

The

# Berean Searchlight

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

September 2003



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# From the Editor to You:

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Dearly Beloved,

Our mailbag is always filled with an assortment of heartwarming correspondence from all around the world. Letter after letter reflects the gratitude of the saints to our heavenly Father for opening the eyes of their understanding to the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery. We do, however, receive our share of critical responses for our defense of Paul's apostleship and message as the following letter from an Acts 2 pastor demonstrates:

"I am writing to request you to stop sending the *Berean Searchlight* to my home. I have been receiving your *Searchlight* for some time now, although not by my doing. I suppose someone wanted me to 'know a secret.' Thanks, but I know the Lord Jesus Christ, and being that I fear God, His secret is already with me (Psa. 25:14). I am not trying to be cantankerous, nor offensive, for I don't really know you all personally, but I am not sure why, or when, such fantastic dissections of God's Word came on the scene, but at our church we have been praying for a revival for a long time now...as we continue to exalt and magnify the Lord Jesus Christ—not some theology fancied to be the truth no one else sees, whether it be dispensationalism, Calvinism, pentecostalism, etc. All is summed up in Jesus Christ—the PERSON, not a theology supposedly about Him.

"I know, I am just unenlightened, and refuse to believe the truth. I've heard, and seen it all in modern Christianity—this is typical of a generation who has ceased preaching Christ and His glory, trading Him for things about Him, supposedly. Anyway, I don't fancy myself as having all truth, but I know the One who is all truth—may we get back to preaching Jesus."

We wish this dear brother well, but we certainly take issue with many of his unsound conclusions. The very heart of our ministry has always been the proclamation of Christ and Him crucified. Christ is all that He claimed to be! We are complete in Him; He is all in all, the exalted Head of the Body. Having said this, Christ can never, however, be separated from Pauline theology. To do so is a great injustice to the person and work of Christ. The special revelation the Lord of glory gave to Paul was of *Himself* (I Cor. 9:1 cf. Gal. 1:11,12).

In regard to the charge of our "fantastic dissections of God's Word," are we not commanded to rightly divide the Word of truth? (II Tim. 2:15). Did not our Lord Himself properly dissect it? (Isa. 61:1,2 cf. Luke 4:16-21). The idea that no one else sees this wonderful truth is negated by the tens of thousands who read the *Searchlight* and correspond with us. We rest our case!

In defense of the truth,  
Paul M. Sadler, President

# Who Am I?

This puzzle was written by a lady in California in 1880 in response to a gentleman in Philadelphia, who had said that he would pay \$1,000 to anyone who could write a puzzle that he couldn't solve. He failed to do so, and paid the lady \$1,000 (a great sum at that time). The answer is one word, with five letters, and only appears four times in the Scriptures! By the way, an eight year old boy figured out the puzzle. Are you up to the challenge? In the event the riddle leaves you puzzled, the answer will appear in the *News and Announcements* next month.

God made Adam out of dust,  
But thought it best to make me first;  
So I was made before the man,  
According to God's Holy plan.

My whole body God made complete,  
Without arms or hands or feet.  
My ways and acts did God control,  
But in my body He placed no soul.

A living being I became,  
And Adam gave to me a name.  
Then from his presence I withdrew,  
For this man Adam I never knew.

All my Maker's laws I do obey,  
And from these laws I never stray.  
Thousands of me go in fear,  
But seldom on the earth appear.

Later, for a purpose God did see,  
He placed a living soul in me.  
But that soul of mine God had to claim,  
And from me took it back again.

And when this soul from me had fled,  
I was the same as when first made;  
Without arms, legs, feet, or soul  
I travel on from pole to pole.

My labors are from day to night,  
And to men I once furnished light.  
Thousands of people both young and old  
Did by my death bright lights behold.

No right or wrong can I conceive:  
The Bible and its teachings I can't believe.  
The fear of death doesn't trouble me;  
Pure happiness I will never see.

And up in Heaven I can never go,  
Nor in the grave or Hell below.  
So get your Bible and read with care;  
You'll find my name recorded there.

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The following message was delivered by your Editor at the 35th Annual *Berean Bible Fellowship Conference* in Cedar Lake, Indiana. Due to time limitations it was not possible to fully develop the passages assigned; therefore, that which follows is the unabridged version of the message. —Ed.

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## Paul's Desire and Prayer

By Paul M. Sadler



**I**n the little town of Olney, England stands a large granite tombstone. If you were to kneel down in front of this stately stone you would read the following inscription:

“John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and Libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy.”<sup>1</sup>

The story of John Newton's conversion is quite remarkable. As a young man he lived a life of utter debauchery and rebellion against God and his fellowman. During these years his mother prayed for him without ceasing and frequently shared the gospel with him. At a very young age he took over his father's slave trading business, transporting slaves between South Africa and England.

He recounts how on one of the return voyages to England a storm came up at sea in the middle of the night. Apparently, that old ship was nearly torn apart by the raging ocean, causing the vessel to take on water. As the waves violently swept over the bow of the ship it appeared as though there was little hope of surviving the ordeal. In the midst of the storm, Newton retired to his cabin, sure that he would perish at sea that fateful night. God has interesting ways of getting our attention! When we are faced with our own mortality we quickly turn to spiritual things.

As Newton pondered his spiritual condition, he reached into his belongings and took out a little book entitled, “The Imitation of Christ,” by Thomas a Kempis, that his mother had given to him shortly before her death. That evening he read the entire book from cover to cover and as a result he trusted Christ as his personal Savior. Soon thereafter he began to preach the faith he had long sought to destroy. Literally thousands came to hear this old sea captain share how Christ had saved him from the depths of sin. In addition to becoming an advocate for the abolition of slavery, John Newton is probably

best known as the author of the beloved hymn *Amazing Grace*.

*Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

It is truly amazing what the grace of God can do in a life. Like the Apostle Paul, John Newton had a burden for lost souls. They both had a longing desire that their countrymen might be saved.

### **PAUL'S HEART'S DESIRE**

**“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”**

—Rom. 10:1

As we know, Romans 9, 10, and 11 are the dispensational chapters of the Book of Romans. In chapter 9 we have Israel’s *past*—here we see Paul’s passion for the elect nation. The *present* state of Israel is the subject of chapter 10—here we learn of her unbelief. Finally in chapter 11 we have what is in store for *future* Israel—here the apostle answers the question “Hath God cast away His people... which He foreknew?”

The foregoing passage is only one of two passages where we are told to pray for the unsaved. All other references to prayer in Paul’s epistles concern the believer. Pastor Win Johnson and I were discussing this passage one evening and I asked him why the lion’s share of passages on prayer had to do with those who are *saved*. He felt it was because the believer is in a warfare. We are engaged in a great spiritual conflict with an enemy who’s seeking to destroy our Christian homes and marriages. Satan often turns one believer against another, desiring

to sow discord among the brethren. Beloved, the person sitting next to you is not the enemy. Even though they may have wounded you deeply, for the sake of the cause of Christ you are to forgive them as Christ forgave you. We should pray for one another without ceasing. After all, we are members of His Body, members one of another.

But we should also pray for the unsaved. Paul’s heart’s desire and prayer for his countrymen was that they might be saved. I would venture to say that before your conversion to Christ someone was praying for the salvation of your soul. In my life, it was a godly Great Aunt who prayed for me for nearly twenty years. The day I told her that I came to Christ she said that she was always confident that the Lord would save me. Then she added: “Now I am going to pray that the Lord will use you in a wonderful way to the praise of His glory.” Brethren, not only should we pray for the unbeliever, we should *also* share the gospel with him. This was Paul’s practice as the following passages confirm.

Romans 9, 10, and 11 deal primarily with Israel nationally and the Gentile nations in relation to her. However, we must remember that the apostle is dealing with the present state of Israel in chapter 10. Therefore, seeing that the chosen nation has already been set aside in unbelief, Paul addresses *individual* Israelites.

**“I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall [that is, beyond recovery]? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy” (Rom. 11:11).**



The stoning of Stephen was Israel's Waterloo! This event marked the *fall* of Israel, as far as God was concerned. But why was this particular event so critical historically? It served as the culmination of years of rebellion and rejection within the chosen nation. Humanly speaking, the *casting away* of Israel was a gradual process that took place over a thirty-year period. By the time Paul penned the words of Romans chapter 10, not only had Israel fallen nationally, the diminishing of the nation was also drawing to a close. So the final curtain call for the wayward nation had already been made.

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of Stephen  
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With the introduction of a new dispensation, God graciously extends the offer of salvation to *individual* Israelites. Interestingly, Paul begins with the nation in Romans chapter 10 by using plural pronouns “they” and “them,” but he shifts to *singular* pronouns later in the chapter as he addresses individual Israelites.

**“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that *they* might be saved. For I bear *them* record that *they* have a zeal of God” (Rom. 10:1,2).**

**“The word is nigh *thee*, even in *thy* mouth, and in *thy* heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if *thou* shalt confess with *thy* mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in *thine* heart**

**that God hath raised Him from the dead, *thou* shalt be saved” (Rom. 10:8,9).**

### ISRAEL DID IT HER WAY

**“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10:2,3).**

Israel had a burning desire to serve the true and living God. She was on fire for the things of the Lord. The only problem was her zeal was not according to knowledge. There was a sense that Paul could relate to his countrymen, having had the same desire prior to his conversion. After setting forth an impressive list of credentials in Philippians 3, the apostle states: “Concerning zeal, persecuting the Church.” As Paul attempted to make himself acceptable to God through good deeds, he thought within himself that by persecuting the Church, and laying it waste, he was doing God a favor (John 16:2,3).

Israel had the *same* attitude. As noted, her zeal was not according to knowledge. The term “knowledge” in this passage is the Greek word *epignosis*. It has the idea of having a fuller knowledge or a more perfect understanding. Paul was the first to use this term, and he uses it often, for this reason: he had received a special revelation from the Lord of glory, therefore, he had a fuller knowledge of God’s will. For example, with the abolition of the sacrificial system, “we have redemption

through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Today there is the new and living way—Christ!

Sadly Israel, nationally, was ignorant of God’s righteousness. She failed to understand how righteous God truly is. He’s perfect in all things and those who step into His presence must be *perfect*. But Pastor, “Nobody’s perfect!” That’s the problem—you must be perfect to live in God’s presence. Simply by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ the sinner is taken out of Adam and placed into Christ. In Him alone is redemption; He is the *righteousness* of God (I Cor. 1:30).

But Israel went about seeking to establish her own righteousness by trying to keep the law. To illustrate what the apostle means here, we are indebted to our Lord for the following parable.

**“And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Luke 18:9-14).**

This high and mighty Pharisee, a conservative religious leader at that time, thought he was right with God since he had meticulously kept the letter of the law. He fasted religiously and gave tithes dutifully as the law demanded. He boasted before God that he was grateful he wasn’t like other men who were ungodly sinners. He was especially thankful he wasn’t like the publican who was also at the temple offering up a prayer to God. Publicans were the offscouring of the earth. They would be akin to our street people today.



Nevertheless, the publican *humbled* himself before God, praying that the Lord would be *merciful* to him being a sinner. Interestingly the term “merciful” here looks back to the Old Testament Mercy Seat where the blood was sprinkled for the atonement of sin. You see, the publican had responded to God in *faith*, praying that God would have mercy on him, as He did upon the nation when He looked upon the blood on the Mercy Seat. Under the old economy *faith* always *obeyed* the law, which served as an outward expression of a proper response to God.

The majority within the chosen nation were like the Pharisee who sought to obtain a righteous standing with God through the



works of the law. This is what the apostle had in mind when he says that they were going about seeking to establish their own righteousness. They failed to understand that the intent of the law was not to save them; rather, it was to give them a knowledge of sin so they could, like the publican, throw themselves upon the mercy of God and bring a sacrifice by faith.

**“But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law” (Rom. 9:31,32).**

## **THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

**“[They] have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth” (Rom. 10:3,4).**

We believe Christ is the end of the law in two senses. First and foremost, the law was merely a schoolmaster, whose goal was to bring those under it to Christ that they might be justified by *faith*. When Christ carried out His earthly ministry the goal of the law was accomplished, so Israel is no longer under the schoolmaster. Second, Christ came not to destroy the law and the prophets but to fulfill them. He perfectly fulfilled every stipulation of the law in spirit and act; therefore, He also *terminated* it (Gal. 3:24,25 cf. Col. 2:14). Christ, then, is the righteousness of God!

**“For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, that**

**the man which doeth those things shall live by them” (Rom. 10:5).**

Was the law of God righteous? Indeed! The problem, you see, was not with the law, it was with sinful man who was unable to keep it perfectly. If a man breaks one of the laws of God he is a lawbreaker. This is the very point that James makes: “Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10). The law was powerless to impart life; it pointed its bony finger in the face of the accused and essentially pronounced a sentence of condemnation. The eminent Greek scholar, Kenneth Wuest, made the following insightful poetic verse regarding the law:

*Do this and live the law commands, but gives me neither feet nor hands,*

*A better word the gospel brings, it bids me fly and gives me wings.*

**“But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead)” (Rom. 10:6,7).**

In verses 5 through 8 Paul contrasts the “way of the law” with “the way of faith.” Since Moses was so revered in Israel, the apostle quotes the great Lawgiver, but recasts his words under the direction of the Holy Spirit. To properly understand Paul’s argument it will first be necessary to consider Moses’ original statement:

**“For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou**

**shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?" (Deut. 30:11-13).**

As Moses neared the end of his life, the children of Israel were painfully aware that he would only be with them a short time. They knew Moses had spoken directly to God on their behalf, but who would minister to them after the Deliverer was gone? Moses instructs them accordingly: Don't say, who will ascend into heaven and bring us the revelation of God, or who will cross the sea to bring us a teacher? The will of God for you is found in the Books of the Law; you need to look no farther. It is within your reach—in your mouth and in your heart.



Paul refashions the words of Moses to reveal that salvation by grace through faith was now available to individual Israelites through Christ. There is no need for someone to ascend into heaven, for that is to bring Christ down. This would crucify the Son of Man afresh. God forbid! He already came and offered Himself as a once-for-all sacrifice for the sins of the world. Neither was there a need to inquire, "Who shall

descend into the deep? (that is to bring up Christ again from the dead)." Christ had already conquered sin and death and risen victoriously over it. The work was finished!

"The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach" (Rom. 10:8). Note Paul says, "The word of faith, which we preach." What did the apostle preach in order for a lost soul to be saved? Simply this, *Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again*, all three of which are implied in the foregoing passages. Essentially, Paul said to his countrymen that salvation is near, even in their mouth as they read the Word, and in their heart if they believed it. Christ has abolished the performance system; simply place your *faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **CONFESSION AND BELIEF**

**"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9,10).**

This passage has been a stumbling block for many dear saints. First, Paul is not speaking about public confession before men as a prerequisite to be saved. If this were the case salvation would be associated with a work. The apostle uses the mouth and heart here in the *spiritual* sense. We should add that both confession and belief are in harmony with one another. In fact, they are two sides

of the same coin. The context substantiates Paul is referring to our *innermost being*. He says in verse 6: "Say not in thine heart," that is, say not to yourself who will ascend into heaven, etc. In like manner when we heard the gospel we said to ourselves in our heart of hearts, *I believe!*


Paul calls upon his countrymen to confess or *acknowledge* that the Lord Jesus died for their sins and rose again. The apostle lays special emphasis upon the resurrection, because while many of his readers were well aware Christ had been crucified, they may not have been aware that He had conquered death and rose again the third day. Salvation is in a person, and that person is the Lord Jesus Christ. Once the vertical relationship is established with the Savior by faith, it will eventually touch all of our horizontal relationships that we have with one another. Thus "according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (II Cor. 4:13).

**"For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:11-13).**

Those who trust Christ will never be ashamed or defeated. We are saved from the wrath to come, not only in the coming tribulation period, but also from the judgment to come. Thankfully, in Christ we are beyond the reach of God's wrath.

We also learn here that there is no difference between the Jews and the Gentiles today who call upon the Lord. This was unheard of under the former dispensation of the law. Once again, this is *epignosis* or that fuller knowledge of God's will Paul spoke of earlier. Before the foundation of the world God had foreordained the Church of this age, which is uniquely a Pauline truth. Consequently, in the administration of Grace there is *one* Body which is made up of Jews and Gentiles without distinction.

Even though the apostle quotes from the Old Testament when he states, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved," this passage must be interpreted in light of Paul's revelation. In time past, whosoever called upon the Lord was saved *through* Israel. Today, whosoever believes is saved *in spite of* Israel since she has been temporarily cast aside in unbelief (Isa. 49:6 cf. Rom. 11:11,15,25).

Have you called upon the Lord to be saved? If not, we beg you to do so without delay. You are dangling over the lake of fire by one thin thread of human existence. Soon the fires of God's wrath will consume you and the weight of your sins will plunge you into eternal darkness forever and ever. Flee from the wrath to come. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, who bore your sins upon the Cross, and thou shalt be saved! 

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## Endnote

1. *101 Hymn Stories* by Kenneth W. Osbeck, *Amazing Grace*, page 28, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



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# Beautiful Garden

## THE PARADISE OF GOD

By Cornelius R. Stam

**“And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed.”**

—Gen. 2:8

The Greek name for the Garden of Eden is *Paradise* (Gr. *paradeisos*, “beautiful garden”). While this garden is not *discussed* in the New Testament, it is surely alluded to several times. In any case, we may be sure that if God planted the garden in Eden it was indeed a “Paradise,” a *beautiful garden*.



### PARADISE LOST

Let us not blame God for the hideous scars this earth now bears. Blame man and his pride and greed. Blame his marching armies, his guns and bombs. Blame his “intellectual achievements,” his ability to pollute its surface and its atmosphere with toxic fumes and wastes, and with deafening noises—all in the name of *progress*. Blame his irresponsibility in cluttering its habitable surface with debris.



God did not place man in such an atmosphere. Rather, “the Lord God planted a *garden* eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.” How breathtakingly beautiful, how ineffably delightful these surroundings must have been! Adam and Eve, in Eden, must have enjoyed each other’s company here as no other wedded couple since, with only the light and pleasant responsibility to “dress” and “keep” the garden<sup>1</sup> (Gen. 2:15), and with the special blessing of open fellowship with God, perhaps especially “in the cool of the day” (Gen. 2:19,22,23; 3:8).

But when man fell, all creation fell with him. Man now had a fallen, sinful nature. The animal creation suddenly became wild and vicious, and as to the vegetable creation, God said to Adam: “*Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee, and...in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread...*” (Gen. 3:17-19). And to the woman



He said: *"I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children..."* (3:16). And even this manner of living was to be cut short at last by death and a "return unto the ground; for out of it," said God, "wast thou taken: *for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return*" (3:19). Indeed, lest man should now eat of the tree of life and live forever, God "sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till<sup>2</sup> the ground from whence he was taken" (Gen. 3:23). Thus it is that we read in Romans 5:12:

**"Wherefore...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all<sup>3</sup> men, for that all have sinned."**

Ever since that dreadful day, man's greatest problem has been his *sin*. This is what lies at the root of all his trouble and misery, though the subject is not even dealt with in our great works on science. Obvious as is the *fact* of sin and its results, any consideration of this subject is brushed aside by the intellectuals of this world.

## **A GARDEN FOR THE REDEEMED**

The results of the fall were indeed disastrous, changing man's habitation from that of a beautiful

garden to that of fields and forests that must be cleared and cultivated by laborious effort in the face of relentless opposition from many quarters. For the redeemed who departed this life, however, God again provided a *beautiful garden*.

In "Old Testament" times the general designation for this place of the departed was *sheol* (Hebrew), with its Greek equivalent *hades*, both meaning "the unseen." However, an examination of Luke 16:19-31 reveals that *sheol*, or *hades*, was divided into two areas, separated by "a great gulf" (Ver. 26). The term "Abraham's bosom" (Ver. 22) describes one aspect of the place where the redeemed went. It was the place where Abraham, the "father of believers," welcomed all his dear children home, as it were. But another aspect of this wonderful place is described by the name *Paradise: Beautiful Garden*.

In his youth this writer somehow envisioned *hades* as a great two-part cavernous region, dimly lit and mysterious. But our Lord's designation of the blessed area as "Paradise" throws an entirely different light upon it.

How it must have touched the heart of the repentant thief crucified next to our Lord, to be assured by the Savior Himself:

**"Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).**

This assurance must have filled him with comfort and joy despite the pain he suffered. Soon he would be with Christ in a *beautiful garden!* Gardens are where



people go to rest and be refreshed, thus a garden of God's planting must be infinitely more delightful, and to be in such a garden "with Christ": what unspeakable joy!

## PARADISE RESTORED

But according to the prophetic Scriptures, the Paradise of Eden will one day be gloriously restored and vastly enlarged. This will take place when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to earth to reign and Israel is saved and salvation and blessing flow from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Here we could cite literally scores of Old Testament passages in confirmation, but a few will suffice:

**"Out of Zion shall go forth the law,<sup>4</sup> and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:3).**

**"The Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem" (Isa. 24:23).**

**"Yea, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him" (Psa. 72:11).**

**"Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord" (Zech. 8:22).**

Paul confirms this in his epistle to the Romans:

**"And so all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" (Rom. 11:26).**

**"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers;**

**"And that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written..." (Rom. 15:8,9).**

The results of this spiritual transformation will be far-reaching. No longer will man need to till a perverse soil and eat his bread in the sweat of his brow, for the curse will be removed from the vegetable creation:

**"The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly...for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water" (Isa. 35:1,2,6,7).**

**"What is ours  
by grace we may  
now appropriate  
by faith alone...."**

The animal creation too will have the curse removed:

**"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain" (Isa. 11:6-9).**

And the curse shall be removed from mankind itself:

**"The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the**

tongue of the dumb shall sing” (Isa. 35:5,6).

**“There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old;<sup>5</sup> but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed” (Isa. 65:20).**

Other aspects of the fall will also be removed and reversed:

Christ will be known by all: *“The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”* (Isa. 11:9).

Government will be purified: *“A King shall reign and prosper; and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth”* (Jer. 23:5).



War and bloodshed will be abolished: *“And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more”* (Isa. 2:4).

Israel’s suffering and sorrow will then be over—and that of the other nations as well: *“They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away”* (Isa. 35:10 cf. 40:5; 60:3).

These are the conditions that will prevail when our Lord, the rightful King, reigns on earth for

1000 years. This will indeed be *Paradise restored*, and more.

## **PARADISE EXALTED or THE HEAVENLY PARADISE**

Thus far we have considered Paradise, the Garden of Eden, also the Paradise so graciously prepared for believers of former ages, and Eden’s Paradise gloriously restored and enlarged during the kingdom reign of Christ.

But what about the dispensation under which we now live—a dispensation which has now lasted for almost 2,000 years? With regard to the delay in our Lord’s return to reign and restore this poor stricken world, the Apostle Paul states:

**“We know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.<sup>6</sup>**

**“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Rom. 8:22,23).**

Ah, but the apostle also reveals a “mystery,” a secret not made known until the risen, glorified Lord revealed it to him, not all at once, but by installments (See Acts 26:16; II Cor. 12:1).

This revelation concerns the position, blessings and prospect of believers in the present “dispensation of the grace of God.” It must be that God reserved His greatest blessings for those who should trust His Son during the age of His rejection—*“this present evil age”* (Gal. 1:4), for Paul relates in II Corinthians 12:1-7 how

he was “caught up to the third heaven,” and he describes it as “Paradise”: *beautiful garden!* Think of it! the highest heaven (Gr., *epouranios*) a beautiful garden. This surely is Paradise exalted! Indeed, the apostle “heard unspeakable words” there, which a man was not permitted to utter. Here he was in the presence of God Himself, seeing and hearing things which we could not even begin to grasp. And so ineffably glorious was this revelation that God sent a “messenger of Satan” to buffet him physically, with “a thorn in the flesh,” *lest he should be exalted above measure*, and he repeats the reason twice for emphasis (See II Cor. 12:7).

We cannot now grasp the glories which are ours in the heavens in Christ, but we can believe God’s Word that this is our position and these are our blessings (Eph. 2:6; 1:3). What is ours by grace we may now appropriate *by faith alone*, but the time will come when we will enjoy them *actually, really*. Then we shall see that the ideas we had of God’s presence and surroundings as only blazing, dazzling brilliance, were most inadequate, for Paul was there and, with all its glory, described it as *Paradise*, a beautiful garden, far more beautiful, surely, than anything we could even begin to imagine.


## THE PARADISE OF GOD

We do not have space in this brief article to deal at length with what God has prepared for us in the ages beyond the kingdom reign of Christ, nor why this writer believes that gradually, during the

millennium, and finally in full perfection forever, the redeemed nations of the earth and the redeemed in heaven will have full and open fellowship together. Then will be brought to pass the truth of Ephesians 1:10.

**“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him.”**

Then “*the paradise of God*” on earth, referred to in Revelation 2:7, will be opened to the paradise in heaven! Who knows what glories lie ahead for the children of God! We can only look forward by faith to learning all about it by personal experience, for surely these are some, only a few, of the things “which God hath prepared for them that love Him.” But at least we know already that it is His gracious purpose:

**“That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:7).** 

---

## Endnotes

1. This was *before* the vegetable creation was cursed.
2. Note: not to “dress” the garden, but to “till” the ground.
3. All were *in Adam* and have come *from Adam*.
4. Now obeyed spontaneously, from the heart (Jer. 31:33).
5. I.e., One who dies at 100 years of age will be considered a mere child, and will die only as a judgment upon sin, which will not be tolerated at that time.
6. I.e., the curse has not yet been removed (because our Lord’s reign has been rejected and awaits a future day).

# **Berean Bible Fellowship Fall Conference**

## **Hosted By:**

*Grace Bible Church, Evansville, Indiana*

**Location:** *Marriott Hotel*  
7101 Highway 41 North  
Evansville, Indiana

**Dates:** Thursday & Friday, October 9-10, 2003

**Theme:** *The Work and Ministry of the Holy Spirit*

*"There is no ministry more misunderstood and wrongly applied than that of the Holy Spirit. It is our prayer that through our study we will come to a deeper appreciation of His work and ministry."*

## **Guest Speakers:**

Pastor Mike Keshan, *Kettle Moraine Bible Church*, West Bend, WI  
Pastor John Fredericksen, *Grace Bible Church*, Rapid City, SD  
Pastor Ivan Burgener, *Affton Grace Bible Church*, St. Louis, MO  
Pastor Paul Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*, Milwaukee, WI  
Pastor Dick Ware, *Grace Bible Church*, Oshkosh, WI  
Pastor Joel Finck, *Grace Bible Church*, Yankton, SD  
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***May we all be in prayer for the Lord's blessing  
upon the ministry of the Word of God  
in light of Paul's revelation!***

# When Did the Gift of Tongues Cease? (Cont'd)

By Pastor Dennis Kiszonas

## Why did the sign gifts cease?

Having seen the pattern of truth regarding the gifts, we need to ask, why did the gifts cease at this time?

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:8-12—

**“Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.**

**“When I was a child, I spoke 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 in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”<sup>1</sup>**

The gift of tongues, prophecy and knowledge during the Acts period were only “in part”—they were incomplete, they did not communicate the full knowledge that the Lord had to reveal. But the Lord revealed to Paul that “that which is perfect” was coming. In English, as in Greek, this is a neuter pronoun—“that thing which is perfect.” Paul was not writing about the coming of “He who is perfect” but of the coming of a “thing” which is perfect. When it came, then the gifts which were only “in part” would cease.

It would be like the difference between being a child and becoming a grown man, or between seeing someone’s face reflected in a wavy ancient mirror, and seeing the person face-to-face.

Before the end of the Book of Acts, during the Acts period, and in the letters written during the Acts period, the Lord had only revealed part of the “dispensation of grace” (Eph. 3:2) to the Apostle Paul, but He had not yet revealed the entire message to him. It was still only “in part” during the Acts period, but with the close of the Book of Acts, the Lord completed the revelation of the “Mystery” (see Eph. 3:3,4,9 and Col. 1:26,27, etc.). “That which is perfect” was finally revealed in all its fullness to the Apostle Paul and at that moment, those things which were only “in part” passed away from God’s program.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:12—

**“Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”**

When Paul wrote “now I know in part,” he used the common word for “know,” the Greek word *gnosis*.

“...when God gave up on the ‘sign people’ for a time, the sign gifts passed out of His program.”

But then, when he wrote “but then I shall know...” he changes the word from *gnosis* to *epignosis*, “to fully know.”

We could paraphrase Paul’s statement: “Now, as I’m writing 1 Corinthians in Acts 19, I have *gnosis*—I know, in part, what God’s message is for us today in the dispensation

of grace, but then—when that which is perfect has come—I shall have *epignosis*—the full knowledge of God’s message of grace for us today.”

All through the Book of Acts Paul had only “*gnosis*,” partial knowledge of the message of grace, but when we turn to the Prison Letters we suddenly find Paul using that word “*epignosis*”—he had now received that “full knowledge” which he didn’t have when he wrote to the Corinthians:

**“For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge (*epignosis*—full knowledge) of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ” (Col. 2:1-2).**

**“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge (*epignosis*—full knowledge) of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light” (Col. 1:9-12).**

In all the seven letters written after the close of the Book of Acts, Paul uses this word “*epignosis*”—the full knowledge. What he had not yet received in 1 Corinthians 13, he now has. That which is perfect had come and so the sign gifts had passed away.

### **The “sign gifts” were signs for God’s “sign people”**

The close of the Book of Acts was also the close of God’s dealings with the nation of Israel for now nearly 2000 years. Acts 28:25-28 stands as God’s last words to the nation of Israel for nearly two millennia. The Jews sought after signs (1 Cor. 1:22) so God gave them signs—among the Gentiles!—in order to provoke Israel to jealousy (Rom. 11:14). But with the close of Acts, God sets aside Israel for a time, and when God gave up on the “sign people” for a time, the sign gifts passed out of His program.



## I speak in tongues, what should I do?

Many Christians today have had an experience that they think is the scriptural gift of tongues. After studying Paul's letters and the scriptural teaching concerning the cessation of the gift of tongues, they ask, "What should I do now?" There are several possible explanations for the experience—it may be a psychological experience or even a spiritual experience, but clearly, from the Word of God, it is not the Spirit's gift of tongues.

What should they do? Simply: Stop! Stop speaking in the tongue because it is not from the Holy Spirit.

For many this is a great relief. They've been taught that a person has to speak in tongues to prove that he is really saved, or that he really has the Holy Spirit dwelling within. So they've "learned" to speak in tongues, but when they see from Scripture that this gift is not in operation from the Lord today, they can at last cease their effort to prove their salvation and start to walk by faith and not by sight.

For some, Paul's instructions to the prophets at Corinth will be pertinent:

**"If anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints" (1 Cor. 14:30-33).**

When we are having an experience that we learn from the Scriptures is not from the Lord, it is time to "keep silent," and remember that our spirits are to be under our own control—"the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."

### The Lord's warning

The Lord warned that experiences can be deceiving:

**"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matt. 7:22-23).**

Yes, they really had had these experiences. They had prophesied in Jesus' name, they had cast out demons and done miracles in His name. The Lord does not deny that they had done these things. But then He tells them that even while they were doing these things, He had never ever known them.



It is important that our faith be based on the Word of God and not on experiences because experiences can deceive us.

## A note about the gift of healing

As we have seen, Paul was able to heal many sick people all through the Book of Acts. He healed every sick person on the Island of Malta in Acts 28. And he wrote to the Corinthians about the gift of healing that was operating in their church during the Acts period (1 Cor. 12:9). But we have also seen that with the close of the Book of Acts, the gift of healing ceased to operate. Paul could no longer heal anyone—not Epaphroditus in Philippians 2, not Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:23, not Trophimus in 2 Timothy 4:20. The gift of healing had ceased to operate, along with the other sign gifts.

Today God no longer gives the gift of healing, and there are no “healers.” But we should not think that God Himself no longer heals! In Philippians 2 we read of a healing that God did after the gift of healing had ceased to operate:

“[God] never allows us to suffer something that He doesn’t give us the strength to live through.”

**“Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.**

**“For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.**


**“Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.**

**“Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me” (Phil. 2:25-30).**

Paul commends Epaphroditus very highly for his faithfulness even unto death. But when Epaphroditus fell sick—near to death—Paul was no longer able to heal him because the gift of healing had ceased to operate. But we read that Epaphroditus was healed—directly by the Lord: “He was sick unto death but the Lord had mercy on him....”

There is healing today, but there is no gift of healing, there are no “divine healers.” There is no gift of healing today but God still heals... sometimes. He healed Epaphroditus, but He did not heal Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 or in Galatians 4:13-15, or Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:23, or Trophimus in 2 Timothy 4:20. He heals according to His will today. But the promise that He gave to Paul is still our promise today in the dispensation of grace:

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9).**

Whether we are well or sick, whether we are like Epaphroditus or like Timothy, we can always claim this promise from the Lord that His grace and strength are sufficient for us. He never allows us to suffer something that He doesn't give us the strength to live through. 

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### Endnote

1. All references have been taken from the *New King James Version*.

In addition to Pastor Kiszonas' responsibilities at *Grace For Today*, Dennis has recently established a new Grace Assembly in New York City. If you would like more information about the radio ministry, the new assembly, or a copy of the above article in booklet form, you can contact Brother Kiszonas directly at: *Grace For Today*, P.O. Box 798, Times Square Station, New York, NY 10108. The ministry can also be reached via the Internet: [www.gracefortoday.org](http://www.gracefortoday.org).

### Question Box

*"Those who are skeptical of Paul's gospel usually point to the Mysteries found in Matthew 13 as evidence that the Mystery was foretold by our Lord, but more fully explained by Paul. What is the most effective way to address this faulty interpretation?"*

Although the good news of the coming kingdom had been progressively revealed in time past, there were certain aspects of this revelation that were hidden until our Lord's earthly ministry. Thus, the seven mysteries of the kingdom were merely a further development of what had already been spoken of by the prophets. They reveal the proper order of redemptive events in relation to the chosen nation, that is, the sufferings of Christ and the glory that was to follow. These seven mysteries make it clear that the kingdom would be established at the Second Coming of Christ, not during His first advent.

When we turn to Paul's epistles we learn for the first time about God's eternal purpose for the Church, the Body of Christ. This *new* program with its "one Body" and "one baptism" is called the Mystery, which was kept secret from ages and generations past (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:5,9; Col. 1:25,26). While Israel was to acknowledge the added revelation regarding the mysteries of the kingdom, we are *responsible* to proclaim a new message, the Mystery, to all nations for the obedience of faith.

—Pastor Sadler

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**From Minnesota:**

“My walk with the Lord was going down, I was giving up because I couldn't make it work any more, until I started learning about right division from the *Searchlight*.”

**From Florida:**

“I would like to thank you for your magazine. I learned about you by chance, as I am a U.S. letter carrier and one of my customers receives your magazine. I would like to know if it is possible to receive back issues.... Thank you again for the hard work and devotion you put into your work.” (God sometimes works in wonderful ways to bring us to the truth! Ed.)

**From Alabama:**

“I've been reading some older issues of the *Searchlight* that have been given me by the pastor of the church I'm currently attending. I like what I'm reading and how everything is laid out so far.”

**From Illinois:**

“Thank you for all of the work that you do to teach the Word 'Rightly Divided.' I have been a 'Grace Believer' for about 20 years now and much of my growth has been a result of your help. The teaching of Jesus Christ according to the Revelation of the Mystery is the KEY. Thank you.”

**From Florida:**

“A friend handed me a book that he said I ought to take a look at. That book was 'The Mystery.' I've been in and out of churches most of my life and I have always felt there was something missing or not quite right. After reading 'The Mystery,' I realized what it was. I had such a feeling of joy—I guess that would be the best word for it—come over me that this was what was missing. I would like to continue to study this.”

**From Washington:**

“I have never been so enthusiastic in the study of God's Word since I have come to see the Mystery, and to grasp the true meaning of 'grace,' and to see the uniqueness of Paul's gospel. I want to continue to grow, and to put my remaining years left on this earth (I'm 51 years old) to work getting this message of Grace out. The battle is just heating up. People don't like to hear this message. I'm excited what the Lord is going to do in my life. Thank you, and the *Berean Bible Society*, for being part of this growth.”

**From South Dakota:**

“I praise God for Pastor Stam's work of *Acts—Dispensationally Considered*. Pastor Stam led me through a wonderful study of the Word.”

**From Michigan:**

“Pastor Stam was a mighty man in the Scriptures and was responsible for getting me and my folks into rightly dividing the Word of truth and we will forever be grateful....It surely clears up a lot of seeming contradictions and confusion in knowing how to live the Christian life today. Pastor Sadler, you have also played an important role in putting the proper emphasis on the general epistles in your recent *Searchlight* issues over the past year. I have always felt that these epistles had more to do with Israelites who were scattered than with the message that the Apostle Paul preached.” (Lord willing, we hope to do more on the Hebrew epistles in the coming months. Ed.)

**From Ohio:**

“The March *Searchlight* was extraordinary, every article was superb. Thanks especially for the one page contrast of the two ministries of Christ. It makes me appreciate both of them more.”



**From the Internet:**

“God was presented to me as a faceless God who sat on His throne and cast people into hell. Then I was taught that prayer about laying me down to sleep, and ‘if I die before I wake’—that introduced the concept of dying in my sleep, and facing a judgmental God who would punish me for all my sins. I developed trouble sleeping at night, I was constantly ill, but the doctors couldn’t figure out what was wrong with me. I didn’t tell anyone about anything for many, many years. I do believe with all I have that God had mercy upon me and led me to right division. It answered all those nagging questions I had that no one could answer. And I promise you, I was seeking the answers. Modern Christianity just didn’t make any sense. It was filled with contradictions, and they gave answers that didn’t satisfy or stick. That only created more confusion, and frustration, and anger.” (Another desperate soul finds peace in grace! Ed.)

**From Florida:**

“Thank you for the clarification and the education of the Mystery. I appreciate being able to turn to you when questions come up. Praise the Lord for the *Berean Bible Society*. This material will be presented Sunday in the Sunday School class.”

**From the Internet:**

“I probably have a ton of questions as I get deeper into the grace truth. Thank you for corresponding with me.”

**From Ohio:**

“A friend brought in a copy of the *Berean Searchlight* and I enjoyed it very much. Please place my name on your mailing list.”

**From Germany:**

“Thank you for sending me the *Searchlight*. It is wonderful and inspirational. Every month I wait for the *Searchlight*. May GOD bless you and your staff.”

**From Nevada:**

“I am greatly thankful that the Lord has allowed my family and I to come to the knowledge of the Mystery. I am halfway through Pastor Stam’s book entitled ‘Baptism and the Bible,’ and I am greatly enjoying it. Thank you *Berean Bible Society* for making these books available.”

**From Oklahoma:**

“We are getting the word out slowly but surely about the *Berean Bible Society* and people have been so excited to hear there is someone besides our Les Feldick who teaches Pauline doctrine. The Lord will surely hear our prayers for someone to come and pastor a church in our vicinity. There is such a need!...As people are finding out that we plan to come up there for schooling they are very excited and we thank our Lord for the support! Thank you for responding to our requests for the *Searchlight*. As each new one gets his/her packet they are thrilled and talking about sharing with others. Keep up your wonderful good work; we all appreciate you so much.” (Another dedicated couple willing to uproot their lives to come train for the ministry. Praise the Lord! Ed.)

**From Wisconsin:**

“I have been enjoying your dispensational literature for over 10 years and feel I have enough familiarity with it to attempt to make all men see what is the Mystery!”

“These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

# ***FALL BIBLE CONFERENCES***

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## **Lake Villa Bible Conference**

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**Date:** Saturday, September 13, 2003

**Guest Speakers:**

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Harold Templeton, *Cornerstone Financial Planners, Inc.*  
Kevin Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*, Milwaukee, WI

For more information, please contact:  
Pastor Dan Sheridan (847) 201-1060

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## **Midwest Bible Conference**

**Location:** *Grace Gospel Church*  
5730 Adams Avenue  
Ashtabula, Ohio

**Dates:** October 24-26, 2003

**Speaker:** Pastor Paul M. Sadler

For directions and additional information, please contact:  
Pastor David Adams (440) 992-9008

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## **Northeast Fall Bible Conference**

**Location:** *Eastport Bible Church*  
386 Montauk Highway  
Eastport, New York

**Dates:** November 9-11, 2003

**Speaker:** Pastor Paul M. Sadler

For directions and additional information, please contact:  
Mr. Bob Tillinghast (631) 325-0525

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## THE BBI BYLINE

### A Staff Member's Perspective

By Mrs. Jessica Sadler

I started my job here at **BBI** as a secretary in November of 1997. It has been very encouraging and exciting for me to see how eager the students are to learn God's Word, rightly divided. Students have come from various places, with different backgrounds, but all with the same goal: to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ known.

**BBI** has graduates who have gone on to ministries in which they majored here at school, whether it was to be a missionary, pastor, or a Sunday School teacher. We receive letters regularly from Grace believers that are excited to have more Grace ministers for their churches or Bible studies. Many of our male students guest speak at churches in the area, and our female students help teach in local churches, sharing the Bible with the children.

I've heard it said that the greatest dedication is that of a volunteer, and that is what most of **BBI's** instructors have been.



They give of their time and knowledge to encourage the students in the faith, teaching the Grace ministers of the future. Their tireless work on behalf of **BBI** and its students is a real testimony of God's working in their lives.

The support of God's people for **Berean Bible Institute** has enabled it to proceed as far as it has, for which we are most thankful. The Lord has blessed **BBI** *far beyond all that we could ask or think*. When we needed a larger building, the saints rejoiced with us and sent their donations to the new building fund. The Lord's ways are truly marvelous! What better life could there be, than to be in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Working here at **BBI** has been a rewarding experience for me, as I've seen the students come in ready to learn and leave ready to preach and teach, servants of our Most High God, proclaiming the Word of God, rightly divided.

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Jessica works part-time as **BBI's** librarian and the typesetter for the *BBI Bulletin*. She lives in Saukville, Wisconsin with her husband, Kevin, and their 3 children: Cody, Katelyn, and Carissa, ages 4, 3, and 1.

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***Don't Forget! BBI has a new address and phone numbers!***

**Berean Bible Institute**, 116 S. Kettle Moraine Dr., P.O. Box 587, Slinger, WI 53086-0587, phone: (262) 644-5504, fax: (262) 644-5507.

[www.bereanbibleinstitute.org](http://www.bereanbibleinstitute.org)

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# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**MISSIONS:** There is a great need for Audio Cassette Recorders on the foreign field. If you would like to donate a used recorder, kindly ship it to Barbara Schmidt, 224 Terrell Drive, Toccoa, GA 30577. Barbara can also be reached at (706) 282-0495 should you need more information. **Please note:** These recorders must be in "good working order." Thanks in advance for your assistance!



**ORDERS:** When placing an order for literature, please be sure to include the additional charges for shipping and handling at the bottom of each Book Advertisement. It is also important to use the current price list adopted May 1, 2003. On another front, don't forget to clarify whether you want to purchase a hardcover book or a paperback, when applicable. On behalf of our staff, your compliance with the above is sincerely appreciated.

**BBS TAPE LENDING LIBRARY:** Sam and Ruth Castrova are doing an outstanding job with our *Audio Tape Lending Library* and they want you to know that they're there to serve you. All library tapes are available for loan at *no* charge. This offer does not apply to overseas requests. Good news! A number of new messages have been added to the collection. To request a catalog or tapes from the *Lending Library*, simply write: Sam and Ruth Castrova, 7900 Barbour Store Road, Willow Springs, NC 27592. They can also be reached via e-mail at: [s.castrova@att.net](mailto:s.castrova@att.net). By the way, we have an urgent plea, if you have borrowed tapes more than a month ago from the Library, please return them as soon as possible to the above address. This will insure that others don't have to wait so long to receive their tapes.

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS** are lasting! With this in mind, we are still in the process of updating the appearance of our literature. Great strides have already been made, but we project it will take a number of years to complete the project. May we take this opportunity to thank you for your patience!

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\*The picture of the lighthouse that appears on the front cover was taken by Kevin and Jessica Sadler. The *Eagle Bluff Lighthouse* is located in Fish Creek, Wisconsin. Built in 1868, this 43-foot tower was one of the earliest navigational markers established on Green Bay to guide vessels travelling through the dangerous waters of "Death's Door" or Door County. Door County has the distinction of having more lighthouses (10) than any other U.S. county. *Eagle Bluff Light* is still an active aid to navigation and its light has a range of 7 miles.

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everything—It was the pair on the ground!”

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