

—From a plaque presented to Lt. Clebe McClary by his men.

Memorial Day
We remember those who gave all