

# The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

September 2010



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The **Purpose** of the *Berean Bible Society* is to help you understand and enjoy the Bible. The **Mission** of BBS is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the whole counsel of God according to the revelation of the Mystery. Our **Goals** are to *evangelize* the lost, to *educate* the saved in “rightly dividing the Word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15), to *energize* their Christian lives, and to *encourage* the local church.

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# From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently I spoke at a Bible conference in Tupelo, Mississippi, where I was able to witness firsthand the legacy of a grace pastor. You see, three of the other four conference speakers were the fruit of the ministry of Pastor Wilson Watkins, of the *First Philippian Church* in Detroit, Michigan.

I first met Pastor Watkins back in 1983, at the annual summer Bible conference of the *Berean Bible Fellowship* in Cedar Lake, Indiana. What a thrill it was to hear him testify how as the pastor of a Baptist church he had learned the grace message by reading *True Spirituality*, the classic work by *Berean Bible Society* founder C. R. Stam. This in itself was not unusual, for over the years God has often used this volume to open the eyes of diligent Bible students like Pastor Watkins. What separated him from many others in his position was the spiritual courage he then displayed when he stood up in front of his congregation and announced that *First Philippian* was one Baptist church that wasn't going to baptize anymore! The fact that very few Baptists left the church once he explained what the Bible has to say about this important and sensitive subject is a testimony to Pastor Watkins' ability to clearly communicate the message that had so revolutionized his life.

The message that he brought at the BBF conference that year displayed all the enthusiasm of a serious student of the Scriptures who had finally found the answer to the contradictions that abound in the Bible when it is not rightly divided. I remember being impressed that Pastor Watkins was surrounded by assistant pastors from *First Philippian*, all of whom reflected his resolute commitment to the Word of God and the message we all hold dear. Because of this, I wasn't surprised to find the same laser-like focus on the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery in John Smith, Perry Anderson and Frank Tanner, the men carrying on Pastor Watkins' legacy in Tupelo.

We can only imagine the immense satisfaction Pastor Watkins must feel as he remembers all the men in whom he was able to instill such a passion for the truth and a burden to share it with others. It is my prayer that all grace pastors reading his story might feel the same tug at their heart that I feel as I write these words, a longing to share that satisfying sense of fulfillment that can only come as we too give ourselves to the proclamation of the revelation given to Paul, and then commit it to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Ricky Kurth





# THE BIBLE

By Paul M. Sadler

Cave 4 at Qumran, Israel

Earlier this year, my wife and I had an opportunity to visit the “*Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible*” exhibit at the Milwaukee Museum. When we entered the exhibit, we were given a small hand-held recorder about the size of a cell phone. As we made our way through the exhibit, we simply punched in the number of the display and were given an explanation of the scroll, book, or artifact and its significance.

In addition to the *Dead Sea Scrolls* there were numerous biblical artifacts that took you back in time to the days of our Lord. For example, there was a display of the coinage of the period that was embossed with an image of Caesar. This would have been the same type of coin the Lord pointed to when He answered the question of the Pharisees and the Herodians about paying tribute to Caesar (Mark 12:13-17). There was also an exhibit of oil lamps, one of which would have been the type used in the *Parable of the Ten Virgins*. It was interesting to see how the five wise virgins would have trimmed their lamps (Matt. 25:1-10).

The most fascinating part of the exhibit was the *Dead Sea Scrolls*, which incorporated the development of the English Versions of the Scriptures, as well as the Guttenberg Bible, the first Bible ever produced on a printing press. I personally accept by faith that we have the Word of God today. But for the skeptic or critic who questions the Word of God, the *Dead Sea Scrolls* clearly show the providential care of God.

For example, the oldest copy of the *Torah* prior to the discovery of the *Dead Sea Scrolls* would have been about the 10th Century. The *Torah* is the first 5 Books of the Hebrew Bible ascribed to Moses. Archeologists date the *Dead Sea Scrolls* between the 1st Century B.C. and the first half of the 1st Century A.D. They were discovered in caves on the sheer rock face of the northwest shore of the Dead Sea by a Bedouin shepherd in 1947. Despite the vast period of time between these two sets of manuscripts there is an amazing continuity, especially in regard to sense. For example:

The English translation of Deuteronomy 8:19 from the 10th Century (Hebrew Masoretic Text) states:

“I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.”

When the Scholars translated this same passage from the *Dead Sea Scrolls* manuscripts it came out as follows in English:

“I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.”

Hopefully, you will have an opportunity to visit this exhibition which is touring the country; it is well worth your time.



A photograph of a person's legs and feet as they hike on a dirt trail. The person is wearing olive green cargo shorts, blue socks, and dark hiking boots. The background shows a lush green forest and a large, rugged mountain peak under a clear blue sky.

# Are You Walking Worthy?

(Ephesians 4:1-6)

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

The opening message of this year's *Berean Bible Fellowship Bible Conference* in Cedar Lake, Indiana.

Let's begin by seeing how much you remember of grammar school science! If I stretch this rubber band, I load it with something science calls *potential energy*. It now has all the potential to go flying through the air in the direction in which I aim it. Now if I *release* the rubber band, all that potential energy becomes *kinetic energy*, and it springs forth on one of the people unfortunate enough to be sitting in the front row. People I like to refer to as "targets"—or "*victims*"!

The point? The first three chapters of Ephesians are *filled* with potential energy. There is plenty of potential there to send us flying through life under the direction of the Lord. At last year's conference, we studied those chapters

and loaded up on all that potential energy. But if we don't *release* it, all that energy goes to waste. It is now time to learn how to *release the energy*!

## The Basis for a Worthy Walk

Paul begins our text in Ephesians 4 with a "therefore" (4:1) to remind us that the goal of accumulating all the dispensational knowledge found in the previous three chapters is the practical application of it, something the apostle describes in the next three chapters. If you are well versed in the doctrine of Ephesians 1-3, but are not applying the practical principles of Ephesians 4-6, you are not heeding the apostle's plea to "*walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called*" (4:1).

Now as God's spokesman, Paul could easily *command* us to walk worthy, for there are plenty of commands in Paul's epistles. Why then does he rather "beseech" or *beg* us? The answer is found in his letter to Philemon, where he begs Philemon to be kind to his runaway slave Onesimus. In this letter, he explains how he could "enjoin" or *command* Philemon to be lenient, yet (as he says) "for love's sake I rather *beseech* thee" (Phile. 8-10), intending in this way to find out how much Philemon loved him. As the one who had led Philemon to the Lord, Paul shouldn't have to *command* him to do something. And the God who saved your soul shouldn't have to command *you* to walk worthy. He shouldn't even have to *ask*, let alone *beg*. Beseeching you to walk worthy is just God's way of saying: "Let's see how much you love Me for all that I've done for you."



But what is this "vocation" with which we are called (Eph. 4:1)? Well, the Greek word for "vocation" is usually translated "*calling*," and that is the meaning of the English word as well. So what is this calling of which we are being asked to walk worthy? Whatever it is, it is

a "*high*" calling (Phil. 3:14). Surely Paul speaks here of the calling he described earlier in Ephesians 1:17-23, where he tells us that Christ is over all the heavenly host, and if you are in Christ, *you are too!* Someday we will "judge angels" (I Cor. 6:3). That's a pretty high calling!

### The Mechanics of a Worthy Walk

So how do you walk worthy of such a high calling? Paul says you do it "*with all lowliness*" (Eph. 4:2). Paul knows that our position in Christ that he just detailed in Ephesians 1-3 describes some pretty heady stuff, so here he begs us, "*Don't let it go to your head!*" Knowing you are destined to reign so high with Christ in the next life, can't you walk lowly in *this* life?

That's what the Lord did! He became *a servant* (Phil. 2:7), knowing someday He'd be *a king*. He *paid* taxes (Mt. 17:27), knowing someday He'd *receive* them. And He rode *a donkey*, knowing someday He'd ride *a white horse* (Rev. 19:11). Can't you walk in lowliness *now*, knowing someday you'll judge angels? If you are one of the many grace believers walking in spiritual pride, Paul is begging you to "get off your high horse" and *get on the donkey with the Lord!* And walk with all lowliness, and "meekness" (Eph. 4:2).

What's meekness? Well, the law of first mention says that the first occurrence of a Bible word often defines it, and such is the case here. Moses had to be meek (Num. 12:3) because his brother and sister resented *his*

high calling (v. 1,2)! Has that ever happened to you? One of *your* brethren in Christ resented *your* high calling? When you tell someone you are not under the law given by angels (Rom. 6:14,15; Heb. 2:2), that in Christ you are rather *above* angels, you are apt to hear: "Who do you think you are, that you don't have to obey the law?" If rather than reacting with anger you instead respond in meekness like Moses, it will go a long way toward winning that brother over to grace.

Like most people, Moses' brother and sister had more than one complaint! Unhappy about whom he married, they were also giving him grief about his personal life (Num. 12:1). Good thing that never happens to you. Yeah, right! But at such times if you'll show Moses-like meekness, it will go a long way toward winning people over from being your critic to being your friend.

But to do that, you are also going to need to be "longsuffering" (Eph. 4:2). You have to suffer long with all of those critics giving you grief. Perhaps you are thinking, "Pastor, you don't understand. My life is filled with *absolute jerks*! How long do I have to suffer them?" Well, the Lord suggested 490 times (Mt. 18:21,22), but how many of you think this means that the 491st time a brother offends you it is okay to *let him have it*! Is that how God treated you before you were saved, let you sin 490 times and then "lower the boom"? He was rather longsuffering with you, and this is how we should be toward others (Col. 3:12,13).

We must also be "*forbearing*" (Eph. 4:2). Here we'll once again let the Bible define itself. Speaking to unbelievers, Paul asks them if they despise God's "*forbearance*" (Rom. 2:4), i.e., the restraint He shows in not judging their sins when they so obviously deserve it. In this dispensation of grace, God is *holding back* His wrath, and in Ephesians 4:2, Paul says *we should too!*

Maybe you are thinking, "Why should I be forbearing, after what that jerk did to me?" Well, God was forbearing with the sins of men like Moses and David, knowing someday Christ would make "*propitiation*" for those sins (Rom. 3:25). With that in mind, can't you be forbearing with a brother who sins against you, knowing that propitiation for his sin *has already been made*? No matter what that brother did to you, it is a sin for which Christ died, and Isaiah says God is "*satisfied*" with Christ's payment for his sin (53:11). Are you? Or do you think he should be made to pay for his sin as well? What if God treated *you* that way, saying: "Yes, Christ paid for your sins, but I think you should have to pay for them too. A couple hundred years in Purgatory ought to cover it."

You ask, "But what am I supposed to do when a brother wrongs me, or cheats me out of something?" Well, if you want to be Pauline in *practice* as well as in *doctrine*, you'll *take the wrong*, and allow yourself to be defrauded (I Cor. 6:7), out of "*love*" for your brother (Eph. 4:2).

On 9/11, 19 terrorists showed they were willing to die for *hate*. That frightened us all—until we saw the rescuers who were willing to die for *love*. Now most of *us* will never be asked to show our love for others by saving them from a towering inferno. We must rather show our love in everyday ways—like “*forbearing one another in love*” (4:2). It is often harder to *live* for love than *die* for it, but that is the calling wherewith we are called.



Now if you'll do all the things Paul has mentioned in these first two verses, it will help you with an important endeavor. Paul says we should be “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3), and diligently following these graces will surely help you maintain unity with your brethren. And is that really too much to ask? Did you notice Paul isn't asking you to *make* unity with your brethren with the death of *your* son. He's just asking you to *keep* the unity that *God's Son* died to create.

But if it's *the Son* who died to make this unity, why is it called “the unity of the Spirit” (v. 3)? Surely because it is the unity the

Spirit made when He baptized us into Christ (I Cor. 12:13). It is interesting that Paul uses the word “baptized” to describe how we were placed into Christ, for baptism is a permanent thing. The Jews were baptized unto Moses when they crossed the Red Sea (I Cor. 10:1,2), but do you think God would have re-parted the waters to allow them to return to Egypt if they found they couldn't get along with one another? No, there was no getting out of the Promised Land! They had to learn to get along—and so do we! We have been baptized by the Spirit into Christ, and there is no getting out! We might as well learn to “live in peace” with each other (II Cor. 13:11).

What do we do instead? When we get angry with a brother, we storm out of the church. Try that on the space shuttle! Astronauts have to learn to live with their differences, *and so do we!* During World War II, Anne Frank's family had to learn to accept each other's idiosyncrasies, *and so do we*, if we want to keep the unity of the spirit “in the bond of peace.”

But what is this “bond of peace” that Paul says should exist between us (Eph. 4:3)? Well, let's compare it to the bond of peace that exists between you and God. Romans 5:1 says that being justified by faith “we have peace with God,” and there is nothing we can do to disturb that peace. There is a *bond* between you and God because of that peace, a bond that cannot be broken no matter how you offend Him. And that's the kind of “bond of peace” Paul says *should* exist between each



member of the Body, a bond that cannot be broken no matter how your brother offends you.

Next, while unity is important, Paul knows unity must be based on doctrine—so he proceeds to give us some!

### The Doctrine of a Worthy Walk

When Paul says there is “one body” (Eph. 4:4), he is speaking of course of the Body of Christ. If you can’t get along with other members of the Body, it’s not like there’s *another* Body of Christ you can go join!



But did you ever stop to wonder why Paul had to say this? Who doesn’t know there is only one body? Well, while there is only one body of believers *in the dispensation of grace*, there is more than one body of believers *in the Bible*. We sometimes wonder if “the body of Moses” (Jude 9) refers to Israel, God’s “body” of believers in time past. The *physical* body of Moses wasn’t worth fighting for, since no matter what Satan did with it, God could find and resurrect it. But *Israel* was worth fighting for, and Michael was Israel’s prince (Dan. 10:21). Whether Jude 9 refers to Israel or not, most grace

believers would agree that God has more than one body of believers in the Bible, but only one in the dispensation of grace.

But why does Paul bring this up in the context of unity? Well, if a member of the Body of Christ thought he was a member of the Body of Moses, do you think that might disrupt the unity of the Spirit? Believers who observe the Sabbath and try to keep the diet laws of Leviticus 11 generally do not enjoy fellowshiping with the likes of us. Our Seventh Day Adventist brethren believe that worshipping on Sunday is the mark of the beast, and that tends to disrupt our unity with them! There can be no unity among brethren unless we recognize we are part of the “one body” of Christ, the body of believers that is *not* under the law.

Next, why would Paul have to say there is “one Spirit” (Eph. 4:4)? Doesn’t everyone know there aren’t *two*? But if so, why did Paul have to warn the Corinthians about receiving “*another* Spirit” (II Cor. 11:3,4)? We believe it is because in other ages the Spirit *acted* like another Spirit.

Remember when Elisha worried that the Spirit might whisk Elijah away from him (I Kings 18:12)? Does that sound like anything the Spirit is doing today? “Honey, I was on my way to pick up the milk you sent me to get when the Spirit carried me whither I knew not.” Yeah, she’ll buy that! Or how about when the Spirit helped David write the Word of God (II Sam. 23:1,2). Now that the Bible is complete,

the Spirit is not acting that way either! Exodus 31:2,3 describes a man whom God filled with His Spirit to work “all manner of workmanship” to build the tabernacle. But if a man stands up *today* and announces, “The Spirit told me we should build Israel a temple,” *that’s another Spirit*, one he *didn’t* receive from Paul!

Today, countless Christians try to make the Spirit into the Spirit of Pentecost. But just as the Spirit is no longer leading men to write God’s Word or build tabernacles, He is no longer leading men to speak in tongues or empowering them to heal the sick. And anyone who claims He *is* doing these things is preaching another Spirit, something that can only disrupt the unity of the Spirit. Do Pentecostal brethren enjoy fellowshiping with you? Are you comfortable around them? Blame it on a failure to recognize that there is only “one Spirit” in the dispensation of grace.

Next, Paul says there is also only “one hope” (Eph. 4:4), the blessed hope of being raptured to heaven (Titus 2:13; I Thes. 4:17). You wouldn’t think Paul would have to say this either, but while there is only one hope *today*, there is more than one hope *in the Bible*. *Our* hope is to get raptured to heaven, but that is *not* Israel’s hope! After predicting the rise of some kings, Daniel foretold that God would set up a kingdom for Israel that would “consume all these kingdoms,” a kingdom that would “stand for ever” (Dan. 2:44). Stand forever *where*? Well, isn’t the word “consume” here God’s way

of saying that His kingdom will *replace* these earthly kingdoms and stand forever *on the earth*?

Beloved, the Jews never hoped to go to heaven, their hope was for God to bring heaven down here to earth. And thinking that *our* hope is *their* hope disrupts the unity of the Spirit! Here at *Berean Bible Society*, we often hear from people who write, “I learned the grace message, and now I have to leave my church! They keep confusing God’s heavenly hope for us with God’s earthly hope for Israel!” And if they have been vocal about what they believe, the pastor and his congregation are only too glad to see them go! There are two hopes *in the Bible*, but only “one hope” *today*, and a failure to recognize this disrupts the unity of the Spirit.

“...‘get off your  
high horse’  
and get on  
the donkey...”



But as we move on in this passage, what Christian doesn’t know there is only “one Lord” (Eph. 4:5), the Lord Jesus Christ? But if there is only one Lord, why did Paul have to warn the Corinthians about “another Jesus” (II Cor. 11:4)? Who is this *other* Lord? Well, if Paul had to say that there is only “one Spirit” to differentiate the Spirit of today from the Spirit of past dispensations, here he must be saying there is only “one

Lord” *today*, one that must be distinguished from the Lord Jesus of a past dispensation. E.g., the Lord who taught people they were under the Law (Mt. 23:1-3). The Lord of *this* dispensation taught through Paul that we are *not* under the Law (Rom. 6:14,15). The Lord of *this* dispensation taught that believers will be taken out of this world in the Rapture before the “wrath” of the Tribulation (I Thes. 1:10; 5:9), but the Lord of the past dispensation asked God *not* to take His followers out of the world (John 17:15). Preaching this other Jesus today *must* disrupt the unity of the Spirit, for Paul says we must avoid those that do (Rom. 16:17).


Is there more than “one faith” in the Bible (Eph. 4:5)? Yes, for the “great company of the priests” who were “obedient to *the faith*” in Acts 6:7 were not obedient to the faith of *this* dispensation, they were obedient to the gospel of Acts 2:38, the faith that says you have to be baptized to be saved (cf. Mark 1:4; 16:16), the faith that says you have to forgive others to be forgiven (Mt. 6:14,15 cf. Col. 3:13). When men preach that you must be baptized and forgive others to be saved in *this* dispensation, that’s another faith, “*another gospel*” (II Cor. 11:4). And when men preach another gospel today, they are accursed (Gal. 1:8,9), and there can be no unity of the Spirit with someone who is accursed.

Next, we don’t have to tell you why Paul has to say there is only “one baptism” (Eph. 4:5). As a grace believer, you know that while there are plenty of baptisms

*in the Bible*, there is only *one* baptism *today*, the baptism of I Corinthians 12:13. Any who preach *water* baptism are preaching *another baptism*, one that they did not receive from Paul (I Cor. 1:17). And there is certainly no unity of the Spirit between us and those who argue even among themselves how and why people should be baptized with water, and at what age.

### The Conclusion of a Worthy Walk

Finally, is there more than “one God and Father” in the Bible (Eph. 4:6)? You’d better hope there is, for in time past, God resolutely declared: “I am a father *to Israel*,” and as a Gentile, that leaves you orphaned! There is more than one Father *in the Bible*, but only “one God and Father” *today*, and thankfully He is the Father of “all,” *both* Jew and Gentile members of the Body of Christ.

Paul closes this passage by reminding us that this God and Father is “above all” (Eph. 4:6). Someday you may judge angels and reign with Christ above the host of heaven, but God will still be above you! The word “through” in Ephesians 4:6 means “from start to finish,” and describes how your salvation is all of God, leaving no place for spiritual pride. God is also “in you all” watching to see if you are walking worthy of your vocation, in all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love, and endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *Let’s not let Him down!* 



# Berean Bible Fellowship Fall Conference

**Theme:**  
*Creation Connection*

**Location:** *Community Bible Church*  
1427 W. Main Street, Tipp City, Ohio

**Dates:** October 8-9, 2010

*To further enhance and expand the truths presented in the conference, there will be a group trip to the nearby Creation Museum on Saturday, October 9th!*

**Guest Speakers:**

Dr. Edward Bedore, Pastor Ken Lawson, Pastor Dick Ware,  
Pastor Dan Wolgast, Pastor John Fredericksen

For brochures, directions, information or accommodations, contact:

Pastor Jeff Seekins at 937-667-2710 or [jjseekins@juno.com](mailto:jjseekins@juno.com) or  
Pastor Richard Ware at 870-941-6110 or [rrnware@aol.com](mailto:rrnware@aol.com)  
or visit [www.bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com](http://www.bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com)

## BBF Youth Conference

***For all teenagers and college age students!***

**Location:** *Community Bible Church—Tipp City, OH*

**Dates:** October 8-9, 2010

**Speakers/Leaders:** Pastor Kevin Sadler, Tim Schramm, Joel Seekins

***Sessions to help you defend your faith along with activities***

Youth conference will be running concurrently with the daytime schedule of the BBF conference, with all together for the evening meeting.

***FREE admission to the Creation Museum and planetarium  
for the first six students to commit to the Youth Conference!***

**Conference Bonus:** Sunday morning services on October 10th at *Community Bible Church* will feature Pastor Ricky Kurth.





# Fasting or Feasting?

By Steve Shober

*Biblical Fasting  
Cont'd*

## The Earthly Lord's Comments

Matthew 17:20-21 reads, “...**Because of your unbelief...Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**” The Lord said the apostles could not cast out certain demons because of their unbelief. Certain kinds of demons were apparently so powerful it took special faith to exorcise them. If a person fasted, with true sorrow and grief, and coupled that with sincere prayer, then their faith would enable them to do the exorcism. Exorcism is not an issue to be discussed here; suffice it to say it is not a gift of the Holy Spirit in operation today.<sup>1,2</sup> Today, some fast in accordance with this and similar passages, believing it shows true humility and faith. Such fasting is designed to appeal to God in a special way for answer to prayer. As sincere as a person may be, there is no biblical evidence that God will respond to such prayers any differently than if one did not fast.

## Paul's Epistles

There are eight verses related to fasting during Paul's ministry, and we know he himself fasted often (many were involuntary). All these verses were written during his early ministry (the last biblical references are: 2 Cor. 6:5, 11:27). Paul's later writings do not mention fasting, which may suggest it was passing from the scene. There is no God-given injunction to fast, or to refrain from fasting, in our age. The spiritual aspect of fasting has diminished, if not disappeared; it no longer influences God's attitude toward us.

It may be that some Christians sense something spiritually lacking in their life, so they search for an answer. Such senses are not

due to God's coolness or lack of concern. However, they could easily be the result of our lack of faith or our lack of closeness to Him. So, we must ask ourselves, how can a spiritual deficiency be benefited by our doing something? In fact, isn't doing something just the sort of legal approach we need to avoid? Instead of fasting, the grace-way would be to spend time pouring our heart out to God and feeding on the Word; these will, for sure, draw us closer to Him.

Romans 12:1 reads, **"...that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...."** Does this mean God wants

us to fast as a way of presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice? The best way to determine what these verses mean is to refer to other Pauline passages. The reader is asked to

read 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5, Romans 12, and Colossians 3:12-23. In these passages, the Lord used Paul to thoroughly and carefully present what His expectations are (called commands in 1 Thes. 4:2). In summary, these passages state that godly behavior relates to proper relationships, mercy, affection, humility, comfort, honesty, etc. There are no references to food or drink. Even in Romans 12, the very chapter where presenting ourselves as living sacrifices occurs, there is no indication the Lord was referring to the physical realm, but instead, to the realm of the mind and spirit.

"Fasting in the Age of Grace will not compel or even nudge God..."

## Blessings Today

### Heavenly Spiritual Blessings

Today we are **"...blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"** Ephesians 1:3. Our spiritual blessings derive and emanate from the Lord in Heaven. The believer has *all spiritual blessings in Heaven right now*. Those spiritual blessings are noted in Ephesians 1:4-2:22, i.e., chosen in him, holy and without blame, predestinated to the adoption of children, accepted in the beloved, redemption, forgiveness of sins, sealed with the Holy Spirit, etc. These are the most important, absolutely critical issues concerning our salvation and eternal life in Christ. These blessings establish our position (in Christ) and are essentials of the faith.

It is impossible to have more heavenly spiritual blessings than "all" and they are provided to us, by grace, the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ. No amount of fasting or works can procure more heavenly blessings. It is important to understand these blessings are immutable (will not change based upon our actions). Here is what the Bible says about the believer today:

- Each believer is *complete* (perfect, made full) in Christ (Col. 2:10); no amount of fasting can in any way add to the completeness we have in Christ.
- The *Holy Spirit is already within us* and hears and makes intercession for us (Rom. 8:26-27) according to the will of God. The Holy Spirit's ministry is not somehow enlivened, nor are prayers made more powerful, by our fasting.
- Fasting *will not draw Him closer* to us; He is within the believer now (far more intimate than when fasting under the Law).
- Afflicting our souls to seek a right way from Him only *denies the right way* He has clearly revealed in His Word. A demonstration of our sorrow through personal affliction seems to place our affliction above His (sacrificial death).

## Earthly Blessings

While we already have all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies now, there are *earthly blessings* (spiritual, soulish, and physical) that we may or may not have. Paul prayed for such earthly spiritual blessings: **"...do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding"** Colossians 1:9. It is important to recognizing these earthly blessings are the substance of many prayers, e.g., our prayer that a Church service may be uplifting or Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19. However, if these earthly blessings are influenced by fasting, it is because of a *change in us*, not Him. A change in us by:

1. drawing us closer to Him,
2. helping us to have a more receptive heart, and
3. cleansing our body (the temple of the Holy Spirit) of impurities.

In the Old Testament and Gospels, signs and demonstrative acts were in accordance with the *external position* of the Holy Spirit (on, or alongside the believer). They were consistent with the faith plus works format, when walking by faith plus sight was in effect. Under Grace, signs and acts are not in accordance with the *internal position* of the Holy Spirit (within the believer) nor the requirement of only faith. The indwelling Spirit works from the depths of our soul to produce His fruit and values in us; this is not an external, visible process.

Today, the Holy Spirit answers prayers according to God's will (Rom. 8:26-27). Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:37-39). He promises to supply all our needs (Phil. 4:19), and He assures us that He will see us through our darkest night (Phil 4:13). We won't influence His already established perfect plan of grace. What then can be gained? The answer is, a change in our hearts that draws us closer to Him. Fasting (with humility and prayer) may (or may not) help accomplish this change, but be sure the renewed mind of Romans 12:2 and Christ-likeness are the work of the Holy Spirit, not our actions.

It is clear in Scripture (Col. 3:10; 2 Cor. 4:16; Rom. 12:2) that any spiritual change within us is the work of the Holy Spirit, using the written Word. All that fasting can do is to help change our physical brain and the mental processes that are associated with it; accordingly, we may be able to think clearer or be better able to concentrate on the things of the Lord. Pious religious rituals of any sort, by themselves, will not draw us closer to God. However, when we pray (humbling ourselves in simplicity and godly sincerity, and placing spiritual things above our personal desires) our spirit is more tender toward the things of the Lord, as was Paul's in 2 Corinthians 1:12. For some, fasting may help them be more humble and sincere before God; if so, it is a matter of Christian liberty. Fasting will not impact the way God sees you, you are seen as complete in Christ already (if you believe in His death for your sin).

As believers, we still have a struggle with the old nature (our state/walk) and we get victory through the Holy Spirit and spiritual growth. No one can limit the various ways we are drawn closer to Him. Our liberty in Christ affords us opportunities to soak-up what Christ has done for us and to fill the hunger of our souls for a deeper walk with Him. As an example of liberty, the Lord can work in some hearts greatly through music, while some are hardly touched. Some are drawn to Him by the grandeur of His creation, some not so much so. No one can say whether it is more blessed to stand or sit when we sing, whether we should clap after a presentation, or whether we should fast. However, be sure, fasting does not make a person "someone special." It is only between you and the Lord (in the Old Testament fasting was often associated with outward signs and open displays of sorrow, by the time of Christ [Matt. 6:16-18] and unto this day, it is more personal, only between you and the Lord).



### Therapeutic Fasting

There are therapeutic reasons to fast, but there are some people (certain illnesses) that should not fast without supervision. Proper fasting is designed to cleanse the body and get rid of nonessential fat/tissue, all the while sparing essential tissue. Professional help is advised for any fast over a couple days or inadvertent harm may result. Reliable research indicates it is helpful for many diseases and it enhances healing.<sup>3</sup> However, fasting is not the only way to cleanse the body; it can often be done safely over a longer period by following a proper lifestyle and regulated diet. The goal should be to adopt a



lifestyle that does not load the body with impurities in the first place. Cleansing the body can also help with mental functions since they are related to the physical brain. However, any change in our spiritual condition is the result of what happens in our mind and heart, not in His. We can change our perspective and health, but we cannot endear Him to us any more than He is already.

Since our body and mind are damaged by toxins, those toxins can be considered things which defile our body (temple of the Holy Ghost). A natural consequence of such defilement is sickness, resulting from the natural laws God has put into His creation. These toxins can be removed through fasting, and that could help clear mental problems, reduce negative emotions, and improve our physical health. Each of these changes us, so that we may appreciate our Lord more, thereby improving our desire for Him and enabling us to better serve Him. Thus, we may derive earthly blessing and glorify God in our body as we cleanse the temple of the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor. 6:19-20.

## Conclusion


Fasting in the Age of Grace will not compel or even nudge God to change His mind or bless us any differently than He already has. Since the Holy Spirit is within us, He already knows our spirit, our sincerity, and our deepest thoughts. As believers, we can rejoice in the fact we have all the heavenly spiritual blessings possible and He already answers prayer according to His perfect will. It is common for us all to be overwhelmed with our problems, concerns, feelings of inadequacy, or a desire to do more for Him. When we get these feelings we need to recall that cessation of eating is a minor thing considering all He has done for us.

There is no biblical injunction to fast or not to fast in the Age of Grace; we have liberty in this area. Our liberty should be informed, so that our expectations are in accordance with the Word (so we do not have unscriptural expectations). This liberty should not be judged by others. It would seem Colossians 3:23 applies to fasting, **“And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men....”** From an earthly perspective, therapeutic fasting may be good for our physical and mental health, but it will not change God’s attitude toward us. It may change us, and that may enhance our worship of Him. To be perfectly clear, fasting will not change us spiritually; all it can do, at best, is to foster better health which may allow us to walk more closely with our Lord.

Recall the opening question, can Divine favor and peace from God be affected by our actions? **No, the grace and peace from God are immutable (unchangeable).** Our actions can change us and draw us closer to Him, but His blessings toward us remain steadfast. His grace and peace are entirely dependent upon His predetermined plans

for our dispensation. His message continues to be one of grace and peace; this cannot be improved upon or influenced one iota by something as non-spiritual as food.

For many there is a sad truth, and that is that one anecdotal testimony from someone's "fasting experience" will overshadow what God has to say in His Word. Rather than relying on someone's experience, our faith must rest in Christ (and the instructions from His written Word, rightly divided) wherein we are complete (perfect). We can thank the Lord that because of Calvary our life is secure in Christ, and that security does not depend upon our feeble efforts or attempts to appeal to God—only upon His faithfulness.

As we examine our own heart, if we feel complacent or disconnected, have a prayer life that is dry and laborious, or feel we are far from Him; then we must consider this feeling may be the result of us having moved away from Him. Perhaps, when we get such feelings, it is needful to read and put into practice 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5, Romans 12, and Colossians 3:12-23. These Scriptures will draw us to Him and ground us in the love, assurance, and unfailing mercies of the Savior. Then, we can all confidently say from experience that when we feel far from the Lord, **it is better to feast on the Word than to fast from food.** 

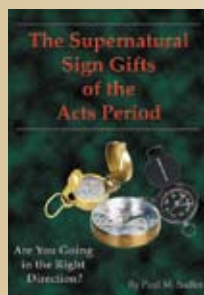
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Steve Shober is a Naturopath (natural health practitioner), director of our *Growing Up In Grace* Sunday School program, and a member of the BBS Board of Directors.

## SUPERNATURAL SIGN GIFTS OF THE ACTS PERIOD

By Paul M. Sadler



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The following Sunday School lesson is from the newly released Middle School Book 2 *Christ in My Life*. To order, call 262-255-4750 or visit [www.growingupingrace.com](http://www.growingupingrace.com).



Key Verse: **Philippians 2:15**

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

## LESSON 24

# IN THE WORLD **NOT** **OF THE WORLD**

By Lori Gardner

**Lesson Theme:** God's guidelines for overcoming the world's influences

### ENGAGE

We know that the Lord created this world in six days, and when He was finished He said that it was "very good" (Gen. 1:31). Then in 1 John 2:15 it says that we are not to love this world or the things in it. What does that mean?

## ENLIGHTEN

### Introduction

God created a wonderful and perfect world for us to live in, but it didn't stay that way for long. When given the choice, man chose to sin. With that sin came serious consequences. The earth was cursed, and our world began to grow more and more corrupt. That's why the Bible tells us in 1 John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." There are actually a couple of different words that the Scriptures use for the word "world." In this instance we are talking about the evil world system. It is society's values, opinions, and attractions that

completely oppose the Lord Jesus Christ and glorify all that is contrary to His Word. Who do you think is the leader of this system? Satan is, of course. He is the god of this world, and this should put us on full alert (2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 6:12).

There are three specific areas that Satan uses to keep us from living lives that honor God: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). We need to be aware of this because these things are so appealing to our sinful nature. If we are not careful, we can allow the Devil's worldly influences to slowly become such a part of our lives that they take the place of the Lord in our hearts and end up controlling our thoughts, desires, and actions.

## The Lust of the Flesh

The first area of concern listed in our verse is the lust of the flesh. This has to do with our physical bodies. This is when the things of this world excite our senses in ways that are not pleasing to God. It includes things like sex, drugs, or even food. These things are not necessarily bad, but they can all be used in the wrong way. God created sex and meant it to be a wonderful experience between a man and a woman within the bond of marriage. He has given man the knowledge to create life-saving drugs to keep us healthy, and has given us a variety of good food so we may have the energy to live. However, when we desire to use these things in a way that is contrary to His Word, and we let those desires control us, we are giving in to the lust of the flesh.

The flesh is never satisfied, and can lead us to be obsessed about finding more and more ways to fulfill its lust. The constant search for the next “fix” leads to a miserable life and a ruined testimony. Galatians 5:19 gives us a list of the works of the flesh. They are adultery, fornication, uncleanness and lasciviousness, among other things. These are not words we hear very much, but they are simple to understand; anything that is immoral, filthy, indecent, and excessive in God’s eyes. Today we are taught that being obsessed and addicted to these things is a disease. It’s actually just a product of living a selfish, sinful life, and allowing the flesh to be in control. The Bible plainly tells us that these things are wrong when it says, “...they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom. 8:8). Then it

says in Galatians 5:16, “...Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Every believer has the Holy Spirit living inside of them. Through Him, we have the power to overcome the desires of the flesh.

### Discussion

#### How can we “walk in the Spirit?”

(Feed our spirit with the Word of God, study, pray, fellowship with dedicated, like-minded believers, stay away from anything that feeds the flesh).

## The Lust of the Eyes

The second area of trouble for us is the lust of the eyes. This is exactly what it sounds like. It refers to the things that we see. It is longing for things that look good to us. The Bible also calls this covetousness. It involves materialism and envy. Our world bombards us with images of things that are appealing, and they influence our thoughts and desires. For example, have you ever seen a TV commercial and felt you just *had* to have what was being advertised? Have you ever thought that if you could make yourself look more like your favorite actor or actress that you would be more satisfied? Do you ever feel like you just can’t be truly happy until you get what your friends have? It might be the latest cell phone, the cutest book bag, or the best looking girlfriend or boyfriend at school. These are all things that appeal to the lust of the eyes. We see them and we want them. In fact, we want them *now*!

The thing we have to remember is that every single image we look at goes into our brains, and whether



we realize it or not, stays there. The things that we see become a part of who we are and what we desire. So if we look at things that are inappropriate, we come away with the desire to go against God's will. That means we need to think seriously about everything we set our eyes upon.

Many young men are very tempted to look at pornography. It may start with just a curious look at an inappropriate picture in a magazine or on the internet, but it can quickly develop into a life-long obsession. There are many adult men that struggle with this addiction every day, and they can trace it back to when they were young. Many marriages, families, and churches have been torn apart because of their inability to control their lust.



Even websites like MySpace and Facebook need to be carefully monitored. These can be great tools for staying in touch with family and friends, but these websites can have a lot of inappropriate ads and suggestive interaction between people. It is also easy to share too much information about our own personal lives. We may not know the people who look at our profiles

as much as we think we do. Ask yourself, "Would my parents or teachers approve of the things I'm seeing?" More importantly, "Would this activity be pleasing and honoring to the Lord?" If you would be ashamed to include everyone, then it is not appropriate for anyone.

### The Pride of Life

The third way the world influences us is with the pride of life. That's when we crave glory and honor for ourselves instead of for God. When we want people to notice the way we look, the things we have accomplished, or the things we have, that's pride. We see it in the person who has to top every story they hear with a bigger, better, and more sensational tale. It can also be when we stubbornly insist that our way is best. God's Word tells us that pride is an abomination to the Lord (Prov. 16:5). That means it is thoroughly disgusting to Him. Unfortunately, pride is a selfish trait that we have all inherited from our ancestor, Adam.

Everyone wants to be special and important in the eyes of others. We sometimes forget that it is only God's opinion that counts for eternity. If you are good looking, who made you that way? Sure, make-up, the right clothes, and a good hairstyle will help you, but you are only enhancing the genes God gave you. If you are smart, who gave you a brain that is capable of studying? Who allowed you to have good teachers and access to information? If you have talent, who is it that gave you the ability to train and nurture it? Who is it that blesses you with money and possessions? God

is the one that deserves the credit. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).



The Apostle Paul wrote, “He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (1 Cor. 1:31). He was an apostle that could have boasted about himself a lot. He was born a Roman citizen, from a prominent Hebrew family, well educated, and considered blameless concerning the keeping of the Law of Moses. However, he counted all those things as mere refuse or garbage when compared to the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:4-9). He could have bragged about how much he suffered for the cause of Christ, too. He had been in prison, been beaten with whips and rods, been stoned, shipwrecked, as well as been hungry, thirsty, cold, and in danger countless times (2 Cor. 11:23-27). He could have said, “Look at me; I have suffered more than anyone because I am so important to the Lord’s work.” Instead, he endured it all, knowing he was nothing apart

from the Lord Jesus Christ. He learned to be content in whatever state he was in (Phil. 4:11).

Those who love the world and the things in it have put their trust in things that have no lasting value. This world and the lust of it will one day pass away (1 John 2:17). We are to seek those things which are above, and we are not to set our affection on the things of this earth (Col. 3:1-2); after all it is just a temporary dwelling place for us. Our real home is in Heaven (Phil. 3:20). While we are here we cannot completely cut ourselves off from the influences of this world, but we can stay alert. Know the Enemy and the subtle way in which he works. Study God’s Word; know what will please Him and what will not. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide every decision that you make, and yield to Him as He leads you through life. Romans 12:2 says, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

### Discussion

**Can you name someone from the Bible that struggled with lust? What were the consequences of giving in to that lust?**

(Adam and Eve lusted for wisdom, to be like God, and sin came upon all mankind; David lusted for Bathsheba, which resulted in the death of her husband, the death of a baby, and terrible guilt; Judas lusted for money, which resulted in Jesus’ betrayal, etc.).

# ENERGIZE

## Summary

The world in which we live is an evil system that glorifies everything that is contrary to God's Word. It influences us in three specific ways: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The Bible tells believers that even though we live in this world, we are to keep ourselves separated from it (2 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 12:2). We should seek to live a pure life as a testimony to the One who gave Himself for us. We need to keep that in mind when making all of our decisions. When we choose our friends, we should choose those that have the common bond of living for the Lord. That is also true when we start dating. We should carefully choose the kind of person that seeks to honor God in every part of his or her life. We should strive to make sure that everything we see, hear, or participate in, is in obedience to God's Word.

## Application

How do you keep from being tempted by all that the world has to offer? First, know God's Word. It tells us what is right and what is wrong. Second, monitor your activities. If you know that the TV show or movie you are watching is inappropriate, turn it off. Don't listen to music with suggestive lyrics, or read the wrong kind of books and magazines. Stay away from websites and chat rooms that do not honor the Lord. Separate yourself from friends that do not glorify God. Above all, seek the Lord's will in every activity in which you participate. Remember that the flesh is

weak, easily tempted, and it is never satisfied. Pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen with might your inner man, and you will be rewarded for your sacrifices (Eph. 3:16; 6:8).

## Gospel

Do you want to live in a place where you never have to worry about evil, and worldly influences? Heaven is that place, and the Lord Jesus Christ has made that possible. He came to this earth, suffered, and died for all of your sins. He has already done all the work in order to make you righteous. If you put your trust in Him today the Holy Spirit will lead and guide you in this life, and you will be guaranteed a continued citizenship in Heaven for eternity.


## Encouragement

It is not always easy being a teenager. You are learning to make choices apart from your parents, and you are surrounded by an evil world system that is constantly trying to influence you to go against



God's will. First Timothy 4:12 says that even though you are young, you are to be an example in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity. Be warned though, when you take

a stand for the Lord, there will be opposition. The world does not understand the things of God or the people who love Him. Even though others may make fun of you and may even try to avoid you, always remember, God knows your struggles. He knows how difficult making the right choices can be. He provides us with wisdom and

guidance through His Word and through the working of the Holy Spirit. Young people like you have a tremendous impact on the world when they choose to follow the Lord. You never know who might be influenced to become a believer because of your example. Stay strong in the Lord and you will be blessed (Eph. 3:7,20; 6:10). 

## Question Box

*“And that He might reconcile both unto God in one Body by the Cross, having slain the enmity thereby’ (Eph. 2:16). This one verse alone refutes an Acts 2, 9, 13, 18 or 28 position—from a Pauline prison epistle no less. How would you address this insurmountable problem?”*

Your statement seems to imply that you believe the Church, the Body of Christ began at the Cross. However, this particular passage is *not* stating **when** God reconciled us, but **how** He accomplished it. It was not until after the conversion of Paul that we learn that both Jews and Gentiles are now reconciled to God by the Cross, thus forming the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13). While the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ were revealed as a fact in time past, Paul was the *first* to present them as *good news*. Furthermore, he was the first to proclaim them as the terms of salvation for Jews and Gentiles in this dispensation. Two passages in Paul’s epistles confirm the above:

**“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved....For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle...”** (I Tim. 2:3-7).

**“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received [from the Lord by special revelation], how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”** (I Cor. 15:3,4).

—Pastor Sadler

# Berean Bible Institute Fall Bible Conference



**Location:** *Berean Bible Institute*  
116 Kettle Moraine Drive S., Slinger, Wisconsin

**Dates:** October 1-2, 2010

**Theme:** *"Thinking Through the Bible"*

**Guest Speakers:**

Pastor Ken Lyon, David Brown,  
Dr. Robert Nix, Pastor Andy Kern,  
Pastor Kevin Sadler, Dr. W. Edward Bedore

For brochures, directions, or more information, contact the Berean Bible Institute at 262-644-5504, email: [bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org), or visit the BBI website at: [www.bereanbibleinstitute.org](http://www.bereanbibleinstitute.org).

## Little Rock Bible Conference



**Location:** *La Quinta Inn and Suites*  
617 S. Broadway, Little Rock, Arkansas

**Dates:** October 16-17, 2010

**Guest Speaker:** Pastor Les Feldick, *Les Feldick Ministries*

*For discounted rates at La Quinta Inn and Suites,  
mention the Central Grace Fellowship conference*

For additional information, please contact:

Pastor Richard Ware (870) 941-6110, Ruth Ware (870) 917-9362  
or email: [rnrware@aol.com](mailto:rnrware@aol.com)





## BBS Letter Excerpts

### From our Inbox:

"I am enjoying these *Two Minutes* a day with you! I had heard of people who followed the teachings of Paul as their main line of theology, but I had not really read anything in regards to that. Much of what you believe, I also believe."

### From our Inbox:

"I have been studying the dispensational approach and rightly dividing the Scripture for some time now. It does seem to make everything fit and explains what can appear as contradictory."

### From Tennessee:

"I am requesting a subscription to the *Berean Searchlight*. Through my fellow co-worker, I have become interested in your ability to focus on the Scriptures and break it into understandable context for me to absorb in a way that I can use and help me to learn God's Word to be a more humble and obedient Christian to Him and others."

### From Florida:

"I want to thank you for your ministry, because you have helped me understand the dispensation of grace more clearly. I used to be under constant feelings of hopelessness, condemnation, guilt and depression because I was following legalist teachings by teachers who did not rightly divide. It is sad that so many young believers like myself have been misled by those who teach error."

### From our Inbox:

"I want to thank you for the solid encouragement and instruction you gave me at a time when I was seriously troubled in my mind over past sins that somehow had been brought forward, and had a convicting effect that shook me to the soles of my feet, as it were. I am very thankful to the Lord Jesus Christ, that He is faithful and has 'restored' me from that low point."

### From Florida:

"I was just reading your words again 'From the President's Desk' in June, and I can sense 'the peace of God' flow from your heart, from which I draw strength to endure the little trials I am going through."

### From our Inbox:

"Just want to thank you for answering a question for me. I asked you about the body when you die... *The Measure of the Ministry*—what a study! You make the Bible clear when we study Paul. How it blesses our hearts. Thank you in Christ Jesus!"

### From India:

"I do not know how to express my heartfelt gratitude for being able to attend the conference at Cedar Lake. It was wonderful to meet and fellowship with you. I am going to teach our people dispensational truths rightly dividing the Word...I shall continue to read the books received from there." (It was great to meet you, Brother!—Ed).

### From our Inbox:

"Thank you, Russ. Your June 28th Two Minutes message was clear and concise. Paul and Timothy would have 'amened' it, as would our Lord who gave it to us all to proclaim."

### From Tennessee:

"I have just finished reading John Fredericksen's book *Growing in God's Grace*...I enjoyed this book very much, as it so profoundly reinforced the concepts of rightly dividing and all the truths that spring from this. I am 72 years old and have been a Southern Baptist all my life. Over the last couple of years, I have been introduced to many things in grace theology that have literally overwhelmed me and caused me to see things I never saw before. I loved the book!"

### From the Philippines:

"Thank you for that answer, it helps me to consider many verses." (The answer to Bible questions is found in comparing Scripture with Scripture! [I Cor. 2:13; II Pet. 1:20].—Ed).

### From Texas:

"*The Measure of the Ministry* greatly blessed me and brought me to my knees many times as I consider God's call on my life to preach the gospel, and minister reconciliation to all God brings me in touch with. If you could share this with Ricky or tell him how much of a blessing and how convicting his articles are to me and how much our God spoke to me through them, I'd greatly appreciate it."

### From our Inbox:

"I love the lessons in *Growing Up in Grace*, and hopefully my kids are learning a lot about the love of Christ and how He is working today."

### From Michigan:

"Oh, I am so thankful for your explanation...It makes some other things so clear, too...that is also very enlightening to me, who has been part of the grace movement since 1975. I am very comfortable with it."

### From Arizona:

"Thanks again, Pastor Sadler, for the fruitful and rewarding Bible Conference at *West Valley Grace Fellowship*. We were truly blessed by your proclamation of the Word of Truth, rightly divided."

### From Florida:

"Your article *Mind Your Magistrates* was a good one. You see, the last month or so...I have been religiously listening to all the conservative talk radio programs and neglecting my personal devotions to God's Word... Thank you for bringing me through yet another one of Satan's schemes to lure me away from the Word."

### From Ireland:

"I am interested in purchasing gospel tracts from your web site, but there is no way of finding out the content of the tracts, i.e., the gospel of Paul. Could you post me one of each so I can make a choice? Many here are Catholics, so I would rather give them a clear gospel message from the Scriptures." (While all our tracts are dispensationally correct, we have now posted their content on our web site.—Ed).

### From Nebraska:

"Thank you for always sending me the *Searchlight*, even when I couldn't contribute. It has been a real blessing. I've learned much from it. I have some questions for you...."



"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

# Buckeye State Meetings

*Sunday, October 24, 2010*



**Location:** *Grace Bible Church*  
120 Woodbine St., East Liverpool, Ohio

**Guest Speaker:** Ricky Kurth, Berean Bible Society

For more information, please contact: Pastor Tom Schneidmiller  
at: Church (330) 385-3777 or Home (330) 368-0134.

## October Bible Conferences

### Central Indiana Regional Bible Conference

**Date:** Saturday, October 30, 2010

**Location:** *Das Dutchman Essenhaus Conference Center*  
240 US Hwy. 20, Middlebury, Indiana

**Guest Speakers:**

Ricky Kurth, *Berean Bible Society*  
Joel McGarvey, *Bible Doctrines To Live By*

For more information or to receive a brochure, contact:

Mike Karnes at 317-984-4799 or [r.karnes@insight.com](mailto:r.karnes@insight.com)  
Jerry Sterchi at 219-326-8705 or [jerry1391@earthlink.net](mailto:jerry1391@earthlink.net)

# Back to School Special

Time to study how Paul had to send the Corinthians  
back to school to learn to deny ungodliness by grace!

## I Corinthians

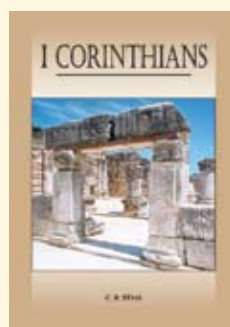
By C. R. Stam

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# News and Announcements

**Better Now than Later:** If you plan to attend our November 5-6 *Iowa Regional Conference* that will feature Les Feldick and Paul M. Sadler, you may want to make your reservation *today*. The nearby Iowa/Nebraska football game that weekend will snap up motel reservations for miles around, as Ric Jennings will confirm when you contact him for further information: (515) 964-2407, [riccardj@msn.com](mailto:riccardj@msn.com).

**Words from the Webmaster:** Pastor Richard Church reports that our BBS site had more pageviews in June than in any month since he began keeping records five years ago! He credits the promotion that our Facebook page brings to our site, and we thank God that more and more people are spending more time studying God's Word rightly divided.

**Colossians is Here!** Our online MP3 audio studies in Galatians, Philippians and I John have now been joined by postings of your editor's exposition of *Colossians*. If you like to study the Bible verse by verse, you're sure to enjoy this year-long, in-depth consideration of *Colossians*, recorded at Faith Bible Church of Steger, Illinois. You may live a long way from your editor's home church, but you can still get in on the blessing!

**West Virginia Fall Bible Conference:** Come November 13, *Berean Bible Society's* own Pastor Kevin Sadler will join Pastor Dennis Kiszonas from *Grace for Today* ministries in a Bible conference that is sure to be "almost heaven." Don't put off contacting Jim Miller (304-671-1458, [jmiller4181@gmail.com](mailto:jmiller4181@gmail.com)) for further information about this conference he has scheduled at the *Holiday Inn* in Martinsburg.

**Pastor Sadler:** Strength does not permit him to answer all who have written to express their love and concern for him, but he sends his heartfelt thanks to everyone for their thoughtfulness and prayers.

**Our cover this month** features a photo taken by Ken and Barb Wardius, a couple who travel extensively in search of unique photo opportunities. You can view some of their impressive gallery of photographs and e-mail them with any questions at their website: [www.crestwoodcreek.com](http://www.crestwoodcreek.com).



The cover lighthouse photo is of *Forty Mile Point Light*, located in Rogers Township, MI. The light does not mark any significant harbor or river mouth, and with no river or harbor to use for a name, it is named on the basis that it is 40 miles sailing distance from Mackinaw Point.



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