

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

May 2023



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This month's cover features Marquette Harbor Lighthouse, in Marquette, Michigan.

The Purpose of the Berean Bible Society is to help you understand, enjoy, and apply 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 transformation of the Christian life, and to encourage the local church.

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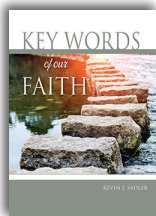
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A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are pleased to announce the release of our latest book, *Key Words of our Faith*. This 192-page paperback was based on a series of messages from *Transformed by Grace*. It is an eight-chapter book that uses Scripture to define eight key words of our faith, and it further explains how they apply to our walk with the Lord. Also, at the end of each chapter is a “Takeaways” section to break down the definition of each of the words into “bite-sized” summary statements as a means of review. On page 4, you will find a short excerpt from the book.



When I trained for the ministry at *Berean Bible Institute*, Dr. W. Edward Bedore, the executive director of the school and one of my spiritual mentors, taught us that all the content of Paul’s epistles could be broken down into one of three topics: justification, sanctification, and glorification. Put this to the test, and I believe you will find this to be true. It was for this reason that I chose those terms as the first three words covered in the book.

From there it was a matter of choosing key words that are important for us to understand in this dispensation of grace, words like redemption, faith, mystery, reconciliation, and regeneration. In the introduction to the book, I put it this way:

“The risen, ascended, exalted Lord Jesus Christ revealed the faith for the Church, the Body of Christ, to the Apostle Paul. Within his letters we find key words of our faith that are important for us to know and understand. Throughout Paul’s letters you encounter the eight words covered in this book and their teachings. Thus, your reading and study of God’s Word, and of Paul’s epistles in particular, can be greatly enhanced by a deeper understanding of the meaning of these eight terms.”

When defining these words, I primarily used the Book of Romans. It reminded me how foundational the teaching of Romans is to our faith under grace. The main Scriptures used for each term are justification (Rom. 3:20-5:1), sanctification (Rom. 6:1-14), glorification (Rom. 8:18-25), redemption (Col. 1:12-14), faith (Rom. 4:1-25), mystery (Rom. 16:25 and many others), reconciliation (Rom. 5:6-11), and regeneration (Titus 3:5).

My prayer to God for this book is that, by examining these key words of our faith, God’s people might be “Rooted and built up in Him [Christ Jesus the Lord], and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving” (Col. 2:7).

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President

A person is walking across a narrow bridge of rock that spans a gap between two large, dark, rocky cliffs. The person is in the middle of the bridge, leaning forward as if balancing. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The title 'Abraham Believed GOD' is overlaid on the top half of the image. 'Abraham Believed' is in a cursive font, and 'GOD' is in a large, bold, serif font.

Abraham Believed GOD

An excerpt from chapter 5, "Faith,"
in *Key Words of our Faith*

"For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Rom. 4:2-3).

Abraham was clearly a justified man in God's sight, so Paul uses the manner of his justification as an example.

Paul then posed a hypothetical condition he knew to be false, assuming it for the sake of instruction: "For if Abraham were justified by works," meaning if God had declared Abraham righteous based on what he did or by his good works, Paul reasoned that Abraham would have something to boast about...

But Abraham had no grounds for boasting "before God," because he received justification by faith, not "by works." Paul then supports this from Scripture: "For what saith the Scripture?" (v. 3). That is always the question in determining truth when it comes to any issue. What does the Scripture say?

...As Paul wrote in Romans 10:17, "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." The Word is the basis for our faith. Faith is confidence in the trustworthiness of God. It is the conviction that what God says in His Word is true. The revelation from God in His Word is the foundation for our faith.

Therefore, Paul appealed to Scripture here and spells out precisely "what saith the Scripture," quoting Genesis 15:6: Abraham "believed in the LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness." The thing that Abraham believed is in Genesis 15:5: "And He [the LORD] brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell [count] the stars, if thou be able to number them: and He said unto him, So shall thy seed be."

Abraham and Sarah had no children. Sarah was barren. Abraham was in his 80s at that time. Sarah, his wife, was in her 70s. And God tells Abraham to look up to heaven to see if he could count the stars, for that is how unfathomably numerous his posterity would be. Although that would have been impossible in the natural course of things, Abraham believed God....

And by virtue of that alone, God imputed His righteousness to Abraham's account. That is, Abraham was justified by faith *alone*...

What was true regarding Abraham's faith and being righteous before God is true in regard to our faith and being righteous in God's eyes. It's not by works, but by faith alone.

—Pastor Kevin Sadler

If you would like to order a copy of Key Words of our Faith, please see page 28.

The Bible Conferences

Paul Passed On

An article expounding the notes on Galatians 1:16-20 in our upcoming Grace Study Bible on page 10.

PASTOR RICKY KURTH
Berean Searchlight Co-Editor

A defense attorney was conferring with his client one day, and told him: "I've got good news and bad news." His client said, "Give me the bad news first." His attorney replied, "They did a DNA analysis of the blood at the crime scene and it turns out it's yours. So they are charging you with triple homicide, and recommending the death penalty." The man nodded and said, "What's the good news?" His lawyer said, "According to the blood at the crime scene, your cholesterol is down."

Well, speaking of *conferring* with people, after the Apostle Paul got saved, he decided *not* to confer with *anyone!* He told the Galatians,

"...when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace,

"To reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; *immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood*" (Gal. 1:15,16).

Now I have to tell you, that's certainly different than what I did after I got saved. I wanted to confer with as many believers as I could, to learn more about the Lord. And it seems odd that Paul *didn't*.

And what seems even *more* odd is that Paul is giving his *testimony* here. Why would he make it a point to mention *in his testimony* that he didn't confer with anyone after getting saved?

Well, what he's doing here is answering the legalistic troublemakers who had persuaded the Galatians to put themselves under the law of Moses. Those legalists had accused Paul of getting his new message of grace from *men*, and not from God. That's why he began this passage by writing,

"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is *not after man*.

"For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, *but by the revelation of Jesus Christ*" (Gal. 1:11,12).

And *that's* why, in giving his testimony, Paul mentions that he “conferred not with flesh and blood.” It's impossible to get a message from men if you don't *confer* with any men.

An Apostolic Oversight

But let me ask you: If *you* had gotten saved back in Paul's day, which twelve men would *you* have wanted to confer with? I kind of gave it away when I said “twelve men,” didn't I? You'd have wanted to confer *with the twelve apostles*, wouldn't you?

After I was saved back in 1970, my parents took me to a Billy Graham crusade. I guess they figured that as long as their son was suddenly into all this Christianity stuff that they would take him to see the most famous Christian there was in that day.



And the most famous Christians when *Paul* got saved were *the twelve*. So you'd think that Paul would *at least* want to confer with *them*. If God was making *me* His new leader on earth, I know I'd want to confer with the old leaders. But after affirming that he hadn't conferred with flesh and blood, Paul added:

“Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus” (Gal. 1:17).

That prompts another question. When you give *your* testimony, do you say, “I got saved, and then I *didn't* go see Billy Graham?” Probably not. So why would Paul make it a point in *his* testimony to say he got saved and then didn't go see the twelve?

Well, *here* Paul is addressing the legalists' charge that he'd gotten his message from the twelve *in particular*. You and I know the twelve *couldn't* have given Paul his new message of *grace*, for the Lord told *them* to “observe” *the law of Moses* (Matt. 23:1-3), and then told them to teach the nations of the Gentiles to “observe” the law that He'd told them to observe (28:19,20).

But the legalists were at the Jerusalem council, and heard Peter remind the rest of the twelve that they'd always known they were *ultimately* saved by grace (Acts 15:11), because the law was a yoke no man could bear. The legalists misconstrued him to say that they'd always believed men were saved by grace *without the law*, something that wasn't so. But it was easy for the legalists to conclude from what Peter said that *the twelve* were the ones who gave Paul his message of salvation by grace without the law. No wonder Paul is making it a point to deny that he went to see the twelve after he got saved, that he went into Arabia instead.

An Apostolic Redaction?

But if I was one of the legalists who were accusing Paul of getting his gospel from men, I'd have read that and said, "Wait a minute, Paul! You're leaving out part of the story here. You didn't go to Arabia *right away*." And it's true, he didn't. After he got saved, he asked the Lord,

"...Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? And the Lord said...go into the city....And Saul arose... and...they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus" (Acts 9:6-8).

So the first thing Paul did after getting saved was to continue down the road to Damascus to the city of Damascus—not Arabia. And if I were one of the trouble-makers, I'd have suggested that Paul *conferred* with some of those flesh and blood men in Damascus at that time.

But we know he didn't, because the Lord told Ananias,

"...Ananias...go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth" (Acts 9:10,11).

Paul wasn't conferring with anyone during those three days. He'd been blinded by the light of the Lord's glory, so he was *praying*, not *conferring*.

We know *Ananias* didn't give Paul his message, because of what Ananias told him in Acts 9:17:

"Ananias...said...Brother Saul, the Lord...hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight...."

The Lord sent Ananias to Saul to give him his *sight*, not his *message*. The only *message* he gave

Paul was the *kingdom message* of salvation by water baptism (cf. Acts 22:16), and Paul later learned that the Lord had not sent *him* to baptize (1 Cor. 1:17).

So what happened then?

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

But we know he didn't get his message from those disciples either, for in Galatians 1:16 Paul says he didn't confer with flesh and blood. One of the meanings of the word *confer* is *to give*. It's usually used that way when someone says something like: "I confer upon you the title of *The Duke of Earl*."



"It's impossible to get a message from men if you don't confer with any men."

But if "confer" means *to give*, then when you confer with someone, you're doing more than just shooting the breeze. The dictionary says "confer" means to give someone *your ideas and opinions*. That's why when a bunch of people get together to confer, they call it a *conference*.

But Paul insists he *didn't* confer with those disciples in Damascus after he got saved. He passed on that Bible conference, and on any other conferences he might have attended in Arabia or anywhere else. He passed on any

and all opportunities for men to confer a message upon him.

Apostolic Bad News

If you think it through, the only message that any apostle, or any flesh and blood kingdom saint, could have given Paul would have to include what the Lord told *them* in Matthew 12:31:

“...blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.”

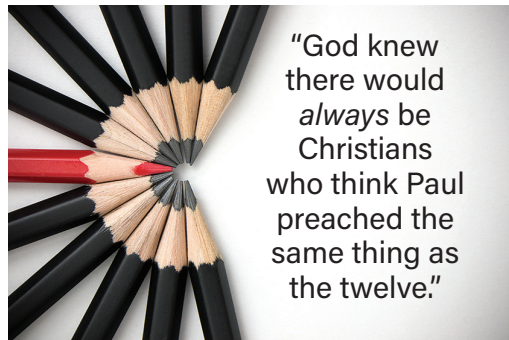
If Paul conferred with any of those disciples at Damascus, they would have had to say, “Don’t look at us to tell you what message to preach. As far as we know, *you shouldn’t even be saved* after you blasphemed the Spirit by consenting unto the death of Stephen, a man *filled* with the Spirit. If *we* gave you a message to preach, it’d be that blasphemers like you *can’t be saved.*”

And that is *not* the message Paul preached! He knew that the Lord said “blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven... *in this world, neither in the world to come*” (Matt. 12:31,32). And he knew the world to come started at Pentecost when men “were made partakers of the Holy Ghost...and the *powers of the world to come*” (Heb. 6:4,5). And he *also* knew that the coming of that world had been interrupted by the dispensation of the mystery! That’s how God could save Paul and all other blasphemers during “*this present evil world*” (Gal. 1:4).

Now we’re not told *how long* Paul stayed in Damascus, but we know what he *did* there, for Acts 9:20 says,

“...straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.”

While Paul was in Damascus, he wasn’t conferring with men to learn what to preach—*he was preaching what he’d already learned on Damascus Road.* He began by preaching the first thing that Jews like himself need to hear, that Jesus was the Son of God. If you don’t believe that, it won’t do you any good to believe He died for your sins. For if he *wasn’t* the Son of God He was just another sinful son of *man*, who had sins of His own to die for, and couldn’t die for yours.



“God knew there would always be Christians who think Paul preached the same thing as the twelve.”

Then,

“...after that many days were fulfilled...when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him...But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles...” (Acts 9:23-27).

When it says Paul went to Jerusalem and saw the apostles after many days, we’re not told *how many* days, but we find out as we read on in Galatians 1:

“Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days” (Gal. 1:18).

If you doubt that the Bible would call three years “many days,” we know it would, for after Elijah told King Ahab it wouldn’t rain for three years,

“...it came to pass *after many days*, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah *in the third year*, saying...I will send rain upon the earth” (1 Kings 18:1).

But even though it had been three years since Paul persecuted the apostles, they were still afraid to confer with him, until Barnabas convinced them he was now on their side.

Apostolic Chopped Liver

But we know Barnabas didn’t take Paul to see *all* the apostles, for right after saying he saw Peter in Galatians 1:18, he wrote,

“But *other* of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord’s brother” (Gal. 1:19).

Here we learn Paul only saw *two* apostles. And for some reason, Paul only wanted to *confer* with *Peter*. Why wouldn’t he want to see *all* the apostles?

I think it was because Peter was the *only* apostle who could give Paul the *only* information he wanted to confer about—that sheet vision that God gave Peter in Acts 10, when the Lord showed him that unclean animals were no longer unclean. How did Peter interpret that vision? A little later, he said:

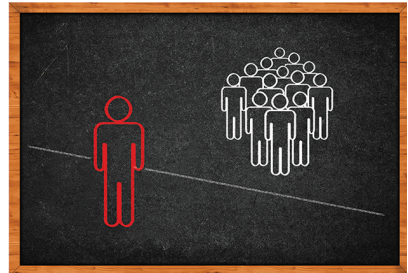
“...God hath shewed me that I should not call any *man* common or unclean” (Acts 10:28).

Peter rightly interpreted that vision to mean that *the Gentiles* were no longer unclean. Now

that’s something “the *apostle* of the Gentiles” (Rom. 11:13) would want to confer with Peter about!

But when Paul says he visited with Peter *for 15 days*, you’d think that at some point Peter would have invited the other eleven apostles over to meet the *new* apostle. But Paul says the only other apostle he saw was James, and while James was an apostle, he wasn’t one of the *twelve* apostles.

So why would Paul *snub* the other eleven? We know they all still *lived* in Jerusalem, for the Lord told them to *stay* in Jerusalem until the city was converted, so they would not have left. So how come Paul didn’t say to Peter, “What do you say we have a fish fry with the rest of the apostles, like the one you guys had on the beach with the Lord after He rose from the dead?” Wasn’t it a little rude *not* to invite them over?



If I were one of the other eleven, I’d be thinking: “What am I, chopped liver? Does the new apostle think he’s too good for us?” But the Lord knew that men would say Paul got his message from the twelve, so He likely *told* Paul to steer clear of them.

You say, “But couldn’t he have gotten his message from *Peter*?”

GRACE STUDY BIBLE

A page from the Book of Galatians

^l Perhaps profiting *financially* by promising to pray men out of purgatory (Matt. 23:14).

^m Not by the Kingdom Gospel.

ⁿ The word "heathen" always referred to Gentiles (e.g., Mal. 1:11), but now that term included *unsaved Jews* (See 2:9 note).

^a Comparing Peter's Acts 10

the church⁶ of God, and wasted it:
14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation,^l being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb,⁷ and called *me* by his grace,^m

16 To reveal his Son in⁸ me, that I might preach him among the heathen;ⁿ immediately I conferred⁹ not with flesh and blood:

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went unto Jerusalem to see

the regions of Syria and Cilicia;

22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea⁷ which were in Christ:^r

23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.^s

24 And they glorified God in me.

CHAPTER 2

The Jerusalem Council

Then fourteen years after⁴ I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with *me* also.

2 And I went up by revelation,⁶ and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles,^c but privately to them which were of repu-

^q So he could not have received his message from Jewish kingdom *churches* either.

^r Kingdom saints were in Christ (Rom. 16:7), but not in His *Body*. All men are either in Adam or Christ (1 Cor. 15:22).

^s Paul preached that Jesus was the Christ as the 12 did (Acts 2:36), but he also taught *much more*.

^a 14 years after his conversion (v. 15).

^b Christ *revealed* He wanted Paul to go get approval of his ministry from the 12, so he did (Acts 15).

vision to
his ministry.

went up to Jerusalem to see
Peter, and abode with him
fifteen days.⁹

19 But other of the apos-
tles saw I none,¹⁰ save James
the Lord's brother.¹¹

20 Now the things which I
write unto you, behold, be-
fore God, I lie not.

21 Afterwards I came into
a city, wherein were of re-
putation, lest by any means I
should run, or had run, in
vain.

3 But neither Titus,
who was with me, being a
Greek, was compelled to be
circumcised.¹²

4 And that because of false
brethren unawares¹ brought
up.

c. If he had to tell
them *his* gospel,
that means he didn't
preach *their* gospel.

d. Titus was living
proof that the
council approved
Paul's new message
of 'no circumcision
or Law for Gentiles.'

6. (1:13) The church Paul "wasted" unto death (Acts 22:4) was *the kingdom church* Peter had the keys to (Matt. 16:18,19), "the key of knowledge" of the Kingdom Gospel (Luke 11:52). The fact that Paul has to speak of "the Church, which is His Body" (Eph. 1:22,23) implies there were *other* Bible churches that *were*nt His Body. God had a church in the wilderness (Acts 7:37,38).

7. (1:15) A figure of speech (Job 1:21 cf. Gen. 3:19) for *the Jews religion*. He doesn't say, "You heard of my past in the Jews' religion, how I profited in the Jews' religion, and how God separated me from the Jews' religion." He says, "You heard of my past in the Jews' religion, how I profited in the Jews' religion, and how God separated me *from my mother's womb*." He was as safe and comfortable in Judaism as he'd been in the womb. Only God could have convinced him to leave it.

8. (1:16) God revealed His Son to *Israel* when John baptized Him (John 1:33) and *through the 12* when they preached Him in Acts. But when the Jews crucified Him and stoned Stephen, God was *supposed* to "reveal" Him *in fire and judgment* (Luke 17:29,30; II Thes. 1:7,8). Instead, He revealed Him "in" *what He did when He saved Paul instead of judging him*. I.e., He revealed in Paul what He is doing in the Age of Grace—saving sinners who were ripe for judgment. Paul was a pattern in this (I Tim. 1:16).

9. (1:16) Here Paul is answering the charge of Galatia's legalizers. They were telling the Galatians that Moses got the law *from God*, but Paul got his gospel *from men* (1:11). But it's impossible to get your gospel from men if you don't *confer* with any men.

10. (1:19) Paul had to *specifically* deny conferring with the 12 because the legalists misunderstood one of the 12 to say he'd always believed men were saved by grace *without the Law* (Acts 15:11), and so were saying Paul got his message from the twelve.

1. (2:4) The word *unaware* in the plural means *suddenly* and *unexpectedly* (cf. Luke 21:34). Paul was having a sincere meeting with the 12 at the Jerusalem Council, and the last thing they expected was for some false brethren to suddenly show up.

The answer to that question is, *no, he couldn't*, for the Lord had told Peter,

“...Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven... if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:18-20).

That's not a prayer promise, as so many Christians mistakenly believe. That was the Lord telling them that after He ascended into heaven, they could make official decisions in His absence if there was a quorum of two of the twelve present to make them.

An Apostolic Quorum

That means there is simply no way that the twelve would do anything official—like *loose their commission to the Gentiles, and bind themselves to minister to saved Jews* (Gal. 2:9)—unless two or three of them agreed to do it. So no, Paul could *not* have gotten his message from Peter *alone*, the *only* member of the twelve with whom he met.

And there's no way the legalizers could suggest Paul got his message from James the Lord's brother either, even though Paul admitted to seeing him, for 23 years later

“Paul went...unto James...and all the elders....And...they...said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they

are all zealous of the law” (Acts 21:18,20).

That means James had been *preaching* the law for 23 years! So nobody would believe it if the legalizers said Paul got his message of *grace* from a man who never stopped preaching *the law*. The grace message given to Paul is conspicuous by its absence in the epistle written by James, and the epistles written by Peter and John and Jude as well. That gives us *further* evidence that Paul didn't get his message from the apostles, for they too never stopped teaching the law and the kingdom.

Now if you're thinking that none of this is very important, I can assure you that *Paul* thought it was *extremely* important. If he didn't, he wouldn't have said what he said in the next verse of Galatians 1:

“Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not” (Gal. 1:20).

Paul thought that all this was important enough to lift his hand and *swear an oath to God Almighty* that he was telling the




truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. And the reason God included his oath *in the Bible* is that God knew there would *always* be Christians who think

Paul preached the same thing as the twelve. I hear from them all the time here at BBS.

If *you* don't think it's important to know that Paul didn't preach what the twelve preached, talk to the people who lost loved ones because they thought they could drink poison or handle serpents like the Lord told the twelve they could do. Talk to the ones who stopped believing in God because He doesn't answer all their prayers like the Lord promised the twelve (Matt. 21:22). Talk to

the ones who are literally *haunted* by the thought that they've committed the unpardonable sin, or that God let their baby die because of their sins (like He did with David under the law)—*the law that the twelve preached!*

That's why Paul swore an oath that he didn't get his message from the twelve, and that's why God recorded his oath in the Bible, so *we* would know how crucially important it is to proclaim the gospel given to *the Apostle Paul*. 

Question Box

“What does it mean that “many are called, but few are chosen” (Matt. 22:14)?

The parable in the context pictures how God always planned to marry His Son to Israel (v. 2 cf. Rev. 19:7-9). The “servants” (v. 3) sent to *call* Israel represent John the Baptist, the twelve apostles, and the Lord Himself (cf. Isa. 42:1). The animals that were killed (v. 4) were a type of Christ's sacrifice. People with “merchandise” (v. 5) were unbelievers, for believers sold “all” their merchandise at Pentecost (Luke 18:22 cf. Acts 2:45). Verse 6 speaks of Stephen and others who'll be martyred in the Tribulation. Verse 7 depicts Christ's fiery second coming (2 Thes. 1:7,8), where He'll judge “unworthy” unsaved Jews (v. 8 cf. Acts 13:46).

God *postponed* that judgment with the dispensation of the mystery, but will send Israel *more* preachers in the Tribulation (v. 9). The millennial kingdom will have “good and bad” people (v. 10), i.e., saved and unsaved. After the millennium, the ones not clothed in God's righteousness (vv. 11,12 cf. Isa. 61:10) will be cast into the “outer darkness” (v. 13) of the lake of fire.

So the “many” who were called (v. 14) were the “many” *in Israel* for whom Christ came to die (Matt. 20:28). But we know only the “few” Jews in the Lord's “*little flock*” (Luke 12:32) were chosen. They were chosen when they believed on *God's* chosen (Matt. 12:18) and became chosen *in Him*, just as we are (Eph. 1:4).

—Pastor Kurth

Keep Looking



“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

Titus 2:13 is significant for many reasons. Often the focus is on the references to either the “glorious appearing” (the Rapture) or the deity of Jesus as “the great God,” but I’d suggest that the “looking for” has a substantial effect on the believer’s life between now and the “glorious appearing.” Taken as a whole, verses 12-14 suggest that looking for the coming of the Lord is what we are to do instead of, and as a means to avoid, the “ungodliness and worldly lusts” of verse 12 and will instead result in “people, zealous of good works” (v. 14).

The idea is that we should have an active gaze toward this event. We should be ever watching with eyes fixed. Not to discern the times or assign dates for our Lord’s return but to be a point of focus until that day. Years ago, I worked on the grounds crew at a country club. One day I was told I would cut the greens, to which I was instantly nervous. Knowing that straight lines were expected and not how they were produced, I went to someone experienced who told me the trick. I couldn’t believe how simple the answer was. He said when you line up your mower, and before you begin, look over to the other side, find your point of focus and keep your eyes fixed upon it, and go. Don’t look to the left or right, don’t look down, *keep looking* to the end.

This sounds an awful lot like the believer’s instructions to be *looking for* Christ’s return. It also reminds me of Paul’s bold statement, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13). Paul said, “*I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound*” (v. 12). How? We often look for the supernatural when the answer is much simpler, just like cutting the greens on a golf course. Just a few verses prior, Paul said:

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue...any praise, *think on these things*. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you” (Phil. 4:8-9).

I can’t think of anything that fits that description better than to *keep looking* for that “blessed hope.”

—Pastor Don Hosfeld

Knowing the Enemy

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

Carolyn Arends writes, “As a kid, I loved Mission Sundays, when missionaries on furlough brought special reports in place of a sermon. Sometimes they wore exotic, foreign clothing; they almost always showed a tray of slides documenting their adventures.... There is one visit I’ve never forgotten. The missionaries were a married couple stationed in what appeared to be a particularly steamy jungle.... One day, they told us, an enormous snake—much longer than a man—slithered its way right through their front door and into the kitchen of their simple home. Terrified, they ran outside and searched frantically for a local who might know what to do. A machete-wielding neighbor came to the rescue, calmly marching into their house and decapitating the snake with one clean chop.

“The neighbor reemerged triumphant and assured the missionaries that the reptile had been defeated. But there was a catch, he warned: It was going to take a while for the snake to realize it was dead.

“A snake’s neurology and blood flow are such that it can take considerable time for it to stop moving even after decapitation. For the next several hours, the missionaries were forced to wait outside while the snake thrashed about, smashing furniture and flailing against walls and windows, wreaking havoc until its body finally understood that it no longer had a head.

“Sweating in the heat, they had felt frustrated and a little sickened but also grateful that the snake’s rampage wouldn’t last forever. And at some point in their waiting, they told us, they had a mutual epiphany.

“I leaned in with the rest of the congregation, queasy and fascinated. ‘Do you see it?’ asked the husband. ‘Satan is a lot like that big old snake. He’s already been defeated. He just doesn’t know it yet. In

the meantime, he's going to do some damage. But never forget that he's a goner."¹

By the Cross of Christ, sin, death, and Satan were defeated. Hebrews 2:14 tells us "that through death" Christ destroyed "him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." Satan has been overwhelmed and conquered by our Savior, and it's all downhill for Satan in the future. Today, we are in the thrashing time, where Satan, who is still dangerous, is desperately clinging to his false hope of overthrowing the plans and purposes of God. But it won't last forever because he's a defeated foe.

Cut Down

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Isa. 14:12).



Here Isaiah tells of a mighty leader whose unbridled pride caused him to fall from his lofty position and be brought to destruction. Ultimately, the story is referring to Satan. The name "Lucifer" given to Satan means day star or shining one. And "son of the morning" labels this shining one as belonging to the morning, or being only a morning star. This title is a demeaning one for the devil, because

it is a picture of the light of a star in the morning vanishing when the sun rises, and that the far greater brilliance of the rising sun causes the morning star's light to be swallowed up and to vanish. And so Lucifer, a fallen, created being, the "angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14) and morning star is overwhelmed by the rising of the "Sun of righteousness" (Mal. 4:2), Who is Jesus Christ. Satan's time and reign of terror is only temporary.

And Lucifer is a fallen star, "fallen from heaven." Because Lucifer proudly asserted his will above the will of God, and because iniquity was found in him (Ezek. 28:15), *in the past*, he fell from his position in the third heaven.

In the present, Lucifer, as "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4), rules over the unbelieving world system and "weakens the nations" as stated in Isaiah 14:12. Satan is the controlling and manipulating power behind the world's godless and wicked activities, and he is driving its opposition to Christ, the Word of God, and the Church.

Satan is real, alive, and at work. Satan works hard to weaken our nation, and every other nation, through sin, evil, and godlessness. He is driven by hatred. He hates man and desires to destroy each and every life. He labors hard, along with his minions, to blind the world

to the gospel, and to do everything in his power to keep men, women, boys, and girls from trusting Christ as their personal Savior.

Five Fatal “I Wills”

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit” (Isa. 14:13-15).

Satan fell because of his great pride. He exalted himself in the past and he continues to exalt himself now. He remains continually defiant and full of arrogance in his rebellion against God.

He is the complete opposite of our Savior, Who prayed, “Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done” (Luke 22:42). Satan says the opposite: “My will, not Thine, be done.” Lucifer in his selfish ambition and refusal to submit to God says, “I will...I will...I will...I will...I will.” In Isaiah 14:13-15, we find five foolish and fatal “I wills” of Satan.



“As we know our enemy and are not ignorant of Satan’s devices (2 Cor. 2:11), we know Satan will tempt us with pride.”

As we know our enemy and are not ignorant of Satan’s devices (2 Cor. 2:11), we know Satan will tempt us with pride. He’ll tempt us to be like him, to do what we desire, to make much of ourselves, and to refuse to submit to God’s will and authority over our lives. He will entice us to invert reality, living as if we call the shots and making God our servant.

Although “fallen from heaven” (Isa. 14:12), in his first “I will,” Satan said in his heart, “I will ascend into heaven” (v. 13), desiring the third heaven, the abode of God, to be his own. Ascending into heaven further means that Satan wants to ascend to the throne of God and to set himself up as king, the supreme one in heaven.

In his second “I will,” Satan says, “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God” (v. 13). Satan, as an angel, is called a morning star or day star, and “the stars of God” are a reference to the elect angelic host (Job 38:7). Satan desires the worship, adoration, and service of all the angels in heaven.

In his third “I will,” Satan said, “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north” (Isa. 14:13). Psalm 48:1-2 gives us more clarity as to this desire of Satan: “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, *is mount*

Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.” Satan desires to rule over Jerusalem, “the city of the great King” and be king over all the earth in place of Christ (Zech. 14:9). Imitating God and counterfeiting His plans are Satan’s basic strategies.

In the fourth “I will,” Satan said, “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds” (Isa. 14:14). This is his desire to rise to such immense and glorious heights that he would be venerated and revered above all so that only he would receive all glory, honor, and praise.

In the fifth “I will,” Satan said, “I will be like the most High.” “Most High” is translated from the Hebrew *El Elyon* and means the uppermost Supreme, the strongest strong One. You can’t be higher than the Uppermost or supreme over the Supreme or stronger than the strongest strong One. Satan knows he can’t be greater than God, and he doesn’t desire to be different from God; he wants to be “like” the God most High.

While Satan desires to ascend to heaven, verse 15 prophesies that he will “be brought down to hell.” He will be utterly humiliated when he is brought down to hell [Heb. *sheol*], “to the sides” or to the deepest, most remote recesses “of the pit.” And to that we say, “Good! Praise the Lord!”



We see that Satan’s fall comes in stages. He fell from heaven (Isa. 14:12); he is cast down to the ground (v. 12), and he will be brought down to hell (v. 15). In the Book of Revelation, we learn how Satan and his angels were cast out of the third heaven at his initial rebellion (Rev. 12:4). He and his angels will be cast out of the second heaven to the earth (“the ground,” Isa. 14:12) at the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation (Rev. 12:6-9). Then,

prior to and for the duration of the millennial kingdom, he will be cast into the bottomless pit for 1000 years (Rev. 20:2-3). And finally, he will be “cast into the lake of fire and brimstone” forever (Rev. 20:10).

It’s down, down, down, down for the devil. Proverbs 16:18 rings true for the devil and for us in our personal lives: “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

In regard to this wicked enemy of God and the Church, we rejoice in the truth of the words of the old hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”: “And though this world, with devils filled, / should threaten to undo us, / we will not fear, for God has willed / his truth to triumph through us. / The prince of darkness grim, / we tremble not for him; / his rage we can endure, / for lo! his doom is sure; / one little word shall fell him.”²



1. Carolyn Arends, “Satan’s a Goner: Lessons from a Headless Snake,” *Renovare*, accessed April 4, 2023 <https://renovare.org/articles/satans-a-goner>.

2. Martin Luther, “A Mighty Fortress,” *Hymnary.org*, accessed April 4, 2023, https://hymnary.org/text/a_mighty_fortress_is_our_god_a_bulwark.



In One Accord

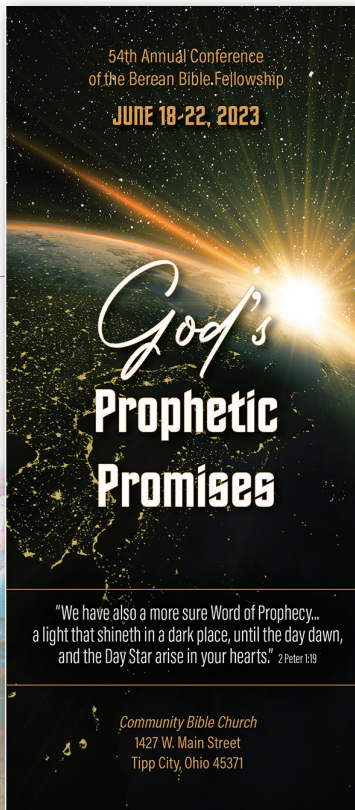
Just recently, for much of the day, I cared for two of our grandchildren, who are siblings. Frequently, they were at each other's throats literally hitting, biting, and screaming. Then, three minutes later, they would be playing happily together with overflowing laughter and joy, or sitting side by side in a chair talking to one another in sweet voices. It occurred to me that God's children, of every age, act in much the same way.

Immediately after the final ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into heaven, the 120 faithful followers of the Savior returned to Jerusalem. It is noteworthy that even before being endued with power from the Holy Spirit, they are described as continuing "with one accord in prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:14). For emphasis, and so we don't miss it, this condition of unity, which continued, is repeated for us several times. While waiting for promised miraculous power to witness to lost Israel, "they were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1). After following the unique, kingdom requirement to sell all their possessions, they continued "daily with one accord" (Acts 2:46). When commanded by the Jewish religious leaders to not speak to others about Christ, "they lifted up their voice to God with one accord" in prayer, asking for boldness to continue witnessing (Acts 4:23-29). As they continued in ministry, they were "with one accord in Solomon's porch" (Acts 5:12).

Simply put, those who follow Christ are to live, worship, minister, and interact with one another in blessed, harmonious unity. Paul tells the saints at Corinth, "I beseech [beg] you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing...that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). Through the Word of God and indwelling Holy Spirit, the Lord is still begging believers to interact with one another in harmony. This is why we are instructed to be "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3), and to "be of one mind, [and] live in peace" (2 Cor. 13:11).

Which kind of child of God are you? Are you like the ones screaming and fighting, or are you one happily speaking sweet words, making it easy to get along? You are either part of the problem or part of the solution. Decide right now that your words and conduct today are going to promote unity, not destroy it.

—Pastor John Fredericksen



54th Annual BBF Conference

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"God's Prophetic Promises"

Location: *Community Bible Church*
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Guest speakers from around the country will be present to proclaim the riches of God's grace!

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Classes and Events:

Nursery: Provided for the meetings

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Teens (13-18): Every morning 9:00 AM to Noon (*Bonfire Sunday Night*)

Monday Night: College and Career get-together

Tuesday Night: Ice Cream Social

Wednesday Night: Campfire/S'mores

Noon Fellowship Meals: Please prepay by June 1st (see order form on the BBF website).

For more information, or to receive a brochure, please contact: *Community Bible Church* at (937) 667-2710/www.cbctipp.com, John Fredericksen (BBF President) at jrfgrace@gmail.com, or visit the BBF website at: www.bbfnews.org.

Missouri Bible Conference

July 14-16, 2023

Location: *New Hope Church*
County Road 6200, Salem, Missouri

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Sadler, *BBS President*

Contact: Pastor Wayne Werline at (573) 247-9748



The Danger Zone



PASTOR DON HOSFELD

Berean Searchlight Co-Editor

In the mid-80s, a movie was released about fighter pilots who go to a top-level school for advanced training. This training proved necessary for the eventual fight they would find themselves in later. One of the more popular songs from that movie was “Danger Zone” by Kenny Loggins. I think we can all agree that flying into combat against enemy aircraft certainly is dangerous. Still, even more dangerous than that is wrongly handling the Word of God, and the consequences are far more reaching. The Word of God warns all believers to “*take heed how*” we build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, which the apostle Paul laid (cf. 1 Cor. 3:10). I don’t know about you, but when God says to “*take heed,*” I think we had better do so.

There have been many excellent books and articles produced that explain how to study or understand the Bible. This is because how we approach *and use* the Bible is of the highest

importance. One will almost certainly not accept the Bible as authoritative if they do not see it as written by God, while others may accept God as the author but fail to use a systematic approach to the Scriptures. The latter results in many who inject themselves into the scriptures wherever they wish, instead of letting God speak for Himself as to whom He is talking about and to whom particular books or passages are directed.

But there is what I perceive to be a growing trend, even amongst rightly dividing circles, and that is to speak for God in ways God *has not spoken*. I imagine there has always been some level of “*Christianese*” spoken by believers. The kind of language that sounds good but doesn’t match up doctrinally. But it seems more and more that people are willing to claim that God and or His Word said something He didn’t actually say. I’m not referring only to those “*God is telling me to...*”

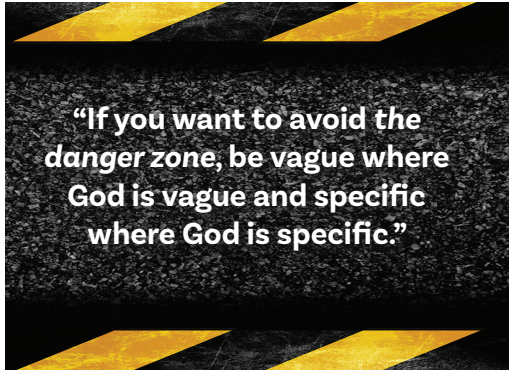
statements that people make, though that is certainly something people should consider carefully before finishing that statement. But there's also the issue of Bible students and teachers trying to fill gaps in the Bible's explanations by coming up with theories and teaching them as *definite truths* instead of suggesting them simply as *a possibility*.

Who's Word Is It Anyway?

We should all agree that God can and does choose His words carefully. After all, He did create language. I would think that makes Him an expert at using it. Not only did He create it, but He did so as a means to communicate with man. If He created language to communicate with man, it seems reasonable to expect that His Word can be and is meant to be understood. That is not to say that everything we *want* to know is explained in the Scriptures. But we do have what we need to know and, just as important, what God wants us to know. The first occurrence in scripture of God speaking to man is found in Genesis 1:22,28-30, and it seems significant that these first words from God to man are preempted with "*And God blessed them, and God said unto them.*" Is *anything* as precious as the Word of God? If anything can be called a blessing, truly, it must be God's Word to man. One might argue that the sadder person is not the one who denies the existence of God but rather the deist, who believes a god exists but doesn't reveal Himself.

"I rejoice at Thy Word, as one that findeth great spoil" (Psa. 119:162).

Psalm 119, known because it is the longest chapter in the Bible, is also known because of the continual praise and reverence of the Word of God. The psalm is a reminder of the all-sufficiency of God's Word. It expresses that God's Word reflects the very character of God Himself. Psalm 138:2 says, "*for Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy name.*" We don't, or shouldn't anyway, treat God's name as common, nor should we treat His Word as common by inserting our words as though they were His! We should draw a clear line of demarcation between what the Scripture *says* and what we conclude from an uncertain passage or topic.



"If you want to avoid the danger zone, be vague where God is vague and specific where God is specific."

For example, it is commonly taught that the apostle Paul's name was changed from Saul to Paul. This may preach well, but the problem here is that the Bible doesn't say that. This belief may or may not be true, and people are welcome to have an opinion one way or the other, but nowhere does the Bible *say* Saul's name

was changed to Paul. It simply says, “Saul, (who **also is** called Paul...)” This example may seem like a small matter, and I agree that this one is in comparison to many other examples. But we should be very careful with the Scriptures. Even if *we* think it is only a minor issue, we are still dealing with **His** Word. It belongs to Him. We don’t get to commandeer it like it’s shared property. We don’t own ourselves, let alone *His* Word.

The Word of God Is Pure

“Thy Word is very pure: therefore Thy servant loveth it” (Psa. 119:140).

When we consider the perfection of Jesus Christ, we would never add or take away from who He is. If we are that reverent with the living Word, we should be just as much with the written Word. God told Israel to “*not add unto the Word...neither shall ye diminish ought from it...*” (Deut 4:2), and Proverbs 30:6 says, “*Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*” The proceeding verse (5) says, “*Every word of God is pure.*” Psalm 12:6 says, “*The words of the LORD are **pure** words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*”

The word pure means to be free from mixture, not tarnished,¹ and also means to be refined² or “tried” like we see here in Psalm 12:6 (cf. 18:30). The idea is that God’s Word is pure like silver that has gone through a furnace to remove the dross (the worthless matter thrown off in the smelting

process). Not that there ever was any dross in God’s Word, simply that when He speaks, there are no imperfections. Knowing this, how we use God’s Word needs to be carefully considered. It would be foolish for someone to take pure, refined silver and add impurities to it. The same is true for adding to God’s Word. What can we add that wouldn’t tarnish it?

Does that make writing a commentary wrong or giving “*the sense*” (cf. Neh. 8:8) as we pastors and Bible teachers do? Most certainly not. But we do need to be very cautious when explaining the Scriptures. We need to make it clear where God’s Word ends and our opinions begin. We should pay attention to what is *and* what is not in the Scripture, carefully honoring God’s Word by not adding to or taking from it. Many false beliefs have been perpetuated by those who hear and then repeat what they think is in Scripture, but in reality, they were repeating something a Bible teacher presented as certain, as though it was part of Scripture instead of as a possible explanation.

God has made it abundantly clear that man shouldn’t “steal” His words by claiming He said or did something that He didn’t claim He said or did.

“...behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal My words every one from his neighbour. Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause My people to err by their

lies, and by their *lightness*; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD” (Jer. 23:30-32).

Notice the reference to “lightness.” The idea is groundless assertions or reckless boasting. Is it any less wrong when people today claim God has done something that God did not specifically take credit for doing?

I have a saying I came up with years back that I use to keep myself honest with the Scriptures and to discern things said or claimed by others about God or the Bible. I teach this principle regularly to those in my Bible studies—*Be vague where God is vague and specific where God is specific*. I believe it to be fundamental to proper Bible study and teaching. We need to be okay that

God was vague on certain things, and if He decided to be vague, should we be specific? It’s okay to ponder and consider the possibilities. There’s nothing wrong with having an opinion and even sharing it, but we shouldn’t feel that what God left unsaid must be explained. Neither should we downplay what God is very specific about. This happens a lot as well. If God is specific about something, we should never be vague about it. Nor should we ever suggest it is something we can’t understand or know. If you want to avoid the *danger zone*, be vague where God is vague and specific where God is specific. 📖

1. <https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/pure>

2. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h6884/kjv/wlc/0-1/>



SPOTLIGHT on Grace Churches

PREAKNESS BIBLE CHURCH

1108 Preakness Ave.
Wayne, New Jersey

Pastor Kevin Craesmeyer

Bible Hour: 9:30-10:20 am

Church Service: 10:50 am (*child care provided*)

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GRANDPARENT *to* GRANDPARENT

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Growing up near my grandparent's farm, I often had the chance to help them out. One of my favorite jobs was to collect eggs from the chicken coop. It was always very frustrating when the hen would peck at my hand when trying to get the eggs. When explaining the situation to my grandmother, she would always tell me to be patient; she is getting to trust you and is trying to protect her eggs. I never understood then what a precious truth this is. We visited my grandmother while she was in the hospital, and I asked her what her favorite song was. Her response was, "Under His Wings." She said that no matter what she was going through, God protected her under His wings. What a comforting thought; even though she knew life here on earth was not long, she felt safe under His wings and safely abiding.

As our grandchildren grew, we often had farm animals on our little farm. Our favorite was also the chickens; we wanted to teach the grandchildren the beautiful lessons God teaches us through the things He created.

We had a hen trying to hatch a few eggs, that would never have hatched, and so we bought a dozen baby chicks from the local farm store and put them under her as she slept in the evening. In the morning, the grandkids and I went to see her reaction to the chicks. As they peeped out their little heads, she would cooingly talk to them and tilt her head toward them to make eye contact; she was "imprinting" with them. As they made contact with their eyes, they immediately knew that this was their momma and to listen to her. She immediately adopted the chicks as her own. Day after day, they would listen to her, and she would call them to eat first if any food was around. If there was danger, she would call them, and they would all gather under her wings for protection. We had such fun watching her care for them and learned many valuable lessons. Every night they would gather under her again for protection. Psalm 91:4 says "He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust; His truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

What a blessing to know that as children of God, we look at God through His Word to teach us and have comfort under His wings as we live. Our grandchildren will never forget such lessons. Use teachable moments—they will never be forgotten.

—Judy Harley



Legacy

If you are looking for a way to help provide others with the Words of Life, consider naming the *Berean Bible Society* in your will or trust. This can be a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy that reflects your values and makes a meaningful difference in the world.

BBS Letter Excerpts



From Wyoming:

“Every episode of this blessed ministry kindles a fire and love of God’s Word in my heart. I find myself eagerly awaiting each one....All of you at the *Berean Bible Society* are a bright light and gift to an otherwise upside-down media world. Good news indeed!”

From Texas:

“Thank you, Pastor Sadler, for your clear Bible teaching. I’ve learned more about the Bible in the few months I’ve been listening to you than I have in my years of attending a Baptist church....Enclosed is my donation to help with the ministry of *Transformed by Grace*.”

From YouTube:

“I have been blessed by the BBS for many years and have come to truly understand God’s Word rightly divided under the Apostle Paul. Every month I am so eager and blessed to receive the *Berean Searchlight*. Every issue God blesses me to learn something new....”

From Ohio:

“I watch Pastor Kevin every night. Tonight, I watched the message ‘Grieving with Hope,’ and it brought me so much comfort. Thank you so much for this message.”

From Minnesota:

“My family has been blessed so much by *Transformed by Grace*. Keep up the good work!”

From our Inbox:

“This *Two Minutes* [“Are You Laboring in Vain?”] is a very encouraging and helpful message for me. May the Lord bless you.”

From Arizona:

“Thank you for your featured article ‘The Broken Tablets,’ taken from Episode 138 of *Transformed by Grace*. It was so helpful for me to read the article and then watch the program again on the *Berean Bible Society* site on YouTube. Repetition is the mother of learning!”

From Pennsylvania:

“I use your excellent *Searchlight* articles with my regular Bible studies and have been blessed many times over this year....I also enjoy the humorous stories and jokes you have at the beginning of some of your lessons!”

From New York:

“I thank the Lord for your labor for the Lord. The *Two Minutes* article, ‘Are You Laboring in Vain?’ was VERY ENCOURAGING!”

From Nova Scotia:

“I recently led a manager from one of our local health stores to the Lord....I also gave her a copy of *Things That Differ* and she has become a dear friend to us....Nothing like rightly dividing the Word to help people understand the Bible. She is now talking to her customers about Christ!”

From Illinois:

“Thank you for teaching my family. It has been a real blessing to us all to get a lot of facts right after years of not knowing Paul’s letters are just to the Body of Christ. My husband...found you on the internet, and we’ve been enjoying your teaching ever since. He said he would have liked to have known this teaching when he was teaching people in the Philippines.”

From Facebook:

“I love this! Kevin Sadler is such a good teacher, and the way he presents these teachings is so delightful. Always look forward to listening to his presentations. Thanks, *Berean Bible Society*.”

From North Dakota:

“We are still growing spiritually through your ministry. We want to thank you for the wonderful Bible teaching. Here is a donation to help cover the expenses of your ministry.”

From Florida:

“Thank you, Pastor Kevin and all those who work with you to bring such a needed teaching to the whole world.”

From Wyoming:

“I thank you for the *Berean Searchlight*. I recently loaned a copy to a family member and learned she and her daughter have requested to receive their own copies. I am grateful for this opportunity to give them another view of the Scriptures.”

From California:

“Pastor Kevin, thank you for taking time out of your life to care for our Church.”

From Ohio:

From a new subscriber: “I grew up reading the *Berean Searchlight* at my great-grandparent’s house, and I’m so pleased to be receiving it.”

From Alaska:

“Thank you for regularly sending the *Searchlight!*”

From Arizona:

“I have finished reading your book *Galatians, Law vs. Grace* twice. It was very informative. I am sharing it....I wish others would realize we are under the gospel of grace and not under the law!” (We do too! Sounds like you’re doing your part to help others! –Ed.)

From Missouri:

“My son-in-law hooked up YouTube on my 65-inch TV, and it’s like Pastor Kevin is in the room with me. It’s great. Watch it every day.”

From Missouri:

“Pastor Ricky Kurth led the grace Bible conference in July 2022 at *New Hope Church* in Salem, Missouri, and our family has been blessed ever since. Ricky Kurth has instilled love, support, and prayers for you in us, which will undoubtedly continue to grow.”

From Oklahoma:

“...the grace message...answered many questions that I had for many years. After going *Through the Bible* with Les Feldick three times, the answers to all my questions were put in their rightful place! With ya’lls teaching added to what I and my family have learned, the message is adding to our walk with the Lord like never before.”



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KEVIN J. SADLER

KEY WORDS of our Faith

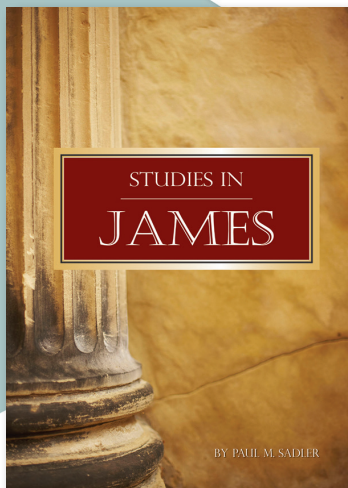
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Have you ever read a Bible verse and struggled to understand the meaning of a word? For example, "Who [Christ] was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). What is "justification"? "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification..." (1 Thes. 4:3). What is the meaning of "sanctification"?

This book is an examination of eight key words of our faith: justification, sanctification, glorification, redemption, faith, mystery, reconciliation, and regeneration. Join us as we walk through the Scriptures to define and give clarity to each of these key words.

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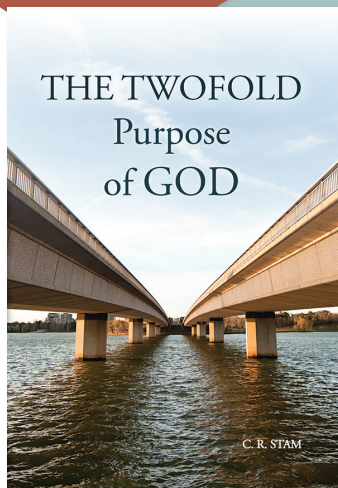


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News *and* Announcements

Western Michigan Conference: Pastor Matt Ritchey of the *Croton Community Church* in Newaygo would like to extend you a warm welcome to attend the *Grace Believers' Conference*, August 5, 6. An old friend of *Berean Bible Society*, he decided that his list of speakers would not be complete without BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler, and BBS board member Pastor Jeff Seekins. Don't miss this opportunity to meet *Transformed by Grace's* Bible teacher, and hear Pastor Kevin teach God's Word in person. Just be sure to let Matt know you're coming at pastorritchey@aol.com.

New Grace Church: Our old friend John Hunsbedt contacted us recently to let us know that he is now leading a home church that meets at 40 Washington Avenue in Princeton, New Jersey. If you long to fellowship with other grace believers, and live close enough to help him outgrow the confines of a home church, you can find out when they meet and more by emailing John at gonessimple@gmail.com. Tell him BBS sent ya!

A Big Chunk of Change: After pastoring *Grace Bible Church* of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for 18 years, Pastor Paul Turner is leaving to join the staff of *Bible Doctrines To Live By*. This change means the saints of GBC are now looking to talk to a few good men, in the hope that one of them might be able to fill Paul's faithful shoes as their pastor. If you think that might be you, contact Randy Hughes at (920) 203-4823. And if you think both Pastor Turner and the church in Oshkosh will covet your prayers as they go through these changes, don't think twice, you're thinking inside the right box.

Language Barriers Being Broken: We are excited to announce that all future *Transformed by Grace* videos on YouTube will include foreign subtitles, opening the door for people worldwide to be able to watch and understand as Pastor Kevin teaches the Word *according to the revelation of the mystery*. If you live in a foreign country, this will be a new and excellent resource for those who do not know English.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

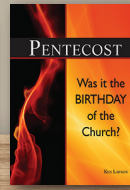
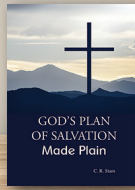
Northeast Ohio Bible Conference, May 12-14, Ashtabula, Ohio

Transformed by Grace Regional Conference, May 20, Chicago, Illinois

These meetings will also be livestreamed on the BBS YouTube Channel

BBF Summer Conference, June 18-22, Tipp City, Ohio

Booklet Price List



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