

# The Berean Searchlight

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

October 2004



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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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# A Tribute to Two Stalwarts of the Faith

By Paul M. Sadler

One by one death is claiming the old guard in the Grace Movement. These champions of the faith stood alongside O'Hair, Bultema, Baker, and Stam as they courageously fought the good fight of the faith. We are the grateful recipients of their sacrifices and now bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of grace they have handed down to us (II Tim. 2:1-3).

On April 16th our dear Brother Dan Bultema was ushered into the presence of our Savior at the age of 86. Dan was a very gracious man who loved the Lord and truly had a heart for lost souls. In addition to his many responsibilities at *Grace Ministries International* through the years, he was responsible for having his father's (Harry Bultema) commentaries translated from Dutch into English. Many of these works are still available through *Grace Publications* at [www.grace-publications.com](http://www.grace-publications.com) or from *Berean Bible Society*. It is our sincere prayer that God will comfort Brother Bultema's family and extended family at GMI with the full assurance of our blessed hope.

On August 15th our dear friend Tom Drefhall was unexpectedly called home to be with the Lord at the age of 60. The Drefhall family is well known here in the Midwest for faithfully sharing the truth of Paul's gospel. Until her home-going, Brother Tom's mother, Mabel, wrote us an encouraging note every month to *stand fast in the liberty wherein Christ has made us free*. Some years ago Tom and his family moved south where he was instrumental, along with Patsy Davenport and Robert Powell, in establishing a *Grace Bible Study* in Goodlettsville, Tennessee, just outside of Nashville. As strength permitted, Brother Tom was still teaching the Word every Sunday evening until his promotion to glory. Tom was a "gentle giant" who will be deeply missed by his dear wife, Jan, and those who had the privilege of sitting under his ministry.

As we see the ranks thinning, it is such a blessing to witness the Lord raising up young couples around the country who are genuinely dedicated to the gospel of the grace of God. Pray along with us that these new recruits will have the boldness to step forward to fill the existing vacancies on the frontlines.

***"Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of His saints."***

# Berean Bible Fellowship Announcement

Although *Berean Bible Society* and *Berean Bible Fellowship* share a similar name, we are two separate and distinct organizations. However, because we also share similar doctrinal convictions, we are pleased to promote the *Berean Bible Fellowship* in the pages of the *Searchlight*. The following is a message from the president of BBF:

## We Praise the Lord for a Good Conference!

By Pastor Floyd Baker

The *36th Annual Bible Conference* of the *Berean Bible Fellowship* is now past, but we pray that the blessings will continue on in the hearts and lives of all who were able to attend, and all who will receive the audio and video tapes. By the time you read this the Fall Bible Conference will also be over, and the committee for next year's June conference will be active in putting together the conference program. We do covet your prayers as this ministry continues for the honor and the glory of the Lord.

### The officers of the BBF Board for the coming year are:

Floyd Baker, *President*

Dick Ware, *Vice President*

John Fredericksen, *Secretary*

Jim Wade, *Treasurer*

David Brown, *Financial Secretary*

*Others on the board include:*

Dennis Kiszonas and David Siegmann

### We have a new Post Office Box:

Berean Bible Fellowship

P.O. Box 6334

Evansville, Indiana 47719-0334

We will be sending out *BBF News and Notes* in the future to those who are on our mailing list, so if you would like to be included, just let us know. You can send a card or letter to the above address, or e-mail us at: [bakerpastorf@aol.com](mailto:bakerpastorf@aol.com).

Thanks so much for your prayers and encouragement for the *Berean Bible Fellowship*.



# Studies in the Book of Revelation

## Revelation 20:11-15

By Paul M. Sadler

**“And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.” —Rev. 20:11**

The *New York Times* recently published an article entitled: *New Data on 2 Doomsday Ideas, Big Rip vs. Big Crunch*. According to cosmologists, there is an unseen energy force that is gradually pushing the universe apart. If this antigravity force continues to expand, in thirty billion years or so, they theorize it could cause a cataclysmic event wherein our planetary system would be hurled into oblivion. This is known as the “Big Rip.” If perchance this energy force should weaken, the universe would collapse in on itself. This version of the ultimate demise of the cosmos is called the “Big Crunch.”

Have you ever noticed that unbelieving evolutionists, geologists, and cosmologists always speak in terms of billions of years? That’s billions with a “B.” In regard to the origin of the universe, many of these intellectuals claim the “Big Bang” theory is a plausible explanation of how all things came into existence in the dateless past. Now they tell us that the termination of all things will

probably take place in about 30 billion years with a “Big Rip.” Both of these theories are an attempt to explain the complexities of the universe apart from God. Paul said of those of his day that they “changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature [creation] more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever” (Rom. 1:25). The only reliable source to understand the origin and consummation of all things is the Word of the One who created all things.

According to the Scriptures, the day of the Lord will come to a close with the heavens and earth being purged with fire. The foundation of these realms will abide forever. God is simply going to bring forth a *new* order out of the inferno that is more suitable for eternity (Psa. 104:5 cf. II Pet. 3:10-13). We believe this is also the sense of John’s words, “And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.” The present heavens and earth that have been spoiled due to sin will flee from the presence of the One who sits on the throne. There is no acceptable place for a cursed universe in eternity.



Creation as we know it will be gloriously restored to a perfect state in which righteousness will reign.

## THE WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

**“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Rev. 20:12).**

Nothing could have prepared the Apostle John for this incredible revelation of the last judgment. With the heavens and earth ablaze, John’s attention is drawn to a Great White Throne. His observation of the throne being “great” has not so much to do with its size as to the extent of its jurisdiction. Looking back the corridor of time, all unbelievers of every age will be summoned before God—both small and great. Those that appear at this judgment have died in their sins; consequently they are already condemned (John 3:18). The Great White Throne is merely the sentencing phase of the proceedings.

The one John sees sitting here on the throne is the Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father has delivered all judgment into the hands of His dear Son (John 5:22,25-27). The judge of all the earth is not some far away deity who is unable to relate to the human plight. Christ stepped across the stars into this world of iniquity to die for the sins of the world. As the Son of Man, He took on the form of a servant and came in the likeness of sinful flesh, yet without

sin. He identified Himself with the human family, which explains Isaiah’s statement that He was “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” Christ is the *perfect* judge because He is wholly God and wholly man!

With this in mind, Paul warned the Athenians of the judgment to come with these words: “He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained” (Acts 17:31). In this life, oftentimes corruption, social status and wealth influence the outcome of the decision in a court of law. Justice is not always served due to dishonesty or lack of evidence. This will not be the case at the Great White Throne—Christ will judge the world in *righteousness* and expose the secrets of men. Those who defiantly denied Christ’s existence, those who rejected His gracious offer of salvation, and those that blasphemed His holy name will one day stand before the righteous judge of the earth. The unsaved may deny Him in life, but they will acknowledge Him at the judgment to come. Paul says of this event:

**“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9-11).**

The believer most gladly confesses that Christ Jesus is Lord. But there is a day coming when every *unbeliever* will acknowledge

Him as Lord as well. Whether the unsaved are “on earth” or summoned from “under the earth” in *hades*, every last one will bow the knee and confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Theologically this is called universal subjugation. Then the books are opened and the unsaved dead will be judged according to their works.

### THE BOOK OF BOOKS

**“And the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Rev. 20:12).**

We believe there are *three* sets of books made reference to here by the Apostle John. The statement “the books were opened” includes the 66 Books of the Bible and the books that record the deeds of the unsaved. The third book that is opened is the book of life.

According to the Apostle Paul, “God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel” (Rom. 2:16). Here we learn that the written Word of God will play a prominent role in the sentencing phase of those who reject the gospel. But in what sense is the unbeliever judged according to Paul’s gospel, especially since many in the sea of humanity standing before God lived prior to the administration of Grace? How can they be held responsible for a revelation that they never heard? Simple! The answer lies in the mystery of the gospel. The secret of the gospel,

which is Calvary, was first revealed to Paul. At God’s appointed time it was made known in Paul’s epistles that Christ died for the sins of the world—past, present and future. This is the foundation of all of God’s good news down through the ages and the ages to come.

For example: in time past, when God required water baptism for the remission of sins, those who believed God and were baptized were saved (Mark 16:16). But all the oceans of water in the world could never wash away one sin! If water baptism could not cleanse them from their sins, then why did God require them to submit to a ceremony that had no saving value, and then accept them for practicing it? The same could be said of the sacrificial system (Heb. 9:10 cf. 10:4). Pastor Stam gives this insightful response:

“The answer is that Christ was to die for sin and that on *this basis* God could justly accept those who approached Him in the way that He had prescribed....Thus, the judgment of the Great White Throne will be presided over *by the One who died for our sins* and will proceed on the basis of the good news proclaimed by Paul, that through the death of Christ for sin, salvation is, and always has been essentially by grace, through faith; that never in any age has salvation been denied to one person who has taken God at His Word and has approached Him by faith the way that *He* prescribed.”<sup>11</sup>

The Books of the Bible reveal the mind and will of God in each dispensation; therefore, they will serve as the final authority in the

sentencing of the unsaved. For example, those who lived under the law will be judged by the law (Rom. 2:12). Since both the saved and unsaved failed miserably under the Mosaic system, the issue for the unbelieving will not be if they consistently kept every detail of the law, but did they respond to God in *faith*. The piercing gaze of the One who sits on the throne will bring to light that they blatantly rejected the counsel of God and went about to establish their own righteousness. The self-righteous ways of those who lived under this system will ultimately condemn them and demonstrate their lack of faith.

**“And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Rev. 20:12).**

Interestingly, all of the future judgments of God are a review of *works*. For the believer, our rewards, crowns, and reigning position with Christ will be determined by our conduct and good works after we were saved. The works of the unbeliever will be reviewed as well to ascertain the *degree of punishment* they will endure throughout eternity in the lake of fire. Nothing has escaped the all-seeing eye of Almighty God. In preparation of that day, a meticulous *record* is being kept of the unrighteous acts of the unsaved.

Seeing that unbelievers are judged according to their works, some evil deeds will carry a greater penalty than others. The same is true in the affairs of men. A man who steals from his employer is likely to be placed on probation and have to pay restitution, while

a man who commits an armed robbery at a bank is given prison time. The penalty always matches the violation, or at least this is the intent of the law. In God’s court of justice perfect retribution will be paid. “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord!” The atrocities of evil men and the corrupt influences that remained after their death will be carefully weighed out on the scales of God’s justice and they will suffer the degree of punishment that is equal to their sins.



**“And the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life” (Rev. 20:12).**

The subject of the “book of life” has suffered greatly at the hands of well-meaning Bible teachers. The traditional interpretation goes something like this: when a sinner trusts Christ as his personal Savior the angels in heaven write his name in the book of life and seal it there with the blood of Christ. But does this interpretation pass the Berean test? We believe just the opposite is true. Clearly the Scriptures teach that from the foundation of the world every name has been recorded in the book of life. God has made reservations for all! When the



enemies of David sought to trouble him, he lifted his voice to God with these words:

**“Add iniquity unto their iniquity; and let them not come into Thy righteousness. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous” (Psa. 69:27,28).**

David was so perplexed over the actions of the unrighteous who were hindering the plans and purposes of God that he prayed God would blot them out of the book of life and not allow their names to be written alongside of the righteous. Obviously the names of the unrighteous appear in the book for there to be the possibility to blot them out. Once again, God has made a provision for all to be saved on the basis of the shed blood of Christ, but only those who believe the gospel in whatever age they lived will receive the benefit of His once-for-all sacrifice.

If a sinner dies in his sins having rejected the three witnesses of God: creation, conscience, and the Word of God, his name is blotted out of the book of the living. This will serve as a testimony against the unsaved because their names will not be found in the book of life at that day. Those who are cast into the lake of fire will be haunted for eternity by that *blank space* where their name once appeared. If only I had believed!!! Beloved, have we faithfully upheld our responsibility to warn them of this peril?

### **DEATH, HADES AND THE LAKE OF FIRE**

**“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and**

**hell [hades] delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell [hades] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:13-15).**

The moment death claims a sinner who has rejected the gospel, his soul and spirit separate from the body. In a disembodied state he immediately descends into hades located in the heart of the earth where he awaits the future judgment (Isa. 14:9,10 cf. Luke 16:19-31). The body of the unsaved is buried either in the earth or at sea where the atoms and molecules are *preserved* until the resurrection of damnation. Job's words confirm the laws of *conservation* and *disintegration* that God put into place at creation. “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body [mortal body], yet in my flesh [resurrection body] shall I see God” (Job 19:25,26).

For those who question whether or not God can raise the dead from the sea, John sets the matter to rest once and for all with the statement: “and the sea gave up the dead which were in it.” Nothing is impossible with God! But there could be another reason the Holy Spirit emphasizes the dead being raised from the sea. The deep might well have been the final resting place of those who were sent to a watery grave in the days of Noah. Thus

we are apparently to understand that the unsaved of both the old and the new world will be resurrected to stand at the Great White Throne (II Pet. 3:5-7).

We established from an earlier study that the fourth horseman of the apocalypse was death, with hades following close behind (Rev. 6:8). These two angelic beings reap havoc throughout the Tribulation—one claiming its victims and the other holding them captive in the infernal region called hades. But the day is soon coming when death will be required to release the bodies of the unsaved from the grave. Simultaneously hades will empty itself as well. Then the souls and spirits of the unsaved will be reunited with their bodies in the resurrection of the unjust.

As the unsaved stand before God at the Great White Throne, every man shall be judged according to his works. While they are raised from the dead as a group, they will be judged *individually*. Nothing will escape the justice of God! Every religious act that condemned men's souls to perdition shall be exposed. Every immoral deed that destroyed a young life will be brought to light. Every hidden sin shall be manifest. Both small and great, rich and poor, bond and free will stand before God. When a judge is preparing to pass a final sentence, he has the offender *stand* before him. So it shall be at that day!

“Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Paul says that those who obey not the

gospel “shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power” (II Thes. 1:9). This is the second death. The “second death” is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire. The realm known as the lake of fire and “hell” are synonymous, but do the Scriptures give us any indication where it is located? We do know that “hell” will not be located in the heart of the earth where the unsaved are presently tormented in the fires of hades. The fires of hades will be extinguished when God renovates the earth and restores it to a *perfect* state where, as we have seen, righteousness will reign. Apparently the location of hell (Gr. *Gehenna*) is somewhere in the outer reaches of the universe. The Lord spoke of the unbeliever being cast into “outer darkness” (Matt. 8:12). Jude adds: “to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever” (vs. 13). Such places do exist in the universe. In fact, astronomers recently discovered a black hole located in the far reaches of outer space. As it is written, *hell* is reserved for:

**“The fearful, and unbelieving [incredible], and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).**

*To Be Continued!*



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## Endnote

1. *Romans*, by C. R. Stam, Berean Bible Society, Germantown, WI, Page 69.

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If the style of the following article seems a little different from Pastor Stam's usual writings, it is because this is an edited transcript of one of his radio messages. We trust it will prove a blessing to our readers.

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## “Striving Together for the Faith of the Gospel”

By Cornelius R. Stam

**“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:**

**“Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you” (Phil. 1:23,24).**

Paul had a great desire to depart and be with Christ; not that he was tired of living, by no means. Under the protection of the Roman government, as one of their most prominent prisoners awaiting trial, he was doing a work that would excite the imagination and interest of any man of God. There was already a church established right amongst Caesar's household, and Paul was known everywhere as a prisoner for Christ. All through the palace and all around about they knew him for this. Oh, no, Paul was by no means tired of living. But the

Christ that he proclaimed came to mean so much to him that he longed to see Him and be with Him. This would be far, “far better” than his present state.

Yet, “to abide in the flesh”, as he calls it, was still necessary for the sake of the Philippians and others to whom he ministered. So he felt sure that the Lord would keep him on earth for some time to come. And he expressed the hope that he might see his beloved friends at Philippi before too long. And so it was that he wrote:

**“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

**“And in nothing terrified by your adversaries, which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.**

**“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake;**

**“Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me” (Phil. 1:27-30).**

## **OUR CONDUCT AS CHRISTIANS**

Did you notice that word “only” with which he opens this appeal? “*Only* let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ.” This is of primary importance. Be sure that this is done above everything else. All through this first chapter of Philippians the apostle adapts almost all he says—his greeting, the news about himself and his ministry, his expressed desire to go and be with Christ, but the necessity to remain here—he adapts all this to the need for *true* unity among the Philippian believers. In almost every paragraph, every sentence, many subtle phrases or words are employed with a special view to get them to *love* each other truly, and to work together. And so it is with that word rendered “conversation” in verse 27.

**“Only let your *conversation* be as it becometh the gospel of Christ.”**

We find this word again in Philippians 3:20:

**“For our *conversation* is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

## **A MATTER OF TRANSLATION**

The Revised Version never uses this word “conversation” in its translation, for the simple reason that it no longer means what it meant nearly 400 years ago when our King James Version of the Bible was translated. But the Revised Version, perhaps, has not done a great deal better than the King James. In Philippians 1:27 they have translated it: “Only let your *manner of life* be as it becometh the gospel of Christ,” while the RSV renders Philippians 3:20: “Our *citizenship* is in heaven.” Now there is a great difference between a “manner of life” and “citizenship,” and beloved, most translations simply render the passage: “Let your manner of life...” or “Let your conduct be....”

What all of these translations have overlooked is that all through this epistle the apostle deals with their *responsibility*, not as individuals only, but as a *Christian* assembly, as a group. This word in the original Greek refers not so much to the way we live, as to the way we live *together*. So the word “conversation” in the Authorized Version is not too far off. Picture three or four men with their heads together and you know they have something in common. The Greek word is the very word from which we get our English word “politics.” It’s not merely a manner of living, but a manner of living *together*. How this agrees with the rest of the verse, and with the whole purpose of this letter to the divided Philippians!

**“Only let the way you live together be as it becometh [or as is appropriate to] the gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you are standing together.”**

There are five phrases in this one verse alone that emphasize the idea of unity.

First, “Only let your conversation, *the way you live together*, be as it becometh the gospel of Christ,

“...that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs that ye *stand fast*.” Don’t split and scatter.

Then, “stand fast *in one spirit*”; “...with one mind...”

And finally, “*striving together* for the faith of the gospel.”

Read that verse again, and see the power of it, as he writes of these Philippians who had allowed a division to come in between them. A division that might, if they let it go, become very deep and wide, and impossible of curing:

**“Only let the way you live together be as it becometh the gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel.”**

## **THE GOOD FIGHT OF THE FAITH**

There is another word here that I should say something about. It is not a bad translation, but nearly 400 years ago the word “striving” also meant something different than it does today. The word *striving* is simply an old

English word for *fighting*. It is the very same word that we would render “fight.” Paul wanted them to fight together, not fight amongst each other, but fight together against a common foe. And what were they to fight for?

Ah, many Christians do not see the importance of this; they don’t know what it is to “fight the good fight of faith” (I Tim. 6:12). And by the way, when you read the phrase “the good fight of faith” in Paul’s epistles, remember that in the original the definite article is there. It should have been translated: “The good fight of *the* faith.” And here in Philippians 1:27 we also have the definite article: “Fighting together for *the* faith of the gospel.” Thus “the faith” is the doctrine, the things to be believed about the gospel of the grace of God.

Do you get Paul’s message to these Philippian believers and God’s message to believers today? What he is saying in a very tactful way is this: “Don’t fight *amongst* each other. This doesn’t become those who proclaim the good news of the grace of God. Rather stand together and fight together for the faith, or the doctrine, of the gospel,” for Satan is ever alert to pollute the blessed unadulterated gospel of the grace of God. And he has done this in religious circles all over the land, and all over the world, where they have adulterated and polluted God’s pure message of grace through the all-sufficient finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Such a united stand for the good news of grace is bound to



arouse opposition, for Satan hates grace. You can mix in a little works, you can add confirmation, you can make baptism necessary to salvation or even add it later—anything, any work, any human work will frustrate the grace of God. In Paul's day it was the Jewish rite of circumcision:

**“Behold I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:2-4).**

**“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work” (Rom. 11:6).**

In our day Satan adulterates the gospel of grace wherever it is mixed with works. Where works are even appended to it, to make believers in some way more complete, or more acceptable to God, there Satan largely leaves the situation alone. It is where the gospel of the grace of God is preached in its pure, unadulterated form that souls are saved and brought into the truth:

**“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith [his believing] is counted for righteousness” (Rom. 4:5).**

This is the message that our adversary so bitterly hates and so relentlessly opposes. When you emphasize the fact that the believer, the simplest, most humble

believer, is made “accepted in the Beloved” (Eph. 1:6); and is pronounced “complete in Christ” (Col. 2:9), it is then that Satan begins to fight.

## THE ADVERSARIES OF CHRIST

For this reason the apostle goes on in Philipians:

**“Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God” (Phil. 1:27,28).**

The enemies of the truth read their own defeat in the unity and confidence of the saints of God, and to the saints themselves this is the surest token of victory. So Paul says: “Don't you be afraid, don't you be frightened by our adversaries. But as you stand together for the doctrine of the gospel—for the truth of the gospel of the grace of God—the adversary will see a token of his own defeat. And to you, this will be a token of glorious victory. A victory given by God Himself.”

The world has never been able to understand why it cannot make the true Christian afraid. The Christian who relies wholly on Christ has a powerful testimony. Have you ever read that old book, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*? Oh, you should read it and see how God has given His people special grace and courage in special times of need. Men, women, yes, and even young lads and maidens have been tortured, burned at the

stake, thrown to the lions, and have done these things by *choice* rather than renounce the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some of you know that my missionary brother, John, just older than I, and his wife Betty, were beheaded by communists in China some years ago. The world would think this was a deadly blow to missionary work there; but do you know what happened? Within one month more than 200 young Christian men and women applied to go as missionaries to that very city in China where John and Betty Stam had been beheaded, and thousands of others consecrated their lives to missionary work at great missionary conferences all over Europe and America.

Years ago the Auca Indians killed five missionaries brutally, beastially, and what happened? Their wives and other missionaries went back to the Indians to win them to Christ, and they have been making significant progress since. The world can't understand this, but it is a fact that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

### **THE BOLDNESS OF THE APOSTLES OF CHRIST**

**“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me” (Phil. 1:29,30).**

Did you notice it is given to you to suffer for Christ's sake? It is a privilege, it is a privilege in several ways. First it is an honor

“The enemies of the truth read their own defeat in the unity and confidence of the saints....”

to suffer for Christ because His cause is just. Do you recall how the apostles at Jerusalem were cruelly beaten for testifying to Christ's resurrection?

**“And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name.**

**“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ” (Acts 5:41,42).**

### **THE APOSTLE OF GRACE**

But for Paul, and for us, it is still a greater honor and privilege to suffer for Christ today. In speaking about his sufferings for Christ, the apostle says:

**“Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind [that which still remains] of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body's sake, which is the Church” (Col. 1:24).**

The meaning of this passage is not difficult. Christ was not wanted here; they crucified Him, and even after He was raised from the dead, they still would not have Him. They stood by that awful deed, and He ascended as a royal exile to Heaven. But while the world was through with Him, He was not yet through with the world. In infinite grace He left

the Apostle Paul here with a wonderful message of grace and reconciliation:

**“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the Word of reconciliation” (II Cor. 5:19).**

In effect God has said, “I’ll count Christ’s death at Calvary as the payment for your sins,” and so Paul says in II Corinthians 5:

**“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

**“For [God] hath made Him to be sin for us, [Christ] who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (II Cor. 5:20,21).**

Did you get it? “We pray you in Christ’s stead.” He as much as says: You didn’t want Christ; you wouldn’t have Him here; you crucified Him and said, “Away with Him,” but, ah, *we* are here. He sent us as His ambassadors, and we stand here instead of Christ to beseech you “that ye receive not the grace of God in vain” (II Cor. 6:1).

## **THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS**

But Christ is still rejected and despised today, beloved; His name is cursed and blasphemed on every street corner. And who bears the suffering for this? *Not He*. He is now forever glorified in Heaven. Paul says, “I am suffering; I am bearing that which still remains of the afflictions of

Christ,” and furthermore he says, “I rejoice in it.”

**“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings...” (Phil. 3:10).**

These are His sufferings inflicted by unbelievers who hate *Him*, not *you*, my Christian friend. The hate is really against *Christ*. So Paul calls it “...the fellowship of His sufferings...” and it is sweet fellowship indeed, for there are rich rewards which such sufferings will gain:

**“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (II Cor. 4:17).**

Ah, little wonder the apostle encourages the saints at Philippi to work together in our passage:

**“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.”**

You ask how much we suffer for Christ today? Well, I stood one day with a group of Christians and asked that same question, and added, I’ve never even been slapped in the face for my faith in Christ, have you? And to my embarrassment one woman that was present replied: “*I have.*” Later the others told me how this woman’s husband had beaten her and had done everything in his power to make life difficult for her because of her faith in Christ. Well, whether you have borne this kind of suffering, or perhaps that cold icy stare, or the cold shoulder that would push you out and

give you a poor position at work and give your position to someone else, or whatever—if it's suffering for Christ, it is a privilege and an honor.

**“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now here to be in me” (Phil. 1:29,30).**

Such suffering is sweet because it is the fellowship of *His* sufferings. It is filling up that which still remains of the world's rejection of Christ, the afflictions that He would be bearing were He here.

### THE RICHES OF KNOWING CHRIST

Now, my dear unsaved friend, God does not ask you to suffer to be saved. You should go to India or some other places in the world where pagan religions, and all the sad darkness of superstition prevails. You'd see poor souls torturing themselves in order to make themselves accepted of whatever gods there are. Ah, no, we don't ask you—God does not ask you—to suffer, or to do anything to earn your salvation. God simply says:

**“For by grace are ye saved through faith [believing]; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:8-10).**

But you say: “Oh, but I've been such a sinner; isn't there something I have to pay? I should think

I'd have to suffer something to be made worthy of this.”


Ah, no, Ephesians 1:6,7 says that in grace, God hath made us “accepted in the beloved [One]. In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” And in Romans 5:20,21 Paul declares: “The law entered that the offence might abound, but where sin abounded grace did much more abound.”

My friend, I don't care what kind of a sinner you are, or what your past has been, and God does not care, because it was all paid for at the cross, where “Christ died for our sins.” There in one stroke the great Creator bore the sins that would have sunk the world to hell, and now He offers you salvation through the merits of Christ at Calvary. Oh, believe it and be saved today. In the words of the old hymn<sup>1</sup> writer:

“Sinners Jesus will receive;  
Sound this word of grace to all  
Who the heavenly pathway leave,  
All who linger, all who fall.

“Come, and He will give you rest;  
Trust Him for His word is plain;  
He will take the sinfulest;  
Christ receiveth sinful men.

“Christ receiveth sinful men,  
Even me with all my sin;  
Purged from every spot and stain,  
Heaven with Him I enter in.

“Sing it o'er and o'er again;  
Christ receiveth sinful men;  
Make the message clear and plain;  
Christ receiveth sinful men.” 

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### Endnote

1. What a grand old hymn, “*Christ Receiveth Sinful Men*,” by James McGranahan.

## Question Box

*“Will I be able to recognize my loved ones in heaven?”*

Speaking of Christ, Paul asserts that *our* resurrection bodies will be *“fashioned like unto His glorious body”* (Phil. 3:20), and His resurrection body *was* recognizable (I Cor. 15:5-7).

True, Mary Magdalene did not *at first* recognize Him (John 20:14), but she had come to the empty tomb *“when it was yet dark”* (v. 1) and tears of sorrow blurred her vision (v. 11). But in heaven, the light will be *“clear as crystal,”* and *“God shall wipe away all tears”* (Rev. 21:4,11). We are also told that while out fishing the apostles did not at first recognize the Lord on the shore (John 21:3,4), but while the distance between them prevented the apostles from identifying their Master, there will be no distances between loved ones in heaven. Paul often uses the word *“together”* to describe the Body of Christ in glory (Rom. 8:17; I Thes. 4:17; 5:10; II Thes. 2:1; Eph. 1:10; 2:6). Thus we can conclude there *will* be recognition in heaven.

When asked *“with what body”* the dead are raised, Paul compares the burying of our loved ones with the planting of a grain of wheat (I Cor. 15:35-37). When it rises out of the ground, *“God giveth...to every seed his own body”* (v. 38). Similarly, when we rise from the dead, God gives to every one of us *“his own body.”* Job said, *“in MY flesh shall I see God”* (19:26).

Finally, we know that resurrection bodies are also *hug-gable*, for the Lord’s disciples *“came and held Him by the feet”* (Matt. 28:9). What a *“blessed hope”!* (Titus 2:13).

## Midwest Fall Bible Conference

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**Location:** *Grace Church*  
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For additional information, please contact:

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*Berean Bible Society* is preparing to publish a booklet for new believers to introduce them to the basic Biblical principles of the Christian life, and in so doing encourage and establish them in their newfound faith. The following is the first installment of this introductory work.

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# Now That I Believe

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

## INTRODUCTION

Someone has just introduced you to the Lord Jesus Christ, and you have been saved from your sins. Naturally you are very excited and filled with joy, but you are not sure exactly what has happened to you, nor what is expected of you now that you believe. This article will serve as a helpful primer for you as a new Christian. In it, we will answer the following questions:

- What did I believe?
- What happened to me when I believed?
- Why should I serve the Lord now that I believe?
- How should I serve the Lord now that I believe?
- How do I deal with sin now that I believe?
- How do I deal with adversity now that I believe?
- What does the future hold for me now that I believe?

## What did I believe?

Every true Christian was saved from his sins by believing a few simple Bible truths:

### 1. I'm a sinner.

The Bible says that *"all have sinned"* (Romans 3:23), and that *"there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"* (Ecclesiastes 7:20). It only takes one murder to make a man a murderer, and it only takes one sin to make a man a sinner.

### 2. There are eternal consequences to sin.

The Bible says that *"the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23), and that *"sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death"* (James 1:15). We

know that more than just *physical* death is meant in these verses, for Ezekiel 18:4 says that *“the SOUL that sinneth, it shall die.”* Also, Revelation 21:8 states that all sinners who die without Christ *“shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is THE SECOND DEATH.”* All sinners deserve to die an eternal *spiritual* death, as well as a physical death, for their sins.

### **3. Christ died for my sins.**

Although we are sinners and deserve to die an eternal death for our sins, *“Christ died for our sins”* (I Corinthians 15:3). We know that He died both physically and spiritually because Isaiah predicted that God would *“make HIS SOUL an offering for sin”* (Isaiah 53:10). He was *“delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification”* (Romans 4:25) as He *“bare our sins in His own body on the tree”* (I Peter 2:24).

### **4. I was saved by *believing* that Christ died for my sins.**

The Lord Jesus died *“for the sins of the whole world”* (I John 2:2), but that doesn't mean that the whole world is saved. Salvation is offered *“unto all”* but it only comes *“UPON all them that BELIEVE”* (Romans 3:22). Thus while Christ is *“the Savior of all men,”* He is *“specially”* the Savior *“of those that believe”* (I Timothy 4:10). The gospel is *“the power of God unto salvation”* only *“to every one that believeth”* (Romans 1:16). We are *“justified by faith”* (Romans 5:1) and become *“children of God”* only *“by faith in Christ Jesus”* (Galatians 3:26).

Of course, when we speak of faith, it is not enough to just “believe in God,” for *“the devils also believe, and tremble”* (James 2:19). When Paul says, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,”* he means that we must have *“faith in His blood”* (Romans 3:25). Ephesians 2:8 says, *“For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”*

### **5. I was *not* saved by good works.**

Acts 16:31 does *not* say, *“Believe and try to be good and thou shalt be saved,”* it simply says *“believe...and...be saved.”* Salvation is *“not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us”* (Titus 3:5). God says that *“to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness”* (Romans 4:5). There isn't a single thing that we can do to please God. He has *“saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace”* (II Timothy 1:9). Therefore salvation is *“not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Ephesians 2:9).

### **6. I was not saved by keeping the Ten Commandments.**

The Ten Commandments were only a part of the Law of Moses, a law that contained *613 commandments!* When God gave these commandments, He demanded that men *“keep ALL His statutes”* (Exodus

15:26; Leviticus 20:22) and “*ALL His commandments*” (Deuteronomy 13:18; 26:18), and pronounced a “*curse*” on “*every one that CONTINUE not in ALL things which are written in the book of the law to do them*” (Galatians 3:10). The Law demanded 100% obedience—100% of the time! That’s why “*whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For He that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law*” (James 2:10,11).

Since all of us have broken at least one of God’s commandments, we know that “*a man is not justified by the works of the law*” (Galatians 2:16), and “*that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident*” (Galatians 3:11). “*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law*” (Romans 3:28). But praise the Lord, “*what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh*” (Romans 8:3). And so we read that “*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us*” (Galatians 3:13), and “*by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses*” (Acts 13:39).

## **What happened to me when I believed?**

### **1. I was forgiven of all my sin, past, present, and future.**

Now that you believe, God has “*forgiven you all trespasses*” (Colossians 2:13). The Apostle Paul declares that “*God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you*” (Ephesians 4:32), and so in Christ “*we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins*” (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14).

### **2. I was justified in the sight of God.**

The word “justify” in Scripture means “to make righteous.” God’s Word says that we are “*justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 3:24), and that “*being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him*” (Romans 5:9). Paul assures us that we are “*justified in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (I Corinthians 6:11), and “*that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life*” (Titus 3:7).

### **3. I was given eternal and everlasting life.**

“*The gift of God is eternal life*” (Romans 6:23), for “*by the righteousness of One the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life*” (Romans 5:18). All who believe on Christ “*believe on Him to life everlasting*” (I Timothy 1:16) and become “*heirs according to the hope of eternal life*” (Titus 3:7).

#### **4. I was indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God.**

Speaking to believers, Paul says that God has “*sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts*” (Galatians 4:6) and so now the Spirit “*dwelleth in us*” (II Timothy 1:14; Romans 8:9,11). His presence within us is the down payment that God has made in us that shows He is as serious about redeeming our bodies as He was about redeeming our souls. Paul declares that the Spirit is “*the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession*” (Ephesians 1:14).

This blessing comes with a moral and spiritual obligation to be a godly host to the Royal Guest within us. The Apostle Paul asked the Corinthians, who were not living in a godly manner: “*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s*” (I Corinthians 6:19,20).

#### **5. I was baptized into the true, invisible, world-wide Church, “the church which is His Body” (Ephesians 1:22,23).**

Paul says that we were “*baptized into Christ*” (Romans 6:3). This baptism has nothing to do with *water*. The word “*baptism*” in Scripture speaks of *identification*. Christ was *identified* as the Messiah when He was baptized with water (John 1:31-33). But He later called His death a baptism (Luke 12:50) because on the Cross He was “*numbered with the transgressors,*” i.e., He was identified with sinners as He bore their sins (Isaiah 53:12 cf. Mark 15:27,28). When God looked at Christ on Calvary, He did not see His Son, He saw us in our sins, and poured out His wrath upon them. But now our baptism into Christ identifies us with Christ. Now when God looks at us, He does not see us in our sins, He sees Christ in His righteousness. II Corinthians 5:21 puts it this way: “*For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*”

Thus our baptism into Christ is a *spiritual* baptism: “*for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one Body*” (I Corinthians 12:13). While God required physical baptism and physical circumcision for His people Israel, God gives members of the Body of Christ a *spiritual* circumcision (Colossians 2:11) and a *spiritual* baptism (Colossians 2:12). This baptism makes us “*members of His Body*” (Ephesians 5:30).

#### **6. I was made eternally secure in Christ.**

“*If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself*” (II Timothy 2:13), and as members of His body we are members of Himself. Now that we are a part of His Body, *nothing* “*shall be able to separate us from the love of God*” (Romans 8:39), for “*He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*” (Philippians 1:6). In the Bible, the spiritual Ephesians *and* the sinful Corinthians are *both* called “*saints*” (I Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:1) and *both* are said to be “*sealed with that holy Spirit of promise*”

(Ephesians 1:13; II Corinthians 1:22). Our salvation rests not on what we do, but on what Christ did at Calvary.

## **Why should I serve the Lord now that I believe?**

### **1. If I am saved and eternally secure, can't I live as I please?**

Yes, but as you grow in an understanding of all that God has done for you in Christ, the way you want to live will change. When the Lord Jesus healed a blind man, He told the man: *"go thy way,"* but instead we read that he *"followed Jesus in the way"* (Mark 10:52). This is because once he realized what the Lord had done for him, *the Lord's way became his way.* The same is true of us. Of course, the realization of all that the Lord has done for us is revealed to us *gradually* as we study the Scriptures. But the more we learn of it, the more we will want to forsake our old ways and follow His ways.

### **2. I don't want to presume on the grace of God.**

Speaking of the sins of the flesh (Ephesians 5:1-5), Paul says: *"because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them"* (v. 6,7). Someday the wrath of God is going to come on unbelievers because of their sin. Just because you are safe from the wrath of hell as a saved and secure child of God, don't presume on God's grace and continue to partake of sin with unbelievers. Washington D.C. is full of foreign ambassadors who enjoy "diplomatic immunity" to our laws; they cannot be prosecuted by our courts for violating them. Yet when a speeding diplomat caused the death of a little girl some years ago, our citizenry was rightly outraged. How could he flagrantly violate our laws just because he was immune to the prosecution of our courts? As Christians, we should feel the same outrage at the thought of sinning against the God who saved us just because we can no longer be prosecuted by God's justice. We should rather refuse to callously indulge in the very sins for which Christ died, and think long and hard about our answer to God's question: *"Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely...and come and stand before Me...and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?"* (Jeremiah 7:9,10).

### **3. I want to serve the Lord out of gratitude for saving me.**

We don't serve the Lord to try to convince Him to save us from our sins, we serve the Lord *because* He has *already* saved us from our sins. Paul says that *"the love of Christ constrains us"* to serve Him, out of gratitude for saving us by grace through faith (II Corinthians 5:14). He adds that since *"He died for all...they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again"* (v. 15). It is only *"reasonable"* that we live for the One who died for us, and present our bodies a *"living sacrifice"* in the service of the One who presented His body a dying sacrifice for us on Calvary (Romans 12:1,2).

*To Be Continued!*

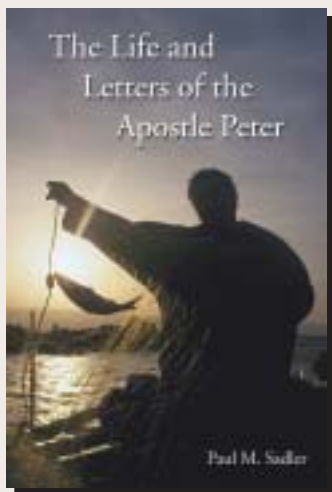




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**From Kansas:**

"As a new subscriber (and also a new Christian) I enjoy the *Two Minutes* very much. Today's article was especially helpful for me. I've been quite torn regarding the issues of sin and this article has allowed me to reconsider my views of myself and my brothers in Christ."

**From the Internet:**

“Years ago I read one of the greatest little books ever in print (my opinion). It was authored by C. R. Stam and titled *Moses and Paul*. Is this book still available?” (*Moses and Paul* is being reprinted at this writing.—RK).

**From Wisconsin:**

“The article on overcoming depression was excellent. It is the most balanced approach I’ve come across in the Christian community. Years ago I suffered from emotional difficulties and was not accepted, but condemned, in the church. So this issue is very close to my heart. I know some other people who could benefit too. These lives will go down the drain without proper help.”

**From Florida:**

“I recently read your article on overcoming depression and I found it to be very helpful. You shared a little on the consequences of depression, and that was a real eye-opener. Depression is a real killer to so many people. I just want to learn all I can so I can help others.”

**From Wisconsin:**

“I saw your article on depression, and I am very interested in the topic. I have had two nervous breakdowns. I was on lithium, but decided I did not want to put that into my body forever. I read that bad thinking patterns destroy neuro-transmitters in the brain, so I started to obey the Scriptures that say to give thanks to the Lord. My attitude has changed and the Lord has made me into a different person. I am trying to help a friend who has been in clinical depression for three years.”

**From Arizona:**

“I cannot thank you enough for your article on depression! I am so happy and encouraged to see this much-needed message. This is the best article from a Christian source I have ever seen on this topic, and I’ve been considering this issue in prayer and research for over ten years, as my daughter has had depression and other emotional problems from a young age. I raised the kids on natural medicine, but she has definitely needed both. I’m thrilled to hear that a naturopath is on the BBS Board of Directors. Unfortunately, I go to a church that has zero understanding of this issue. Again, thank you, this is an awesome message. I’m really burdened with this issue.”

**From Wisconsin:**

“I must confess that I cried like I haven’t cried in a while after reading your article on depression. It was so comforting to hear you bring out in the open something that has at times caused me to question my faith.”

**From Alabama:**

“Due to these special prices offered each month, I’m able to collect the books to help me understand more about the Mystery. You see, I’m on a fixed income.” (That’s partly why we run the specials.—RK).

**From Ohio:**

“A small donation is enclosed and I am asking that you send the *Searchlight* to my son.”

**From the Internet:**

“I just want you to know what a blessing these devotionals are to me. I am sure that others are blessed as I am. Thank 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

## Growing Up in Grace Sunday School Ministries

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 3:15).

*First quarter of lessons is available for purchase!*

**The price per quarter is \$60,  
plus \$4 postage.**



This first set of lessons addresses the junior level, ages 9-11. To view a sample lesson or to obtain additional information, you can log on to our website at: [www.growingupinGrace.com](http://www.growingupinGrace.com). If you would like to speak personally with someone about the curriculum, contact Pastor Mike Keshan of the *Berean Bible Society* at: (262) 255-4750 or e-mail: [berean@execpc.com](mailto:berean@execpc.com).



## Spotlight on Grace Churches

This month's church is:

### Community Bible Church

**Location:** 7560 US Highway 141, Lena, Wisconsin 54139

**Pastor:** Wes Barteck

**Services:** 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

#### Additional ministries:

Women's Bible Study, Bible Study in an area community, Instrumental Music Ministry, Community Outreach Activities, Fellowship Meals, Family Activities, Young Adult Ministry

**Contact information:** Pastor Wes Barteck (920) 829-6385

## THE BBI BYLINE

# The Difference Between Moses and Paul

**Exodus 3:1-15; 20:18; Acts 9:1-6,15-17**

By W. Edward Bedore, Th.D.

Executive Director, *Berean Bible Institute*

Both Moses and Paul were specially chosen messengers of God, and were confronted by the Living God in an unusual and miraculous way. Moses' encounter was on Mt. Horeb. As he approached a burning bush, which was not consumed by the fire, the Angel of the Lord (the pre-incarnate Christ) called out his name "Moses, Moses!" Subsequently God sent Moses back to Egypt to lead Israel out of bondage and into the Promised Land. Later, by direct revelation, God gave Moses the Law of the Covenant. This law consisted of not only the Ten Commandments, but also the connected civil and religious ordinances and rituals by which Israel was to live. Moses was God's chosen vessel by which He would reveal and usher in the "Dispensation of the Law."

Paul was a man zealous for the "Law of Moses." He was met by the Lord on the road to Damascus as he traveled to persecute those

who believed that the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah of Israel. Out of a bright light from heaven that left Paul (Saul) blinded, the Lord Jesus called out "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Just as Moses received the particulars of the Dispensation of the Law, Paul received revelation concerning the details of the Dispensation of Grace.

While there are similarities in God's calling of these two special messengers, there is a vast difference in their responsibility and message. Moses became God's dispenser and administrator of the Law, which revealed and magnified sin and pointed to man's need of a Savior (Rom. 3:19-20; 7:7,13; Gal. 3:21,24). Paul became God's dispenser or steward of pure grace by which the bondage of sin is done away with through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:21-31; 10:4; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:8-9).

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### **BBI's Spring Semester begins January 24th, 2005!**

For more information about **BBI**, please contact Dr. W. Edward Bedore at: **Berean Bible Institute**, 116 S. Kettle Moraine Drive, P.O. Box 587, Slinger, WI 53086-0587, or phone: (262) 644-5504, fax: (262) 644-5507, e-mail: [bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org).



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# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**A NEW GRACE CHURCH:** *Grace Bible Church* of Castle Rock, Colorado, is now meeting at the new library, located at: 100 S. Wilcox Street. They are already using the new BBS Sunday School material for their juniors. For further information, contact Ed Beauchamp at: 303-424-1407 or at: [ed.beauchamp@comcast.net](mailto:ed.beauchamp@comcast.net).

**A NEW GRACE BIBLE STUDY** is now being taught by our friend Pastor Tom Drake in his home at: 9827 S.E. Hoth Rd., Arcadia, FL 34266. The group meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Pastor Drake at: 863-494-1937. If you live nearby, why not pay them a visit? We know you'll be blessed by the sound teaching of the Word, rightly divided.

**A NEW COMMENTARY** on *The Book of Revelation* is now available. Written by our friend Brother Ladde Mayer, the book is entitled: *Israel Yesterday, The Church Today, Israel Tomorrow*. The paperback sells for \$13.50 and the hardback for \$22.25, plus shipping. Simply visit [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com) or call them at: 1-888-280-7715.

**GOOD NEWS!** *Berean Bible Institute* students David and Kelley Van Wyck of West Bend, Wisconsin, welcomed their son Seth into the world on June 1st. Seth's brother Titus now has a playmate, and Mom and Dad have much cause for rejoicing and thanksgiving.

**SHARE THE GOOD NEWS:** While we feel it is important to announce the home-going of beloved Grace brethren, we would also like to give you the opportunity to "*rejoice with them that do rejoice*" (Rom. 12:15). With that in mind, if you would like your Grace friends around the world to know about your marriage, a milestone anniversary, the birth of a child or other blessed event, just let us know and we'll announce it, as space permits.

**OUR COVER THIS MONTH** features a photo taken by Ken and Barb Wardius, a couple who travel extensively throughout the state of Wisconsin in search of unique photo opportunities. You can view some of their impressive gallery of photographs on various themes at their website: [www.execpc.com/~slw81/](http://www.execpc.com/~slw81/), and you can e-mail them with any questions at: [slw81@execpc.com](mailto:slw81@execpc.com).

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\*The picture of the lighthouse that appears on the front cover was taken by Ken and Barb Wardius. The *Cana Island Lighthouse* is located in Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin. The 86-foot tower was first lit in 1870. The light was strategically placed between two natural harbors, North Bay and Moonlight Bay, so that ships in peril could find refuge before entering the "Death's Door" passage to the north.

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## PRICE LIST

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“It is not the death of Jesus which moved the heart of the Father to love us...the truth is that the Father’s love is the reason why Jesus was given.”  
—Charles Spurgeon

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