

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

October 2020



Feature Article

Why Do I Have to Go to Church?, by Ricky Kurth.....5

Articles

How to Have Perfect Faith, by Dave Stewart9

All Things New, by Kevin Sadler13

How Were People Saved in Other Dispensations?, by Ken Lawson.....17

The Cost of Freedom, by Greg Willis21

Departments

A Fulfilling Exercise4

Spotlight on Grace Churches.....11

Question Box.....16

This month's cover features a scenic lighthouse in Nova Scotia, Canada.

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/Layout and 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), October 2020. Vol. 81, Number 7.

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.



From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

Several years ago, Joshua and Marcia Dennis left the church that I pastor in addition to my duties here at *Berean Bible Society* to establish a grace church in Kenai, Alaska, in the area where Marcia was born and raised. They began their efforts by hosting a grace Bible conference, and purchased a booth at a weekly outdoor town market. There they distributed a considerable amount of gospel literature and spoke to countless people about God's rightly divided Word.

When their efforts were met with little interest, this young couple moved their family 90 minutes south to Homer, where they joined the warm, loving fellowship led by Pastor Floyd Seekins. There they hosted another conference, and secured a booth at Homer's weekly local fair. But when the local municipality forced them to suspend this outreach, they resumed their efforts in Kenai, rather than let this setback discourage them.

This time the response in Kenai was much more positive, possibly due to the effect that the coronavirus had on the community, or the lockdown that came along with it. All we know for sure is that people began to express an interest in having a Bible study where they could learn more about God's saving grace and Pauline truth. Josh responded by asking me to speak at yet another conference this past August, where I brought messages about the purity of the gospel of grace, and the importance of rightly dividing the Word. And since some grace believers living three hours away in Wasilla expressed an interest in starting a work there, we held a Bible study in one of their homes as well.

I just arrived home from this conference, but I didn't leave Josh and Marcia without support. Josh's father Larry Dennis is quite the evangelist, and is working closely with a local halfway house for newly released prisoners. He is aided in his outreach by Ray Seiler, a Chicago-area grace teacher who makes frequent trips to Alaska to help Josh's ministry. Ray's enthusiasm for the Lord simply cannot be contained, as I witnessed when we were detained by some highway road work and Ray got out of the car to witness to the flagman and give him a gospel tract!

I share these things with you so you can pray for the work in Alaska, and to encourage you in your own efforts to reach out with the truth of Paul's gospel. The Dennis's are around 30, Ray is just shy of 50, and Larry is in his 70s, proving that you can be a part of what God is doing in our quickly-deteriorating society no matter what age you happen to be. You just have to ask yourself how badly you want it.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ricky Kurth

A Fulfilling Exercise

A rewarding study in God's Word is fulfilled prophecy. The Book of Isaiah has many prophecies regarding Israel's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a little Bible study exercise to help you dig into God's Word and find encouragement by finding, in the Gospels, the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies concerning Christ. Remember, Isaiah wrote 700 years before Christ was born!

Draw a line from each of Isaiah's prophecies to its fulfillment in the Gospels.

Isaiah's Prophecy

1. Born of a virgin, called Emmanuel: Isaiah 7:14
2. Messiah's way would be prepared: Isaiah 40:3-4
3. Delighted in by the Father: Isaiah 42:1-3
4. Messiah's ministry and message: Isaiah 61:1-2a
5. Bring light to Galilee: Isaiah 9:1-2
6. Speak in parables: Isaiah 6:9-10
7. Messiah's rejection: Isaiah 53:1-3
8. Silent before His accusers: Isaiah 53:7
9. Spat upon and scourged: Isaiah 50:6
10. Numbered with the transgressors: Isaiah 53:12
11. Messiah's burial with the rich: Isaiah 53:9

Fulfillment in the Gospels

- Luke 3:2-5
- Matthew 13:10-15
- Mark 15:3-5
- Matthew 27:26-30
- Matthew 1:18-23
- John 12:37-38
- Matthew 4:12-16
- Mark 15:27-28
- Matthew 27:57-60
- Matthew 12:15-21
- Luke 4:16-21

These prophecies were fulfilled by Christ, Israel's Messiah, and there are numerous prophecies regarding the Lord yet to be fulfilled, such as His Second Coming (Isa. 64:1-3; 66:15,16), and His earthly, Millennial Kingdom (Isa. 9:6-7; 11:3-10; 35:1-10). These things will be fulfilled to the letter after the Rapture of the Church, the Body of Christ. God is faithful to His Word, faithful to the promises in Christ that He has made to believing Israel regarding her earthly hope, and faithful to the promises in Christ that He has made to the Church regarding our heavenly hope.

“For all the promises of God in Him [Christ] are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us” (2 Cor. 1:20).

—Pastor Kevin Sadler

Answer Key: 1. Matthew 1:18-23; 2. Luke 3:2-4; 3. Matthew 12:15-21; 4. Luke 4:16-21; 5. Matthew 4:12-15; 6. Matthew 13:10-15; 7. John 12:37-38; 8. Mark 15:4-5; 9. Matthew 27:26-30; 10. Mark 15:27-28; 11. Matthew 27:57-60.

Why Do I Have to Go to Church?

PASTOR RICKY KURTH
Berean Searchlight Editor

One Sunday morning, a wife went to wake her husband to tell him it was time to get ready for church. He replied, “I don’t want to go.” When she asked, “Why not?” he retorted, “I’ll give you two good reasons. First, the people of our church don’t like me, and second, I don’t like them.” His wife replied, “Fair enough. But I’ll give you two good reasons why you *should* go. First, you’re 39 years old, and second, you’re the pastor!”

Children sometimes dislike going to church, for they fail to understand the importance of regular church attendance. But this should not be the case for mature adult Christians. It’s true that we live in an age when God’s people can access sound Bible teaching by means of radio, television, the internet, and other venues. But none of these avenues of ministry can take the place of the warm, in-person *fellowship* that is found in the local church.

We know that the Apostle Paul understood the importance of such fellowship, for he wrote,

“Furthermore, when I came to Troas...I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother” (2 Cor. 2:12,13).

Paul speaks here of the *serious* adverse effect it had on him when he was deprived of the fellowship of a fellow believer who was very dear to him. And he begins these verses with the word “furthermore” because fellowship was *also* the subject of the preceding context, although this is not readily apparent. So let’s back up to verse 6 to see how the apostle began this discussion:

“Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.”

Here Paul was speaking about the man who had committed unspeakable fornication in Corinth (1 Cor. 5:1), the one he said should be put out of the assembly (v. 2,13) lest sin like that spread like leaven throughout the congregation (v. 6). By the time he wrote his second epistle to the Corinthians, he was delighted to hear that they had followed his instructions and had disfellowshipped that brother. However, he was dismayed to learn that they were then refusing to *restore* fellowship to the man after he repented! That explains why Paul told them that the punishment they had dutifully inflicted upon the man was “sufficient,” and why he added,

“So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow” (2 Cor. 2:7).

The fornicator had obviously sorrowed unto repentance, or Paul wouldn't have instructed them to forgive him and readmit him to their fellowship. But if they didn't follow this second instruction as faithfully as they had followed his first one, there was a strong likelihood that this sorrowful brother would be “swallowed up with *overmuch* sorrow.”

Clearly, Paul understood how much the fornicator needed to be surrounded by the loving fellowship of his church. And whether the members of his church knew it or not, *they* needed the fellowship of the repentant fornicator! Paul made that clear when he said in verse 12, as it were, “Furthermore, *even I Paul* need fellowship,” adding that he had “no rest” apart from it. Surely if even the great Apostle Paul needed fellowship, it is certain that the Corinthians needed it too—and so do we!

I say all this because grace believers know that the Apostle Paul never *commands* us to go to church. Even if you believe that Paul wrote Hebrews, as some do, the exhortation we read in Hebrews 10:25 to assemble with the saints is not in the imperative mood in the Greek text, and it is not an imperative statement in English either. That means it is *not* a command.

But while Paul never commands us to go to church, he assumes that we will *want* to attend church regularly. He prefaced a

rebuke that he gave to the Corinthians with the words,

“For first of all, *when ye come together in the church...*” (1 Cor. 11:18).

Do you see how Paul just assumed that *even the carnal Corinthians* would want to gather together regularly with other saints to study God's Word, sing His praises, and fellowship with one another?

If you are thinking, “Pastor, you don't understand. My church is filled with knothheads, difficult people with whom I find it really hard to get along.” If so, that's all the more reason to go to church! You see, you can never learn to demonstrate the grace of God in your life without difficult people to be gracious *to!* There is no better place to learn to reflect the gracious nature of God in your life than the local church.

The church is also a great place to learn how to demonstrate forgiveness, mercy, and longsuffering. I mean, if you never go anywhere where people give you grief, how are you ever going to learn how to display the same forgiveness, mercy, and longsuffering that God extends to us when *we* grieve *Him*?

And aren't we talking about the *greatest* of God's attributes? Don't you *want* opportunities to display the mercy, longsuffering, and grace of God, and in so doing testify to the depth of the tremendous work that He has done in your life?

If you think about it, these grand attributes are actually the *only* attributes of God that we *can* display. Not a single one of us can demonstrate God's omnipotence,

His omnipresence, or His omniscience, but we can all learn to exhibit His grace—but only if we are surrounded by difficult people who *test* our ability to display these virtues.



When Paul declared that he had no rest in his spirit when denied the fellowship of Titus (v. 13), we know that this was an unrest that he felt *deeply*, for he prefaced his words by saying,

“Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord, I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus...” (v. 12,13).

Here Paul implies that the absence of the fellowship of his coworker affected him so *severely* that he didn’t enter an open door of opportunity to preach the gospel. It is evident from this that the absence of his fellowsoldier’s fellowship must have shaken him to his very core. We know this to be so, for this is the *only* time Paul failed to enter an open door. Why do you think God would allow this dark blot on his otherwise unimpeachable record if not to teach us the importance of fellowship?

Take some time to read the stirring list of things that Paul endured in the ministry in 2 Corinthians 11:23-33. As you

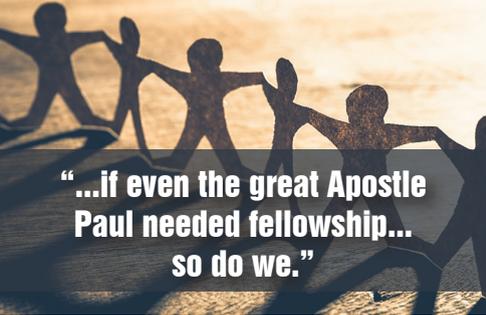
read each item in this poignant register, remind yourself that the *beatings* that Paul endured didn’t stop him from entering open doors, the *stonings* didn’t stop him, the *shipwrecks* didn’t stop him—**NOTHING** stopped him. But a simple lack of fellowship stopped him *dead in his tracks*.

This year it is stopping baseball players dead in *their* tracks. Sports analysts know that the encouragement of a stadium full of fans gives a team what’s known as “home-field advantage.” But the coronavirus concern that prompted major league baseball to ban fans from the stands has nullified that advantage. Home teams are only winning .505% more of their games than visiting teams, barely an advantage at all. Obviously professional athletes need the encouragement of their fans, and we need the encouragement of one another!

Our need of fellowship is just one of many reasons the Bible emphasizes the importance of the local church over and over again, in many different ways. We know that establishing grace churches is what God sent Paul to do, *for he spent his life doing it*. He then followed up that church-planting ministry by writing most of his epistles to local churches.

The local church is where the Scriptures are read (Col. 4:16) and taught (1 Cor. 4:17), and spiritual men are ordained to the ministry (Acts 14:23) to feed God’s Word to His people (Acts 20:28). It is where disputes among brethren are settled (1 Cor. 6:4) and the poor are given aid (1 Tim. 5:1-10). It is where the gospel is preached to the lost (1 Cor. 15:1-4) and

saints are edified by the teaching of God's Word (1 Cor. 14:12). It's where spiritual leaders care for the spiritual needs of God's people (1 Tim. 3:5), who in turn support God's work in their area by giving of their finances (1 Cor. 16:1,2; Phil. 4:15). It is also the place where God's people "show the Lord's death til He come" by observing a communion service (1 Cor. 11:23-26), and it's where the Lord's servants serve Him and His people (Rom. 16:1). The local church is, in short, "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15).



“...if even the great Apostle Paul needed fellowship... so do we.”

So if you haven't returned to church after the Covid-19 concern caused such a massive upheaval in the fellowship of God's local churches, I would encourage you to rejoin your local assembly as soon as you feel comfortable doing so. I say this because I know that once our routine of going to church is broken, it's sometimes hard to get back on track.

I know that it's tempting to just sit home and watch grace pastors and teachers expound God's rightly divided Word in the comfort of your own home. I thank God that these days even smart phones can ensure that the sound teaching of our grace

pastors is no longer limited to those who can actually darken the doors of their churches. There are many stranded grace believers who depend on these infinitely valuable extended ministries to grow in the faith. But these avenues of ministry must never be allowed to take the place of participation in a living, breathing group of sanctified saints when it is available.

Many years ago, when contributing *Searchlight* writer Dave Stewart was pastoring a local church, some grace believers visited his church and explained that they lived nearby but didn't attend his church, for they could learn the Word from the ministry of grace pastors and teachers who had online ministries. Dave replied (more graciously than this, I'm sure!), "Whatever gave you the idea that the reason to go to church is to see what you can get out of it? The reason to go to church is to see what *others* can get out of *you*, as you learn how to give of yourself to them and aid the Lord's work in every possible way."

And so it is. Even if you are not among the proverbial movers and shakers in your local church, your very presence there is an encouragement to other congregants—*especially* to your pastor! Nothing brings more cheer to the heart of a pastor who has spent twenty or thirty hours preparing his message than to look out and see grace believers who *hunger* to hear the Word taught. So why not make plans *right now* to return to the warmth of your church's fellowship *this Sunday*. You'll be eternally glad you did! 

How to Have Perfect Faith



DAVE STEWART
Contributing Writer

Have you ever wished you had perfect, unfailing faith? Have you ever had a lapse in faith that had you rehearsing over and over in your mind, “If I had only done this...If I had only said that...?” Often it’s those “faith-fail” moments that give Christians the greatest occasion for regret and even doubt in our own fidelity to the Lord.

If this describes you, don’t despair, there’s a Scripture for that. Let’s consider Romans 4:17-21 where, speaking of Abraham, Paul writes:

“...he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead...Who against hope believed in hope...according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith...when he was about an hundred years old...He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded, that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.”

If there’s one thing we can see from this passage, it’s that the patriarch Abraham had perfect faith. “*The faith of Abraham,*” according to the Holy Ghost in Romans 4, was flawless. He “*against hope believed in hope*” when it came to the promise of God to give him a seed. He was “*not weak in faith.*” He “*staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief.*” He was “*strong in faith, giving glory to God.*” And he was “*fully persuaded*” of the promises given to him. If only you and I had the same perfect and unfailing faith as our father Abraham! But wait.

Wasn’t it Abraham who had a child with another woman when the promise of God didn’t seem to be working? (Gen. 16:3,4). When the Divine Author of Romans 4 speaks of Abraham’s perfect and unfailing faith regarding the promised seed, is He forgetting about that little incident in Abraham’s life named Ishmael? Ishmael, whom Abraham preferred when God told him the time for the promised seed had come, not to mention laughing at God’s promise to give him another child in his old age (Gen. 17:17,18)? By the Scriptural record, and by all appearances, Abraham’s faith regarding the promised seed was weak and staggering at best.

So how do we account for this glowing commendation of the faith of Abraham in Romans 4? The answer is in the very next verses, and it's the solution to our own faith-fails as well.

“And therefore it [*Abraham’s faith*] was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:22-25).

You see, Abraham’s faith, imperfect as it was, was all God required to impute perfect righteousness to him, even the righteousness of Jesus Christ. And part of the righteousness of Christ is the perfect faith of Christ.

“And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith” (Phil. 3:9).

Abraham’s faith record is that of Jesus Christ. HIS faith never failed. HE never staggered at the promise of God. HE was fully persuaded.

Paul then goes on to say that all this wasn’t just written for Abraham’s sake, but for ours as well. Just think of some examples you might use from Scripture of perfect faith. Joseph comes to mind; Daniel; maybe a few others. But Abraham? I think we’d need to take a pass on using him. Yet Paul does use him in this case, then says it’s all written for your sake and mine.

When the Holy Spirit remembers the faith of Abraham in Romans 4, He sees only the perfect faith of Christ. This is good news for you and me in two important ways. First, it means that this is how we will be remembered as well. Our faith-fails will not appear on our permanent record, but only the unflinching faith of Jesus Christ. However, it also means that we now know exactly how to strengthen our faith day to day in our own lives. We only need to do what God does. FORGET the faith-fails of our past and focus instead on the perfect faith of Christ.

Since we’ve been reminded of Abraham’s shortcomings, let’s also remember that overall his life was marked by a consistent walk with God. Abraham was in fact a man of faith. Perfect faith? No, but great faith. Why? Because he believed in God, “who quickeneth the dead.” Abraham was able to do tremendous works of faith because he recognized his own “deadness” and focused instead on God’s perfect provision for him.

To find Abraham’s perfect faith we must look past the record of his life and look to God’s later accounting of it. To find our own perfect faith, we must do the same. And as we do, we will also find the ability through His grace to perform those works of faith we desire to see in our lives, to the high bar set by Abraham and beyond. 

Grace Family Bible Church

Special Meetings

Sunday, November 15, 2020

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

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Sadler, *BBS President*

For additional information, please contact:

Pastor Jim Zaebst at (814) 327-3028 or (814) 696-4366

SPOTLIGHT on Grace Churches

GRACE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

4979 EAST ARBOR STREET
INVERNESS, FL 34452
www.gracebfcinverness.com

Senior Pastor: Ken Lawson

Meeting Times:

Sunday: 9:15 am Adult Sunday School/Children's Sunday School (2-12)

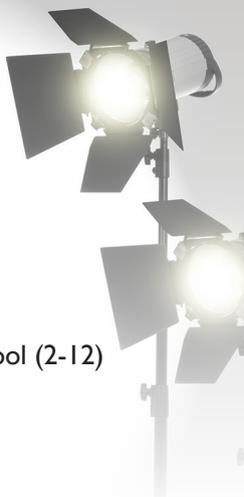
Sunday: 10:15 am Worship Service

Wednesday: 7:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Thursday: 2:00 pm Les Feldick Bible Study Group

As a church our aim is to preach the Word rightly divided in light of the Mystery truth contained in Paul's writings. Personal salvation through the preaching of the cross is of utmost importance. However, we also strive to help believers respond to the truths in God's Word. That means learning of Bible truth is not complete until we assume responsibility to change our conduct in light of God's Word.

Contact: (352) 726-9972



Job Related Church Hymns



- **Tailors:** Holy, Holy, Holy
- **Golfers:** There is A Green Hill Far Away
- **Politicians:** Standing on the Promises
- **Optometrists:** Open My Eyes That I Might See
- **Gossips:** Pass It On
- **Electricians:** Send the Light
- **Shoppers:** Sweet By and By
- **Realtors:** I've Got A Mansion Just Over the Hilltop
- **Pilots:** I'll Fly Away
- **Paramedics:** Revive Us Again
- **Prosecutors:** Were You There?
- **Judges:** Almost Persuaded
- **Architects:** How Firm A Foundation
- **Postal Workers:** So Send I You
- **Lifeguards:** Rescue the Perishing
- **Weathermen:** There Shall Be Showers of Blessing
- **Criminals:** Search Me, O God
- **Bakers:** When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder
- **Dentists:** Crown Him With Many Crowns
- **Shoe Repairers:** It Is Well With My Soul
- **Travel Agents:** Anywhere With Jesus
- **Geologists:** Rock of Ages
- **Menswear Clerks:** Blest Be the Tie That Binds
- **Umpires:** I Need No Other Argument
- **IRS Agents:** I Surrender All
- **Clock Makers:** Moment By Moment
- **Mattress Salesman:** My Faith Has Found A Resting Place
- **Accountants:** Count Your Many Blessings

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” —Colossians 3:16



ALL THINGS NEW

PASTOR KEVIN J. SADLER
BBS President

“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:16-17).

“Wherefore,” or in light of Christ dying “for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him Which died for them, and rose again” (v. 15), Paul wrote, “henceforth,” or from that point forward, “know we no man after the flesh” (v. 16). Having been saved and having decided to use our lives for the Lord, Paul taught that we now recognize no person according to the flesh. In other words, we no longer evaluate people externally. “All things are become new,” and we now have a *new* perspective on life and on people.

Now we have spiritual knowledge and spiritual insight from the indwelling Holy Spirit. With

this new perception, we no longer see people purely from a physical perspective, in light of their physical appearance, behavior, or personality.

You have a neighbor who is very kind and helps shovel your sidewalks every winter. You have a co-worker you’ve befriended who works hard and loves his family. You are at the grocery store and the cashier chats with you as she is ringing up the things you bought. You look at these people in life, and you have a lingering question in the back of your mind: “Do they know Christ as their Savior?”

You see a derelict at a stop light, holding a sign for money. You know someone who is an alcoholic or uses drugs and can’t break free from addiction. You have loved ones who make one bad decision after another and can’t seem to get their lives straight. You look at them and there’s an ache in your heart, because you know that Christ is the

answer and that He saves anyone and can transform any person's life by His grace.

Knowing "no man after the flesh" means we now see people as souls for whom Christ died, because we know Christ loves them and He "died for all." And we know that those outside of Him are dead in their sins and in danger of eternal judgment. We no longer see people the way we once saw them, assessing people on the surface, according to worldly standards. The world evaluates people on social, economic, political, and ethnic terms. But we don't see people that way. After we trust Christ, what we see is eternal souls who need Christ. You realize that *every* person is important to God; *everyone* is someone for whom Christ died.

Knowing "no man after the flesh" is about looking at the heart like God looks at the heart and discerning spiritual conditions. It's to look at people like God looks at people. We look beyond the external. We see the core, spiritual issues and the sin and heart problem.

This new perspective carries through to Christ: "though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more." Before we were saved, we had a fleshly, human assessment of Christ. To know Christ "after the flesh" means to evaluate Him from a human point of view. Many know the stories of Christ. They know or heard at one time or another that Christ was born in Bethlehem, was laid in a manger, did

many miracles, taught parables, was betrayed, was crucified, rose again, and ascended to heaven. Some know the stories about the Lord, and they don't care. Others, in their religion, know these things about Christ, but they've never trusted Him as their Savior.

For us, however, who have trusted Him, we have a new view of Christ. It's one thing to know *about* Christ, but it's a whole other thing to *know Him*. We have the privilege of an eternal, personal relationship with "the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). He is our living Head and our loving Lord.

Before Paul was saved, he knew Christ according to the flesh. He saw Christ as a false Messiah, a dangerous teacher, and rejected any notion that He was risen from the dead. Paul believed that anybody who followed Christ was worthy of imprisonment and even death. After Paul met Christ on the road to Damascus and trusted Him, however, Paul knew "Christ after the flesh... henceforth...no more." At that point, Paul knew Christ's love and so was constrained to serve Him. Then Paul knew the One Who died for all, the only One Who can deliver anyone from his or her sins.

Under grace, we, like Paul, also have a new knowledge of Christ in that now we don't know Him "after the flesh," in His humiliation, according to His earthly ministry to Israel as her Messiah. Now we know Him

in His exaltation, as the risen, glorified Head of the Church, at God's "own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all" (Eph. 1:20-21).

When "any man" trusts that Christ died for our sins and rose again, that person is, by the Spirit, placed into and united with the Savior forever and is "in Christ." And being "in Christ," we are each "a new creature [creation]" (2 Cor. 5:17 cf. Gal. 6:14-15). Everyone in Christ is a new creation, and we become joined to God's new creation of the Church, the Body of Christ.

In Christ, "old things are passed away...*all* things are become new." By the context, this means that one day this old body will be replaced by a *new body*, "eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1). At death, our ultimate destination is no longer judgment in the lake of fire; we have a *new destination* with the Lord in heaven (v. 8). Our motivation is no longer to be accepted by the world; we have a *new motivation*: the love of Christ (v. 14). We are no longer dead in sins; we have *new life* in Christ (vv. 14-15). Our calling isn't to live for ourselves; we have a *new calling* to live for the Savior (v. 15). We no longer view Christ and other people after the flesh; we have *new insight* that Christ loves us and all people and that He died for all and rose again (v. 16).

Christ makes all things new. The poem "The Touch of the Master's Hand," by Myra Brooks Welch, reminds us how Christ can touch any life by His grace and make it new.

"'Twas battered and scarred,
and the auctioneer / Thought
it scarcely worth his while / To
waste much time on the old violin/
But held it up with a smile. /
'What am I bidden, good folks,' he
cried, / 'Who'll start the bidding
for me?' / 'A dollar, a dollar. Then
two! Only two? / Two dollars, and
who'll make it three?"

"Three dollars, once; three
dollars, twice; / Going for three...'
But no, / From the room, far
back, a grey-haired man / Came
forward and picked up the bow; /
Then wiping the dust from the
old violin, / And tightening the
loosened strings, / He played a
melody pure and sweet, / As a
caroling angel sings.



"The music ceased, and the
auctioneer, / With a voice that was
quiet and low, / Said: 'What am I
bid for the old violin?' / And he
held it up with the bow. / 'A thou-
sand dollars, and who'll make it
two? / Two thousand! And who'll
make it three? / Three thousand,
once; three thousand, twice, / And
going and gone,' said he.

"The people cheered, but some
of them cried, / 'We do not quite
understand. / What changed its
worth?' Swift came the reply: /
'The touch of the Master's hand.' /

And many a man with life out of
tune, / And battered and scarred
with sin, / Is auctioned cheap to
the thoughtless crowd / Much like
the old violin.

“A ‘mess of pottage,’ a glass of
wine, / A game—and he travels
on. / He is ‘going’ once, and ‘going’
twice, / He’s ‘going’ and almost

‘gone.’ / But the Master comes,
and the foolish crowd / Never
can quite understand / The worth
of a soul and the change that is
wrought / By the touch of the
Master’s hand.”¹ 

1. Myra Brooks Welch, “The Touch of the Master’s Hand,” All Poetry, accessed September 6, 2020, <https://allpoetry.com/The-Touch-of-the-Master’s-Hand>.

Question Box

“Where does the Bible say that our sins are forgiven past, present and future?”

Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, Hebrews 9:25,26 says,

“Nor yet that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

“For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

If you are saved, your sins were forgiven by the sacrifice of Christ. If He only died for your *past* sins, He would have to die for every *new* sin that you sin. He would have had to begin with Adam’s sins at “the foundation of the world” *and never stopped suffering for our sins*. Instead, He “*put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself*” (9:26), “for this He did *once*, when He offered up Himself” (7:27).

Of course, you “*receive forgiveness of sins*” (Acts 26:18) *when you believe the gospel*. But you don’t have to believe the gospel *again* every time you sin. If you are saved and forgiven of your sins, then no matter what sin you commit today, you can open your Bible tomorrow and Colossians 2:13 still says, “having forgiven you all trespasses,” *past tense*. The words on the page don’t change despite how often you grieve God’s Spirit with your sin. Forgiveness for the believer is always a done deal, a *fait accompli*.

But *knowing* that you “have...the forgiveness of sins” (Eph. 1:7) and are “sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” (v. 13), Paul says to “grieve not the holy Spirit of God *whereby* ye are sealed” (4:30). And the thing that grieves a “holy” Spirit is *sin*. So if you “have...the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Eph. 1:7), then don’t “continue in sin, that grace may abound” (Rom. 6:1). —Pastor Kurth

How Were People SAVED in Other Dispensations?

PASTOR KEN LAWSON
BBS Board Member



The Dilemma

Much theological debate has ensued in recent years in regard to the discipleship/Lordship salvation issue. Those who stand for *free grace* nobly contend that faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is the only requirement for salvation (1 Cor. 15:1-4). They see clearly that works of righteousness, rituals, and law keeping has nothing whatever to do with salvation in the present dispensation of grace (Rom. 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9). Now the question becomes, “Has this teaching always existed or is this a unique provision for those under the present grace? Have these dear brethren mistakenly read this teaching back into previous or future dispensations in an effort to maintain a homogenous doctrine of faith-only salvation from Genesis to Revelation?”

At the other end of the spectrum, we have others who see clearly that John, Jesus, and the twelve apostles taught kingdom discipleship principles of *salvation* and that these must dominate present day teaching in order for people to have eternal life. Thus

Paul’s doctrine of grace through faith alone is soft-pedaled by them or ignored altogether in favor of a faith/works scenario. Both sides seem to have a mountain of Scriptural evidence to bolster their claims, but could it be that both are mistaken in overlooking dispensational distinctions in God’s Word dealing with the terms of salvation for people of other ages?

It is the position of this writer that both views have validity but both have also missed something that is vital in unraveling this seeming paradox. The popular belief that there is only one true gospel in the Bible has only added to the dilemma. If we see no distinction between the gospel of the kingdom (preached by John, Jesus, and the twelve apostles) and the gospel of grace (preached by Paul), we have put ourselves into a position where no satisfactory solution exists. The fact is that they were both God-given and are *bona fide* aspects of the good news of Christ. We believe, however, that the gospel of grace superseded and replaced the gospel of the kingdom when Israel,

the favored nation, refused the offer of Christ and the kingdom, and God raised up *a new apostle* with Paul, with a unique message of grace to the Gentiles.

That means that of the two views, the error of the faith/works salvation view is much more serious for our day, for Paul was constantly fighting against it. He is the apostle of the Gentiles and has been entrusted with the doctrine for the present dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:1-9). The grace-through-faith view, while rightly maintaining the necessity of faith alone, often forces many Scriptures (mainly from the Gospels of Matthew–John) into the faith-only paradigm and actually alters Christ’s teaching to the kingdom saints who were also under the law (Matt. 5:17-19; Gal. 4:4).

The ideal way is to rightly divide these passages, admit to the differences, and maintain the integrity of both spiritual programs to the times and people to which they were intended. The terms and requirements for salvation/righteousness/eternal life have changed from time to time throughout redemptive history and prophecy. This we intend to prove in the present article and so clarify and strengthen Paul’s grace position on salvation. Understanding dispensational distinctions makes a world of difference in how we perceive and explain many different Bible passages in relation to salvation.

Four Different Views

Bible teachers have held four different views on the salvation of people from other ages and dispensations.

1. They were saved by grace through faith alone without works just as we are today.

2. They were saved by their works.

3. They were saved by faith *plus* works.

4. They were saved by a faith *that* works. That is, a genuine faith will produce genuine evidence or works.

This fourth one is the view that we will adopt in the remainder of this article. But even here there is a certain distinction in God’s dealings with the saints under the kingdom program as opposed to today under the grace of God.

BEGINNING CONSIDERATIONS

Faith

First we must acknowledge that faith has always been the key to pleasing God and receiving His blessings. In fact, Jesus Christ has put such a premium on believing/fait that His teaching in the gospel of John is often equated with a faith-only gospel (John 3:15-18; 5:24; 6:47; 20:31). However, there is much more Biblical data on the subject from the synoptic gospels than these references.

As the faith chapter of the Bible, Hebrews chapter 11 shows that faith was always necessary to please God. Sometimes it was saving faith (Heb. 11:4,8,31), and at other times it was overcoming faith in a person’s life (Heb. 11:17,29-30,32-38).

The Blood

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins

(or salvation) (Heb. 9:22; Lev. 17:11). The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were typical (or a picture) of the once for all sacrifice of Christ (Heb. 9:12-14). Many animal sacrifices were for maintaining Israel's fellowship (or sanctification) as God's people as in the Levitical offerings (Lev. 1-7); others were for initial justification (or righteousness) as with Abel and in the Passover (Gen. 4:3-7; Heb. 11:4; Ex. 12; 1 Cor. 5:7).

Paul's Gospel Not Revealed

It is nowhere stated that the *mystery of the gospel* was revealed to these saints, that is, how God could justly make righteous the believing sinner. This revelation would come much later through Paul's ministry (Rom. 3:19-28; Eph. 6:19-20). In fact, Jesus's disciples did not understand that He was to die much less what that death would accomplish for our redemption (Luke 18:31-34). Thankfully God knew and had planned it, and that precious blood was efficacious for the sins of past generations, those of the future, as well as our own (Rom. 3:25-26).



**“The watchword
of the law was do.
The watchword for
grace is done.”**

Since it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins (Heb. 10:4), it is a certainty that the sacrifices themselves had no saving value, but rather God was looking for

the faith that was expressed by the work of bringing a sacrifice in obedience to His Word.

Paul is the only Biblical writer who speaks of faith without works (or the law) for salvation. (See Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 3:20-22; 3:24,28; 4:5; 6-8,16; 11:6; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:9; Titus 3:5).

What were some of the works that God once required for acceptance and salvation before the dispensation of grace began? (Eph. 3:1-9).

Animal sacrifices—Genesis 4:3-7; Hebrews 11:4; Exodus 12; 1 Corinthians 5:7.

Noah was commanded to build an Ark resulting in the saving of his house (family) and causing him to become heir of the righteousness which is by faith—Hebrews 11:7. He could have refused and been washed away in judgment with all the other unbelievers.

Circumcision for males in Israel and strangers (slaves). Failure to be circumcised would mean to be cut off from his people and breaking God's covenant—Genesis 17:9-14; Exodus 12:48; Ezekiel 44:9. *Note:* At the Jerusalem Council Paul's revelation of the gospel of the grace of God was recognized as it was determined that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised and obey the law to be saved (Acts 15; Gal. 2). However, this ruling only affected the Gentile converts (Acts 15:19, 23-24). There was no revelation that circumcision and the law were abolished for the Jewish kingdom converts in Israel. Additionally, it was “the Pharisees which believed” who brought up the teaching “that it was needful

to circumcise them [Gentiles], and to command them to keep the Law of Moses.” It would make no sense for the council to “come together to consider this matter” if circumcision had never been a requirement for salvation (Acts 15:5-6).

The Law of Moses—“Ye shall therefore keep My statutes, and My judgments: which if a man *do*, he shall *live* in them: I am the LORD” (Lev. 18:5). How are we to understand the word *live* in this verse? Some have thought that God was speaking only of living a godly earthly life. However, it is certain that the Lord was speaking of life *eternal*, for when a man asked him, “Master, what shall I do to inherit *eternal* life?” Jesus answered, “*What is written in the law?*” The man replied by correctly quoting the law, to love God and his neighbor (Deut. 6:5, Lev. 19:18). Jesus then quoted part of Leviticus 18:5, “This do, and thou shalt live” (Luke 10:25-28; 18:18-20). Those who believe that loving God and your neighbor is not work must consider that love is not only a noun but also an action verb (1 John 3:16-18). Those who truly love the Father will honor the Son by believing in Him and obeying His commandments.

The watchword of the law was *do*. The watchword for grace is *done*. The law said “do and you shall live.” Grace says it is done through Christ; believe it and live. *Note:* The law in and of itself could not save anyone because no one (except Jesus Christ) could keep it perfectly (Gal. 3:21; James 2:10). However, an Israelite of faith would apply himself to keep it, thus proving his obedience to

God. Failure in complete obedience could be followed by repentance, confession, and a sacrifice. That is why Luke could write that Zacharias and Elisabeth (parents of John the Baptist) were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless (Luke 1:5-6). Paul quotes Leviticus 18:5 twice in his epistles and uses it in contrast with the grace way of salvation (Rom. 10:5; Gal. 3:12). Therefore it refers to the salvation issue.

It can be argued that the law way of salvation was only theoretical; that is, if man could keep it perfectly, then God would give him eternal life. But since this is impossible for fallen sinners, God’s grace had to enter in at this point. This is true, for the Old Testament is full of God’s grace, mercy, and lovingkindness. But there is an additional dynamic that is often overlooked in God’s prophetic program with Israel. The promise of the Holy Spirit was to make all the difference (John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7). The power and filling of the Spirit for believing Israel was to be something that would cause them to walk in His statutes and keep His judgments and do them (Ezek. 36:27).

There was a glorious foretaste of this during the Pentecostal era (Acts chapters 2-5) when there was no recorded sin or disunity among the believers. Before that time, the believing Jew was expected to strive to be obedient to the law as well as to the new kingdom laws set down by Jesus Christ. This was another evidence of their faith. 

To be continued!



THE COST OF FREEDOM

PASTOR GREG WILLIS
Guest Writer

Pastor Greg Willis is a former Southern Baptist pastor who received the “left foot of fellowship” from his church after he saw grace and began teaching it. Pastor Willis invited me to speak at a conference this past July in Tuscumbia, Alabama, with members of his newly established grace assembly. He has a heart for those in northern Alabama to be freed from legalism and traditionalism. We are excited for you to read his testimony of how he came to see the truth of Paul’s apostleship and message. —Pastor Kevin Sadler

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God” (2 Tim. 1:8).

When I was in fourth grade, my parents told my sister and me NOT to ride our bicycles in the street. “It’s too dangerous and you could get killed!” they would say. Of course, as children we knew so much more than our parents, so we took it upon ourselves to

show them (secretly) how safely we could ride down one of the busiest streets in our city. So one day, my sister and I set out on our adventure in utter disobedience.

Well, you can only imagine how this story ends. While on our little trek on super cool bicycles, my sister—who was trailing behind me—saw a boy sitting on the porch of his house apparently posing like a statue of Fabio. In reality, he was shaped more like the Michelin man. So as we passed in front of his house, my sister was so consumed with waving and flinging her hair in the wind that she didn’t see me slow down in front of her. In a flash, she rammed the rear wheel of my bicycle. Like a cowboy being bucked off a bronco, she flew backwards off the bike, landed heavily on the asphalt and broke her arm—gracefully of course...Fabio was watching.

In a totally unrelated story, Fabio never rushed to swoop up the damsel in distress and carry her home. I immediately ran back to get my dad—obviously I did not ride back on my bike because

(now) I knew that would be unsafe. Ha! Shortly after the smoke cleared from all the commotion and my parents calmed down, I had the privilege of getting a good ole whoopin’.

Riding my bicycle on the street took courage because I knew bad things could happen and because I knew I was defying my parents’ rule. In that regard, it was terrifying. The whole experience of leaving the safe, appropriately strict boundaries my parents had set was adrenaline pumping. Years later as an adult, I have learned there are many other ways of having equally exhilarating and treacherous experiences.

For someone who was raised and trained in traditional denominational doctrine, accepting dispensational truth felt like that decision to bike down the street as a fourth grader. I had to outright deny the comfort of everything I had been taught and launch out into a vast unknown territory alone in view of great peril. The peril of losing closeness to family, my friends, my job, and my sanity was a very real threat. Scary may not be quite strong enough to describe the feeling.

When I first heard the truth, I was pastoring a congregation of about one hundred and had only been with that church about two weeks. The stakes were quite high to suddenly change my entire doctrine. The burden of knowing everyone in that congregation expected their seminary-trained, experienced, and qualified pastor to feed them spiritually increased the tension, but it also gave me more reason to

want THE truth. Little did they *or I* know how incapable I was!

For a decade and a half, while serving in full-time vocational ministry, I frequently encountered Scriptures that I couldn’t reconcile with my tradition-based doctrine, but knew I had an obligation to teach. Most of the time, I would allegorize the text to somehow make the concepts work with my belief system. Although I studied the Word, I never saw the truth no matter how deeply I yearned for it. For most of my ministry, I danced along the edge of burnout due to the emptiness I experienced.

Along with my inability to handle the Bible, I battled a personal war with sin. Every time I opened the Bible to understand my struggles and find help, I only saw guilt, shame, and hopelessness. I expected the Gospels that portrayed the life and ministry of our Lord to give me joy, but instead, I just felt condemned to outer darkness. I couldn’t understand why I didn’t have the same power the Holy Spirit provided at Pentecost for my own struggles. So to explain this problem, I defaulted to my training. I was taught that I had not made Jesus Lord of my life if I was continuing to fall time and again. Unfortunately, I also thought my poor quality of faith meant that I was lost. I was a mess!

As I look back, I am so grateful for God’s patience and mercy with me. My poor wife also endured terrible pain from my sin. Although I put her through public and private humiliation time and time again over the course of about seven years, she stood by me through the ups and downs.

She also had to battle the truth of right division, especially since she was learning of it from a man that had hurt her so deeply. Make no mistake: my wife was used of God to wrangle me toward the truth. She loved me with a love that is unrivaled by any person on this earth. Truly, love is the more excellent way (1 Cor. 12:31-13:13), and coupled with the Word of truth, rightly divided, unleashes the power of God.

“ I ALSO THOUGHT MY POOR QUALITY OF FAITH MEANT THAT I WAS LOST. ”

Thankfully, God was prepared long ago. For 25 years before arriving at my last church pastorate, a dear saint by the name of Truman Johnson had been discovering and teaching the glories of right division in Sunday School—with no converts. And then one day, this young, ignorant, and hopeless pastor came to visit him at home. Truman didn't realize how God was about to use him to rescue me and many others from perilous confusion.

At first, I was terrified. Who or what could I consult to verify if these things he was telling me were true? I opened every commentary I owned and searched the internet trying to prove dispensational truth wrong. At the same time in the deep recesses of my heart and mind, I knew somehow the truth I was discovering was right. I could instantly see

the liberating power of this truth, but in that same instant, I could see terrifying consequences. After about six months of hard internal struggles with the truth, I caved. Amen!

But what could have possibly “pushed me over the edge?” What could possess a man—a pastor nonetheless—to forsake the safe confines of tradition and upbringing? What could cause a man to put his own family in jeopardy? What could cause someone to be willing to cast awkwardness upon every family gathering? What would possess a pastor to swallow his pride and submit himself and his family to public humiliation? What could persuade a Bible teacher to declare the dangers of denominational structures? For goodness sakes, what could compel someone to boldly declare that absolutely NOTHING aside from faith is required for salvation? The answer is alarming.

One word, from one verse spoken by one man one day, emphasized by the Holy Spirit:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly D-I-V-I-D-I-N-G the Word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

From the minute the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to the actual/literal interpretation of the truth, I knew I couldn't turn back, nor could I be quiet about it. Oh boy... here we go! Sunday mornings, Sunday nights, and Wednesday nights from the pulpit, I taught the awesome truth that was lighting my soul on fire. The glorious liberty that came from discovering a real, legitimate way of escaping oppressive religious legalism was

so wonderful. But before I could walk in such freedom, I had to mentally and emotionally reject most (if not all) of the beliefs I once held so tightly. Rightly dividing broke every single religious mold I had ever known!



Of course, the devil was none too pleased with my newfound joy and vocalization of the truth. With every lesson I taught, I met resistance from family, from people in the pews, from deacons, and from pastors. My church congregation dwindled from about one hundred in weekly attendance to about fifty, and the church budget followed suit. Within the association of churches in this area, I was labeled a cult leader.

Everything eventually came to a head when at a deacon's meeting I was grilled with questions regarding my teaching and whether I was purposefully leading our congregation away from the denomination. Finally, all but one of the deacons voted in agreement that it was time for me to resign. Of course, that also meant financial hardship for my wife and three kids. Life quickly changed.

Such was my escape from denominationalism and my introduction to grace. God, I will forever thank You!

Although my career in full-time vocational ministry within a denominational structure was over, I never once felt dismissed from my drive and passion to teach God's Word. Besides, there were some to whom I had taught right division that also realized the power of Paul's gospel, and they too had experienced the glorious liberty of Grace. Through the fellowship of suffering that comes with being a rightly divider, and the special bond that forms from the study of the Word, when I was broken, they were broken. We were all devastated.

"...whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it..."
(1 Cor. 12:26).

Together, we experienced the Bible. It welded us spiritually. For all of us, every word became so real, so personal, so incredible, so dynamic, so true. And it was our strong desire for the Word, rightly divided, that galvanized our resolve to continue. But sometimes the Word, although perfectly satisfying and right, is a hard pill to swallow.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (John 12:24).

We all realized that with our escape from denominational religion, a large portion of our lives was dying. Even though the lure of grace was so powerful and so comforting, the stark reality was that we were dead to the confines of the structures that all of us had been raised to believe was the truth. I knew personally and privately—because the Bible told me so—that at some point all my

teaching according to the revelation of the mystery was going to catch up with us; it was going to “rock the boat.” However, I also knew that beyond the grave of religion, there was liberty.

Liberty is so sweet. Literally. In fact, the very next week after resigning my full-time vocational position with the denominational church, the brand new fellowship of *Liberty Bible Church* met for the very first time at a hotel. I knew I could not let one week pass without providing some way for those who believed Paul’s gospel to be able to worship together through the study of the Word of truth, rightly divided. Time is precious, and it was now time to move.

For years before I even knew about dispensationalism, I realized that something about traditional religion just did not match what I read in Scripture. I longed to experience Church fellowship the way I saw it in the pages of my Bible. I longed for simple gatherings where Bible study was the focus, and where worries about budgets and committees and programs and personnel and music choice and insurance and building maintenance and salaries didn’t dominate our conversations and decisions. I longed for worship in Spirit and in (the) truth. Now, for the first time, I had an open door to pursue the vision of the liberty of a simple church fellowship that focused on the study of the Bible.

So, I sent messages and called people that I felt were sympathetic to sound doctrine. I would love to say that everyone that received an invitation attended our first meeting, but remember:

leaving the safety and comfort of tradition is no small step for anyone, no matter the “prize” on the other side. As *Liberty Bible Church* launched out on that first day, I was beyond relieved to see that others saw the vision as well and made the leap with me. How blessed we are!

Today, *Liberty Bible Church* of Tuscumbia, Alabama, continues to meet weekly. We have no budget. We have no committees. We have no building(s). We have no bills to pay. We have no music committees, or choirs, or song books (we *do* make melodies in our hearts). We have no programs.

We have liberty. We have Bible study. We have joy. We have laughter. We have tears together. We have hugs. We have questions and answers. We ALL have our physical Bibles with us every week. We have “Ah ha!” moments. We have each other. Occasionally, we have visitors, and yes even new additions. We have fellowship. We have prayer. We have YouTube! We have even hosted a conference. Most importantly, we have Grace. Oh, sweet, precious, amazing Grace!

So, as we say, “Liberty is our theme, the Bible is our focus, and Church is our identity.” Truly, the grace of God has led us as members of the Body of Christ to be His ambassadors. We will continue to “walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called” (Eph. 4:1b).

“Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them...”
(1 Tim. 4:15,16). 

BBS

Letter Excerpts



From California:

“I just watched the show *Transformed by Grace*. I really enjoyed it. It was very biblical. I wanted to order the free magazine and I had a question: Could you explain what a ‘dispensation’ is? I’ve heard it a couple times in your program and I would like to know more.”

From Arizona:

“Your *Transformed By Grace* messages about ‘The Cleansed Leper’ and ‘The Philippian Jailer’ were a real blessing. I remember watching as that gruesome basketball injury unfolded, and your account of what happened between the two teammates was really moving. And your reminder of Paul and Silas’ response to their brutal imprisonment put into perspective all the craziness that we’re experiencing in our country right now.”

From Florida:

“Your teaching on *Transformed by Grace* has really inspired me to get back to studying the Bible.”

From Michigan:

“A gift for the ministry. I am finally getting the broadcast....How much I enjoy listening to it, it helps so much.” (From our dear friend Mary Watkins, whose husband Pastor Wilson Watkins is now with the Lord. –Ed.).

From South Africa:

“Thank you for strengthening our faith.”

From Wisconsin:

“We so LOVE your TV program *Transformed by Grace!* I believe you will be coming to Lancaster, WI, this fall to speak at *Grace Bible Church*. Hope so! We sure enjoyed it last year and would like to get some family and friends to come that don’t practice rightly dividing.”

From our Inbox:

“I thank you once more for the messages, Pastor Kurth! They have provided so much glorious insight! I have one other question....”

From Australia:

“Thank you so much. That is fascinating stuff! I need to fully digest this but can already see how much sense it makes and how it answers so many questions.”

From our Inbox:

“Wow!...Thank you so much for your response and the article. I read your piece and found it to be very enlightening! It is a good read and I will definitely read it again and research more on this particular topic.”

From our Inbox:

“I love these *Two Minutes* readings! I share them with a large number of my friends and family everyday.”

From Georgia:

“Enclosed please find a money order to help with your ministry. I enjoy *Transformed By Grace* and would appreciate receiving your magazine.”

From Montana:

“Our church is splitting because some of us believe the revelation of the mystery given to Paul. Our preacher says we follow a false doctrine and believe there are two gospels. He says there is only one gospel, and we are of the devil. How do we respond?” (We helped this brother, and you can be “helping together by prayer” [2 Cor. 1:11]. –Ed.)

From our Inbox:

“That’s the most biblical answer I ever read about Ephesians 4...It seems that your answer is the most proper interpretation concerning the gift because it makes chapter 4 become so easy to understand.”

From Florida:

“Another amazing *Two Minutes With the Bible* from Pastor Stam [‘What Shall We Do?’. I will save this wonderful summary of why we follow Paul.”

From Wisconsin:

“We love the new *Runaways* and questions book. Such valuable teaching to ground and enlighten us in God’s truth. Great gift ideas for all ages and levels of understanding.”

From Michigan:

“Since our building changed TV service to Infinity, I have not been able to view your program via cable TV. But it is available on my tablet, so I’m thankful for that!” (What a wonderful age of options! –Ed.)

From Missouri:

“I go on your website every day since I can’t get your TV show. Please send me the 3 books you showed in the *Searchlight*.”

From Wisconsin:

“*Transformed By Grace* isn’t available on my Eau Claire TV channels (yet), but I enjoy the programs online. Thank God for *Berean Bible Society!*”

From Maryland:

“My wife and I, as well as the many other Christians in the Maryland/Washington/Virginia area truly appreciate your ministry and your constant stand for rightly dividing the Word of truth.”

From New Jersey:

“Thank you so much for your timely answer. Perhaps there is a book in the offing, God willing. I’m just now finishing up lesson one of your MP3 messages on John. The summary that goes along with each is especially helpful. One down, 107 to go.”

From Minnesota:

“I enjoyed the April *Searchlight* immensely. Can you sign me up to receive *Two Minutes With the Bible*? My e-mail address is...”

From Ghana:

“I just read an article in your December, 2010, *Searchlight* pamphlet from a friend, and it’s very insightful. I wish to be sent your monthly *Searchlight*.” (An example of how the printed page can bless *nine years later!* –Ed.)

From Indiana:

“About 40 years ago my grandmother ordered the *Searchlight* for me. I now have received my stimulus money. I know this doesn’t pay for 40 years, but I can now give something. Thank you for years of encouragement.”

Be a Berean

“These 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

If it solidified your faith to read Dave Stewart describe how God imparted Christ's perfect faith to Abraham in Romans 4, why not build on that solid foundation by studying the book that talks more about faith than any other book in the Bible.

BUILDING on a SOLID FOUNDATION



Romans

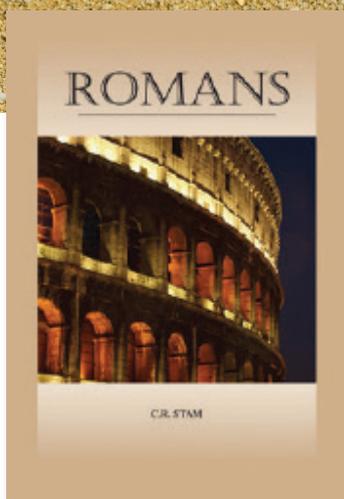
by C.R. Stam

Commentary with Bible Index

Hardcover 452 pages

Special Price: \$14.00*

(Reg. \$16.50)



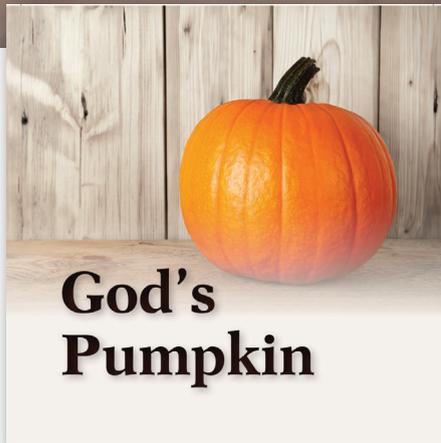
SPECIAL PRICE ENDS OCTOBER 31, 2020

*Orders up to \$30, add \$4 for shipping and handling;
orders over \$30, add 15%. Please inquire for international rates.
Wisconsin residents, please add 5.5% sales tax to books and postage.

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

A Prize-Winning Pumpkin (Tract!)

“Press toward the mark for
the prize” by treating kids with
this gospel tract!



God's Pumpkin

by Kevin J. Sadler

This nine-page color tract spells out the gospel of the grace of God using the acronym “P-U-M-P-K-I-N” and eleven Scripture references from Paul’s epistles.

Price: Pack of 10 for \$3.00*



News and Announcements

Our YouTube Videos: Did you know you can add subtitles to our YouTube Bible study messages by going to the settings and clicking on “subtitles”? If you are as hard of hearing as your editor, you now have an option that is more pleasing to others than raising the volume to decibel levels hearable in polar regions. YouTube also allows the translation of subtitles into other languages. That means you needn’t hesitate to share BBS messages by Kevin Sadler, Ricky Kurth, John Fredericksen, Jeff Seekins, Ken Lawson, Paul Sadler and others with friends who speak in unknown tongues.

How and When? In this tiny booklet, BBS founder Pastor C. R. Stam will help you explain to your friends that the law was set aside *by* the cross (Gal. 3:13) but not *until* Paul (Rom. 3:21). He also makes it clear how Jews and Gentiles were “reconciled to God...*by the cross*” (Eph. 2:16) but not until Israel was cast away (Rom. 11:15), and that the middle wall of partition was torn down “by the blood of Christ” (Eph. 2:13) but no one knew about it until Paul broke the news (cf. Acts 11:19). You can read all about these distinctions and peruse other titles on our website under “Bible Study” and “Out of Print Books.”

Turning the Tables! Just because the world around us focuses on the grisly and macabre aspects of death in October doesn’t mean that you have to. Your homegoing can be a time of rejoicing and rich reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ if you’ve lived your life in His faithful service. And one of the ways that you can see your faithfulness rewarded is by remembering to include *Berean Bible Society* in your will or trust. If you need help, you may want to consult with an estate attorney, then contact BBS Business Manager Pastor Jim Tollar with any questions at (262) 255-4750.

Pastoral Opportunity: If you are a grace pastor looking for the opportunity to shepherd a local grace assembly, Grace Bible Church of Bowler, Wisconsin, just might be the answer to your prayers—and theirs! But the only way to know for sure is by emailing Jim and Marianne Murphy at yogranna@hotmail.com, or by ringing them up at (715) 881-0148.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Pastor Kurth “Pulpit Supply,” October 18, Linton, IN

Pennsylvania Special Meetings, November 15, Duncansville, PA

Pastor Kurth “Pulpit Supply,” November 15, Goodlettsville, TN

Pastor Kurth “Pulpit Supply,” December 13, Sheridan, AR



(This is only a partial price list, for a full price list please see our website or contact BBS.)

MEDIA PRICE LIST



DVDs

- The Miracles of Calvary (2 DVDs) ..\$15.00
- What it Means to Be
- A Grace Believer (2 DVDs)15.00
- Transformed by Grace (1 episode)2.50
- Transformed by Grace (set of 12)24.00
- Transformed by Grace* **Pastor Kevin Sadler** episodes available on DVD: 1-12 • 13-24 • 25-36 • 37-48 • 49-60 • 61-72 • 73-84 • 85-96 • 97-108 • 109-120 • 121-132 • 133-144 • *Series available (see website)*
- What Does the Bible Say?* **Pastor Ken Lawson** episodes available on DVD: 1-12 • 13-24 • 25-36 • 37-48.

USB Drive

- USB Drive (423 Audio Messages) ..\$12.00

Power Point Download

- Basic Distinctions Between Prophecy & Mystery\$8.00
- Key to Understanding the Scriptures ..8.00
- Rapture vs. Second Coming8.00

E-BOOKS Available from Amazon or Download from BBS (not printed 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
- Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions.....9.00
- Memoirs of Cornelius R. Stam.....9.00
- Moses and Paul5.00

- Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians9.00
- Paul's Epistle to the Philippians9.00
- Revelation Volume 1.....9.00
- Revelation Volume 2.....9.00
- Revelation Volume 3.....9.00
- Revelation Volume 4.....9.00
- Studies in James6.00
- Things that Differ8.00
- Two Minutes with the Bible8.00
- TwoFold Purpose of God5.00

Audiobooks on CD

- Exploring the Unsearchable
- Riches of Christ\$21.00
- Studies in James15.00
- Life and Letters of Peter27.00
- Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians45.00
- The Triumph of His Grace24.00
- The TwoFold Purpose of God 6.00
- Things That Differ27.00
- Moses and Paul 6.00
- True Spirituality18.00
- No Other Doctrine15.00
- The Lord's Supper 9.00

Other Audio

- "After..." (Music, D. Wasson)\$15.00
- Great Love & Grace (Music, Nichols) ..11.00
- KJV Bible (MP3 on CD)17.49
- Preschooler's Bible (Audio CDs)12.99

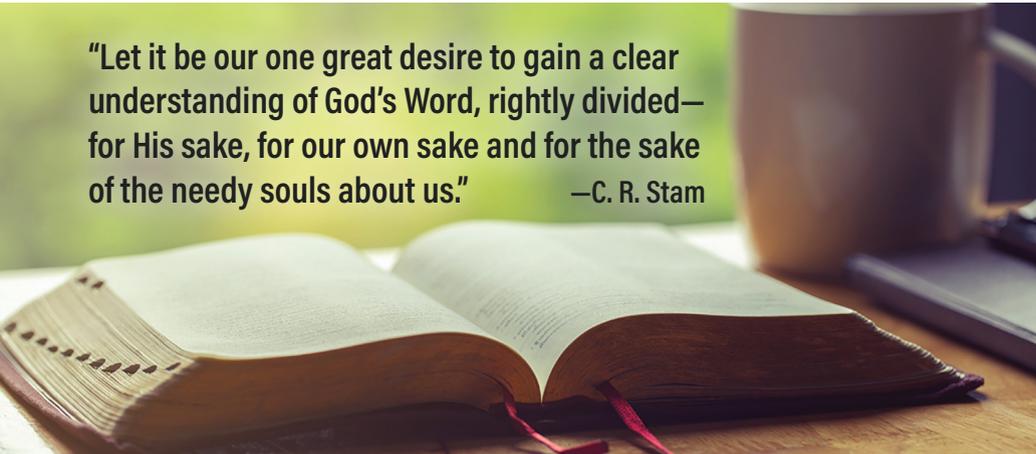
Bible Time Messages C.R. Stam

For a complete price list of audio CDs from Pastor Stam's radio broadcast please contact BBS or check out our website. There are 26 titles available for purchase.

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



“Let it be our one great desire to gain a clear understanding of God’s Word, rightly divided—for His sake, for our own sake and for the sake of the needy souls about us.”

—C. R. Stam

Transformed By
Grace

Berean Bible Society
TV Ministry

Sunday 9:00 am in Chicago on WJYS
Monday 10:30 am ET: ION Plus
Monday 6:00 pm ET:

- DirectTV: Channel 376
- Dish Network: Channel 267
- Glory Star Satellite System: Channel 117

Roku and Apple TV—BBS Network 24/7 streaming channel