

The
BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

September 2020



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

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A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is humbling to serve in a ministry that is supported by the financial gifts of the Lord's people. Every donation is noted, received, and appreciated at BBS. Without your support, this ministry would cease to exist.

Giving is different under grace than it was under the law. Under the law, the prophet Malachi relayed these words from the Lord to Israel: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse...and *prove Me* now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10). In contrast, under grace, the Apostle Paul relayed these words from the Lord to the Body of Christ: "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing...see that ye abound in this grace [the financial generosity of the Macedonian churches] also. I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and *to prove the sincerity of your love*" (2 Cor. 8:7-8).

Under the law, God told Israel to test Him, to "prove Me" (Mal. 3:10), and that if they would obey and give their tithes, He would "pour...out a blessing" upon them. God *commanded* Israel to give to Him, and when they obeyed, they were "proving" or testing Him to see if He would be faithful to His covenant promises with them and reward them with material blessing.

Under grace, it's the opposite: we don't prove God, God is proving *us*. He has given to us first: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich" (2 Cor. 8:9). God's Son and our Savior gave everything that we might live. We are rich in Him and blessed "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places" (Eph. 1:3). Today, by our giving to the Lord's work, we "prove the sincerity of your [our] love." Beyond a doubt, the Lord has proved the sincerity of His love. Now we're to prove the sincerity of our love for Him and others through our financial giving. Also, unlike what was under the law, Paul wrote, "I speak not by commandment" (2 Cor. 8:8), meaning that giving is not commanded. All is left up to grace, and God would have us "abound in this grace also."

If you'd like to designate a gift for a specific purpose, here is a list of the various funds you can give to at BBS: *Berean Searchlight*; *C. R. Stam Writings*; *Paul M. Sadler Writings*; *Kevin Sadler Writings*; *Video Ministry (Transformed by Grace)*; *Spanish Literature*; *Literature for Leaders* (aiding grace pastors and leaders); *International Book Fund* (assisting missionaries and pastors in the mission field).

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President

FAITH

The Spirit of Faith

It is thrilling to hear the Psalmist, though “greatly afflicted, say, *“I believed, therefore have I spoken”* (Psa. 116:10).

It is thrilling too, to see the Apostle Paul, though “troubled...perplexed...persecuted...cast down...always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake”—it is thrilling to see him take his stand with David and to hear him speak of having “**THE SAME SPIRIT OF FAITH,**” adding, “**WE ALSO BELIEVE AND THEREFORE SPEAK**” (2 Cor. 4:8-13).

If only all who believe the glorious message of God’s grace—that believers in Christ are accepted in Him, pronounced “complete,” and baptized into one body by one divine baptism—if all who believed these truths would speak out today, there would be a sweeping revival tomorrow in the Church, the Body of Christ. If, putting all other considerations aside, they would openly and honestly say, “**WE ALSO BELIEVE AND THEREFORE SPEAK,**” the results would be as refreshing as far reaching. And they should speak, for this is “*the spirit of faith.*”

But, alas, there are few who possess “the spirit of faith”; few who will stand, regardless of consequences, for the light God has given them. Some maintain a discreet silence because of the “fear of man”; others because they love “the praise of man.” Both say, “One must be careful what one says, for these truths are not popular,” but both alike are guilty of unfaithfulness to God and the truth.

With God’s help, let us not be among them. Let us, where the truth is concerned, stand with David and Paul and say, “**WE ALSO BELIEVE AND THEREFORE SPEAK!**” Let us be among those who truly possess “the spirit of faith,” who are determined to “*stand fast in the faith*” and ready to “*fight the good fight of faith*” (1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Tim. 6:12).

—Pastor C.R. Stam



Caring for Those **LEFT BEHIND**

*(From a message given at the
BBF Fall Conference, October 2019).*

PASTOR KEVIN J. SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

“Harry R. Truman (October 30, 1896–May 18, 1980) was a resident of the U.S. state of Washington who lived near Mount St. Helens. He was the owner and caretaker of Mount St. Helens Lodge at Spirit Lake near the foot of the mountain, and he came to fame as a folk hero in the months preceding the volcano’s 1980 eruption after he refused to leave his home despite evacuation orders.

“...Truman became a minor celebrity during the two months of volcanic activity preceding the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens, giving interviews to reporters and expressing his opinion that the danger was exaggerated. ‘I don’t have any idea whether it will blow,’ he said, ‘but I don’t believe it to the point that I’m going to pack up.’ Truman displayed little concern about the volcano and his situation: ‘If the mountain goes, I’m going with it. This area is heavily timbered, Spirit Lake is in between me and the mountain, and the mountain is

a mile away, the mountain ain’t gonna hurt me.’

“...Truman told reporters that he was knocked from his bed by precursor earthquakes, so he responded by moving his mattress to the basement...As a result of his defiant commentary, Truman became something of a folk hero and was the subject of many songs and poems by children.

“...As the likelihood of eruption increased, state officials tried to evacuate the area with the exception of a few scientists and security officials. On May 17, they attempted one final time to persuade Truman to leave, to no avail. The volcano erupted the next morning, and its entire northern flank collapsed. Truman was alone at his lodge with his 16 cats, and is presumed to have died in the eruption on May 18...The largest landslide in recorded history and a pyroclastic flow traveling atop the landslide engulfed the Spirit Lake area almost simultaneously, destroying the lake and burying the site of

his lodge under 150 feet (46 m) of volcanic landslide debris. Authorities never found Truman's remains."¹

As ambassadors for Christ, we warn others of a catastrophe that is coming to this world, and that they need to escape it before it's too late. If people alive today do not heed the warnings of Scripture, they could be left behind at the Rapture and face a time of unprecedented destruction that will explode on this world with overwhelming power, like Mount St. Helens, but much, much worse.



Harry Truman didn't have to die on May 18, 1980 had he only heeded the warnings. He was stubborn, however, and he refused to believe the warnings and govern himself accordingly. People today don't have to face the judgment that will overtake the world after the Rapture if they heed the repeated warnings of Scripture. Like Harry though, many are stubborn in their unbelief, and make excuses, and even scoff. But it's the truth of God's Word, and "God is not a man, that He should lie" (Num. 23:19).

The knowledge that the Lord could return for His Church at

any moment, leaving the unbelieving behind to be plunged into the wrath of the Tribulation, makes the evangelization of the lost always urgent. It is to motivate the Church to reach out with the gospel of grace, so that others may escape the fearsome Day of the Lord.

Children of the Day

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" (1 Thes. 5:1-5).

After he taught about the catching away of the Church, the Body of Christ in 4:13-18, Paul turned in 5:1-3 to the horrific event that follows it, the seven-year Tribulation. After the Rapture, the next thing in God's timeline of future events is Daniel's 70th week of years (Dan. 9:24-27), the judgment of the Day of the Lord.

The Rapture is not the same as the Second Coming. The first verses of 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 refer to events *after* the Rapture, not concurrent or prior to it. Our Lord will first come to take His Church out of the world and then judgment follows.

Paul's explanation of the Rapture in 4:13-18 concerns *us*, believers in the Body of Christ. That is why the pronoun "we" is used four times in relation to *our hope* of the Rapture.

"For if WE believe that Jesus died and rose again...WE which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven...and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then WE which are alive...shall be caught up...and so shall WE ever be with the Lord" (1 Thes. 4:14-17).

However, Paul's explanation of what takes place in 5:1-3 concerns "they" and "them," or those left behind after the Rapture.

"For when THEY shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon THEM, as travail upon a woman with child; and THEY shall not escape" (1 Thes. 5:3).

We are reassured by our apostle that we will NOT be here for the Tribulation period, not any part of it. We will be caught up to be with the Lord before it ever begins.

Comparing verse 2 with verse 4 regarding the "thief in the night," we see that Paul reinforces this fact:

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night" (v. 2).

"But ye, brethren [the Body of Christ], are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (v. 4).

The Day of the Lord will surprise the world after the Rapture and will come upon them like "a thief in the night." But it will

not overtake the Body of Christ as a thief, because we won't be here! The Church will have been caught up to heaven to be with the Lord *before* the Tribulation.



Further, Paul contrasts "night" and "darkness" with "day" and "light" to teach how we are delivered from the wrath to come. In verses 4-5, the "night" and "darkness" Paul is referring to is the prophetic night and prophetic darkness of the Day of the Lord. Amos 5:20 teaches, "Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark...?" In contrast to that day of darkness, Paul wrote,

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness...Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" (1 Thes. 5:4-5).

We are not in darkness, and we are not in danger of the dark days of judgment in the Tribulation. All of us in the Church belong to the light, to the day, to heaven, to Christ, and we will all be caught up at the Rapture before the darkness of God's wrath in the Tribulation begins.

Paul then turned to the practical ramifications of this truth, and how the Body of Christ is to live in light of the Lord's return

at the Rapture *and* of the Tribulation which follows it.

Stop and think about this: We may right now be living among people who will enter the Tribulation if the Rapture comes in our lifetime. The Body is “children of light, and children of the day,” and God wants us to *be* a light to the world for Christ and His gospel of grace. God wants us, by faith, to live aware and awake to the fact that our Savior could come at any time and that, as a result, people around us may go right into the Tribulation.



**“God uses
rescued
people to
rescue people.”**

Thus, the Lord wants us to carry out our service, remaining spiritually awake and vigilant, always ready to forewarn others for their safety. God’s lifesaving truth is the unbeliever’s only chance of rescue from the ultimate, final hell in the Lake of Fire, and from hell on earth in the Tribulation.

No Doze

“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night” (1 Thes. 5:6-7).

“Therefore,” Paul wrote, or in light of the fact that we’re not

going to go through any part of the night and darkness of the Tribulation, and that we are “the children of light, and the children of the day,” *therefore*, we should not sleep as do others. The “others” in verse 6 refers to unbelievers.

The Bible teaches that unbelievers are in darkness (Eph. 5:8; 2 Cor. 6:14). In their spiritual darkness, unbelievers do what we all do at night, they sleep—all the time, spiritually speaking. This is the sleep of spiritual indifference, negligence, and carelessness. The unbelieving have their spiritual eyes closed. They can’t see truth. They don’t even know they’re in darkness. And in the darkness, they are lost. They can’t see where to go. They aren’t even aware of the disaster that is coming right at them, and they live their lives as if there is no one, true, living God, no accountability to Him, and no judgment before Him.

In verse 7 of 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul made a simple, common, everyday observation: people sleep at night, and they get drunk at night. Sleep and drunkenness go with the night, and sleep and drunkenness are illustrations of the spiritual condition of the lost. Paul’s obvious implication is that those who are in spiritual darkness exhibit, in effect, the characteristics of the literal drunkenness that takes place at night.

Drunkenness causes people to lack focus and lose control. They can’t think straight or walk straight. They make poor, non-sensical choices. They lose sense

of right and wrong. Their senses are dulled, and they're not as aware of the circumstances and true reality around them. And drunkenness can lead to personal ruin. Many stumble and stagger through life this way.

In verses 6 and 7, Paul is making two points for the believer. First, we need to be aware and sensitive to unbelievers' spiritual condition of being in darkness, and of their spiritual sleep and drunkenness. We know that the only way that one can be delivered from spiritual darkness is by "the light of the glorious gospel of Christ" (2 Cor. 4:4), and trusting Christ alone. It is at that point and from that point that one can truly see spiritually.

Second, Paul is teaching us here that day people shouldn't act like night people. He wrote, "let *us* not sleep, as do others." The implied reason for this instruction is that day people, or believers, *can* still act like night people. It's possible for believers to have some night life in them. The difference, however, between the believer and the unbeliever is to be like night and day. This is true in our spiritual position of being in Christ and unbelievers being without Christ, but it is also to be true in our practice.

We are taught by God that our conduct should coincide with our position in Christ. God wants our state to move toward our standing. In Christ we are light, we belong to the day, and "therefore," let us not sleep as others do, or as non-believers who have their spiritual eyes closed, are

indifferent to spiritual things, are negligent about eternity, and are unaware of what is coming. We need to conduct ourselves as day people because we *do* know what is coming. We understand the wrath to come and what awaits those who do not believe.

The relief and joy of our deliverance from God's wrath in the Day of the Lord comes with responsibility. Believers are to live in the light of truth. We see spiritually now. Therefore, we should live as the children of light that we are in Christ, warning people around us about judgment to come, and sharing the light and truth of God's Word. God uses rescued people to rescue people. That is our calling as believers.



"A West Virginia state trooper, stopped a woman for going 15 miles over the speed limit. After he handed her a ticket, she asked him, 'Don't you give out warnings?' 'Yes, ma'am,' he replied. 'They're all up and down the road. They say, 'Speed Limit 55.'"² The Church is to be God's warning signs up and down the road of life for unbelievers, warning them about the judgment that is coming to those who do not obey the gospel (2 Thes. 1:8).

In God's plans and purposes, it is daytime, the day of salvation, but night is coming, the night of the Tribulation. Paul's analogy here is that, because it is daytime and not the night of the Tribulation yet, we shouldn't be spiritually asleep during the day! Instead we should be spiritually awake and aware of what's going on around us. This world is speeding toward the night of God's wrath, and we are surrounded by those who are in danger of being left behind and need to be delivered from the darkness of the Tribulation.

Sleep is natural to night people, but not to day people. Going through life sleeping should not characterize believers who are day people, but it can. Thus, Paul teaches the Church that we need to make a determined effort to stay awake. We are not to be spiritual

Rip Van Winkles. We should not be spiritually insensitive or negligent; instead we should be full of care toward the plight of unbelievers and their need of the Lord.

It's easy to sleep through life. It's like the guy who said, "I'm so good at sleeping, I could do it with my eyes closed." God doesn't want His Church to be good at slumbering spiritually. As believers in Christ, we're taught

to be awake and to live with our spiritual eyes open.

This is what Paul meant when he wrote, "Let us watch." "Watch" refers to being alert, awake. We're to *watch* against laziness, distraction, and complacency in our spiritual lives. We're to *watch* for the Savior's return and those around us who need Christ.

"Watch and be sober" (1 Thes. 5:6) is in direct contrast to the "sleep" and being "drunken" of verse 7. Sleep and drunkenness are two ways to characterize insensitivity, while being watchful and sober are two ways to characterize sensitivity to spiritual realities.

In this context, "be sober" refers to restraint, discipline, focus, being filled with spiritual and moral seriousness, and zealous for what is true and right according to God's Word. To be sober is not to be indifferent but is to have a clear mind, being balanced, consistent, and steady spiritually.

Bible Commentator William Hendriksen (1900-1982) wrote, "The sober person lives deeply. His pleasures are not primarily those of the senses...but those of the soul. He is by no means a Stoic. On the contrary, with a full measure of joyful anticipation he looks forward to the return of the Lord. But he does not run away from his task!...The apostle's exhortation, then, amounts to this: 'Let us not be lax and unprepared, but let us be prepared, being spiritually alert, firm in the faith, courageous, strong, calmly but with glad anticipation looking forward to the future day. Let us,



moreover, do all this because we belong to the day and not to the night.’”³

Put on Faith, Love, and Hope

“But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (1 Thes. 5:8).

Notice that Paul does not exhort us to “Please be day people.” Rather he tells the Church, “You are day people.” We are day people in Christ. And as day people of the day, we are to be sober and wear the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet of the hope of salvation. In other words, the armor is faith, love, and hope. These three are presented as armor to protect us in this world, as well as for how we are to reach out to the world.

As Paul thought about a person who was watchful and sober, his mind went to one who was the most alert and disciplined: a soldier on duty. In Paul’s day, a Roman soldier wore protective armor.

The breastplate and helmet were two essential pieces of equipment to protect a Roman soldier. Those are two vital areas of the body. Of course, the breastplate covered all the vital organs, and the helmet covered the head.

A Roman breastplate covered a soldier from his neck to his waist and could be made out of chain mail, heavy cloth, brass, iron, or leather. It could be likened to a bulletproof vest. We could compare the Roman helmet to

something like a football or motorcycle helmet that can protect against crushing blows to the skull.

Paul wrote that the believer’s spiritual breastplate consists of faith and love, and the helmet consists of the hope of salvation. It’s the breastplate of faith toward God, and the breastplate of God’s love through us toward others.

Considering these pieces of armor in their context, the breastplate of faith is faith in the always-imminent pre-Tribulation Rapture and the judgment of the Day of the Lord that follows it. We believe and know these are true because God says they’re true. It is faith resulting in action on our part.

In the context, it’s the breastplate of love for others, not wanting them to face the judgment to come in the Tribulation, wanting them to have the glorious hope of the Rapture as we do. It is love resulting in action on our part.

Wearing a breastplate of faith and love will cause us to live alert and steadfast for the Lord, and to stand ready at all times as children of light in Him. By faith in God and love toward others, God equips us to live as children of light and “not sleep, as do others.” This armor equips us to stand at the ready at all times as children of the day.

“The hope of salvation,” in this context, is the Rapture of the Church. The hope of salvation is the certainty that if we die *before* Christ returns, then to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8) in soul

and spirit. Then, at the Rapture, the Lord will bring us with Him (1 Thes. 4:14) in soul and spirit. At that time, we will receive glorified bodies, and our bodies will be raised first (vv. 15-16), to be united to our soul and spirit forever. The hope of salvation is also the certainty that if we are alive *when* He returns, we will receive glorified bodies and be caught away off this earth to meet the Lord in the air forever to be with Him (v. 17).

The helmet of the hope of salvation is what guards our heads from attacks on our thinking. And there are, in the spiritual battle, attacks against the Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13), our “hope of salvation” and deliverance from the Tribulation period. The helmet of salvation is about being grounded in the truth of God’s Word, so we might be delivered from error and defend the truth of the pre-Tribulation Rapture.

The helmet is also about having the hope of salvation always on our minds, so we realize the need of others who have “no hope” (1 Thes. 4:13). This helmet is about *thinking* of others, resulting

in action on our part: sharing our hope with the unbelieving, so they might trust the reality of hope in Christ.

The exhortation to put on the breastplate and the helmet is in the form of a participle: “putting on” must be repeated every time as if it were the first time. We live in a world of spiritual darkness that is hostile to spiritual truth. It is an ongoing fight. There is a battle raging all around us for the hearts and minds of people, and every believer is a soldier in that battle. Therefore, we must keep “putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.” May we care for those who could be left behind, and do so with faith, hope, and love. 

1. “Harry R. Truman,” Wikipedia, accessed August 4, 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_R._Truman.
2. “Speed Warnings,” AJokeADay, accessed August 4, 2020, <https://www.ajokeaday.com/jokes/police-jokes/speeding-1mb2m5bira>.
3. William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary: Exposition of Thessalonians, Timothy, and Titus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1981), pp. 125-126.



Transformed By Grace

Sunday 9:00 am CT: WJYS Chicago

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THE SOLUTION TO RACIAL TENSION



PASTOR RICKY KURTH
Berean Searchlight Editor

Many years ago, the Lord sent a missionary named Philip on a mission to speak to a lost soul.

“And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

“Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet” (Acts 8:27,28).

Now Ethiopians back then looked the same as they do now. They were black. And as I’m sure I don’t have to tell you, many people look down on black people. But the Bible speaks well of them, as we see in Jeremiah 38:7-10:

“Now when Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs which was in the king’s house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon...Ebedmelech...spake to the king, saying...*these men have done evil...to Jeremiah the prophet...Then the king commanded... Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon....”*

As you can see, an Ethiopian eunuch in Jeremiah’s day secured the release of God’s prophet from prison, and probably saved his life from the wicked men who were seeking to end it (v. 4). And God rewarded him for it:

“Now the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah...saying, Go and speak to Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts...I will bring My words upon this city for evil...*But I will deliver thee in that day...*” (Jer. 39:15-17).

Now this example tells us something important about God and black lives. It tells us that what matters to Him is the color of a man's *heart*, not the color of his skin. And if that's all that matters to God, then that's all that should matter to us as well.

But this eunuch's exemplary behavior also tells us something about the man himself. Black people have always had to struggle to acquire the respect of others, and this dear brother obtained it by *earning* it. It took a considerable amount of boldness to stand up to *the king himself* on behalf of an unjustly imprisoned man of God. Boldness like that could easily have backfired and endangered his own relationship with the king. But he put his own interests aside and risked his standing with the powers that be by speaking out for another.

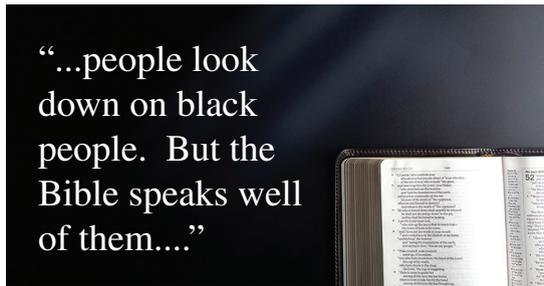
This sterling example of character was easy for me to recognize as the pastor of *Faith Bible Church* of Steger, Illinois, the church that I pastor in addition to my duties here at *Berean Bible Society*. You see, the black members of our happily integrated congregation did the same thing when they were young. They earned the respect of the law by becoming hardworking, responsible, God-honoring, law-abiding citizens. And they earned it many years ago, back in a day when it was far more difficult to obtain in our country than it is today.

The Ethiopian in Acts 8 was evidently another man who had earned the respect of his sovereign. He is described as a man "of great authority" in Ethiopia (8:27). He worked for his queen in a *very* trusted position. He was the treasurer, the man who managed the finances of *the entire nation*. You don't gain that much respect and confidence from a monarch of *any* color without showing the utmost in exemplary character.

But more importantly, he was a believer in the God of Israel. He might not have been born a *child* of Abraham, but he'd learned to trust in the *God* of Abraham. And that begs the question of how a man way down in Ethiopia had come to believe on Israel's God. While I can't be sure of the answer, I believe it had something to do with the story of the queen of Sheba. Compare what the Bible says about her (1 Kings 10:1-13) to what the Lord said in Matthew 12:42:

"The queen of the south...came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon..."

If you know your Bible geography, you know that Ethiopia is south of Israel. That's why I agree with the many Bible teachers who hold that the queen of Sheba was the black queen of Ethiopia. I further believe that the astonishment she expressed at the wisdom and glory



that God had given Israel's king prompted her to believe on Israel's God. And that would undoubtedly have had a tremendous influence on her nation—an influence that you may be seeing in the eunuch in our Acts 8 text *1,000 years later!*

Is there anything you can learn from that? You may not be a queen, but if you let people know you're a believer in the God of the Bible, it will have an influence on *someone*, whether you're black or white. Your influence may not extend to an entire nation for 1,000 years, but I guarantee you'll have an effect in the lives of others if you'll just learn to share your faith amongst your countrymen as it seems the queen of Ethiopia did amongst hers. That's how she changed *her* nation, and that's how you can change yours as well.

Speaking of having an influence whether you are black or white, my church recently received a generous check from a Christian who said she had lost a valuable gold pin, and the man who found it refused to let her reward him. Instead, he instructed her to send his reward to my church. It turns out that while he now lives out of state, he had attended my church as a boy, where he sat in the Sunday School class of one of our black elders, and the Junior Church class taught by his black sister.

So there's the story of a little white boy whose life was changed by what two black Bible teachers taught him from the Word of God. And he is only one of *many* white children who grew up in our church whose lives were influenced by two of the most dedicated, faithful teachers I have ever known—including my own children.

So if all of the racial unrest that has surfaced in our country this year has you wondering what the solution might be, wonder no more. The answer to all the racial tension in our land and in the world around us is the Christ preached by those two devoted teachers during the entire 41 years of my ministry at our church. If you want to get active in the daunting task of fixing racism, the only way to do it is to *preach that same Christ*. The only way to change the thinking of a man's *head* is to get him to trust Christ in his *heart*.

A few decades ago many statues of Communist leaders were toppled in Russia, but I read an article recently that pointed out how those monuments might have come down but the idealism they represented is still alive and well in Russia. The toppling of those statues didn't change a thing. The only way to change a nation's ideology is to change it *one heart at a time* with the preaching of Christ and the teaching of God's Word.

If you have any doubt as to the power of the gospel of Christ to change the hearts of men, consider what happened after the Lord saved *a murderous monster* like Saul of Tarsus:

“Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus” (Acts 9:19).

Here we see Saul kicking back with the very followers of Christ that he had come to Damascus to *slaughter*. Doesn't that remind you of Isaiah's description of the kingdom of heaven on earth:

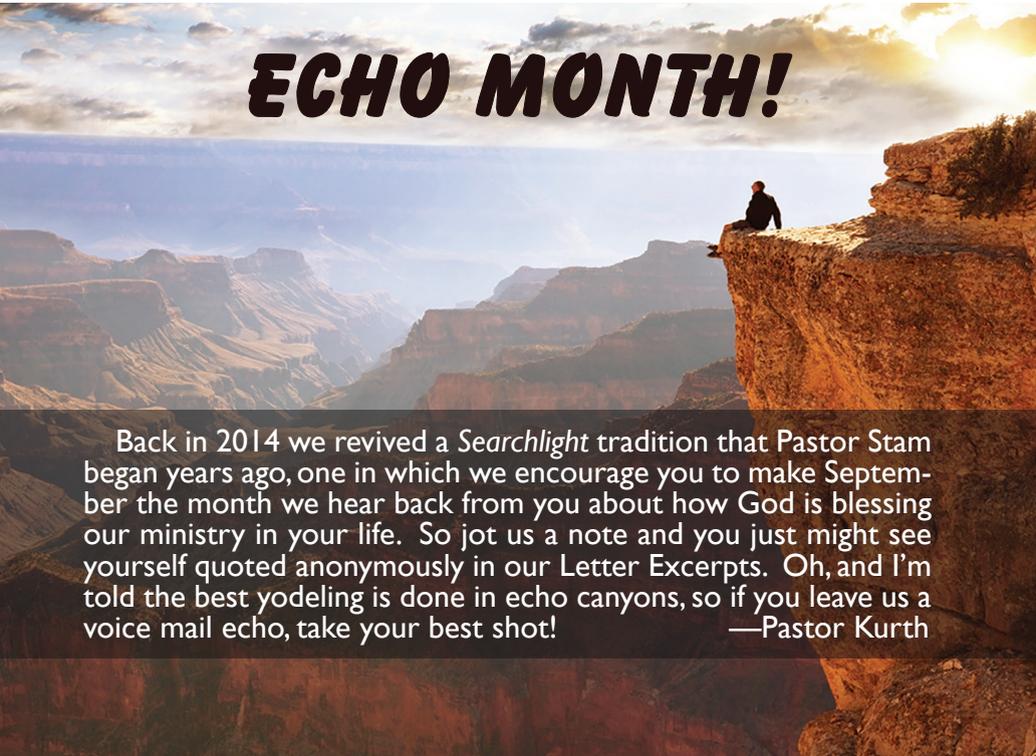
“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb...” (Isa. 11:6).

Of course, atheists and Bible skeptics look at verses like that and say, “That’s impossible, it’s the nature of a wolf to *eat* lambs!” But as we know, God will *change* the nature of the members of His animal kingdom once the Lord returns to the earth.

But skeptics *also* scoff at the power of the gospel to change the hearts of murderers like Saul. But God changed Saul’s hateful nature just as surely as He’ll change the nature of wolves in the kingdom.

You know what that means, don’t you? It means when skeptics look at blacks and whites and policemen and how they seem to be at each other’s throats these days and think, “They’ll *never* be able to dwell together in peace and love and harmony,” it’s only because they don’t know what you know. You know that the answer to all that mess is *the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ*. Skeptics and all other unbelievers know nothing about the *miracle* that God can work in the hearts of men.

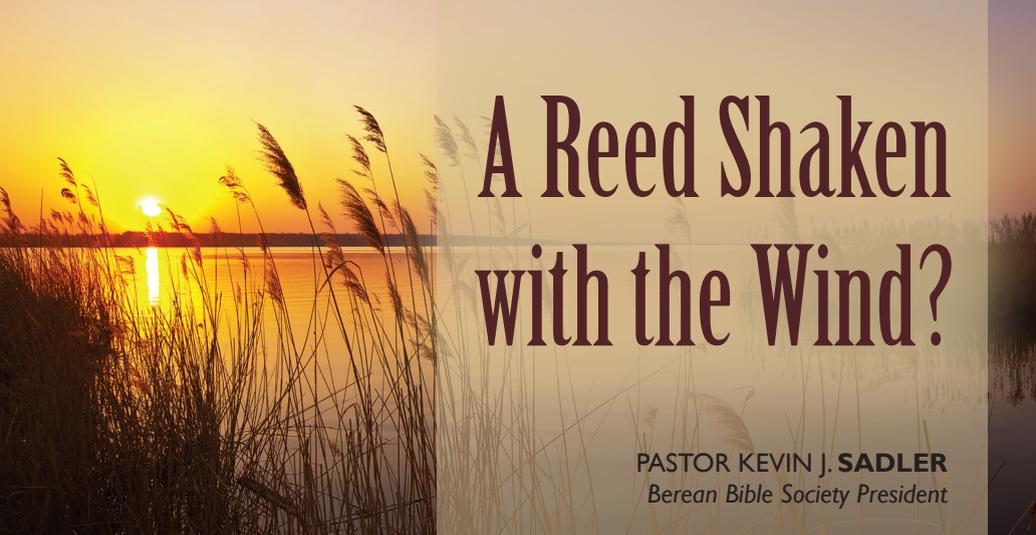
Of course, part of the reason for their ignorance is that we’re not being the ambassadors for Christ that He has called us to be. Why not spend some time praying about that *right now*. The people you reach for the Lord will be eternally glad you did. 



ECHO MONTH!

Back in 2014 we revived a *Searchlight* tradition that Pastor Stam began years ago, one in which we encourage you to make September the month we hear back from you about how God is blessing our ministry in your life. So jot us a note and you just might see yourself quoted anonymously in our Letter Excerpts. Oh, and I’m told the best yodeling is done in echo canyons, so if you leave us a voice mail echo, take your best shot!

—Pastor Kurth



A Reed Shaken with the Wind?

PASTOR KEVIN J. SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

“And when the messengers of John were departed, He began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously appavelled, and live delicately, are in kings’ courts. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet” (Luke 7:24-26).

In this passage, our Lord praised John the Baptist. The Lord asked those present that day, “When you went out in the wilderness to see John, did you expect him to be like a reed shaken with the wind?”

The region in the wilderness where John preached was flooded annually by the Jordan River and produced many reeds of a light, fragile nature that were easily blown around by the wind. The question the Lord asked was if they saw a man who was easily moved and vacillating, perhaps one who catered to the crowd and moved with every whim of popular opinion. Not John. John was a man of conviction and courage. He preached the message God gave him, the gospel of the kingdom, and stood firmly for that truth. He was not swayed, and no one could ever accuse John of being a reed shaken by the wind.

We need to be like John with the truth of God’s message of grace for today—not one who is “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14), but one who stands firm and is “strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 2:1).

The Lord also asked the crowd, “When you went to see John, did you go to see a man who was dressed in fine clothes and soft fabrics, the kind worn in the palaces of kings?” Matthew 3:4 tells us that “John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins.” John wore poor, coarse clothing. He was dressed in camel’s hair, the coarse fabric of an outdoorsman rather than soft raiment and fashionable attire. He was a man who was not concerned with the things

that people ordinarily wish for or care about. He was absorbed with God's truth and spiritual realities. Being so, he made others see how poor they were and how rich they could be.

The Lord asked, "When you went out to the wilderness, did you go out to see a prophet?" The Lord said yes, it was a prophet they went out to see. In fulfilling his role as a prophet, John was a man who declared the Word of the living God, no matter what the cost to him might have been. John was a prophet "and much more than a prophet" (Luke 7:26), because he was also the prophesied messenger, the forerunner who would prepare the way for the Messiah's ministry (Luke 3:2-4).

John is a good example for us, because today there are many distractions, many things trying to pull us away from Christ and our purpose as believers. Like John, we need to be focused on serving the cause of Christ, standing for God's truth, and living for eternal realities so that we can follow Paul's challenge, "Take heed to the ministry which thou hast [we have] received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it" (Col. 4:17). 

Question Box

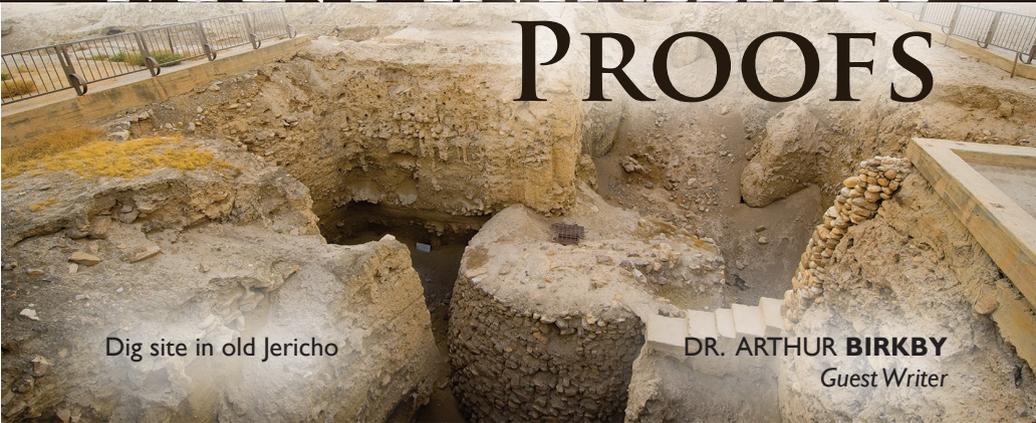
"A friend of mine said that Jesus quoted from an apocryphal book (Sirach 37:2). How do I answer his insistence that this means the apocrypha belongs in the Bible?"

In your letter you don't mention where the Lord is supposed to have quoted this verse, but it doesn't matter. Even if He did, that wouldn't prove that God wanted that book included in the canon of Scripture. The Bible mentions a lot of books that aren't included in God's Word.

For instance, in the Old Testament it mentions "the book of the wars of the Lord" (Num. 21:14). In the New Testament, Paul talked about an epistle that he wrote *before* the Book of 1 Corinthians (5:9). And there are many other examples of this (Josh. 10:13; 2 Chron. 9:29; 12:15; 13:22; 1 Kings 11:41; Col. 4:16; Jude 1:14; etc.).

The bottom line is, if God wanted those books included in *His Book*, they'd be in *His Book*. The fact that they are *not* indicates that they may have contained trustworthy and quotable information, but they were not "given by inspiration of God" as "all Scripture" is (2 Tim. 3:16). —Pastor Kurth

MANY INFALLIBLE PROOFS



Dig site in old Jericho

DR. ARTHUR BIRKBY
Guest Writer

One method of showing the truth of Scripture is by prophecy fulfilled. Another is to show that tangible, historical, secular evidence that non-believers accept is also established by the Bible. The branch of theology that deals with the defense and proof of Christian doctrine is known as “apologetics.” For us as believers, our faith in the Scriptures is all that is required, and our belief is all that is necessary. The reason, however, for resorting to defending the Bible by means other than mere belief is to have a testimony of reasonableness, common sense, and credibility which may win others to our faith. Let me give some examples of Biblical truth which make it difficult for non-believers to discredit the Bible as the literal Word of God.

Abraham came from Ur in Chaldea. Chaldea was the old name for Mesopotamia, or Babylon, which we now call Iraq. Excavations in the 20th century by the eminent scientist C. Leonard Wooley attest to the existence of Ur, long thought by many scholars

as being completely mythical. Found in Ur were middle class houses having 10 to 20 rooms on upper and lower floors. A school was found that existed during Abraham’s era, and the pupils were taught the three R’s as today. They used multiplication and division tables and worked with square and cube root. Think for a moment about someone you know today who may be unable to do these kinds of calculations. A bill of lading dating from 2040 B.C. showed a highly developed commerce at the time of Abraham. Even the name “Abraham” was found on excavated tablets.

Modern scholars have said that there were no camels in Egypt at the time of Abraham, although the 12th chapter of Genesis says Abraham had camels. Archeologists have since found not only statuettes, plaques, and rock carvings of camels, but also camel bones, skulls, and camel hair rope dating from 700 B.C. back to 3000 B.C.

Chapter 15 of Genesis tells about God’s Word to Abraham, that his descendants would be

slaves in Egypt for four centuries, but would return to Canaan in the 4th generation. Exodus 12:40 says that Moses led the Israelites from Egypt after 430 years in bondage; and Moses was the 4th generation from Jacob: Levi, Kohath, Amram, and then Moses. It has to be more than wild happenstance that Luke in the New Testament Book of Acts, written more than a thousand years later, mentions this same historical event.

What could be greater evidence of the Bible's uncanny, long-term accuracy than the account of Ishmael, the child of Abraham and Hagar. You will remember that Hagar was the Egyptian servant of Sarah, Abraham's wife. The Lord told Hagar that her child would have descendants without number, and that they would be wanderers and always in conflict. These of course are the Arabs of today, and the Arabs have been nomads for 4,000 years.

Chapter 17 of Genesis tells God's promise that kings would be among Abraham's descendants. This has been fulfilled countless times: all of the kings of Israel and Judah came from Abraham. Genesis contains many, many more evidences which confirm Bible truth; but our space limitations require that other Scripture passages be considered.

In Exodus, as one traces the route of the 40-year wanderings of Israel through the wilderness, it is discovered that the geographical features of that part of the world as described in the book correspond entirely to what a modern map would provide. Moses, the writer of Exodus, as well as the

other of the first five books of the Bible, could not have come up with such a documentary by sheer chance.



Bible critics, upon reading about a seven-candle lampstand in the tabernacle in Exodus 25, declared that such a candelabra was unknown until 600 B.C. in Babylonia. However, excavations just south of Jerusalem by the renowned archeologist W. F. Albright revealed seven-sprouted lampstands dating from 1200 to 1400 B.C.

The Book of Leviticus states that, in spite of all the attempts of enemies to hate and destroy the Jews, the Lord will never allow them to be completely wiped out. Scattered for 25 centuries, and with never-ending attempts to eradicate them from the face of the earth, they not only continue to exist but are a force that cannot be denied. Even if only a very few Jews were left in the world, after the diabolical effort to exterminate them, it would be more than sufficient evidence to trust the Word of God. By comparison, just ask what happened to the numerous other peoples whose future was not assured by God. Where are the Amalekites, the Amorites, Jebusites, Hittites, Philistines, Assyrians, and all the other nations that existed in history? There is not a trace of them today.

Although the Bible mentions the Hittites 48 times, critics have long contended that any such people, if they did exist, were of little consequence. The archeologist G. A. Barton mentions in his book, *Archeology and the Bible*, that an archive of clay tablets records a military treaty between the Hittites and Egypt thirteen centuries before the birth of Christ. This would certainly make the Hittites a significant culture with whom the Egyptians were politically involved.

Going on to another section of the Bible: the Book of Joshua details how Israelite soldiers marched around the city of Jericho seven times in a day. Sir Charles Marston's book, *New Biblical Evidence*, reports that the excavations of old Jericho show walls to be only 650 yards—which is a third of a mile—in circumference, enclosing an area of only seven acres. Thus a seven-lap march in one day is entirely feasible. Excavations of other ancient cities such as Troy, and even Jerusalem, show that the walled sections were places of refuge to which people could flee in time of trouble, and did not enclose the entire city where people regularly resided.

The Bible quotes Joshua as cursing anyone who would rebuild Jericho (Josh. 6:26), declaring that any such person would suffer the loss of his oldest as well as his youngest son. When the Book of 1 Kings was written centuries later, it recounts how the evil King Ahab endeavored to rebuild the city (1 Kings 16:34). Listen to this detailed description of the rebuilding: "The builder was

from Bethel, and was named Hiel. As the foundation of the city was laid, Hiel's first-born son, Abiram, died; and as the gates were set up in the walls, his youngest son, Segub, died." It seems unreasonable to assume that a duplicitous plot between Bible writers who did not know each other, and who lived centuries apart, could have manufactured such a tale whose pieces fit together so perfectly. Anyone, or any group of conspirators attempting to plan a story like this by deceit would certainly be doomed to failure. But because the Scriptures are all divine in their authorship, one needs never to worry that close scrutiny will reveal anything but absolute truth.

"...the defense and proof of Christian doctrine is known as 'apologetics.'"



Probably the most boring part of the entire Bible is, at the same time, a most revealing evidence of its being God's truth. I am referring to the Book of 1 Chronicles. I have read it through, and if you do not want to read it through, at least leaf through it to see the genealogies. No one—absolutely no one—would contrive such a book as a self-serving act with the pretext of promoting some religious dogma. One thing such a book does show is God's personal concern for

everybody—each individual who was ever born.

Today's thinkers, philosophers, and so-called intellectuals place great importance on secular intellects of the past such as those of ancient Greece. Concerning the earth, those presumed masterminds came up with the most bizarre, hare-brained ideas as to be laughable by any civilized intelligent standard; and still the Greek scholars are revered today by those who refuse to recognize the wisdom of God and His Holy Book. If the Bible were to assert that the earth was carried on the shoulders of the god Atlas, who stood on the backs of giant tortoises, which stood on the backs of elephants, this would be more than sufficient reason to discredit the Holy Scriptures as being of God. What does the Bible say about the earth? What keeps it up? Job 26:7 states that God spreads the skies over empty space and suspends the earth on nothing. The Bible is not a book of science; yet in not even one point does it contradict any principle of modern science that has been established as fact rather than mere theory.

There are in this country, and in several European countries, chapters of the *Flat Earth Society*, whose members are convinced that the earth is not round. Up until the 15th century, centuries after Isaiah lived, no one knew, nor would many people believe, that the earth was not flat. Without benefit of a telescope or a knowledge of the physics of astronomy, Isaiah wrote in chapter 40, verse 22, that the Lord sits enthroned above the circle of the earth. Noted Bible teacher, J. Vernon McGee

has stated that the word, "circle" is synonymous with "globe," a round geometric figure.



Moses was not an oceanographer, but in Genesis 7:11 he wrote that fountains, or springs, of the great deep burst forth, at the same time the rains fell from heaven, flooding the earth. Only relatively recently have our scientists discovered that there are, indeed, great water fountains erupting from the ocean floor.

There was a time when Babylon was where mighty kings exalted themselves above the God of heaven; and that Babylon might ultimately become only a memory would have been unthinkable. However, Isaiah prophesies in chapter 13, verses 20-22 that Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of their pride, will be overthrown like Sodom and Gomorrah; she will never be inhabited throughout all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherd will rest his flocks there; jackals, owls, wild goats, and hyenas—only desert creatures—will lie there.

In contrast, the city of Tyre according to Isaiah 23:14-18, was to be devastated and desolate for 70 years, and then restored. What actually happened was that Tyre was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and was left in ruins for 70

letter (which is iota in Greek) or the least stroke of a pen (referring to the minuscule embellishments added to the Hebrew alphabet) would not disappear as long as there was a heaven and an earth. The Bible teaches that there will be a heaven and an earth forever.

Let me conclude by suggesting that whenever we are confronted with presumably authoritative opinions that seem to be at variance with what one reads in our Bible, we take to heart the Apostle Paul's words found in his first letter to the Corinthians. He triumphantly declares, "I know very well how foolish it sounds to those who are lost, when they hear that Jesus died to save them. But we who are saved recognize this message as the very power of God. For God says, I will destroy

all human plans of salvation no matter how wise they seem to be, and ignore the best ideas of men, even the most brilliant of them. So what about these wise men, these scholars, these brilliant debaters of this world's great affairs? God has made them all look foolish and has shown their wisdom to be useless nonsense. For God in His wisdom saw to it that the world would never find God through human brilliance, and then He stepped in and saved all those who believed His message, which the world calls foolish and silly.... This so-called foolish plan of God is far wiser than the wisest plan of the wisest man, and God in His "weakness—Christ dying on the Cross—is far stronger than any man." Amen and amen! 

Bible Conference Alternatives

When four of your editor's five speaking engagements were canceled this year, *Berean Bible Society* president Pastor Kevin Sadler came up with a good idea. He reminded me of four grace churches that are currently without a pastor, and suggested I contact them to see if I could help with what pastorless churches call "pulpit supply." That led to four special meeting Sundays that you may want to consider if you are suffering from Bible conference withdrawal!

Such meetings can't take the place of a Bible conference, but perhaps they can alleviate at least some of your conference withdrawal symptoms!
—Pastor Ricky Kurth

- **September 27**—*Grace Bible Church* of Bowler, Wisconsin.
Contact Jim & Marianne Murphy (yogranna@hotmail.com) for information.
- **October 18**—*Grace Gospel Church* of Linton, Indiana.
Call Devon 812-384-6818 with your questions about the services there.
- **November 15**—*Grace Bible Church* of Goodlettsville Tennessee.
Contact Bob Powell for information at 615-714-6449 (gracedin1@gmail.com).
- **December 13**—*Grace Fellowship Bible Church* of Sheridan, Arkansas.
Laronne Gartman (lgartman@gartman.com) is the man to email to learn more.

Crucified to the World



PASTOR FLOYD BAKER
Guest Writer

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal. 6:14).

What are you glorying in at the present time? Is it some great accomplishment of yours? Some great honor bestowed upon you? Our verse begins, “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” The question has been asked, “Why would anyone want to glory in the cross?” We find the answer of course in our context.

Before we look at Paul’s answer to this question, we need to see that he was warning the Galatians against “wrong glorying.” In verse 13 we read, “but [they] desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.” Even though circumcision is not practiced today in the same manner, we could well add, baptism, confirmation, church membership and a host of other things in which men are glorying. Instead of these things causing one to look to God, they only exalt men. Paul declares that “they glory in your flesh,” but I glory in the cross, for it is there that God enables men to live for the Lord.

There are two accomplishments of the cross the apostle calls to our attention. First of all, “By whom the world is crucified unto me.” Please note here the focus is not upon the cross itself, but the One who died there. It is through our identification with Christ on the cross that this is so. The same is true of the second truth as well, “And I unto the world.” This is not true through the flesh, or as he states, through circumcision, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature [creation].” We are sanctified, set apart unto God and from the world, through our identification with Christ’s death.

BBS

Letter Excerpts



From our Inbox:

“The TBG lesson ‘Key Words of Our Faith, the Mystery’...is a marvelous lesson, and I would like to recommend it to others with which I have been discussing the mystery. It’s a great beginning point to start the discussion of the mystery.”

From Michigan:

“What is the status on an order I placed on May 6. It was the book *Romans*. Thank you, I am really enjoying the clarity between Law and Grace your program provides.”

From Arizona:

“I have two younger sisters who are essentially my only family...no one else is saved. Over the years, through telephone visits with...the younger one, I recently detected an openness to understand some things I’ve mentioned regarding...dispensations, etc.... She’s having some difficulty...God...showed me a... Transformed by Grace on ‘Dispensations’ Pastor Kevin did. I sent it to her. She watched it twice so far and thoroughly enjoyed his easy-going presentation style. Who doesn’t?...My eternal gratitude to Pastor Kevin....”

From Oklahoma:

“Please pass along to Pastor Kevin Sadler that I am really enjoying the messages provided by the *Transformed by Grace* program.” (If I forward your pass-along to him, would it be considered a forward pass? LOL –Ed.).

From Facebook:

“Wonderful message! [‘Sanctification by Grace’ by Kevin Sadler]. I’ve struggled to understand these very Scriptures in Romans. I’ve been reading them over and again for a couple of months and praying for some clarification concerning Romans chapter 7. This article sets up chapter 7 and now I understand.”

From our Inbox:

“Thank you for the article entitled ‘Man Following’....For 11 years we have been studying the Word rightly divided....During this time we have been a bit overwhelmed by the fact that believers are following a specific pastor/teacher, and in doing so are creating division and a vicious mentality in the Body of Christ. Upon studying the Scriptures and reading the article you presented, we found that Paul specifically addresses this. Therefore the fact that we are not to glory in a specific teacher is a doctrine, not an option.”

From Louisiana:

“*God’s Meaning in Matthew* was a wonderful study. We thoroughly enjoyed it. Now we want *Foundational Truths*. After 57 years of marriage my husband asked me to start a Bible study with him. To all the wives out there, keep praying. God does answer.”

From our Inbox:

“What must I do to be saved?” (One of our favorite kinds of questions to be asked! –Ed.).

From our Inbox:

“Some friends have opened up the Bible to me in learning about ‘Rightly Dividing.’ It is very exciting! I have been a believer since my youth and have never discovered this truth. All of my many Bible studies pale in light of this information. I am very happy to be part of your generous sharing of the Word.”

From Indiana:

“I was talking to my mom and sister last night and they just finished reading *Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*. Mom said she was amazed at how in-depth it was on each issue. And my sister said she was going to use her notes on the baptism chapter to help explain some things to a friend of hers.”

From our Inbox:

“Thank you for answering this question for me. I learn so much from the Berean lessons....Your lessons make it easier for a country boy to understand what is being said....Thank you...for clearing this up for me.”

From India:

“These replies are real pearls of wisdom for me! Thanks a million from the bottom of my heart. These are perfect ammunition for me when I am faced with challenging questions regarding Paul’s teachings....I presume that I can knock on your door if I need more information.”

From our Inbox:

“Thank you for taking the time to respond. Thank you, too, for receiving my email as simply being candid and honest from a brother in Christ.... You’ve shown you welcome feedback that may prove helpful.”

From California:

“Thank you for the Scriptures and enlightenment on baptism. I do agree with the Scriptures you highlighted, Paul is speaking of a spiritual baptism. I have to admit, it does grieve me, as I truly felt God put baptism on my heart. Thank you for helping me piece together Scripture. I must admit sometimes it just doesn’t feel good, but I know this walk isn’t about feelings but what we know.”

From Michigan:

“Thank you Pastor Kurth for your video on 2 Thessalonians 2:3. I really enjoyed the dissection of verses 1 and 2 before verse 3. This further cements my belief that the Body of Christ cannot occupy the last seven years of tribulation as God deals with His promised people.”

From Australia:

“Fantastic! Have just watched the video and am fully persuaded concerning 2 Thessalonians 2:3 and the ‘falling away.’ It makes more sense than anything I have heard before. Such a revelation, particularly the timing of the Rapture and the gap between it and the revealing of the anti-Christ. I am going to have to study this all very carefully in order to explain it to others.”

From Arizona:

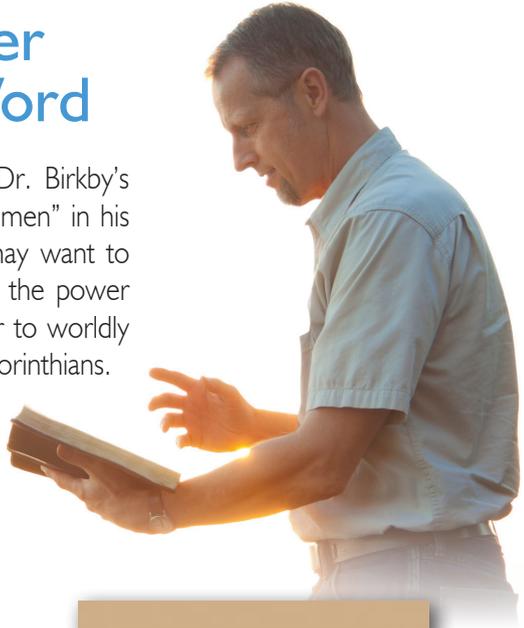
“On behalf of *West Valley Grace Fellowship*, thanks for the Bible Conference. We appreciated and enjoyed your presentations on ‘types’ in Scripture! Also, it was great to have your family here. Your presence and lessons in the Word were like the sunshine breaking out from the gloom of the Covid-19 darkness.”



**Your gifts help to keep
the Searchlight shining!**

The Power of God's Word

If you were blessed by Dr. Birkby's refutation of "the wisdom of men" in his article on apologetics, you may want to study how Paul showed that the power of God's Word is the answer to worldly wisdom in his epistle to the Corinthians.



I Corinthians

by C.R. Stam

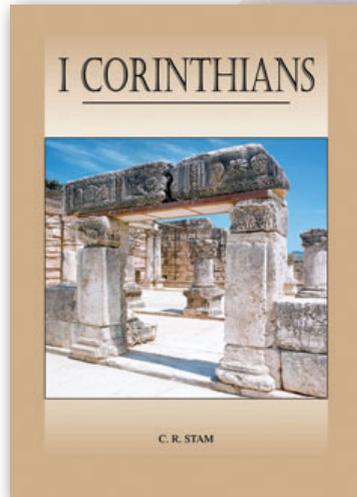
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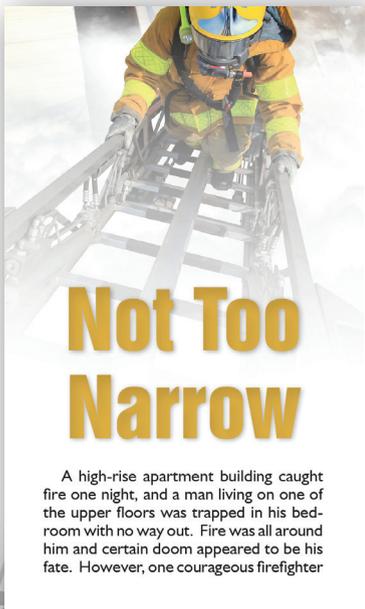
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(262) 255-4750 or www.bereanbiblesociety.org

This new tract explains, “The Savior gave His life willingly in order to provide us the only way out from the eternal fires of hell. It’s not too narrow to say that there is one way to God. There is only one way we could be saved from our sins—by Christ’s all-sufficient payment for sin at the Cross and His resurrection. By faith alone, trusting that Christ died for our sins and rose again, we are saved (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9).”



Not Too Narrow

A high-rise apartment building caught fire one night, and a man living on one of the upper floors was trapped in his bedroom with no way out. Fire was all around him and certain doom appeared to be his fate. However, one courageous firefighter

New Gospel Tract!

Not Too Narrow

by Kevin J. Sadler

This tract is printed on both sides of a single sheet.

Tract Prices:

25 for \$3.00 plus shipping*

100 for \$10.00 plus shipping*

Would you refuse to be rescued from a burning building because there was only one way out?





News and Announcements

The *Transformed By Grace* Conference we scheduled for September 19 in the Chicago area has been canceled. The hotel we engaged wished to impose virus protocols that didn't seem possible to meet, so we'll host our first TBG conference sometime next year. We hope to see you then!

Western Wisconsin Grace Conference: Lord willing and the coronavirus creek don't rise, BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler will be speaking at the *Grant County Farm Bureau* of Lancaster, Wisconsin. We hope you'll join us in prayer for this September 12th event, and that you'll contact Jack Trumm (608) 794-2410 or Mel Flogel (608) 348-7574 to let them know you plan to attend.

Two Minute Woes: Recently certain servers began identifying our *Two Minutes With the Bible* daily email devotional as spam. The nerve of some people! We became aware of this when one reader after another emailed to ask why they'd been dropped from our mailing list. BBS webmaster Richard Church has addressed this problem, but rest assured that we never drop anyone without being asked. So don't hesitate to contact us right away if ever there is an interruption in our service to you.

Speaking of Two Minutes, the size of our mailing list has increased every month for 13 months in a row, and recently grew by 1.03% to 6,750, an all-time high. In addition, the mailing list for our weekly *More Minutes With the Bible* has grown every month for 17 straight months, recently expanding by 2.27% to 1,579 readers, another all-time high. If you're not among our readers, you can become a Minute Man—or Woman!—by signing up on our website. Do it today!

Apologetics Ministry: If you are interested in promoting the Bible doctrine of creation in your area, you might want to contact B.J. and Diana Kresnye, a husband and wife team based in the Cleveland area. They speak to churches, schools, and other groups about the fundamental teachings found in Genesis 1-11 and the gospel of the grace of God. For more information visit www.BeginMinistries.org.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Wisconsin Bible Conference, September 12, Lancaster, WI

Special Meetings, September 27, Bowler, WI

Special Meetings, October 18, Linton, IN

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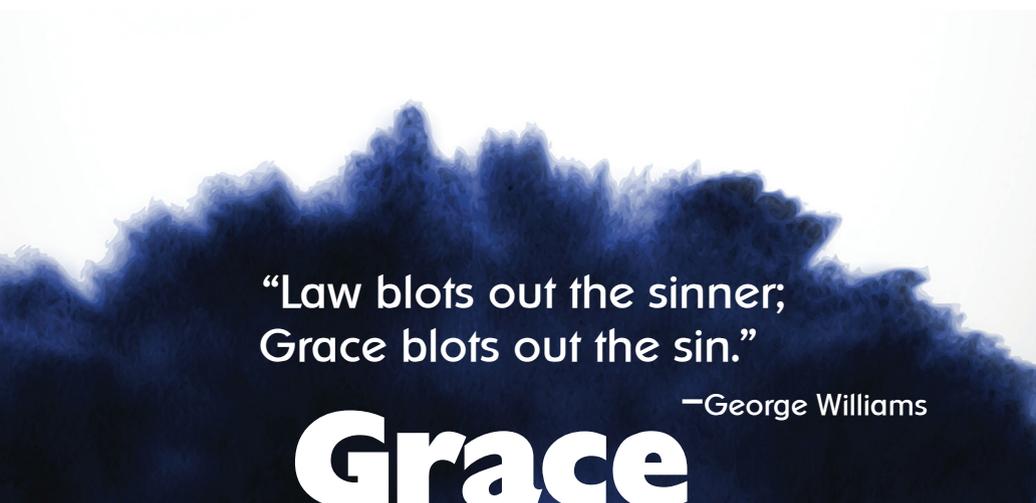
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