

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

October 2019



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This month’s cover features the Crisp Point Lighthouse, near Newberry, Michigan.

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.

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The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), October 2019. Vol. 80, 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.



A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

Artist James Deitz created a work titled, “Unsung.” It depicts four mechanics working on a dive bomber. They are far below the flight deck of an aircraft carrier somewhere in the Pacific during World War II. The pale, serious-looking, grease-stained men are working tirelessly to get the plane ready to go back into battle. Without people like them, the plane and the bomber pilot would never get off the ground, and the victories could not be won.

Many serve the Lord and work “below the flight deck.” They are the unsung. They perform unnoticed tasks that are essential to the work of Christ in this world. The Lord, however, sees it all. Nothing passes His notice: “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (Prov. 15:3).

Behind the scenes, there are numerous tasks done by faithful servants here at the *Berean Bible Society*. In the printing industry, proofreading is essential. During the twenty years I spent as the graphic designer for BBS, I made the corrections by the proofreaders, and it always amazed me at the mistakes they caught. Now I have a different perspective. After I have written an article, thinking I have it polished and ready for print, I then send it to the proofers. After it comes back from them, it astounds me how I had looked over many mistakes. Our proofreaders don’t get the recognition that they are due.

Charlie Fouché, from Dalton, Georgia, has been one of our proofreaders for the last number of years. Recently, he had to retire from his duties because of serious health concerns. Charlie began by proofreading the *Berean Searchlight*, and then when we realized the quality and efficiency of his work, we expanded his responsibilities. Charlie then proofread our national letters, books, booklets, and tracts as well.

Charlie has not only been a vital part of the work of BBS, he also became a dear friend to Pastor Kurth and myself. When I was in Kentucky for a church building dedication in 2018, though not in good health, Charlie made the trip from Georgia to surprise me. This meant a lot. Another time, knowing my love of using humor in my messages, Charlie asked me before I preached, “Are you going to tell a good joke?” I said, “Yes, actually I got a really good one today.” With his dry humor, he replied, “No you don’t.” That made me double over in laughter.

Please keep Brother Charlie in your prayers. We have so appreciated Charlie’s efforts for the Lord as a proofreader for us and we will miss his labor of love. If you are part of the “unsung” at your local church, remember that, like Charlie, what you do is crucial to that ministry!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kevin Sadler, President

A close-up photograph of a spider on its web. The web is illuminated with a green and blue light, creating a glowing effect. The word "BEWARE!" is written in large, bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters across the top left of the image.

BEWARE!

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Tim. 4:1).

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:13).

In the last days of grace, there will be two areas for which to be especially watchful in regard to those who minister the Word. Paul warns us that some, but not all, will depart from the faith that was once near and dear to their hearts. They will abandon the sound doctrine that was first delivered to us by the Apostle Paul and will instead give heed to seducing spirits. As they teach things that are contrary to Paul’s gospel, it will cause a great deal of confusion among the brethren, which is a masterful ploy of Satan, who is the author of confusion. But why would these teachers knowingly depart from the truth? The reasons are many and varied: notoriety for discovery of a so-called new truth, wider acceptance in mainstream Christendom, larger numbers, and other temptations of fleshly, earthly gain.

The level of confusion increases dramatically when we add ministers who intentionally deceive the unsuspecting to build a utopian or cult-like ministry. Paul says they have “a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (2 Tim. 3:5). In a word, they will deny the preaching of the Cross, which is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18). Those who come under their spell will have their ears tickled with inspirational messages, but there will be a deafening silence when it comes to the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, or Christ’s precious blood.

The apostle is clear to all who will listen when he says, “from such turn away.” If you fail to do so, you will be swept into what is either their unsound teaching or a web of deception. Beware! Paul’s solution to avoid these dangers is really quite simple: “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them” (2 Tim. 3:14). In a nutshell, follow Paul as he followed Christ. A well-rounded understanding of Paul’s epistles will be a safeguard against error and will protect you from being misled or succumbing to the clever schemes of men.

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



When the Sign Gifts CEASED

PASTOR KEVIN **SADLER**
BBS President

“Ghassan Thomas leads one of the few public churches that emerged [in Baghdad] after Saddam Hussein was toppled. His congregation erected a sign on their building that said ‘Jesus Is the Light of the World,’ but the church was raided by bandits who left behind a threat on a piece of cardboard. It read: ‘Jesus is not the light of the world, Allah is, and you have been warned.’ The note was signed ‘The Islamic Shiite Party.’

“In response, Pastor Ghassan loaded a van with children’s gifts and medical supplies—which were in critically short supply following the American invasion—and drove to the headquarters of the Islamic Shiite Party. After presenting the gifts and supplies to the sheikh, Ghassan told the leader, ‘Christians have love for you, because our God is a God of love.’ He then asked permission to read from the Bible. Ghassan turned to Jesus’ words in John 8, ‘I am the light of the world.’ He then showed the cardboard note to the sheikh. The Muslim leaders, astounded by Pastor Thomas’s actions, apologized.

“‘This will not happen again,’ [the sheikh] vowed. ‘You are my brother. If anyone comes to kill you, it will be my neck first.’ The sheikh later attended Pastor Thomas’s ordination service at the church.”¹

Faith, hope, and love is what God desires of His Church, the Body of Christ. We see how this pastor put these graces in action to Muslims in Iraq. Faith, hope, and love abide throughout the dispensation of grace. In 1 Corinthians 13:8-13, the Apostle Paul makes a contrast between what abides and what would cease in this dispensation. What would come to an end are the sign gifts.

That Which Was to Be Done Away

“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away” (1 Cor. 13:8).

“Charity [Gr., *agape*] never faileth,” Paul wrote. God’s *agape* love is constant, permanent, and continues forever. It never ends. This is so because “God is love”

(1 John 4:8), and love is as eternal as God is. The Greek word translated “faileth” means to fall powerless to the ground. It carries the picture of a fading flower with falling petals. But God’s agape love never withers, falls to the ground, corrupts, or fades.



What follows this statement about charity is a contrast. We are taught that while charity never fails, the gift of prophecy, tongues, and knowledge would fail and cease to exist. They were only temporary. They were a fading flower with petals falling to the ground.

These sign gifts were essential for the foundation of the Body of Christ and for revealing God’s will and message of grace to the world. While these gifts were still in operation, however, there were a couple of problems.

First, the Corinthian church was exalting the gifts themselves over love. In their carnality, they were enamored of their spiritual gifts, but Paul taught them that these gifts needed to be used in love and selfless care for others. Second, the Corinthians were focusing on something that was temporary and fading away when they needed to live by what endures forever.

Pastor C. R. Stam rightly pointed out that Paul addresses three subjects in these verses: (1) that which was to be done away, (2) that which was to take its place, and (3) that which was to abide. We’ll look at these verses in this light.

In 1 Corinthians 13:8, Paul chooses three gifts prominent among the Corinthians: prophecies, tongues, and knowledge. Notice how Paul compared *three* gifts that would cease (v. 8) with *three* virtues that abide (v. 13). Paul makes it clear that there would come a time when the sign gifts of prophecy, tongues, and knowledge would fail, cease, and vanish away.

“Whether there be prophecies, they shall fail.” The gift of prophecy was a revelatory gift. God would give His Word through a prophet. They literally spoke the Word of God. Prophets could speak for God by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, speaking verbally with the same inspired authority that Paul experienced when he wrote his epistles.

Paul could not be everywhere at once, and so God used people with the gift of prophecy to speak the Word of God to the Church in different places. At the beginning of the dispensation of grace, this gift was needed and used to reveal the truths of the revelation of the mystery to the Body of Christ (Eph. 3:4-5).

“Whether there be tongues, they shall cease.” The gift of tongues was the means through which prophecy and the divine truths of grace were communicated to the nations of the world. The gift of tongues was the gift of languages,

the miraculous ability by the Holy Spirit to speak languages they did not know. This enabled the gospel of the grace of God to spread rapidly around the world as the Body of Christ was being established.

“Whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.” This gift enabled a person to read the Scriptures, listen to the prophets of grace, and then, by the Holy Spirit, draw proper and insightful conclusions concerning God’s truth. This was spiritual knowledge disclosed by God. It was the immediate imparting of spiritual truth to the mind. It enabled the recipient to know the mind and will of God for this dispensation.

That Which Was to Take Its Place

“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away” (1 Cor. 13:9-10).

As Paul proceeds to reveal the timing of the end of these sign gifts, he sets up a *now* (present tense) time and a *then* (future tense) time. When Paul wrote in the present tense, he was referring to the time at which he was writing; when he wrote in the future tense, he was referring to a time future to the time of his writing.

In verse 9, he was writing about his *now*, the time of his writing, that *now* “we know in part,” and *now* “we prophesy in part.” In verse 10, he was writing about his *then* time: “But when that which is perfect is come, *then* that which is in part shall be done away.” In verse 12, you see both

his *now* and his *then*: “For *now* we see through a glass, darkly; but *then* face to face: *now* I know in part; but *then* shall I know even as also I am known.” These *now* and *then* contrasts show that the miraculous sign gifts were temporary and had no permanent place with the Body of Christ in this dispensation of grace.



“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part” refers to the incomplete knowledge and prophecies concerning what Christ was revealing to Paul: the mystery, the body of truth for the present dispensation (Eph. 3:3). The truths of grace and the mystery were revealed progressively to Paul. Paul didn’t have the complete revelation of the mystery when he wrote 1 Corinthians. Later, in 2 Corinthians 12:1, Paul wrote, “It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. *I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.*”

Knowing “in part” and prophesying “in part” speaks of having only *part* of the knowledge of the mystery. The content of the message of grace revealed through the sign gifts of knowledge (“we know”) and prophecy (“we prophesy”) was only “in part,” or incomplete and imperfect at that time. There were only partial knowledge and partial prophecies concerning the mystery. The

full understanding of the Church truth for today was still coming.

“But,” or in contrast to the way it was at the time Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 13:10, “when that which is perfect is come....” There was a time coming when what was imperfect would be perfect. A change was coming. Eventually these supernatural gifts would cease and give way to a permanent provision for the Body of Christ. Then the spiritual knowledge that they had in part, and the prophecies of divine revelation that were in part, would be complete.

I believe that 1 Corinthians 13:10 means the following: “But when that [the Word of God, in particular the revelation of the mystery given to Paul] which is perfect [a completed end, brought about by progressive revelation] is come, then that [the supernatural sign gifts] which is in part [the incomplete way with incomplete revelation] shall be done away.”

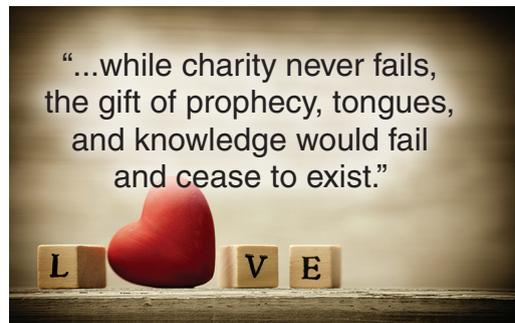
Incomplete knowledge and partial prophecies ended with the coming of “that which is perfect,” which is the completion of God’s Word through the revelation given to Paul. When the mystery was fully revealed to Paul, the supernatural sign gifts of the early Church vanished away. At that point, no longer did they “know in part,” because full knowledge was now revealed for this dispensation of grace. There was then no need to “prophecy,” because all the divine revelation was given by His completed Word.

Prophecies, tongues, knowledge, and the other miraculous sign gifts were given to the Body of Christ while the Word of God was

still being revealed. However, after the Scriptures were complete, then these temporary methods of divine revelation and the miraculous gifts ceased and vanished away. They were unnecessary once we had a completed Bible.

“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the Word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints” (Col. 1:25-26).

According to this passage, the mystery revealed to Paul fulfilled the Word. It completed the revelation of God by revealing the second part of God’s eternal, twofold purpose. That twofold purpose is (1) for Israel and the prophetic saints to rule and reign in Christ on the earth, which is revealed in the Old Testament, the four Gospels, and the Hebrew epistles; and (2) for the Body of Christ to rule and reign in Christ in the heavenlies, which is revealed in Paul’s epistles.



By the latter part of Paul’s ministry, “that which is perfect” had come, and the sign gifts had ceased. You find Paul, as well as his co-workers, not performing miracles or healing any longer

(1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20). And the gift of tongues is never mentioned again after the epistle of 1 Corinthians.

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known” (1 Cor. 13:11-12).

“The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot’s wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. ‘My mommy looked back once while she was driving,’ he announced, ‘and she turned into a telephone pole.’”² Like Paul wrote, “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child.”

Paul uses two illustrations to demonstrate the temporary nature of the sign gifts. He begins by contrasting childhood with becoming an adult, the immature with the mature. The sign gifts were the immature and incomplete way.

During childhood, knowledge is incomplete, speech is undeveloped, and understanding is simple. But as children become adults, they mature in all these areas. My father, Pastor Paul M. Sadler, wrote this: “When we became adults we put away all our childhood toys. Hence, our immaturity was gradually replaced with a fuller understanding of things once we became adults. Thus, the supernatural gifts were put aside with the maturing of the dispensation which came with

the completion of Paul’s revelation.”³

The illustration of a child represents the beginning of the dispensation of grace, the infancy of the Body of Christ, the unfolding of the mystery, and the incomplete knowledge that accompanied that time. The sign gifts belonged to childhood. But Paul adds, “when I became a man, I put away childish things.” This refers to the maturity of the dispensation with the receiving of the full revelation of the mystery and the putting away of the childish things of the sign gifts.

The healings and speaking in tongues that so many are gripped by and enthralled with today are not signs of spiritual maturity. They are a sign of *childishness* according to God’s Word. Real maturity takes place through growth and application of the Word of God, rightly divided.

Paul’s second illustration of the change that was coming and the cessation of the sign gifts is that of a mirror. The “now” of “now we see through a glass, darkly” refers to the time when Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians. The “glass” was something looked into with the purpose of seeing a reflected image, or a mirror. Unlike our mirrors today, mirrors in biblical times were often just flat pieces of polished metal from which one could hardly make out one’s own image. They did not give off a bright, clear reflection as our mirrors do today.

Paul wrote that now we see through a glass, “darkly,” or dimly, indistinctly, without a clear image. When Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, he still had an incomplete

and unclear view of the revelation of the mystery for the Body of Christ. And the sign gifts were like looking into an ancient mirror and being unable to get a complete, detailed picture.

“But then,” or after “that which is perfect is come,” the image would be “face to face.” In other words, when the full revelation was given, everything would be crystal clear, like looking at someone directly in the face, able to see everything clearly in perfect detail.



From *seeing*, Paul returns to *knowing*: “now I *know* in part; but then shall I *know* even as also I am *known*.” “I know in part” is Paul’s reminder that he only had a partial knowledge of the mystery at that point. But there was coming a day when the knowledge would be complete and everything would be known. Still using the analogy of a mirror, Paul is teaching that when he did receive the full revelation, everything would be so clear that it would be as if he were actually looking at himself. He would know how he looks with the same accuracy that others know him, without a flawed reflection from an imperfect mirror.

There are two different Greek words for “know” in verse 12. Paul wrote, “now I know [Gr., *ginosko*] in part; but then shall I know [Gr., *epiginosko*].” The first Greek word for “know” means to perceive or understand. The second word for “know” means to recognize, knowing thoroughly. Later Paul wrote to the Ephesian church,

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ...may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the *knowledge* [Gr., *epignosis*] of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...” (Eph. 1:17-18).

The Greek word for “knowledge” in Ephesians 1:17 is the noun form of the verb “know” (Gr., *epiginosko*) in 1 Corinthians 13:12, and likewise means full, thorough knowledge. When Paul wrote to the Ephesians, he had by then received the full revelation for the Body of Christ, the full knowledge of Christ according to His heavenly ministry today. And he prays that the Ephesians would be enlightened to this full knowledge of Christ by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

We gain our knowledge of Christ by the Word of God. As we spend time with God’s Word, we see Christ, we know Him more, and we “are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:18).

We have to be careful, however, that although the supernatural sign gifts and the gifts of revelation have ceased, not all the gifts have been set aside. The supernatural gifts of the early Church are gone, but there are spiritual gifts that remain.

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men” (Eph. 4:7-8).

Ephesians is a prison epistle, written after the Acts period, after Israel had officially been temporarily set aside, and written after Paul had received the revelation of the mystery in all its fullness. And still at this point, Paul wrote that, by grace, “every one of us” in the Body of Christ has been given a spiritual gift. Therefore, I believe we each have some God-given spiritual gift with which to serve the Lord.



“Paul did not look for tongues, healings, and miracles in the churches he established; he looked for faith, hope, and love.”

The spiritual gifts that are still present are the ones that function in the life of the Church for its edification (Eph. 4:12,16). Through them and the indwelling Holy Spirit, Christ guides, leads, nurtures, and ministers to His Church. These gifts include the gift of an evangelist and pastor-teacher (Eph. 4:11). Additionally, as Paul wrote in Romans 12:6-8, “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether...ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he

that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

That Which Was to Abide

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity” (1 Cor. 13:13).

The “now” and “then” contrast finishes here with Paul concluding, “*now* abideth.” This did not await the completed revelation of the mystery. Paul was teaching them that “now,” and for the entire dispensation of grace, “abideth faith, hope, charity.” These three crowning graces abide throughout the dispensation. While the miraculous sign gifts would cease, faith, hope, and *agape* love would remain.

Faith, hope, and *agape* love are the foundation for our Christian lives. We are called to “walk by *faith*” (2 Cor. 5:7), to “walk in *love*” (Eph. 5:2), and to be “Looking for that blessed *hope*, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

Paul did not look for tongues, healings, and miracles in the churches he established; he looked for faith, hope, and love. As he wrote to the Colossian church, “We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus, and of the **love** which ye have to all the saints, For the **hope** which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel” (1:3-5).

This is the true measuring stick of spiritual maturity in Christ and a strong church. These are the three essential qualities for our Christian lives. God desires that faith, hope, and love be the driving factor in all we do in life as we serve Him. And the greatest of these is love. “What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.”⁴ May God use our hands,

feet, eyes, and ears to show His love to this world.

1. “Baghdad Pastor Shows Love to Shiite Party,” *Preaching Today*, <https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2009/march/2030909.html>, excerpted from Skye Jethani, *The Divine Commodity* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2009), pp. 61-62.

2. “Joke of the Day,” *The New Times*, May 21, 2010, <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/read/81736>.

3. Paul M. Sadler, *The Supernatural Sign Gifts of the Acts Period* (Germantown, Wisconsin: Berean Bible Society, 2017), p. 54.

4. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions* (Oxford, England, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2009), Henry Chadwick (translator). 

Question Box

“If no one can see God’s face and live (Ex. 33:20), how did He speak to Moses ‘face to face’ (Ex. 33:11)?”

The phrase “face to face” can be taken literally (2 John 1:12), but it can also be taken in a figurative sense. For instance, God is said to have spoken “face to face” with the people of Israel when He gave them the law (Deut. 5:4), but they didn’t see His face (Deut. 4:12). So we must conclude that the phrase “face to face” there is a figure of speech.

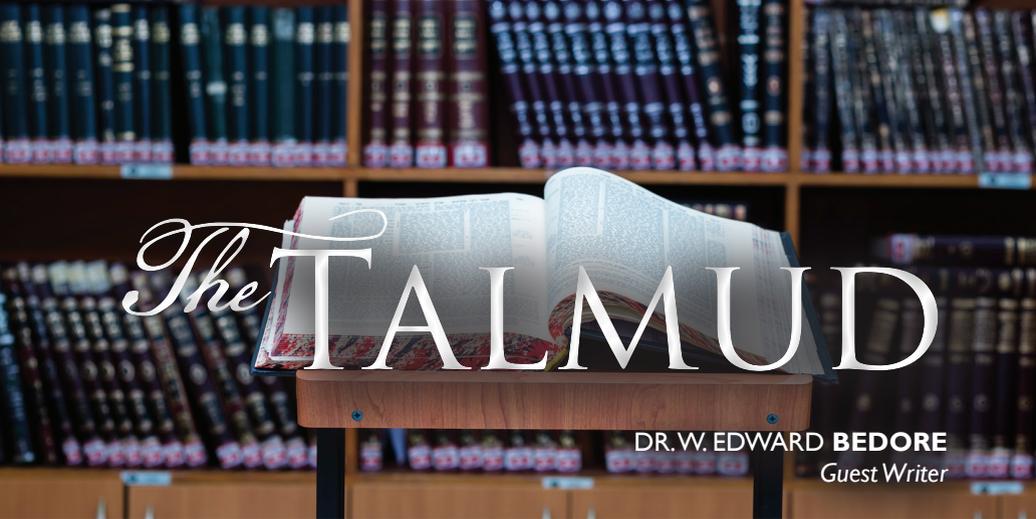
What does it mean? Well, compare how God *defines* speaking face to face to Moses:

“If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make Myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so... With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold” (Num. 12:6-8).

In speaking to Moses, God spoke *apparently* (clearly), and not in visions and dreams and dark speeches. That’s the figurative meaning of “face to face.”

This understanding is the only answer to our Pentecostal friends who say that tongues will not “cease” (1 Cor. 13:8) until we get to Heaven. They insist that “that which is perfect” (1 Cor. 13:10) is Heaven since that’s when we’ll see the Lord “face to face” (v. 12). What Paul was actually saying is that once the Bible is perfect or complete, the will of God can be understood as clearly as if we were in His presence!

—Pastor Ricky Kurth



The TALMUD

DR. W. EDWARD BEDORE
Guest Writer

Recently I was reading a ministry newsletter I had received. In it the director was relating an incident at a seminar he had conducted in which his position on a particular biblical subject was challenged by a man in the audience. The man's appeal was not to Scripture but what "great" men and "leaders," the theological giants of the past, had taught and believed. In other words, his appeal came from *outside* of Scripture. I can relate to the frustration this minister felt as he tried to deal with this man by countering his challenge with clear passages of Scripture that supported his view. They were simply ignored in favor of what other men had taught as though they were infallible. I too have faced this problem on numerous occasions.

This problem is not a new one that is unique to our day and age. The Lord Jesus Christ, during His earthly ministry, faced the same kind of challenge.

IN JESUS DAY

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine: For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matt. 7:28-29).

This and other passages of Scripture found in the biblical accounts of Jesus Christ's life and ministry tell us that His teaching stood as different from the teaching of the religious leaders of the nation Israel. The people recognized that the Lord Jesus spoke with authority, authority that the teaching of the religious leaders did not have. The question should come to our mind, exactly what was it about the Lord's teaching that caused the people to so readily recognize that it was teaching or doctrine that had power behind it? The answer to this question becomes clearer if we understand something of the background and state of the religious teaching in Israel at the time Christ was on earth.

From about the time of Ezra's return to Jerusalem from the captivity in Babylon, about 400 B.C., the rabbis of Israel began to accumulate various writings about the Law of Moses that are collectively known today as the Talmud. The word Talmud means "to study" or "to learn." This collection of writings is made up of the rabbi's interpretations and commentaries of the written law given to Moses. Much was based on a belief that a second or oral law had been given to Moses in addition to the written law of the "Torah." The idea was that the oral law was handed down from generation to generation for the purpose of explaining the written law. For instance, everyone knew that they were not to work on the Sabbath, but the rabbis insisted that one must have the "oral" or "traditional" law to define exactly what constituted work. How far could a person walk on the Sabbath? What could they carry with them, if anything at all? etc. The body of literature found in the Talmud today represents close to 900 years of rabbinical teaching (c. 400 B.C.—A.D. 500).

Over the years there was a progressive addition and opinions from many rabbinical sources. The Talmud, as it exists today, presents an intricate system of rabbinical law that the religious Jew of today must follow. But it is even more impossible to keep than the Law of Moses. In their attempt at building a fence around the Law, the rabbis have imposed ordinances and regulations which prohibit things that are not forbidden in the Law of Moses, the written law, which is the Word of God.

Along with the fence that they erected around the law, the "sages" also provided avenues of circumvention by which to evade keeping the law itself. In Matthew 15:1-9 and 23:1-26 we find the Lord taking the Pharisees to task for not only adding their traditions but for actually breaking the commands of the law in the process. His conclusion was that they were "*blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel*" (Matt. 23:24)!

While the Talmud, as it exists today, was not being taught during Christ's life on earth, there was 400 years of rabbinical tradition and opinion in existence being taught. The authority was no longer the "written Word of God," but the teaching of men. This is what the Lord Jesus was referring to in His answer to the Pharisees and scribes when they complained about His disciples eating "with unwashed hands." He accuses them of "*making the Word of God of none effect through your tradition which ye have delivered. And many such like things do ye*" (see Mark 7:1-13). The Pharisees' challenge came because Christ's disciples were not walking "*according to the tradition of the elders*" (Mark 7:5).

The Lord Jesus carried out His ministry in a nation that had been indoctrinated with this rabbinical philosophy for many years. It was this kind of teaching that prevailed in the synagogues and was championed by the religious leaders of Israel. What gave the teaching (doctrine) of the Lord its authority was that **He taught from the**

Word of God itself. He did not come teaching some new thing, nor did He come to do away with the law as it was given, but He came to fulfill the law (Matt. 5:17-20). During His earthly ministry all that was said and done by the Lord Jesus Christ was in conjunction and complete harmony with the law and the prophets (the Old Testament).

AND TODAY

It is good to read and learn from others about the Bible and what It teaches. But we must not make the mistake the religious leaders of Israel made. The “oral law,” which provided the foundation for the Talmud, was meant to be useful. The intent was to help people obey the written Word of God. But gradually it replaced the Word of God as the final authority.

Commentaries, Bible study material, books on theology and doctrine, and other works of men are not only helpful, but necessary. But we must never let them become our authority. The Bible, the written Word of God, must be consulted FIRST and LAST. The Bible is our ONLY authority. All other is subject to error.

Christendom has, in effect, created its own “Christian Talmud” with its insistence on adhering to “traditional doctrines” at the expense of clearly stated passages of Scripture. The most serious infringement on the truth of God’s Word is the legalistic insistence on keeping ordinances and rituals that are not for the dispensation that is in effect today. Those who do not “rightly divide the Word of Truth,” as God’s duly appointed Apostle to the Gentiles has directed us (2 Tim. 2:15), will fall into the same spiritual ditch that the Pharisees found themselves in (see Matt. 15:7-14). 



Transformed by
Grace

The following was sent to us from Valerie Wynalda, Office Administrator at *Things to Come Mission*, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

“I took my mom to Great Clips for a hair cut today, and we were surprised and so thrilled to see they had Kevin Sadler’s weekly program *Transformed By Grace* showing on the salon TV! My mom’s stylist said whenever she and her colleague are there, they always have that program on. Our household has so enjoyed that program and were disappointed when they changed the time where we are from 8 a.m. Mondays to 10:30, when we’re at work. However, it looks like the new time will benefit people waiting to get their hair cut!”



Setting One's House in Order

“In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live” (Isa. 38:1).

After this prophecy came to King Hezekiah from Isaiah the prophet, Hezekiah prayed unto the Lord and wept bitterly (38:2-3). The Lord then sent Isaiah back to Hezekiah with an updated prophecy, that the Lord said, “I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years” (Isa. 38:5). God hears prayer!

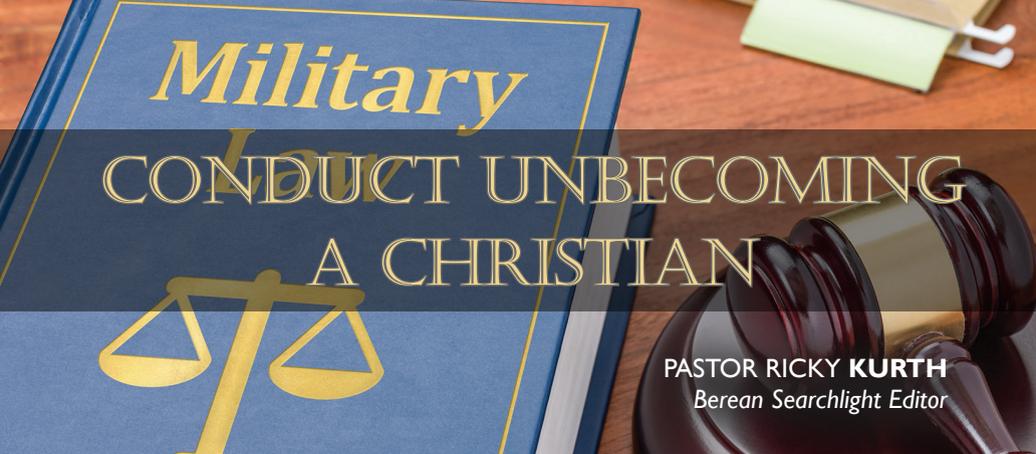
It is important to notice though that *the Lord said*, “Set thine house in order.” It’s good and right to have our affairs in order. Unless the Rapture happens first, we each have an appointment with death (Heb. 9:27). It is important to have our house in order should the Lord call us home unexpectedly.

If you are planning to draw up a will or revise one that is outdated, please consider including *Berean Bible Society* in your estate planning. Of course, your family and loved ones should be the priority, but by remembering BBS, you would, long after your homegoing, assist us in making known the gospel of the grace of God to a world that desperately needs Christ.

Here are a couple of tips we have learned over the years about estate planning: (1) Consider naming an *impartial* executor. (2) Speak to a Christian financial advisor about other creative ways to give to the Lord’s work, such as a Charitable Remainder Trust, or naming BBS as the beneficiary on your life insurance policy or retirement account. These are ways to ensure that your legacy will be used according to your wishes.

If you are considering becoming a monthly contributor or if you are preparing to draw up a will, the following five points are a reminder of how *Berean Bible Society* functions and is funded:

1. BBS is a non-profit 501-c3 corporation, governed by a board of directors.
2. We are not endowed or underwritten by any denomination or Christian organization.
3. We do *not* charge a subscription price for the *Berean Searchlight*, which reaches into all 50 States and more than 40 foreign countries.
4. We are supported entirely by the *voluntary* contributions of believers who desire to see others reached with the truths that have brought so much light and blessing to their own lives.
5. BBS is a work of *faith* in the Lord that reaches out to millions with the gospel of salvation and the Word rightly divided. —Pastor Kevin Sadler



Military

CONDUCT UNBECOMING A CHRISTIAN

PASTOR RICKY KURTH
Berean Searchlight Editor

“...speak thou the things which become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1).

The word “become” here means *fitting* or *appropriate*. Even if you never served in the military, you have probably heard that if an officer misbehaves he can be charged with “conduct unbecoming an officer.” That serious charge is levied against an officer who has not been conducting himself in a manner that is fitting or appropriate for his rank and position.

And the word *become* is used that way in Scripture as well. Paul told the Romans,

“I commend unto you Phebe...a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea...receive her in the Lord, as *becometh saints*, and...assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you...” (Rom. 16:1,2).

The reason Paul had to *tell* the Romans to receive a sister in Christ was that women in those days were not always well received in Roman society. That is, they weren’t always as welcomed as a man would be. But Paul says to *not* receive a sister like Phebe would constitute conduct unbecoming a saint of God.

By the way, this is one of many examples in Scripture that show how those who say that Christianity puts women down are wrong. Christianity *lifts women up*, as you can see from Paul’s words here, and from the words found in many other places in Scripture as well. If you want a religion that puts women down, and teaches that it is okay to mistreat them, look to Islam, not Christianity.

Of course, having said that, there are Christian men who mistreat women as well, and Paul says that behavior like that isn’t very becoming to men who claim to be saints of God.

The word “becoming” *also* means *to make someone look good*. A husband might say to his wife, “That dress is very becoming on you.” At least that’s what he says if he knows what’s good for him, right ladies? But what he means when he says that is that the dress makes his wife look good.

And the Bible uses the word that way as well. Paul told the Philippians,

“...let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel” (Phil. 1:27).

Two of the Philippian women were feuding like the Hatfields and the McCoys (Phil. 4:2), and Paul’s admonition for the church to be “of one accord” (Phil. 2:2) suggests that some in the church were siding with Eudoias and some with Syntyche. As far as God is concerned, that’s conduct that is unbecoming to the gospel! They were making the gospel look *bad* in the eyes of the lost sinners in Philippi, not good.

So when Paul tells Titus to speak the things which become sound doctrine, he was telling him to speak to believers and tell them how to act in a way that was fitting for someone who embraces the sound doctrine found in Paul’s epistles. He then went on to tell “aged men” how to do that (Titus 2:2), “aged women” (2:3), “young women” (2:4), as well as “young men” (2:6), and even “servants” (2:9).

Beloved, no matter what your age, gender, or position in life, it’s not enough just to *believe* sound doctrine, and it’s not enough just to *teach* it. God wants us to *live* sound doctrine—live it in such a way that *makes sound doctrine look good*. If that’s the burden of your heart, why not make it the prayer of your heart?

You’ll be eternally glad you did.



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“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God... We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain” (2 Cor. 5:20, 6:1).

In 2 Corinthians 5:20, we learn about our ministry of reconciliation, of God beseeching *unbelievers* through us, Christ’s ambassadors, to be reconciled to God. A couple of verses later, in 6:1, we read of Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, beseeching *believers* to “receive not the grace of God in vain.”

We have a privilege *by grace* to be workers together with God, and we have a privilege *by grace* to be Christ’s ambassadors. By the grace of God, each person reconciled to God is called to beg people to be reconciled to God. Our reconciliation with God puts each of us into the ministry of reconciliation (5:18).

However, not all in Corinth were doing this. They missed their ministry. “Vain” means empty, useless, fruitless, without effect or purpose. Receiving the grace of God “in vain” is the opposite of 2 Corinthians 5:15: “And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.”

When believers live for themselves only, rather than for the purposes to which God has called them, that’s receiving the grace of God in vain. Gratitude for God’s grace is to make us *want to* live for and work for the One Who gave everything for us, Who died for us, and saved us from eternity in the Lake of Fire.

We have a stewardship, a responsibility, a duty as ambassadors for Christ. To receive the grace of God in vain is not teaching that the salvation of the Corinthian believers was in jeopardy; it is teaching that the salvation of other people was in jeopardy.

In these verses, God begs the believer to live as a bright gospel light out of care for people around us and their eternal destinies. Receiving the grace of God in vain is to live a life without aim or meaning. But when the grace of God is received and touches your heart, it gives you purpose, a gospel mindset, and you see the vital importance to be a light and to live for what is important to God. And we know that the souls of people and their eternal destiny is infinitely important to God, because Christ died for all (2 Cor. 5:15). So may we respond to God’s Word by faith and let this little light of mine...shine!

—Pastor Kevin Sadler

SPOTLIGHT on Grace Churches

IGLESIA BIBLICA DE JUANA DIAZ

Puerto Rico

Pastor: Pastor Miguel Ortiz

Juana Diaz Bible Church has been reaching Puerto Ricans with the saving message of Christ for 50 years. Pastor Miguel (Michael) Ortiz has led the assembly for 15 years.



The church has a weekly radio program, *Viviendo en gracia con Cristo (Living in Grace with Christ)*, that airs every Monday morning. They are also very active in aiding people whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Maria. Please pray as they decide what to do with their own building

that needs expensive hurricane repairs.

Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/Iglesia-Biblica-De-Juana-Diaz>

Heaven in the Clouds

*“The heavens declare
the glory of God; and
the firmament sheweth
His handywork”
(Psa. 19:1).*

“As I ran through the soft and pleasant meadow on a bright and sunny day. I galloped through the tall green grass that seemed to be attempting to run along with me.

“Then I froze, all of a sudden with one blink, the sun was swallowed up! I looked at those clouds that covered the light and thought that they had no right to steal the light for themselves.

“But, at the sight, I caught a bit of light that gleamed through a crack of the clouds in shining streaks. It looked like what I picture Heaven as. With the golden fountains of sunlight all lined in a row of radiant beauty that filtered through the white, fluffy clouds.

“Of course, I have never seen Heaven, but if those gleaming rays of light lined in a row of glow are anything similar to Heaven, then what a sight it will be when my Jesus I shall see, up above those wonderful clouds of Jesus’ demonstration of love.”

—Emily Siegmann, age 13

LEARNING TO REJOICE

PASTOR JOHN FREDERICKSEN

BBS Board Member

An article in the *New York Times*, entitled “The Grumpiest Boss in America,” talks about a Houston oil magnate. He routinely sent out blistering memos. For instance: “Idle conversation and gossip in this office among employees will result in immediate termination. **Do your jobs and keep your mouth shut!**” Another was, “There will be no more birthday celebrations, birthday cakes, levity, or celebrations of any kind within the office. This is a business office. If you have to celebrate, do it after office hours on your own time.”¹ This boss became the epitome of a grumpy old man who was void of joy.

Christians are not immune from developing a grumpy disposition that appears to have little, or no, joy. But living life this way shortens our life span and greatly diminishes our testimony for Christ. God has a much higher standard for those who claim the name of our Savior.

Proverbs 17:22 reminds us “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” Similarly, Proverbs 15:15 tells us “he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.” The Apostle Paul

emphasizes the need for believers to continually live in joy by saying, “Therefore being justified by faith; we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom we...rejoice in [the] hope of glory” (Rom. 5:1-2). “Rejoice ye Gentiles” (Rom. 15:10), “for we...rejoice in Christ Jesus...” (Phil. 3:3).

Which do you want to choose to experience every day: a broken sad spirit, or a merry heart... feasting in joy on God’s grace and many blessings? The bottom line is that *we choose which spirit will dominate our thinking*: a rejoicing merry heart or an unhappy broken spirit.

Charles Swindoll once wrote: “We have a choice every day in the attitude we will embrace for the day. Life is 10% what happens to us, and 90% how we react to it. Our attitude is everything.”²

Christians can, and should, rejoice regardless of circumstances

Even in bad circumstances, the apostles chose to drain every drop of joy out of every day and any situation. When Peter and other Jewish apostles were beaten and commanded to stop preaching Christ, “they departed

from...the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His [Christ's] name" (Acts 5:41). After recounting his intense suffering for Christ, Paul responded, "as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing..." (2 Cor. 6:10).

Recently I watched *America's Funniest Home Videos* and saw a dog jumping for joy as he anticipated going outside for a walk with his master. It struck me that we believers should act similarly because God's Word urges us to "rejoice evermore" (1 Thes. 5:16). To live in a continual state of rejoicing is simply God's will for our lives, and a proper daily walk with our Heavenly Master will empower us to do so.

We can learn to rejoice

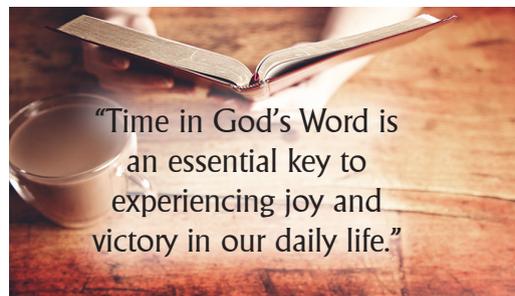
I believe we can learn to rejoice because God tells us to learn many other spiritual lessons. Romans 15:4 teaches us that "whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning...that we...might have hope." Titus 3:14 instructs, "And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful." Believers at Ephesus were urged to not continue living in the sinful lifestyle they had prior to salvation. Why? Because they had "not so learned Christ" (Eph. 4:20). The Corinthians were to embrace the important spiritual lesson to "learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed one against another" (1 Cor. 4:6). No matter his circumstances, Paul said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil.

4:11). Since it is possible for us to learn all of these spiritual lessons, we can certainly also learn the valuable lesson of continually rejoicing.

Learning to rejoice begins with a foundation in 4 things

(1) Paul tells us to "rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say, rejoice" (Phil. 4:4).

The very core of daily rejoicing must be in God Himself. We should delight our souls in His greatness, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, mercy, longsuffering, blessings, and promises. Isaiah, described the Lord by saying, "I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple" (Isa. 6:1). He allowed his soul to be in awe of the majesty of God, and we should too. David wrote, "Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him" (Psa. 33:8). With reverence, Paul described the Lord as "the King Eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God..." (1 Tim. 1:17).



"Time in God's Word is an essential key to experiencing joy and victory in our daily life."

Jeremiah wrote: "Ah Lord GOD! behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard

for Thee” (Jer. 32:17). Jeremiah referred to Jehovah as, “the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is His name; Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for Thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men...” (Jer. 32:18-19). Paul confirmed God’s great power by saying He causes “all things work together for good to them that love God” (Rom. 8:28), and that the Lord “worketh all things after the counsel of His own will” (Eph. 1:11).

Nehemiah helped Israel to rejoice by informing them that “God [is] ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness...” (Neh. 9:17). Micah confirmed the same by saying, “Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity... because He delighteth in mercy” (Micah 7:18). We can greatly rejoice in the Lord because of His tremendous patience with us, even when we sin. We can jump for joy knowing that in Christ, God has “forgiven you all trespasses” (Col. 2:13). If we choose to learn about the magnificence of God, and meditate on these truths, *we can therein learn to rejoice in the Lord.*

(2) We must also learn to greatly rejoice in God’s written Word.

Jeremiah revealed his heart when he wrote, “Thy words were found, and I did eat them, and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts” (Jer. 15:16). David’s testimony was also that God’s written Word brought him great joy. He wrote: “Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever; for they are the rejoicing of

my heart” (Psa. 119:111). “I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches” (Psa. 119:14). God’s Word brought David such joy because it was his comfort in affliction (Psa. 119:50), God’s primary means of guiding him like a lamp unto his feet and a light unto his path (Psa. 119:105),



and God’s Word was the source of his personal victory when he needed to cleanse his life of sin (Psa. 119:9).

When his joy began to evaporate, he reminded himself that his relationship with God gave him joy. He wrote: “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God” (Psa. 42:11). We believe time in God’s Word worked in David from the inside out. As he took in the Scriptures, it worked in his heart and mind. The end result was it so changed his thinking that it brought him victory and an inner joy that was reflected not only in his attitude, but also on his face.

Paul explained the value of God’s Word to the elders from Ephesus by telling them “the word of His grace which is able to

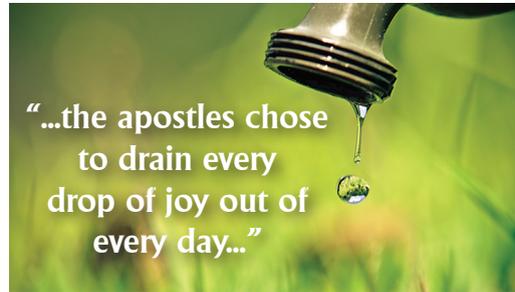
build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32). God uses His Word in our lives not only to build us up spiritually, but also to cleanse our wrong thinking “...with the washing of water by the Word” (Eph. 5:26). Paul told Timothy that the Scriptures equip us with all we need to victoriously live for the Lord. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 puts it this way: “All Scripture was given by inspiration of God and...[that it so equips us] that the man of God may be perfect [or complete], thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” *Time in God’s Word is an essential key to experiencing joy and victory in our daily life.* Make it your source of rejoicing and spiritual strength.

(3) The Apostle Paul reminded the believers at Rome to be continually “rejoicing in hope.”

The word “hope” means a confident expectation in the promises of God. The primary “hope” believers have today is looking forward to the fulfillment of our future eternal redemption when we are taken to heaven.

It is important for us to fully comprehend and then embrace God’s promise to us of eternal life. When Paul prayed for his converts, he prayed that “the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His [our] calling, and what is the riches of...His inheritance in the saints” (Eph. 1:18). In eternity, “we shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15:52) by being given a new spiritual resurrection body that will be “raised incorruptible.” This implies we will finally be free from all pain when, “Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Cor. 15:54). When

our Savior comes to rapture us into the heavens, we “shall be caught up...to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thes. 4:17-18). Yes, there is great comfort and joy in knowing we will one day be forever in our Savior’s presence and free from the distraction of physical pain.



Our promise of eternal life is “the hope which is [securely] laid up for you in heaven” (Col. 1:5). We are to live “in hope [or confidence] of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2). We are to be continually “putting on... for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (1 Thes. 5:8) and allowing these assurances to produce great rejoicing in our Savior.

In describing Israel’s promise of eternal life, the writer of Hebrews declared, “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...” (Heb. 6:19). The Apostle Paul put it this way: “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost” (Rom. 15:13). *Let God’s promise of eternal life to you become an anchor to your soul that fills you with genuine joy and verbal rejoicing.*

(4) We must cultivate the holy habit of disciplining our minds to think on spiritual things that produce great joy within us.

This is exactly what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely...of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil. 4:8). If we choose to dwell on the negative, doing so will rob us of joy and we will become an unhappy negative individual. However, if we choose to fill our minds with the many positive things that honor the Lord, doing so will result in our experiencing God’s joy.

As we study God’s Word, we need to intentionally look not only for dispensational doctrinal distinctives, but also look for positive and practical things that the Holy Spirit can use to produce greater rejoicing within us. For example, consider several things the Apostle Paul teaches us in the Book of Philippians. We know that God isn’t finished with us yet because He is continually working in us “to will and to do His good pleasure” (2:13), and He will continue doing so “until the day of Jesus Christ” (1:6). We should remember that God can use all circumstances, even great trials, to further the gospel (1:12-14); and, if we choose to respond correctly, the Lord Jesus Christ can be “magnified” (1:20). We have the assurance that heaven will be “far better” (1:23) than anything we experience on earth, and that it is possible for us to live in a way that earns eternal reward (3:13-14). We should rejoice in God’s

many faithful saints who faithfully serve Him, and our needs (2:19-25). We can rejoice knowing God invites us to come to Him in prayer about everything (4:6), and that His peace can permeate our souls when we do so (4:7).

It is a timeless principle that “as he [any man or woman] thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Prov. 23:7). *We can rejoice if we choose to develop the holy habit of anchoring our thinking on the promises of God that produce praise to God and joy within us.*

We can learn to rejoice

Any skill requires more than knowledge. It requires hours of training and practice. When professional quarterback Andrew Luck was asked what he thinks about when he drops back to pass, he said, “You don’t want to think about it.” Luck went on to say that “passing mechanics need to be so deeply ingrained that they are on autopilot during a game.”³ He was making the point that skills need to be so thoroughly learned and consistently practiced that one can do them almost automatically.

Our Savior would have us learn how to continually rejoice by learning, and then practicing, these four biblical principles. Which one will you specifically and prayerfully seek to put into practice today?

1. *Adapted from Anita Gates, “Mike Davis, ‘World’s Grumpiest Boss,’ Dies at 85,” New York Times (9-25-16).*

2. AXQUOTES

3. *Adapted from Mike Cospser, Recapturing the Wonder (InterVarsity Press, 2017), pages 140-141*



BBS Letter Excerpts

From Texas:

“I just wanted to let you know how much my wife and I enjoy and treasure your TV program every week. There are few TV Christian ministries we feel teach the true Word of the Bible. You are one of them. Your teachings continue to enlighten and re-affirm our Christian belief and lifestyle. We enjoy the color you put into your messages weekly. Keep up the good work. You are a true Christian beacon, and we thank our Lord for you and *Berean Bible Society*.”

From Arizona:

“We are a small group of grace believers gathering on Sunday morning and listening to two episodes of *Transformed by Grace*. This is the only ‘church’ we can find which preaches the unadulterated mystery.”

From Indiana:

“I really like the *Transformed By Grace* programs because they are out of the Bible...I hope me sending you this letter lets you know that there is someone out there that is watching your program, and it is making a difference. It is helping somebody: me!”

From our Inbox:

“I would love to talk to Pastor Stam. God used his books *Acts*, *Dispensationally Considered* and *Romans*, which he sent to me about 30 years ago, to transform my life and ministry.” (He’s with the Lord now, but I promise to introduce you to him someday, Pastor. –Ed.).

From Tennessee:

“You have helped me and my family to understand the message of the grace of God.”

From Michigan:

“Just wanted to thank you again for your part in the recent Israel excursion. To say my wife, Mary, and I enjoyed it would be an understatement. It was everything that we hoped it would be and more. On my first day home, I was reading in 2 Kings chapters 1-3 and I could picture the places and distances between them, and it was exciting to do so...Thank you for your part in this trip, it is something that will bring praise to my lips forever. May God richly bless you, your family, and your ministry.”

From Arizona:

“Our...Bible study...was just...five guys who came together...We didn’t even know where to start but fortunately my friend had Stam’s book *Things That Differ* on his shelf for twenty years and said I think this is where we should start. It was great!” (All’s well that starts well! –Ed.).

From our Inbox:

“Now, after you sent those last couple of emails, I’ve seen the light, and where you were coming from, and it makes me feel so much better...I can’t tell you how much I receive from our conversations. In rightly dividing the Word, I’m a novice...It took awhile to get there.”

From Oregon:

“We so appreciate...the *Searchlight*....Each issue brings insight in the Scriptures, so as we study them we grow and can make ‘the difference’ in our relationship with our Savior and others...The Bible began to make sense as never before to this ex-Baptist couple, and we have never looked back!”

From our Inbox:

“I love the article you wrote about the Israel trip in the *Berean Searchlight*. It’s a keeper! Thanks so much for the article and leading the trip. It was truly memorable.”

From Ohio:

“Oh wow Pastor Kurth, thank you so much. This answer is way more than expected...After moving to Ohio...my entire family was sinking fast due to discouragement over not being able to find a good church for about five years. It’s tough out there! We stayed afloat at our kitchen table and I owe a lot of thanks to you and the ministry of BBS for helping to keep me encouraged and engaged so that I could lead my family.”

From Wisconsin:

“Please thank Pastor Kevin Sadler on my behalf for recommending Pastor Jim Harley. We met Pastor Harley and some of his family who held our memorial service for our mother and it was wonderful. We really appreciated the message Pastor Harley delivered and the kindness of his family. The pastor’s wife and daughter brought their guitar, and we sang some wonderful hymns which we truly enjoyed. Most of all, it was so great to have a Grace pastor with us as it was my mother’s request.”

From our Inbox:

“Thanks so much. Your articles ‘What Really Happened in 1948’ and ‘Is Israel Really Back in the Land’ were two really good and helpful articles. Your help is appreciated.”

From our Inbox:

“This is an excellent *Two Minutes* ‘What About Foot-washing?’ that clearly shows the dispensational changes many are confused over. You really hit the nail on the head. Thanks for your service!”

From Maine:

“My neighbor gave me a copy of the *Searchlight*, and I think it is the greatest little booklet I’ve ever read.”

From Texas:

“Receiving a copy of the *Searchlight* is like receiving a glass of water after a long walk in the desert heat. Thank you for my monthly hydration.” (Texas isn’t the only place where it is important to stay hydrated! –Ed.)

From our Inbox:

“I am overwhelmed after having read this *More Minutes* teaching by my dear Brother Pastor Ricky ‘The Profit of Spiritual Gifts.’ I’ve gone through certain paragraphs and Scriptures a couple of times filled with excitement as the Holy Spirit illuminated God’s Word for me and to me.”

From Missouri:

“These words straight from the Holy Word of God say it all! Thank you Kevin Sadler for reminding us of this truth that the USA and the world need Christ. They need Him desperately.”

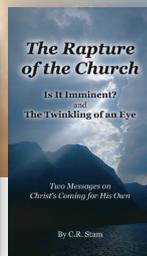
Be a Berean

“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

Writings on the Rapture

We put together this special offer that presents the clear teaching of Scripture regarding the catching away of the Church, the Body of Christ, commonly known as the Rapture. The Apostle Paul didn't want believers to be misinformed about our blessed hope, and neither do we!

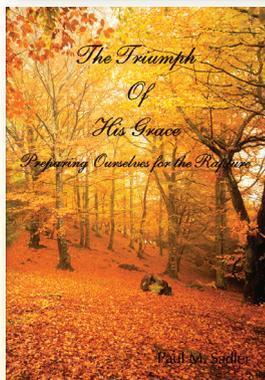


The Rapture Set

Special Price:

\$15.00 plus s&h*
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Set includes:

The Triumph of His Grace by Paul M. Sadler (Hardcover)

That Blessed Hope by C.R. Stam (Booklet)

The Rapture of the Church by C.R. Stam (Booklet)

The Rapture vs. The Second Coming by Kevin J. Sadler (Booklet)

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orders over \$30, add 15%. Please inquire for international rates.
Wisconsin residents, please add 5.6% sales tax to books and postage.
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Get Your Pumpkins Here!



We encourage you to take every opportunity to share the gospel, so pick a pack of "Pumpkin" tracts to give away this fall.



God's Pumpkin

by Kevin J. Sadler

This multi-page tract spells out the gospel using the letters of the word, "pumpkin."

Price: 10-pack for \$5.00 plus s&h*

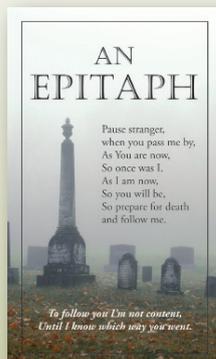
"O death, where is thy sting?
O grave, where is thy victory?"

An Epitaph

by Paul M. Sadler

This gospel tract focuses the reader's attention on his need to be prepared for eternity.

Price: 25 for \$3.00*
or 100 for \$10.00*





News *and* Announcements

Use Halloween! Many Christians go door to door passing out gospel tracts to their neighbors. Well, this October 31st, your neighbors will be sending their kids to your door! Why not sweeten their treat with a gospel tract? See page 29 for this month's special offer of two tracts that are tailor-made for trick-or-treaters. Nothing but good can come of getting the gospel out, and imagine how mad it would make the devil to use his holiday to do it!

It's not too early to begin planning next year's Bible conferences and special meetings. Your editor's limited schedule is already full for 2020, but BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler books several more road trips each year, so he still has some openings. His ministry in Maryland last month helped overcome one man's last obstacles to embracing the grace message, while a family of four joined the local Bible study group in Alaska after our recent conference there. Only good can come from hosting a Bible conference, so book yours today!

BBI Is on the Move! *Berean Bible Institute* is currently housed in a building that dates back to 1864. Though well-maintained when BBI purchased the facilities back in 2003, the projected cost of some much needed repairs exceeds the cost they paid for the entire building. Please pray with them as they seek a new location, as well as a buyer for their present property. And while they are on your mind and heart, be sure to drop by www.bereanbibleinstitute.org to sign up for a class today! You'll soon find yourself serving the Lord more effectively than you would have ever thought possible!

Pastoral Opportunity: *Grace Fellowship Bible Church* in Sheridan, Arkansas, is looking for a pastor. Pastor Ed Mautz is relocating to retire nearer to his children, and that means a solid group of grace believers are now on the lookout for a new shepherd. If the idea of a small-town church located a half hour from the state's capital in Little Rock appeals to you, why not contact David Workman to see if GFBC might be where the Lord would have you serve Him: (870) 942-9382, david.workman@roofconnect.com.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

England Special Meetings, October 12-13, Alcester, UK

BBF Fall Conference, October 12-13, Sheboygan, WI

Middle Tennessee Bible Conference, October 18-20, Goodlettsville, TN

For information on any of these conferences, please contact us at (262) 255-4750.

BBS Bookstore & Other Authors

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

REFERENCE BOOKS

Cruden's Complete Concordance	\$16.95
Englishman's Greek Concordance	34.95
Halley's New Bible Handbook	27.99
Nave's Topical Bible	17.97
Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts	19.99
Strong's Concise Concordance	19.99
Strong's Exhaustive Concordance OT/NT	15.97
Strong's Exhaustive Concordance—LARGE Print	24.97
Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, The	19.99
Vine's Expository Dict. OT/NT	21.99

GRACE DOCTRINE STUDIES

The State and Place of the Dead by <i>W. E. Bedore</i>	\$10.00
Unlocking the Scriptures, by <i>W. E. Bedore</i> ..	8.00
Puzzle with Three Pieces (workbook) by <i>Janet N. Davis</i>	12.00
Daily Transformation by <i>John Fredericksen</i>	12.00
Growing in God's Grace by <i>John Fredericksen</i>	8.00
Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions by <i>Ricky Kurth</i>	10.00
The Essential Book of Grace by <i>Ken Lawson</i>	8.00

So Run That You May Win

by <i>Rollin Wilson</i>	9.00
Thematic Preaching by <i>Rollin Wilson</i>	9.00
Unsearchable Riches of Christ, The by <i>J.C. O'Hair</i>	11.99
Basic Bible Doctrines, by <i>Don Webb</i>	9.99

TOPICAL STUDIES

Lord From Heaven, The by <i>Sir Robert Anderson</i>	\$9.99
Redemption Truths by <i>Sir Robert Anderson</i>	11.99
Coming Prince, The by <i>Sir Robert Anderson</i> ..	16.99
Bible and Baptism, The by <i>Harry Bultema</i> ..	12.99
Miracle of Inspiration, The by <i>Harry Bultema</i>	5.99
Understanding the Bible and End Times by <i>Fred Lewis</i>	10.95

COMMENTARIES

Corinthians by <i>Harry Bultema</i>	\$9.99
Daniel by <i>Harry Bultema</i>	15.99
Isaiah by <i>Harry Bultema</i>	19.99
God's Meaning in Matthew by <i>John Fredericksen</i>	25.00
The Complete Bible Commentary by <i>George Williams</i>	35.99

CHILDREN

First Things First	\$8.50
Sound Words	4.00

(BBS does not necessarily endorse all the views held by these authors)

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Orders over \$30.00, please add **15%** for Postage and Handling
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“Now, thank God, through Christ’s finished work, there is not a sinner who needs to remain unforgiven, for ‘In [Christ] we have redemption, through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace’” (Eph. 1:7).
—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

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