

The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

October 2008



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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.

The *Berean Searchlight* is the official organ of the *Berean Bible Society*, and is sent free of charge to any who request it.

Editor: Paul M. Sadler; Assistant Editor: Ricky L. Kurth

Composition and Layout: Kevin J. Sadler

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Questions, comments, orders? You can reach us at:

Berean Bible Society
 N112 W17761 Mequon Road
 PO Box 756
 Germantown, WI 53022

Main Office: (262) 255-4750
 Fax Number: (262) 255-4195

Internet: www.bereanbiblesociety.org
 E-mail: berean@execpc.com

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., CST

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From the Editor to You:



Dearly Beloved,

As you plan your giving for the upcoming year, please remember how the *Berean Bible Society* functions, and how it is financed:

1. It is a non-profit corporation, governed by a Board of Directors.
2. It is not endowed or underwritten by any denomination or Christian organization.
3. It does not have a constituency, like a local church, responsible for its support.
4. It does not engage anyone to go about soliciting funds.
5. It does *not* charge a subscription price for the *Berean Searchlight*, which reaches into 50 States and over 60 foreign countries.
6. It is supported entirely by the *voluntary* contributions of those who are willing to make sacrifices so that others may come to rejoice in the riches of God's grace.
7. It is in the truest sense a *work of faith*, reaching tens of thousands regularly with the message of Grace and the Word, rightly divided.

If you are not currently a donor to the ministries of the *Berean Bible Society*, will you prayerfully consider giving a regular *monthly* donation of \$25, \$50, or \$100, as the Lord has prospered you? It would be a tribute to those who are now with the Lord and who made it possible for you to enjoy more fully the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery.

This past year my wife and I made out our wills, which included the ministries of the *Berean Bible Society*. We just never know when the Lord might call us home to be with Him, so it is important to be prepared in advance. A will is one way to ensure that your *legacy* will be used for the furtherance of the gospel of the grace of God. How we thank Him for the thoughtfulness of Grace Believers who have prepared for the distribution of their life's accumulation to their families and loved ones and, hopefully, have included the work of the Lord at the *Berean Bible Society*.

If you would like more information along this line, we will be glad to help by sending you our brochure, *To Prove the Sincerity of Your Love*, by Pastor C. R. Stam. This little booklet suggests seven different ways to invest in the Lord's work. Simply drop us your request and we'll be happy to send you a copy *free of charge*.

May the Lord bless you and yours as we labor together to make known the wonders of His matchless grace.

Joyful in His service,
Paul M. Sadler, President

Honey Bees

By John W. Baker
Cooper City, Florida



Is prophecy being fulfilled today by the dying off of the European honeybee? There are those who believe that without them, plant pollination will cease, and this will lead to a world famine that will fulfill Matthew 24:7. Without pollination there would be massive crop failures across the globe, or so the argument goes.

We believe it is a leap to conclude this. The fact is there are over 20,000 different species of bees, and it appears only the European honeybee is having trouble. Plus, there are thousands of species of pollinating insects besides the honeybee, including butterflies, moths and flies.

A staff report by the *Straight Dope Science Advisory Board* states:

“The ‘significant percentage’ of failing hives is still a drop in the bucket when viewed against the global population of honey bees, and there are lots of beekeepers (even in the U.S., which appears hardest hit) who have not had, and may never have, significant losses of colonies. Plenty of bees remain to replace the ones that have died. It’s not yet time to scream that the sky is falling.”

A failure to recognize that the prophetic program has been put on hold during this Dispensation of Grace has led many to look for signs that prophecy is being fulfilled by current world events. But signs are not a part of today’s program, “for we walk by faith, not by sight” (II Cor. 5:7).

The event that we the members of the Body of Christ should be anticipating is the return of Christ in the air for His own. That wonderful event that Saint Paul calls “*that blessed hope*” (Titus 2:13) is often referred to as the Rapture. This secret coming is not anticipated by any prophetic signs. It could happen today! It is this event that should have our utmost attention and anticipation, not the Second Coming of Christ. These are two separate events that occur at different times.

The Second Coming is related to God’s Prophetic program, while the Rapture is related to His Mystery program (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:3-5). The Prophetic program will resume immediately after Christ catches us up in the air and this Dispensation of Grace closes. The world will then begin to see all the prophetic signs given in Scripture concerning the Lord’s return to rule over the earth. Those signs will usher in great judgment upon those living on the earth in those days (Matt. 24:21).

The Mysteries of the Kingdom (Part 4)

By Paul M. Sadler



“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”

—Matt. 13:44

As we have seen, the first four parables of the *mysteries of the kingdom* were delivered to the multitude that was curious about the kingdom, but noncommittal in accepting their King. As we consider the last three parables, we find they were spoken to the disciples, at least initially, who would have viewed them through the eye of faith. According to the Scriptures, the Word of God is spiritually discerned. This was especially true concerning the mysteries of the kingdom, which gave those who viewed them with an eye of faith a fuller understanding of the events leading up to the establishment of the kingdom.

Once again, a “parable” by definition is “a placing of one thing beside another with the view to comparison.” So when the Lord states that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure, He is comparing the two to point out the eternal value of being a recipient of the blessings of the kingdom.

The disciples would have been very familiar with stories of buried treasure or may have even known someone who had found one. Remember, there were no *Mount of Olives Savings and Loans* at the time; therefore, people buried larger sums of money for safekeeping. Of course, these earthly riches were left behind when the grim reaper eventually claimed the one who buried the treasure, which is the case in our story. Obviously the owner of the field would not have sold it if he knew a treasure was buried on the back forty.

Treasures are sought after because of their enormous worth. This was not only true in biblical times, but today as well. For example, in August 2003, the Civil War era shipwreck of the *S.S. Republic* was located by *Odyssey Marine Exploration*, a commercial archaeology company in Tampa, Florida. The following account gives you some idea as to the significance of the discovery.

“Deep-water shipwreck explorers have raised Reconstruction-era gold and silver coins and other precious artifacts from what could be one of the richest shipwreck treasures ever found. The treasure was found in the wreck of the *S.S. Republic*, which sank during a hurricane off the coast of Georgia in 1865. Records indicate that the ship was carrying coins worth U.S. \$400,000—a fortune at today’s values...

“To date, more than 750 gold coins have been recovered. Some 60 percent of them are Coronet Head *20 Dollar Double Eagles* and the balance are Coronet Head *10 Dollar Eagles*. More than 900 silver *Seated Liberty Half Dollars* have also been recovered thus far. At the time of the *Republic’s* discovery, estimates made from historical records and comparable coin sales place the cargo’s possible value at U.S. \$120 to 180 million.”¹

Being a small potatoes coin collector I can tell you that professional coin collectors are hyperventilating over this discovery. Of course, the *Odyssey Marine* explorers immediately recognized the tremendous value of their find. They hit pay dirt, as they say! In similar fashion, the man in our

story also realized the significance of the treasure he came upon in the field. Without hesitation, he went to inquire what the field would cost. According to the law, the value of it was determined by the harvest that could be reaped from it (Lev. 27:16). With joy, he sold all that was rightfully his to purchase the field and in so doing acquired the treasure in it.

THE INTERPRETATION

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field” (Matt. 13:44).

We can safely conclude from our Lord’s own interpretation of the preceding parables that the “field” represents the *world* and the “man” who found the treasure is none other than the *Lord Jesus Christ* (Matt. 13:24 cf. 13:37,38). Hidden within the world was a “treasure” which clearly refers to Israel, according to the prophetic Scriptures:

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people” (Ex. 19:5).

“For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto Himself, and Israel for His peculiar treasure” (Psa. 135:4).

In our contemporary language the word “peculiar” means to be different or unusual—something that is odd! The term in the Hebrew is cast in a completely different light. It has the idea of wealth or private property that is being laid aside in reserve. Israel then

is the treasure, but what is the significance of the fact that she was *hid* in the world? A casual reading of the prophetic Scriptures reveals she was overshadowed by the nations around her—insignificant and hidden! Israel was the *least* among the nations, yet she was the apple of God’s eye. God chose her not because she was more in number than any other people, but because He loved her (Deut. 7:6-8).²



Shortly after the LORD discovered this treasure that He set His affection on, she began to emerge as a great nation when God delivered her from the hand of the Egyptians. Historically, Israel’s enemies hated her and on more than one occasion sought to destroy her (Esther 3:1-6), but God providentially interceded on her behalf. In the course of time, because of Israel’s rebellious ways and disobedience to the law, God *scattered* her among the nations during the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. This is what it means in the parable that after the man found the hidden treasure, he hid it *again* for safe keeping. Israel, then, was *scattered* throughout the field of the world due to her sinful ways, until she could be redeemed.

Since the sinner has nothing to offer, in God’s determinate counsel and foreknowledge, upon setting His affection upon Israel, it was with *joy* that Christ would one day pay the price for her redemption. The man in the parable who “selleth all that he hath” is a picture of Christ leaving behind the riches and glory He possessed in heaven, to step across the stars to purchase the treasure He found with His precious shed blood at Calvary.

Interestingly, He purchased the *entire* field to redeem His treasure. This is the central point of the parable. Christ came to redeem His people from their sins, but in so doing He made a provision for the whole world, which is revealed in the revelation committed to Paul.

The scope of redemption in *prophecy* was limited to Israel and those who would be saved through her, as Zacharias predicted:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David” (Luke 1:68,69).

The scope of redemption today, according to the revelation of the *Mystery*, is the world *in spite* of Israel:

“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 whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Eph. 1:7).

A treasure might consist of gold and silver coins or precious stones, and in some cases both. The point is it has many parts! Seeing that the Lord likens the kingdom of heaven to a treasure, which we have established to be Israel, it shows the *infinite worth* of being a *recipient* of the blessings of the kingdom. Perhaps the greatest blessing of all for the believing Israelite was to have fellowship with the Father and His only begotten Son (1 John 1:3). This is true fellowship!

Additional nuggets of being a beneficiary of the coming Golden Age are: rebirth, indwelling of the Holy Spirit, eternal life, adoption, restoration, the inheritance of the Promised Land, and deliverance from the hands of her enemies.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it” (Matt. 13:45,46).

The parable of the “treasure” and the “pearl of great price” form a couplet. Therefore they should both be considered together to see the whole picture. Essentially they have the *same* central theme that a man, in this case, a merchant man, sold all that he had and bought it. In time past, merchant men frequently traveled with the caravans buying, trading, and selling their wares. The particular merchant in our story was in search of fine pearls and in the process came across one that he deemed worth selling everything he possessed to purchase.

Interestingly, oysters and the pearls produced by them were not readily sought after among the Hebrews. In fact, according to the dietary laws, oysters were classified an abomination and were not to be eaten by the Israelites, along with lobsters, shell fish and crabs.

“These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat. And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you: They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination” (Lev. 11:9-11).

While the Hebrews could extract the pearls from the oyster, they were not considered to be high on the list of prized things. On the other hand, precious stones are woven like a thread throughout the garment of her history. For example, there were twelve precious stones, representing the twelve tribes of Israel that adorned the breast plate of the High Priest (Ex. 28:15-21). These particular stones spoke of divine *grace* in providing the sacrificial system to atone for the sins of God’s people. What precious stones were to Israel, pearls were to the *Gentiles*.

Probably the disciples were puzzled at first when the Lord shared the story of the pearl of great price. As we have seen, pearls were a known commodity among their people but not

readily sought after. However, the disciples were well aware that the Gentiles sought after them and counted them to be a prized possession.



It was common for Gentile women of the world to use pearls excessively as an ornamentation to draw attention to themselves. This is why Paul instructs women of the household of faith to avoid this pitfall. It is far more profitable if Christian women adorn themselves with *godliness* and good works. Essentially the thought is, let it be the hidden man of the heart that draws the attention of others to their Christ-like spirit. Ladies, please don't misunderstand me, I am not saying that there's anything wrong with being well dressed or wearing jewelry. Paul is simply advocating that you do so in moderation. The key word here is *modesty!*

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works” (I Tim. 2:9,10).

We often marvel at the diversity of God's creation. The oyster and the pearl that it produces is one of many examples. It is said

the “oyster has no eyes, ears, or nose, so it cannot see, hear, or smell. However, two rows of small feelers on the edges of the mantle respond to certain changes in the oyster's surroundings. The feelers hang over the edges of the open shell, and changes in light or in chemicals in the water cause them to contract. The contracting feelers signal the powerful adductor muscle to close the shell against possible danger.”²³

When there is no apparent danger detected, the shell opens and sometimes a grain of sand or some other foreign object will attach itself to the body of the oyster causing an *irritation*. The Lord lined the inside of the shell with a shiny substance called nacre or mother of pearl, which covers the grain of sand with layer after layer until an exquisite pearl is formed. The lesson of God's creation is: we go from an unsightly mass to a beautiful jewel called the pearl.

As we gather up all these gleanings and bind them together, the pearl of great price represents the *kingdom Gentiles*. The parable begins by stating, “The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls,” and in the process came across a crown jewel, the pearl of great price. We know, of course, from the previous parables that the “man” is the Lord Jesus Christ. Like the merchant man who sought out the desire of his heart, in view of the kingdom to come, the Lord was going to add the Gentiles to His *treasure*, specifically, those who have believed on Him.

Similar to the slow development of the pearl, God's plan and purpose for the Gentiles in

prophecy would eventually be fully realized in the kingdom age, even though they were often an *irritation* and hindrance to God's chosen people. It has been correctly said, "He sees it through all the processes of its working; His love is set upon what it is, and what it will be; and He patiently awaits the accomplishment." Of course, a major step in the achievement of this goal was the finished work of Christ.

When the merchant man discovered the pearl of great price he "went and sold all that he had, and bought it." This portion compares to Christ willingly leaving behind the glories of heaven to make a provision for the kingdom Gentiles. Through His shed blood they too could be redeemed by simply believing that Jesus was the *Christ*, the Son of the living God (John 20:31). Of course, when they *joined* themselves to Israel they would have also enjoyed many of the same blessings as the chosen nation that we noted earlier.

REINFORCEMENTS

We are often accused in the Grace Movement of teaching that God did not offer salvation to the Gentiles until after the conversion of Paul. This, of course, is an unjust criticism in view of the fact that we believe and teach that God did indeed make a provision for Gentiles in time past, as we have seen. This is confirmed in John 10 where the Lord employed the metaphor of the sheepfold.

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep...As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the

sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:11,15-16).

We are of the conviction that the "other sheep" spoken of here is a direct reference to the kingdom Gentiles. While some hold that they are the ten northern tribes, this view presents two insurmountable problems.

First, the ten northern tribes were an *inseparable* part of the primary sheep. Although they had wandered far from God, they were still His chosen people; therefore, they are correctly identified as, **the sheep**. Surely, the Lord would have never called His own people the "other sheep." Secondly, if the Gentiles are not the "other sheep" then where do they fit into the picture? We know, for example, God has made a provision for them, according to the Prophetic Scriptures. Thus, they are said to be *joined* to the Lord.

The Lord said through Isaiah, "Even them [the Gentiles] will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer" (Isa. 56:7).

The prophet goes on to say: "The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising" (Isa. 60:3).

Israel was the bearer of the light that was to shine to the Gentiles. Her light would show them the way of salvation and introduce them to the good news of the kingdom. Since the Gentiles are the last non-Jewish converts to be reached under the Great Commission, the classification "other sheep" fits them perfectly.

But are the Gentiles ever referred to as *sheep* in prophecy? The separation of the sheep and goat nations at the Second Coming of Christ is the answer to our question. The nations will be judged in relation to how they treated the chosen nation.

“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him shall be gathered all *nations*: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And He shall set the *sheep* on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand [the “*other Sheep*”], Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt. 25:31-34).

We learn from the parables of the “treasure” and the “pearl of great price” and other related Scriptures such as Matthew 25 that only *believers* are initially going to enter into the kingdom. Those who are raised at the *first* resurrection will enter into it in their glorified resurrection bodies, while those who survive the Great Tribulation will have the privilege of being ushered into the kingdom in their physical bodies. But can those in a resurrected body coexist with those who are yet in a physical body? See Luke 24:36-45 for the answer!

To Be Continued!



Endnotes

1. *Shipwreck Gold Found off U.S.—Worth \$180,000,000?* by Brian Handwerk for National Geographic News, Dec. 1, 2003.
2. ©iStockphoto.com/Rhienna Cutler
3. *World Book*—Oysters, page 68.

Central Indiana Regional Bible Conference

Date: Saturday, October 25, 2008

Location: *Das Dutchman Essenhaus Conference Center*
Middlebury, Indiana

Guest Speakers:

Paul M. Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*
Ricky Kurth, *Berean Bible Society*
Joel McGarvey, *Bible Doctrines To Live By*

For more information or to receive a brochure, please contact:

Mike Karnes at 317-984-4799 or r.karnes@insight.com
Jerry Sterchi at 219-326-8705 or jws1391@localnet.com

Berean Bible Fellowship

Fall Bible Conference

Dates: Thursday & Friday, October 9,10, 2008

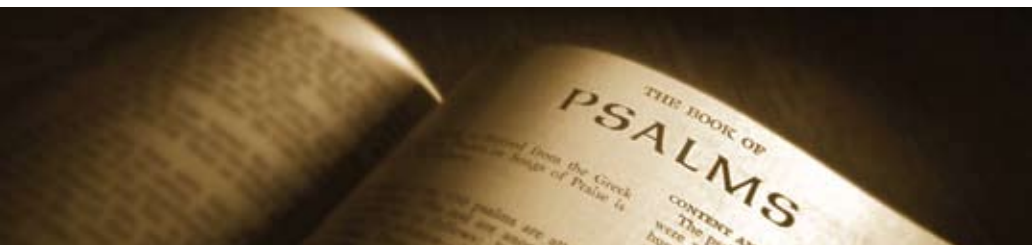
Location: *Grace Bible Church, Yankton, South Dakota*

Theme: *Paul's Use of the Old Testament*

Guest Speakers:

Paul M. Sadler, Ricky Kurth, Floyd Baker, John Fredericksen,
Richard Ware, David Siegmann, Edward Bedore, Curt Crist

If you need more information regarding accommodations, directions or to receive a conference brochure, please contact: Pastor Joel Finck at 605-463-2070 or e-mail: joelfinck@parsonspublishingcompany.com.



Berean Bible Institute

Fall Bible Conference

Dates: October 17,18, 2008

Location: *Berean Bible Institute*
116 S. Kettle Moraine Drive
Slinger, Wisconsin 53086



Guest Speakers:

Ricky Kurth, Dan Wolgast, Ken Lyon,
Richard Ware, Tim Board, Rob Nix

Theme: *Acknowledging the Truth Which is According to Godliness*

For more information or directions contact Dr. W. Edward Bedore at: **Berean Bible Institute**, 116 S. Kettle Moraine Drive, P.O. Box 587, Slinger, WI 53086, phone: (262) 644-5504, e-mail: bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org, web: www.bereanbibleinstitute.org.

The Dimensions of the Mystery

Measuring the Immeasurable

By Cornelius R. Stam

**“For this cause I bow my knees
unto the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ,**

**“Of whom the whole family in
heaven and earth is named,**

**“That He would grant you, ac-
cording to the riches of His glory,
to be strengthened with might by
His Spirit in the inner man;**

**“That Christ may dwell in your
hearts by faith; that ye, being
rooted and grounded in love,**

**“May be able to compre-
hend with all saints what is the
breadth, and length, and depth
and height;**

**“And to know the love of Christ,
which passeth knowledge, that ye
might be filled with all the full-
ness of God.” —Eph. 3:14-19**

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT

One cannot read these words from the pen of Paul without feeling that the truth which he

so earnestly prays the saints might understand must be one of profound significance and vital importance.

It is a sad fact, however, that these very truths—the most important of all—are those of which believers are most apt to be ignorant. The passage before us is a case in hand.

There has been much discussion as to *just what* it is that the apostle would have the saints know the breadth and length and depth and height of, for he does not say.

Some have concluded from the immediate context that he refers to the love of Christ, but this does injustice to the plain wording of the passage. The apostle makes it very clear that the saints must be “rooted and grounded in love” *to be able to comprehend this great truth, and that only as they*

comprehend it will they come to “know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.” In other words, an understanding of this precious truth has its root in love and bears the fruit of love. But what is *the truth itself* to which Paul refers, and why does he not name it?

The answer should not be difficult to those who come to rejoice in God’s secret purpose and grace, for it was the revelation of “the mystery” which had so taken hold of the apostle that his very “neglect” to mention the word itself simply indicates how large a place it held in his message and ministry, for in this passage he apparently assumes that the saints will know what he is referring to.



It is as if a businessman wished to have a building erected and had been engaged for some hours in discussing it with his architect. After fully going over his plans, let us say, the businessman says to the architect, “I trust we are settled now as to the breadth and length and depth and height”; to which the architect replies with a puzzled expression, “Of what?” The businessman may well exclaim, “Don’t you even know what

we have been talking about? Have I tried so hard to make you understand and all in vain?”

We feel that those who wonder what it is the apostle can be referring to here are perhaps in line for a similar reprimand.

What was *the very theme of the apostle’s message*? What did he strive day after day to make all men see? *The mystery!* (Eph. 3:8,9). Was it not the mystery and its associated mysteries which he had long dedicated his life to proclaim and as the herald of which he wished to be known?

I Cor. 4:1, “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

What is *the main subject of this particular epistle*? *The mystery*, the glorious truth which characterizes this age, that rather than blessing the nations through Israel with Christ as King, God has “*broken down the middle wall of partition between us (Jews and Gentiles)...THAT HE MIGHT RECONCILE BOTH UNTO GOD IN ONE BODY BY THE CROSS*” (Eph. 2:14-16).

What is *the great topic of this very chapter*? There is but one answer: *The mystery*, that glorious revelation of grace specially committed to him (Vers. 2-4); that blessed truth, “*in other ages...not made known...the unsearchable riches of Christ...which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God*” (Vers. 5,8,9).

You ask what it is the apostle prays so fervently that we might be enabled to comprehend the breadth and length and depth and height of? What is he *always*

praying that we might understand? *The mystery!*

In the first chapter of this same epistle he speaks of God *“having made known unto us the mystery of His will”* (Eph. 1:9), and prays earnestly that the saints might be given *“the spirit of wisdom and revelation”* to understand it.

To the Colossians he writes that since the day he heard of their salvation he has not ceased to pray that they might be *“filled with...all wisdom and spiritual understanding”* (1:9) to comprehend this blessed truth.

“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints:

“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you the hope of glory” (Col. 1:26,27).

It is significant, then, that the apostle does not even state what it is he wishes them to know the breadth and length and depth and height of. He *assumes that they will know* since it has consistently been the subject of his message. The fact that so many sincere believers today do *not* know is evidence of the sad spiritual state of the Church and of the extent of her departure from the Pauline message of grace.

MEASURING THE IMMEASURABLE

The use of such words as breadth and length in this passage does not of course imply that it is possible for us with our limitations to fully measure the magnitude of God’s eternal purpose.

Indeed, when we consider the subject we soon find that we have launched out to an ocean fullness, but in the measure that we *begin* to appreciate its infinite dimensions, in that measure we come to *“know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.”*

But what, some reader may ask, does the mystery have to do with breadth and length and depth and height? Let us see, and prove for ourselves that there is no other message to which these dimensions may be so appropriately applied.

THE BREADTH OF IT

“For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

“If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given to me to you-ward:

“How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)” (Eph. 3:1-4).

“The prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles!”

Let us remember here that all through Old Testament times Israel alone was God’s chosen people. To her was committed the Word and the worship of God and those who wished to approach God had to do so through the favored nation. When our Lord was on earth He said, *“salvation is of the Jews”* (John 4:22) and both He and His apostles confined their ministry to *“the lost sheep of the house of Israel”* (Matt. 10:5,6; 15:24). Even at Pentecost and shortly

thereafter the disciples of Messiah preached the Word “to none but unto the Jews only” (Acts 11:19). It is not until after the conversion of Saul that we find uncircumcised Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit and it is Paul who later becomes the great apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13). It is here that the truth of the mystery comes in.

It was no secret, even according to Old Testament prophecy, that God would send salvation to the Gentiles. This is recognized even under the so-called “Great Commission.” But according to God’s *prophesied* program it was (and still is) His purpose to bless the Gentiles *through Israel*. This is why the eleven (later twelve) were instructed to begin their world wide ministry at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8). It requires but a superficial reading of the Old Testament prophets to see that before millennial blessing can be ushered in Israel must be brought to Messiah’s feet. This is why the twelve apostles remained faithfully at Jerusalem even when the multitude of the disciples were scattered by persecution (See Acts 8:1). Israel had refused to accept their message and *they could not be true to the Scriptures and to their commission by leaving Israel now to go to the Gentiles*.

It was at this time—when the prophecy seemed to have failed—that God began to unfold the mystery of His eternal purpose and grace. It was at this time that He began to reveal what the cross had accomplished and to show that through Christ’s merits He could justly pour out the riches of His grace upon all who

would accept it. Setting aside the favored nation temporarily He brought salvation to the Gentiles in spite of her rebellion; through her fall instead of her rise (Cf. Isa. 60:1-3; Rom. 11:11,12).

“...an understanding of this precious truth has its root in love...”

Israel will indeed some day become the channel of blessing to the world, but it was necessary that the mystery of the gospel should first be revealed and that she too should learn experimentally that it is not her goodness but God’s grace, not her righteousness but the merits of Christ, that will finally save her, and the nation through her instrumentality.

Had God not directly intervened, salvation never would have gotten to the Gentiles for Israel did everything in her power to keep it from them.

O the breadth of God’s eternal purpose and His grace! It does not confine itself to the blessing of one nation or even of all nations through one nation. It is pure, free, abounding grace to all the world direct from God Himself.

“Who will have ALL MEN to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

“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 [Paul] am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity” (I Tim. 2:4-7).

“For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him.

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:12,13).

“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

“For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us” (Eph. 2:13,14).

“For God hath concluded them all in unbelief that He might have mercy upon all” (Rom. 11:32).

“And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

“And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh” (Eph. 2:16,17).

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if ONE DIED FOR ALL, then were all dead:

“And that HE DIED FOR ALL, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves,

but unto Him which died for them and rose again.

“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh...” (II Cor. 5:14-16).

And this infinite breadth does not enter into the matter of salvation alone. It has a relation to believers as well. In the program of God for this age there are not hundreds of denominations, having the right to admit men into their communions by requiring them to submit to various and conflicting religious rites. No, just as there is now but ONE WORLD in the sight of God, so there is also but ONE CHURCH.

“There is ONE BODY, and ONE SPIRIT, even as ye are called in ONE HOPE of your calling;

“ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM,

“ONE GOD and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:4-6).

Alas that the professing church has departed so far from the truth that it is divided into hundreds of “bodies,” practicing scores of “baptisms” and boasting when it becomes possible for those of “the various faiths” to meet together in union services!

To Be Continued!



Season's Greetings

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Speaker: Paul M. Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*

For accommodations or more information, please contact:
Duane McCulley (623) 386-4563 or e-mail: dimcculley@juno.com
Jim Humphrey (623) 466-7636 or e-mail: jhumph783@aol.com

California Regional Conference

Dates: November 7,8, 2008

Location: *Highland Springs Resort*
10600 Highland Springs Ave., Cherry Valley, CA 92223

Speakers: Paul M. Sadler, Jerry Barrett, Harold Petersen

For additional information, please contact:
Sherry Hanna (909) 795-6677 or e-mail: bbscalifconf@yahoo.com

Anaheim Sunday Service

Date: November 9, 2008

Location: *Grace Bible Church*
2550 W. Orange Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804

Speaker: Paul M. Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*

For more info, contact: Pastor Harold Petersen (714) 821-6881





The Treachery of Tradition

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

(From a message delivered October 19, 2007 at the annual Bible conference of the *Berean Bible Institute*)

As believers, we hold the Word of God to be the highest authority in all matters of faith and practice. However, this writer grew up in the Catholic Church, a religion that teaches that Church *tradition* is of equal authority to the Scriptures. This is how they justify the doctrines of Purgatory, prayers for the dead, and the worship of Mary, etc., none of which can be found even in the Catholic Bible. Now you wouldn't think that there would be Bible verses to which they could point to try to substantiate their claim for the authority of tradition, but such is not the case! Consider one such passage:

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of...

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures....”

Notice, say they, that Paul encourages Timothy to continue in things he had learned from Paul by oral tradition *apart* from the Scriptures, which are not mentioned until the next verse. Now you might not consider this a very strong argument, but they have other verses!

“And the things that thou hast HEARD of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (II Tim. 2:2).

Today we use this verse to teach that our convictions *about the Scriptures* should be committed to faithful men. However, it doesn't say that! It says that Timothy should commit the things that he had *heard* to such men. After all, Rome argues, "faith cometh by *hearing*" (Rom. 10:17), not by reading!

Perhaps their strongest argument for the authority of oral tradition is found in II Thessalonians 2:15:

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

Here church traditions transmitted by "word" are seemingly given equal authority with those transmitted by "epistle," i.e., by the epistles of *Scripture*.

On the surface, these seem to be fairly Scriptural arguments, and we shall address them later in this article. But first, we'd like to point out several problems with making oral tradition of equal authority with Scripture. Let's begin by considering a tradition that began in our Lord's day. When Peter asked the Lord what would happen to John,

"Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?..."

"Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?" (John 21:21-23).

Here we have an example of an oral tradition that began before the Bible was even completed! This is significant since Rome claims that *her* traditions date back to the early church. Well, it doesn't get any earlier than this! And yet this oral tradition was *false*, clearly demonstrating the unreliability of oral tradition found outside the pages of Holy Writ.

Next, the Lord clearly warned about the dangers of oral traditions, especially when they conflict with the Scriptures:

"Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

"Why do Thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they wash not their hands when they eat bread" (Matt. 15:1,2).

The scribes and Pharisees had been trying for a long time to find some fault with the Lord or His followers. When they finally did, what heinous crime did they uncover among the disciples? Fornication? Stealing? Lying? No, they ate with unwashed hands! *Gasp!* Isn't it wonderful that the disciples lived lives *so holy* that this was the worst charge their enemies could level against them! Would to God the same could be said of us!

"The only traditions that we should observe are..."

But here it must be understood that the apostles had not violated a rule of *Scripture*, but only an oral tradition prevalent among the scribes and Pharisees. And so the Lord replied,

“...Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?” (v. 3).

Now, what do we call something that *transgresses* the Word of God? A *transgression*, of course! And so we see here that when oral traditions conflict with God’s Word, they are not just a bad idea, they are *sinful!* And the Lord goes on here to cite an example where their tradition transgressed God’s Word.

As He pointed out, the Bible clearly teaches that we should honor our parents (v. 4), and that any “profit” they receive of us is the product of a moral debt of love that we owe them for all that they have done for us. These religious leaders didn’t see it that way, however! As the Lord goes on to explain,

“But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

“And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition” (Matt. 15:5,6).

The scribes and Pharisees argued that any profit our parents receive from us should be considered *a gift*, rather than the repayment of a moral debt. This oral tradition caused many of them to *dishonor* their parents. When this happened, the condemnation prescribed by the Law specified that they should “die the death” (v. 4). But they argued that if any “honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free” of this condemnation. And so we see that their oral tradition effectively *negated the Word of God!* Notice what the Lord said of the people who had invented such an evil tradition:

“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (v. 9).

Here we see clearly that “the commandments of men” should not be considered of equal authority with the commandments of Scripture.

By the way, the Lord here incidentally teaches us by implication that the teaching of doctrine should be considered *worship*. That is, if teaching *false* doctrine worships the Lord *in vain*, this implies that teaching *true* doctrine worships the Lord *in truth!* So the next time someone asks if you “worship” at your church (meaning, do you lift your hands and get caught up in emotionalism!), tell them *yes*, that you worship God the way the Lord said He should be worshipped, *in the faithful teaching of the doctrines of the Word of God.*

Since traditions that conflict with the Word are transgressions, Peter talks about being redeemed from them:

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, FROM your vain CONVERSATION received by TRADITION from your fathers;

“But with the precious blood of Christ...” (I Pet. 1:18,19).

Obviously, carnal sins of the flesh are not the only sins from which men need to be redeemed! Men stand in just as much need of redemption from the wickedness of *religious tradition!* You’ll remember that Paul spoke of his “*conversation*” in “the *traditions* of my fathers” and his need to be redeemed from such (Gal. 1:13-15).

The danger of tradition is well illustrated in the story that is told about five monkeys who were placed in a cage, with a banana hanging from the ceiling, and stairs placed underneath it. When one monkey climbed up for the banana, however, all five were immediately sprayed with water, treatment apparently not welcome among primates! This chastening was repeated so frequently and so immediately that soon if any monkey tried to climb the stairs, the others would begin to beat him. Eventually the group would take action against a perpetrator even *without* being sprayed with water.



At this point one of the monkeys was replaced, and the new arrival of course headed straight for the banana. He too was beaten and soon learned that reaching for the banana was unacceptable behavior. Then another ape was exchanged, and when he too reached for the banana, the others pummeled him, even the first replacement. Eventually all the apes were replaced, and all would batter any monkey that dared offend, *even though none of them had ever been sprayed with water!* They acted simply in obedience to a deeply entrenched tradition, passed on to them by those that came before them, without knowing why they were enforcing it.

What a telling example of the dangers of religious tradition! And how this story suggests that many that follow such traditions do so blindly, unaware of the origin or purpose of such traditions. We are told, for instance, that Rome’s ban on eating meat on Fridays originated with a long-ago pope who had a relative in the fishing business!

So what about those Pauline verses that seemingly authenticate the authority of oral tradition? The key is to notice that while Timothy was indeed told to continue in the things he had learned, Paul adds, “*knowing of whom thou hast learned them*” (II Tim. 3:14). The oral traditions that Timothy learned had been learned from *Paul*, an *inspired apostle*, while modern religious traditions are *not!* The only traditions that *we* should observe are the *Pauline* traditions that

have been faithfully preserved for us within the pages of Holy Writ (cf. II Thes. 2:15; 3:6).

Notice in II Timothy 3:15 that Paul tells Timothy the Scriptures “*are able to make thee wise unto salvation,*” *present tense*. Timothy was already saved from his sins, but still needed to be saved from all the misery, heartache and despair that comes from not continuing in the doctrine of the Scriptures (cf. I Tim. 4:16).

In the immediate context of II Timothy 3:14,15, Paul is telling Timothy that the Old Testament Scriptures and Pauline doctrine could combine to make him wise unto salvation from the “evil men and *seducers*” of Verse 13. These seducers are the “sort” of men that “creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins” (v. 6). This oft-misconstrued verse is not a commentary on the silliness of *all* women, only those silly enough to be led into sin by evil men. Paul’s point is: just as there have always been evil men who are able to seduce silly women, even so there have always been evil religious leaders who are able to seduce silly believers who are not wise unto salvation from such men.

The tools of religious seduction employed by religious leaders are very similar to the tools of carnal seduction employed by lecherous men. For instance, a man wishing to seduce a woman will often put on soft, romantic *music*, for music can be *very seductive*. With that in mind, how often have you heard someone say that they chose their *church* on the basis of the music program? Religious music can be very seductive as well! And it is from this type of *religious seduction* that the Old Testament Scriptures are particularly able to save us. We think especially of Proverbs 7, where Solomon encouraged his son to “lay up my commandments with thee,”

“That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words” (Prov. 7:1-5).

It is often said that “flattery will get you nowhere,” but the truth is that flattery is a historically effective tool in the arsenal of those intent on sexual seduction. Likewise souls without number have been lost to the seduction of religious leaders who flatter their hearers into believing that they are good people who can be saved on their own merits, apart from the atoning blood of Christ! “Simple” people swallow this story hook, line and sinker (Prov. 7:7), the way “simple” men fall for the carnal seductions of a “strange woman,” or prostitute.

Solomon goes on to describe how these simple young men find their way to the strange woman’s house “*in the black and dark night*” (v. 9). It is probably no secret that carnal seduction is far more effective at night, but what about religious seduction? Ah, this writer can well remember the seductive allure of “the midnight mass” he attended every December 24th! And just as every wicked person bent on seduction

knows the alluring power of romantic *candlelight*, many a religious charlatan knows that candles are also seductive in the religious realm, and many a church is filled with them.



Although styles have changed over the centuries, in any generation there has always been an easily identifiable “*attire of an harlot*” (v. 10). Similarly, the clergy of many a religion is easily identified as such by his long robes and white collar. For any who wonder about the appeal of such attire, it should be remembered that we often hear that “there’s just something about a man in uniform”! And while “*peace-offerings*” (v. 14) often included bulls and goats, we doubt that this temptress was walking the streets leading a smelly old goat. Peace-offerings could also include offerings of *wine*, and it is to the fruit of the vine that this prostitute no doubt refers and claims to have with

her. And who doesn’t know that the fruit of the vine is an element found in some form or another in many a religion to this day.



Moving on in the passage, what seductress doesn’t know the power of *perfume* (v. 17), and more than one religion relies on *incense* to fill the senses of those they wish to seduce. Simple souls likewise find talk of “*love*” (v. 18) to be very beguiling, and what religion doesn’t talk a lot about love?

Perhaps the reader is thinking that *no true believer* would be taken in by any of these tricks, but flattering lips (v. 21) work on the saved as well as on the unsaved. Flattery can be defined as *telling someone what they want to hear*, and this is something at which religious hucksters excel! The prosperity preachers, for instance, pedal a message of health and wealth, and who doesn’t want to be healthy and wealthy!

But surely no *grace believer* could be bamboozled by such things! Well, when Solomon warns about how the “simple ones” of this chapter are so easily taken in by the “*fair speech*” of this harlot (v. 21), these words sound eerily like the warning with which Paul closes the book of Romans:

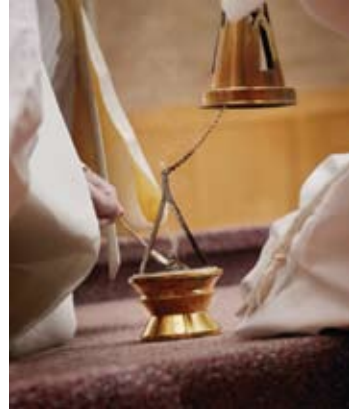
“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and FAIR SPEECHES deceive THE HEARTS OF THE SIMPLE” (Rom. 16:17,18).


There are no superfluous words or unnecessary warnings in Paul’s epistles, nor in any other part of Scripture for that matter. Hence Paul would not be warning the grace believers at Rome to avoid the seduction of religious palterers if it weren’t possible for the simple among them to be bewitched by such. What an ominous warning to those, even among grace believers, who say they are satisfied with the “simple things” of our message!

We don’t consider ourselves especially proficient in the Scriptures, but we daresay that within a few minutes we could have the reader of this page believing in Preterism, Universalism, or a number of other false teachings.

Shucks, a few minutes ago you were wondering if there really might be Pauline Scriptures that authenticated the authority of oral tradition! You may have been in the grace message for many years, but Demas was doubtless a solid grace believer, else Paul would not have felt his loss so acutely (II Tim. 4:10). And surely among “*all they which are in Asia*” there were even many grace *teachers* who turned away from the Apostle Paul (II Tim. 1:15).



And so we close with a call for our readers to consider enrolling in our *Berean Bible Institute*. A thorough training in God’s Word rightly divided will not only protect *your* soul against the wiles of “evil men and seducers,” it will enable you to help *others* in danger of being taken in by their fair speeches and persuasive arguments. It is still true that “the people that do *know their God* shall be strong, and do exploits” (Dan. 11:32).

In every generation there are men like “the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...” (I Chron. 12:32). We are not shy to unabashedly proclaim that in the present dispensation of grace, *grace believers* are the modern day men of Issachar! *We* have an understanding of the times. *We* know what the Body of Christ ought to be doing. Why not get in the battle for *truth*, and the fight for the souls of men. Life is short, eternity is long, and the Judgment Seat of Christ is coming. “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.” 



BBS Letter Excerpts

From New York:

“A friend told me about you. I have read some of your material, on the website, and am THRILLED that you are rightly dividing Scripture. I am so hungry for learning, and looking forward to doing so with your help.”

From Oklahoma:

“My journey from confusion to the Pauline truth was a direct result of a radio program by Pastor Stam on John’s baptism, and how it can’t fit today. I wasn’t disobedient to the truth, but just kind of lazy. But when I got it into gear, I’ve never looked back.”

From Florida:

“Kudos to Steve Shober for his articles on *Song of Solomon*. Wow! Now that I got the understanding it almost made me cry...almost, I’m not a sissy, ya know...tell Kathleen Baker, Wow! She could not have been any clearer in the Bible Lesson involving our standing and state. You don’t have to be smarter than a 5th grader to grasp all that she brought.” (Go ahead and cry, I doubt God will wipe away this kind of tears [Rev. 21:4]—RK).

From Georgia:

“I teach a Sunday School class in North Georgia and use the *Searchlight* to help me in studying the Scripture and preparing the lessons.”

From the Philippines:

“My friend introduced me to your awesome literature. I’ve learned a lot! Keep it up. God bless!”

From Ohio:

“A friend requested that you send your booklet to me. I have been reading it and enjoying all the articles. I am a grace believer and don’t hear any messages on Grace around here.”

From the Philippines:

“I browsed at your web site and it really helped me a lot in dealing with other denominations whose doctrines were unbiblical and were not following II Timothy 2:15.”

From North Carolina:

“Because of your teaching, I can sit down and read my Bible and feel like I can understand it more accurately. It then becomes a guide for my daily life instead of a question mark.” (When the Bible is rightly divided, there’s no question about it!—RK).

From Kansas:

“Along with this month’s check, a note of thanks. I am leading our Sunday morning study in Acts. Your teaching in Leviticus 21:16-24, which clearly shows the priests had to be without blemish, was an eye-opener when I came to Acts 5:16 when ‘all’ were healed...Thank you for coming down to Kansas!”

From the Internet:

“I am eager to receive the *Searchlight* as I’ve read one from the internet and its biblical teaching makes me feel comfortable and well secured to what I have known about Grace doctrine.”

From Florida:

“I have read many articles over the years on why the sign gifts are not in operation today, but I cannot recall someone going into detail about how these gifts would be used again during the Tribulation and the Kingdom and why.”

From the Philippines:

“Lately these past few weeks I enjoyed reading the writings of Pastor Miller. His writing is broad, brief, definite and clear enough to illumine the subject matter under consideration. God bless BBS and the American people.”

From the Internet:

“Thank you so much for your teaching on Hebrews 6:4-6. I sent it to our pastor and hope you won’t mind.”

From California:

“I gave a lady *Things That Differ* in Spanish. Her brother, a pastor in Peru, saw her reading it and asked what it was. She let him read it. To make this short, he became very interested.” (Please pray for this pastor.—RK).

From Florida:

“While reflecting back to what caused the changes in me, BBS comes to mind first.”

From California:

“My grandson went on your web site to get some questions answered, and your answers were great.”

From the Internet:

“My day is enriched by receiving this column via e-mail. I remember when my mother read it in the newspaper many years ago.”

From the Philippines:

“I hope my prayers for you will fill up for my lack in the area of financial support. A million thanks.”

From the Internet:

“I have noticed that the month of July of each year has never been sent. Can you advise me to why I am missing the July issues?” (It’s nothing personal, we don’t print the *Searchlight* in July.—RK).

From Florida:

“Our pastor is now 100% grace. In college, he questioned a lot of things. Now he preaches the mystery. The people accept this teaching. He even let up on water baptism. One thing, he is such a loving gracious man in presenting this, whereas many grace people are not that way.”

From Wisconsin:

“Thank you for posting and archiving all *Searchlight* issues. There are many times when I refer back to these online and print out the pages! We love you folks!”

From Colorado:

“I’ve been reading Pastor Stam’s ‘Acts, Dispensationally Considered,’ and have found it eye-opening and refreshing!”

From New York:

“It is in the spirit of II Corinthians 9:1 that my wife and I send this humble donation.” (We are glad it was not superfluous for you to write to us!—RK).

From Wisconsin:

“I am contemplating a monthly gift, but at present I give what I can when I can.”

“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



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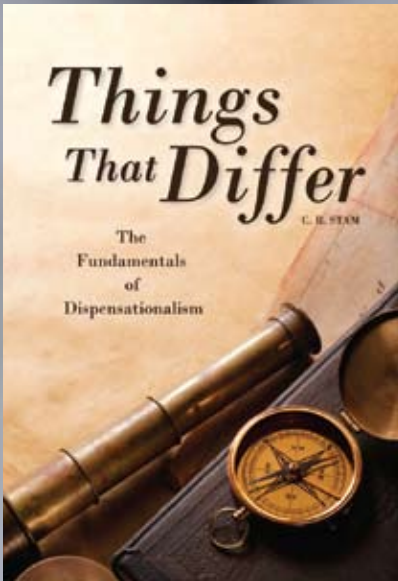
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By C. R. Stam

HARDCOVER

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio on Demand: Verse-by-verse studies of Galatians and Philippians by Pastor Kurth can now be heard “on demand” on the BBS website at www.bereanbiblesociety.org. Additional studies will be added as time goes by. “Stranded” grace believers can now get more of a grace church “feel” than ever before, as they listen in to these messages delivered at *Faith Bible Church* of Steger, Illinois.

What’s Your Story? We here at *Berean Bible Society* would like to hear how the grace message has impacted your life and walk as a Christian. We are looking for *testimonies* as opposed to doctrinal dissertations. So if you can share your story in 200 words or less, we’d love to hear from you! Just mail or email it here to the attention of Pastor Ricky Kurth.

Temporarily out of print: The book containing Pastor Stam’s first two volumes of *Acts, Dispensationally Considered*, and his commentary on *Romans*, are both out of print at this time. While we work to get these important works prepared to send to the printer, if you would like to help, simply designate your gift “Acts & Romans Reprint.”

Please and thank you: When adding the name of a friend to the *Searchlight* mailing list on our web site, please use the comment line to give us *your* name, so that we can include this information when we mail your friend their first issue. People often react angrily when they learn they have been placed on a mailing list, unless they see that this was done at the request of a friend. Your cooperation in this will help ensure a more ready reception for the magazine, and a more open mind to the truths you wish to share with them.

This month’s back cover quote, of anonymous origin, was contributed by our good friend Victor Downs. If you see a quotable quote, be sure to send it in so we can share it with our *Searchlight* family.

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 and you can e-mail them with any questions at their website: www.crestwoodcreek.com.

Ken and Barb Wardius took our cover lighthouse photo. The *Point Iroquois Light* is located in Bay Mills, MI. This light stands watch where Lake Superior begins its treacherous rush into the St. Mary’s River, the connection between Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes.

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