

The

# Berean Searchlight

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

November 2004



Feature Articles

*Studies in the Book of Revelation—Rev. 21,22*  
 Pastor Paul M. Sadler ..... 5

*Dispensationalism—A Panel Discussion*  
 Pastor Cornelius R. Stam ..... 11

*Now That I Believe (Part 2)*  
 Pastor Ricky Kurth ..... 17

Departments

Do You Know the Verse? ..... 4

Spotlight on Grace Churches ..... 16

Question Box ..... 22

From Our Mailbag ..... 26

The BBI Byline ..... 29

News and Announcements ..... 30

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

Printing: United Press Inc., Elk Grove Village, IL

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

*Berean Bible Society*  
 N112 W17761 Mequon Rd.  
 PO Box 756  
 Germantown, WI 53022

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

Internet: [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org)  
 E-mail: [berean@execpc.com](mailto:berean@execpc.com)

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

**The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), November 2004. Vol. 65, Number 8.**  
 The *Berean Searchlight* is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Second-class postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756.



## From the Editor to You:

---



Dearly Beloved,

It has been said that “If you want to find gratitude, look for it in the dictionary.” Sadly this is all too often true. Things haven’t really changed that much over the years because man has always had a tendency to be ungrateful for the bountiful blessings that God has bestowed upon him.

A good example is the account of the ten lepers who were healed during our Lord’s earthly ministry. As the Master passed through Samaria, He entered a certain village where ten lepers stood afar off. Leprosy was a dreadful disease in biblical times which excluded the leper from the congregation of Israel. So when these lepers saw the Great Physician passing by “they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when He saw them, He said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed” (Luke 17:13,14).

The Lord had compassion on these poor souls and healed them of their affliction. Nine of the ten hurried away and never returned to convey their appreciation to the Lord. How like us all; we hurry away clutching our blessings, but never return to give thanks to the Giver and Sustainer of all things. Only one of the ten lepers turned back to express his gratitude. He fell at the feet of the Master and glorified God for His mercy—an act we might add that *pleased* the Lord.

May this account remind us of the importance of being thankful for the bountiful blessings the Lord has imparted to us, whether they are spiritual or physical in nature. This should be especially true of those who have had the eyes of their understanding opened to the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery.

We thank the Lord for you and pray on your behalf that your work of faith might super-abound to the honor and glory of God. As we gather together with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, may it be a time of remembrance of the goodness of God. Pray, too, for our young men and women in the military who are engaged in the war against terrorism around the world that we might live in safety. Thanks be to God that freedom’s light continues to shine here in America. As the apostle says, “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:20).

Yours because of Calvary,  
Paul M. Sadler, President

# Do You Know the Verse?

A letter from Genie Dickerson reminded us that many of the sayings and expressions that pepper our language are derived from God's Word. Below are some of the more common examples. Can you find the verses from which they are drawn? The answers will appear in next month's *Searchlight*.

"A drop in the bucket"  
"Holier than thou"  
"Blind leading the blind"  
"Salt of the earth"  
"Money is the root of all evil"  
"Man shall not live by bread alone"  
"An eye for an eye"  
"Apple of my eye"  
"Escaped by the skin of his teeth"  
"His knees were knocking"  
"I wash my hands of the matter"  
"Eat, drink, and be merry"  
"The handwriting on the wall"  
"You can't take it with you when you die"  
"Kiss of death"  
"Hope against hope"  
"For goodness sake"  
"Like mother, like daughter"  
"A man after my own heart"  
"Pulling my hair out"  
"Little by little"  
"Money talks"  
"He brought the house down"  
"He's a know-it-all"  
"He's asking for it"  
"A little bird told me"  
"Go the extra mile"  
"He's beside himself"  
"We don't see eye-to-eye"  
"At wit's end"



# Studies in the Book of Revelation

## Revelation 21,22

By Paul M. Sadler

**“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”**

—Rev. 21:1,2

Over the past century or so there has been an ongoing controversy that has swirled around the 21st and 22nd chapters of Revelation. While most tend to shrink from controversy, it is not always a bad thing. Controversy drives us back to the Scriptures to determine the legitimacy of a particular teaching. It causes us to ponder what we may not have otherwise considered. But something new does not necessarily mean it aligns itself with the Scriptures. This is why it is important to exercise a great deal of discernment when weighing the validity of a new teaching. The question is, is it sound doctrine?

The issue here in the closing words of the Book of Revelation has to do with whether the last two chapters of the record are addressing the *millennial kingdom* or the *eternal state*. We hold the firm conviction that the primary

subject of the narrative is the eternal state, although there are many capable Bible teachers, both past and present, who would teach otherwise. They believe the theme of these passages is the millennium, which you would do well to weigh carefully in the light of the Scriptures.

While we agree that there are many similarities between the millennial kingdom and the eternal state, they do differ. A comparison of these two periods quickly settles the matter. We know, for example, the millennial kingdom is established during the day of the Lord, which means it precedes the new heaven and new earth (II Pet. 3:10-13 cf. Rev. 20:1-6; 21:1). The millennium then is a part of the *old* order, not the new.

Although longevity is restored to mankind during the kingdom, the curse which includes death is still present on the earth (Isa. 65:20; Rev. 20:7-9). According to the Apostle John, death is abolished after the kingdom at the Great White Throne Judgment, as we have seen. Therefore, in eternity “the former things” such as disease, pain, sorrow, and death have passed away (Rev. 20:11-15 cf. 21:4; 22:3).

John's reference to the *New Jerusalem* here in the latter chapters of the Apocalypse stands in contrast with the city that bears the same name in the millennium. Perhaps the most obvious distinction is the *temple*. We know, for example, that a temple will be erected in the kingdom commonly known as Ezekiel's temple. In the eternal state, however, there will be no temple "for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it," that is, the *New Jerusalem* (Ezek. 40-42 cf. Rev. 21:22).

During the kingdom age the Lord will require the unbeliever to make a yearly pilgrimage to Jerusalem to observe the feast of tabernacles. This is to give them an opportunity to receive Him as their Savior. After the millennium all unbelievers will be cast into the lake of fire at the Great White Throne; thus, only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life are permitted to enter into the *New Jerusalem* (Zech. 14:16-21 cf. Rev. 21:24-27).

**"In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:2).**

Many claim that this is an obvious reference to the kingdom, because the leaves of the tree of life are said to be for the healing of the nations. The problem with this interpretation is that John clearly states in the same context, "and there shall be no more curse." It will be replaced by life

and life more abundantly. May we suggest the following: With the curse lifted in eternity the leaves of the tree, the purpose of which were once used for the healing of the nations, now stand as a *memorial* that all things have been summed up in Christ (Eph. 1:10; Rev. 22:2,3).

## **THE NEW JERUSALEM AND THE ETERNAL STATE**

**"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God" (Rev. 21:9,10).**

There are a number of key phrases in the Scriptures that refer to the eternal state—the dispensation of the fullness of times (Eph. 1:10), the day of God (II Pet. 3:12,13), and the ages to come (Eph. 2:7). As we enter eternity God will have brought forth a new heaven and a new earth which means there continues to be a distinction between these two realms. This is substantiated by the recurring themes of prophecy here in John's account. For example:

John beholds the New Jerusalem come out of heaven to the earth. It now replaces the old city that was brought to ashes in the recreation of all things. As we leave the old behind there is a seamless transition to the new order as the number "twelve"

implies. The number *twelve* is the number of governmental perfection which is closely associated with the plans and purpose of God for the earth. The attributes of the New Jerusalem are a case in point.

In time past the number *twelve* was stamped throughout prophecy. There were *twelve* sons of Israel from whom came the *twelve* tribes of Israel. In addition to the *twelve* precious stones that graced the breastplate of the high priest, there were *twelve* apostles of the kingdom who were promised to sit on *twelve* thrones judging the *twelve* tribes of Israel. This numerical theme continues uninterrupted into the eternal state where John tells us the New Jerusalem has a wall around it with *twelve* gates that have the names of the *twelve* tribes of Israel inscribed upon them. Standing at each gate is an angel. With the enemies of God vanquished, these angels are not stationed here as protectors of the great city, but as an honor guard, greeting and welcoming those who visit the city of God (Rev. 21:12).

John also noted “the wall of the city had *twelve* foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (Rev. 21:14). Because the *twelve* apostles left their families and livelihoods they are given the distinct honor of having their names written on these *twelve* foundations. Interestingly the Apostle Paul is not mentioned here and for good reason—Paul is not one of the twelve apostles nor is he the thirteenth apostle of the kingdom!

Paul’s apostleship is unique, in that he was raised up to make known the heavenly ministry of Christ. Therefore his apostleship is identified with the *heavens*. Paul teaches us in his epistles that the members of the Body of Christ have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies. We are also said to be seated with Christ in the heavens, thus, we have a heavenly hope and calling. Today there is only *one* apostle who is God’s spokesman for the Body of Christ—Paul. In his revelation we are brought into the wonderful truth of our *oneness* in Christ. It is of little wonder then that the present administration of grace is stamped from beginning to end with the number *one*.

---

“With the abolition of sin and the curse it may well be that the new heaven and new earth will be open to one another.”

---

There is “*one* new man,” a new creation made of Jews and Gentiles called the Church the Body of Christ (Eph. 2:14). Paul was the first to reveal there is “*one* mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (I Tim. 2:5). The sevenfold unity of the Spirit that has been established by the Spirit Himself states: “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. 4:5,6).



Again and again Paul admonishes us to be of *one* accord and of *one* mind (Phil. 2:2). What the number *twelve* is to prophecy, the number *one* is to the Mystery.

With the abolition of sin and the curse it may well be that the new heaven and new earth will be open to one another. While we will possess a heavenly citizenship throughout eternity, in all likelihood we will have access to the earth and the New Jerusalem as members of the family of God. We will never tire of the splendor of the crystal city as it shimmers like a diamond in the bright sunlight. But heaven is our home! It is here that God is going to show us the exceeding riches of His kindness in the ages to come. The cares of this life may at times seem greater than we can bear, but they work for us “a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” Nothing compares with what lies ahead for those who love Him.

**“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads” (Rev. 22:3,4).**

It is often assumed that “work” was a product of the curse. The truth of the matter is, before the fall God had created man to have dominion over the earth, which clearly implies he was to manage the creation over which he was given oversight. When God placed Adam in the garden He instructed him to “dress it and to keep it” (Gen. 2:15). The Hebrew word for “dress” has the idea of labor.

Adam was to till the ground and care for the garden. Prior to the curse creation worked in harmony with our first parents. It was not until after the fall, when the curse was pronounced, that Adam faced the harsh reality that he would have to eke out an existence by the sweat of his brow. Suddenly creation turned against him. Simply fail to weed your vegetable garden for two weeks and you’ll see what Adam faced as he sought to provide for his family.



Since the beginning then, man was created to work. He finds contentment and fulfillment when his hand is to the plow, as it were. Although we are told very little about the eternal state we do know that the household of God, both in heaven and earth, will serve the Lord. Idleness is not one of the fruits of the Spirit. In regard to the earthly program of God, John says to his hearers, “His servants shall serve Him” in the New Jerusalem. The heavenly message given to us from Paul reveals this: “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him” (II Cor. 5:8,9). We, too, are going to be serving the Lord throughout



eternity to the praise of His glory in Christ Jesus. We are not told exactly what we will be doing, but whatever the task, we will perform it happily as unto the Lord, knowing that it is for our ultimate good and His glory.

**“And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 22:5).**

The New Jerusalem that descends out of heaven is approximately a fifteen hundred mile cube in every direction, including its height. If you were to travel around the perimeter of this city it would be a six-thousand mile trip. In the midst of this structural wonder the light of the Lord will illuminate the entire city. Once again God is demonstrating that He is able to sustain His creation apart from the sun, as He did at the dawn of creation. In the beginning God waited until the fourth day before He created the sun, moon, and stars, for He would have man to understand that He is far above His creation and therefore worthy to be worshipped. He is sovereign, almighty, and all-powerful!

### **THE FINAL MESSAGE**

**“And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things” (Rev. 22:8).**

Immediately after John received the revelation of the eternal state he fell at the feet of the

angel who had showed him these things. The apostle was so overwhelmed by what he had seen that he lost his senses for a moment and began to worship the angel who imparted the revelation to him. John is sharply rebuked by the angel who was merely a messenger of God. The lesson for us here is that we are not to worship anyone or anything other than the true and living God!

**“And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand” (Rev. 22:10).**

The narrative from this point *redirects* itself back to the seven churches of Asia who were being prepared for the coming Tribulation and kingdom. Unlike the revelation given to the prophet Daniel, John is instructed not to seal the words of this prophecy. Thus the Book of Revelation is the unveiling of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Judge of the earth. For the most part, the message of this book can be understood by the Lord’s people when it is studied rightly divided. Of course, those who actually enter the day of the Lord will understand it in its fullest sense.

**“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Rev. 22:11,12).**

At the close of the Great Tribulation, Christ will come as a thief in the night when He returns to

the earth. In that day He will reward both the believer and the unbeliever according to their works. God always honors His Word! He has promised that those who reject His Beloved Son and trouble the saints will “be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power” (II Thes. 1:9). They will be judged according to their evil deeds. Those who heed the message given to the seven churches in Asia will be rewarded by entering into the kingdom and partaking of the tree of life, as promised to the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:7).

**“Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie” (Rev. 22:14,15).**


The city here is the *old* Jerusalem from which Christ will rule and reign in the millennial kingdom. The obedient will be permitted to enter through the gates

---

“If there is one thing we have learned in our study of Revelation it is this, God will ultimately triumph over sin....”

---

and eat of the tree of life, the leaves of which will be for the healing of the nations (Ezek. 47:12). Since sin is still present in the kingdom those *without* the city and the household of God are said to be evildoers. The paradise that was lost by Adam’s disobedience will one day be restored upon the earth on the basis of the redemptive work of Christ. If there is one thing we have learned in our study of the Book of Revelation it is this, God will ultimately triumph over sin in His universe.

**“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the off-spring of David, and the bright and morning star....He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen! Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:16).** 

*Next Month—The Importance of the Local Church in Paul’s Epistles*

**Did you enjoy this series** on *The Book of Revelation*?

If so, and you are one of our newer subscribers who did not receive this series of articles from the beginning, you may download and read the complete set of articles (13 messages in all) by simply visiting our website at [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org) and clicking on “Berean Searchlight.” The series began with the October 2003 issue.

---

On November 14, 1957, a panel discussion was held at *Wheaton College*, Wheaton, Illinois, on the subject of *Dispensationalism*. The participants were: Dr. A. Holmes, Dr. B. Mickelsen, Dr. J. R. Rice and Mr. C. R. Stam, with Dr. M. C. Tenney presiding. In this, the first of a two-part article, we present the opening statement by Pastor Stam, followed by the discussion among the panel members. Next month, we will conclude with questions from the floor that were directed to and answered by the panel members. We have omitted the opening statements by Drs. Holmes, Mickelsen and Rice, but the full transcript containing these omissions is available for \$5.00. —RK

---



John R.  
Rice

## Dispensationalism

### A Panel Discussion

November 14, 1957  
*Wheaton College*, Wheaton, IL



Cornelius R.  
Stam

#### MR. CORNELIUS R. STAM:

To begin with the “extreme” dispensational view, I might just say a word by way of definition of the word sometimes translated *dispensation* in our New Testament as I see it. We do *not* believe that a dispensation is a period of time. In fact I have written rather strongly against that view in my book, *The Fundamentals of Dispensationalism*. Technically, of course, the word simply means a “house management.” In usage, however, I would say that it runs very close to our word “dispensation”; it is that which is administered or dispensed, or the act of administering or dispensing.

Now we believe that the principles of God are eternal and unchanging. They could not change. God could not change His standards; men have always been, and men always will be, saved only by grace through faith, essentially, and could only be saved on the basis of the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The sacrifices that were demanded for atonement in Old Testament times did not in themselves save: “It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sin.” They served only as an expression of the faith of the individuals who brought them. If God said: “Bring a sacrifice,” faith would bring a sacrifice. If God said: “Keep the Law and you will be my people,” faith would do its best to keep the Law. If God said: “Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins,” faith would repent and be baptized and have its sins remitted. If God says: “But now the righteousness

of God without the Law is manifest,” and again: “To him that worketh *not* but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness,” faith will say: “Lord this is the best we have had it yet,” and will gratefully accept what God provides.

Now how does this affect us? If we look at the Bible to get a panoramic view of it, God disposes of the Gentiles in the first 11 chapters of Genesis. Then He makes a covenant with Abraham that concerns a land and a nation. Centuries later He makes another covenant with Israel through Moses, in which He gives the laws that are to govern that nation in that land. Still later He makes a covenant with David regarding a kingdom and a King, who is to administer the laws of that nation in that land. Sometime after that we find the prophets describing that kingdom; a change in the way of life on earth is to take place. War and bloodshed are to be abolished. Tremendous changes in man’s physical condition are to take place, and a King is to reign in righteousness and justice. Now, finally, John the Baptist appears on the scene and John says in Mark 1:15, for example: “The time is fulfilled; the kingdom of God is at hand.” And the Lord Jesus takes up the cry, “The kingdom of God [or the kingdom of Heaven] is at hand.” The twelve Apostles are sent to preach a kingdom of Heaven, or the kingdom of God, that is *at hand*.

“I believe that the Word of God teaches that the Epistles of Paul are our ‘private mail.’”

Now what kingdom could they possibly have been proclaiming as at hand, except that which their background would lead us to believe they were discussing. We have got to remember their background, beloved, when we come to the “gospel” in the Gospel records. In Isaiah, for example, the 11th chapter, and the 6th verse: “The knowledge of the Lord shall cover *the earth* as the waters cover the sea.” Jeremiah 23:5: “A king shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in *the earth*.” At the birth of Christ you find the same idea clearly. It is: “Glory to God in the highest and *on earth* peace, good will toward men.” And in the Sermon on the Mount: “The meek shall inherit *the earth*,” and in the so-called Lord’s Prayer: “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done *in earth* as it is in heaven.”

And it seems to me that in the proclamation of the kingdom we have the proclamation of a changing way of life. The wonderful miracles which our Lord wrought indicated changes also that were to take place when that kingdom was established. So I say that the kingdom was proclaimed by the Lord Jesus Christ on earth (I know that there are eschatological and non-eschatological aspects to that kingdom),

but He was proclaiming the earthly establishment of the kingdom of God. And now, this is important: That did not change after the Cross or at Pentecost. That did not change at all. They are still under the Law. Peter offers them the return of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom on earth. "If you repent God will send Jesus, and the times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord." So I say that those who are seeking to serve God under the so-called Great Commission today are working under the *wrong* commission and a commission which God has indeed rendered it impossible to fully obey.

Now we come to the Apostle Paul, *another* apostle. There were twelve apostles to sit on twelve thrones, but God raised up *another* apostle, the Apostle Paul, who asks us "if you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward, how that by revelation He made known unto me the Mystery," or secret. It is he alone who says "I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles; I magnify my office." (This subject is fabulous, but I would like to close with what he writes to the Galatians). In the first two chapters of Galatians he makes it clear that his apostleship had no relation to the apostleship of the Twelve. He says: "My apostleship is not of men neither even *by* man" (as Mathias' apostleship was). They had been led of the Holy Spirit to choose him and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. In the eleventh verse of the same chapter he says: "I certify you brethren that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man, for I neither received it of man neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." In the second chapter and the second verse he says: "I went up by revelation (to Jerusalem, that is) and I communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation lest by any means I should run or had run in vain." So the idea that the Apostle Paul simply went up to check with the leaders of the Twelve to make sure he was preaching the same thing is certainly contradicted here. He says: "I went up by revelation; I communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles." He says: "In conference they added nothing to me, but contrariwise I added something to them." When they saw, when they perceived (I'll read this to you—the ninth verse): "When James, Cephas and John who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace which was given unto me they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship, that we should go unto the Gentiles and they to the circumcision."

Now we must take into consideration all that that involves. The Twelve had been sent into all the world. They had been sent to make disciples of all nations: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." But now, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, they solemnly agreed that they would confine their ministry to Israel while Paul, with Barnabas as his helper, became the Apostle to the Gentiles. Does that not indicate that the gospel of the kingdom did

not produce the desired results, that is, as far as the human side is concerned? Does that not indicate that that kingdom, the kingdom which would have been established on earth and someday will be established on earth, was rejected, and now God raised up *another* apostle with *another* message? He alone speaks of “*my* gospel.” Paul pronounces a curse upon those who preach another gospel than he has been preaching. He says (and you will notice it is strong language, for he repeats it): “As I said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which ye have received...” and in the preceding verse, “than that which I have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” That doesn’t mean to be lost, of course, Christians can reap curse as well as blessing. And I believe the Church has reaped that curse in the confusion and division that has gripped it for these centuries. Thank you.

### DISCUSSION BY PANEL MEMBERS

QUESTION by Dr. Mickelsen addressed to Mr. Stam:

In your book, *The Fundamentals of Dispensationalism*, there is a very arresting metaphor. You take the figure of our mail system and you bring out that although many of us may read our roommate’s mail, that if his dad, say, said: “I am sending you a check for \$400.00,” you don’t think that his dad would be sending you the check because it isn’t your mail. We may enjoy reading it but only when our dad says he is sending us \$400.00 do we get encouraged. Would you tell us what you really believe is our mail?

ANSWER by Mr. Stam:

The Epistles of Paul. I believe that the Word of God teaches that the Epistles of Paul are our “private mail.” It is not Luke or James or John or Peter or anyone else, but the Apostle Paul who says: “I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the Apostle of the Gentiles; I magnify mine office.”

QUESTION by Dr. Holmes addressed to Mr. Stam:

One further question, there are just five instances where Matthew, who uses the term kingdom of heaven, uses the term kingdom of God instead. I think it can be shown in each of those five instances that he does so purely for literary purposes because the style of language would make it awkward to have it otherwise. To come back to Ephesians 3, concerning this phrase “revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets,” how do you understand this, Mr. Stam?

ANSWER by Mr. Stam:

He says: “It is *now* revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets” and he adds: “*by the Spirit.*” Now, he went up by revelation, as it says in Galatians 2: “I went up by revelation and I communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles.” Verse 7 says:

“They saw it”; Verse 9 says, “They perceived it.” Now, how could they perceive these truths? Only “by the Spirit.” He told it to them; he received it by direct revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ, then he communicated it to them and they saw it.

STATEMENT by Dr. Rice:

It seems to me that we are missing a definition in Ephesians 3. Our brothers seem to take for granted that the mystery is the Church; unfortunately that is not what the Scripture says. In Ephesians 3:3-6, what is the mystery? “That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same Body.” In the same passage he says: “You were one time alienated from the commonwealth of Israel.” No doubt there has been a people of God all along. The mystery was that Gentiles would be included in that Body.

STATEMENT by Mr. Stam:

I agree partly. I do not believe that the mystery was the Church. I think Dr. Scofield slipped when he tried to show contrasts between Israel and the Church. God has always had His “ecclesia,” His “called out people.” But we are talking about a *joint* Body and have you not contradicted yourself in what you have just said, that this Body existed all along? He is speaking here of a *joint* Body and says: “Now that middle wall of partition is broken down.”

*To Be Continued!*



## 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).



## Would You Like the Spotlight to Shine on Your Church?

If your church is in full agreement with our doctrinal statement, and you would like to be considered for *Spotlight on Grace Churches*, just write and tell us about your church. Our doctrinal statement can be studied at [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org), or you may contact us for a printed copy.



### Spotlight on Grace Churches

This month's church is:

#### Community Bible Church

**Location:** 1427 W. Main Street, Tipp City, Ohio 45371  
(937) 667-2710

**Pastors:** Jeff Seekins—Senior Pastor  
John Brian—Youth Pastor

**Services:** 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship  
6:30 p.m. Sunday Testimony & Bible study

**Additional ministries:** Wednesday activities during the school year: Coached by Christ, Youth Fellowship, Bible Study, Wood Carving Fellowship, and Ladies Bible Study.

*Community Bible Church* is known throughout the area for its 30 year ministry of distinctly Christian daycare and preschool for families in the area through: *Little Lighthouse Preschool and Daycare*.

**Purpose statement:** The stated purpose of our church is “to promote the worship of God by the preaching of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ at home and abroad; trusting that as a result sinners shall be saved and believers edified.” The Scriptural mandate for our purpose is Colossians 1:28, “Whom [Christ] we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”

**Contact information:** Pastor Jeff Seekins at [jjseekins@juno.com](mailto:jjseekins@juno.com)

[www.donet.com/~cbchurch](http://www.donet.com/~cbchurch)

---

The following is the second in a series of articles written as a primer for new believers, to help establish them in their new-found faith.

---



# Now That I Believe (Part 2)

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

## How should I serve the Lord now that I believe?

### 1. Should I be baptized?

While many pastors would say “yes,” the Apostle Paul says “no.” Water baptism was once a part of God’s program for His people Israel, but it is not a part of God’s program for His people *today*, the Body of Christ.

Whenever we are told the *purpose* of baptism in Scripture, it is always said to be “*for the remission of sins*” (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Acts 2:38). The Lord Himself insisted, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16). But after Israel rejected her King, the Lord raised up the Apostle Paul, and made him “*the apostle of the Gentiles*” (Romans 11:13). This new apostle declared, “*Christ sent me not to baptize*” (I Corinthians 1:17), and then said, “*be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ*” (I Corinthians 4:16; 11:1).

Water baptism is a *work*, it is something that we can *do*, and Paul insists that salvation *today* is “*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration,*” and *not* by the washing of water baptism (Titus 3:5).

It is the teaching of Paul that we don’t need *water* baptism, “*for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one Body*” (I Corinthians 12:13). This *spiritual* baptism took place the moment we were saved, and we are now “*complete in Him*” (Colossians 2:10), completely circumcised with a spiritual circumcision (Colossians 2:11), and completely baptized with a spiritual baptism (Colossians 2:12). Paul then affirms that while there are many different kinds of baptism in the Bible (Matthew 3:11; I Corinthians 10:1,2), there is only “*one baptism*” in God’s program for *today* (Ephesians 4:5), referring of course to our

spiritual baptism into Christ. The words “one baptism” leave no room for an *additional* baptism with water.

It is often taught that while baptism today does not save us, it is a testimony to salvation. However, this is not taught in Scripture. Water baptism today is only a *bad* testimony, for it testifies that the one being baptized does not understand that they are complete in Christ without water baptism.

## 2. Begin studying the Bible.

The Bible is God’s Word: “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God*” (II Timothy 3:16,17). As they wrote the Scriptures, “*holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*” (II Peter 1:21). “*The Spirit of the Lord spake by me,*” said



David of his writings, “*and His Word was in my tongue*” (II Samuel 23:2). God’s Word has the power to cleanse our ways (Psalm 119:9) that we might not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11). It strengthens us as Christians (Psalm 119:28) and directs our steps (Psalm 119:105). It sets examples for us (I Corinthians 10:11) and gives us hope (Romans 15:4). It is “*profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*” (II Timothy 3:16,17). God has magnified His Word above even His name (Psalm 138:2), so we should say with Job: “*I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food*” (Job 23:12). We should *read* God’s Word (I Timothy 4:13), *meditate* on it (I Timothy 4:15) and *study* it (II Timothy 2:15).

II Timothy 2:15 also says that as we study God’s Word we should be “*rightly dividing*” it. This is the key to understanding the Bible. While all Scripture is “*profitable*” for us to study (II Timothy 3:16), much of Scripture contains specific instructions for the people of Israel. The Old Testament portion of our Bibles contains commandments for Israel in the past, while the books of the New Testament that are not written by the Apostle Paul were written with future Israel in mind. Unless we separate these instructions from the instructions given to us Gentiles through our apostle Paul (Romans 11:13; 15:16), God’s Word can become very confusing and *unprofitable*.

A simple demonstration of the need to rightly divide God’s Word can be seen in the different Bible commands concerning something as basic as our *diet*. God told Adam he could only eat plant life (Genesis 1:29), but afterwards added meat to man’s diet (Genesis 9:3). Then later under the Law of Moses, God told Israel to “*make a difference between...the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten*” (Leviticus 11:47). But then centuries later when Peter rightly refused to eat unclean meat, God changed man’s diet

again (Acts 10:9-14), explaining to us through Paul that “every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving” (I Timothy 4:4). Similarly, the Law forbade the eating of meat sacrificed to idols (Exodus 34:14-16), but Paul taught that this is not a sin for us today (I Corinthians 8:1-13; 10:23-33). Yet in the future, God’s people Israel will again be prohibited from eating such meat (Revelation 2:20).

Since it is impossible to obey *all* of these different commands, it is imperative to determine *which* of these commands God would have us obey today. And since there are many other issues in which Scripture gives “contradictory” instructions, it is vital that we remember that it is the commands of Christ given to and through the Apostle Paul that we must obey (I Corinthians 14:37; Philippians 3:17; 4:9).

While the *twelve* apostles are associated in Scripture with the *twelve* tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28), the *one* apostle Paul is associated with the *one* Body of Christ (Romans 12:4,5; I Corinthians 10:17; 12:12,13,20; Ephesians 2:16; 4:4; Colossians 3:15). In Paul’s epistles *alone* we find information about “*the church which is His Body*” (Ephesians 1:22,23) and instructions intended primarily for us.

This is not to say that we need not study the rest of the Bible, for it is Paul himself who tells us that “*whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope*” (Romans 15:4). As we see God’s faithfulness to His people Israel in other parts of Scripture, it gives us hope that God will be just as faithful in His promises to the church of today, the Body of Christ.

### 3. Begin attending church.

“*Upon the first day of the week*” (I Corinthians 16:2), Christians should be in church, “*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*” (Hebrews 10:25). While we are already members of the one true church, the Body of Christ, Paul wrote most of his epistles to *local* churches (I Corinthians 1:2; II Corinthians 1:1; I Thessalonians 1:1; II Thessalonians 1:1) and talks about the local church over and over again (Romans 16:1,23; I Corinthians 11:18; Philippians 4:15). The local church is where the Scriptures



are read (Colossians 4:16) and taught (I Corinthians 4:17), and spiritual men are ordained (Acts 14:23) to feed God’s Word to His people (Acts 20:28). It is where spiritual leaders care for the spiritual needs of God’s people (I Timothy 3:5), who in turn support God’s work in their area by giving of their finances (I Corinthians 16:1,2). It is the place where God’s people “*show the Lord’s death till He come*” by observing a communion service (I Corinthians 11:23-26). When the

Apostle Thomas stayed home from church, he missed the Lord's first appearance to His apostles after His death and burial (John 20:24), and so doubted that He had risen (v. 25). If at all possible, choose a church that preaches the gospel of salvation, and teaches God's Word rightly divided.

#### **4. Begin to pray.**

While the Bible forbids the repeating of memorized prayers (Matthew 6:7), we are often encouraged to simply talk with God in prayer as our Lord did in John 17:1-26. God encourages us to be *"praying always"* (Ephesians 6:18) about *"every thing"* (Philippians 4:6), to *"continue in prayer"* (Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2), and to *"pray without ceasing"*



(I Thessalonians 5:17), that is, to never give up praying. We should pray for unsaved people *"that they might be saved"* (Romans 10:1), and for Christians (Ephesians 6:18) that they might not sin (II Corinthians 13:7). We should also pray for Christians that they might be *"filled with the knowledge of His will"* (Colossians 1:9) and so *"stand perfect and complete in all the will of God"* (Colossians 4:12). We should pray for political leaders (I Timothy 2:1) and spiritual leaders (Romans 15:30,31; II Corinthians 1:1; Philippians 1:19; Philemon 22) and their ministry (Ephesians 6;18,19; II Thessalonians 3:1).

It is important to *"pray with the understanding"* (I Corinthians 14:15) that prayer works differently today than it did for Israel. In the past, Elijah could pray for fire to come down from heaven (I Kings 18:36-38) and God would grant his request, but He will not do so today. Then in the future kingdom of heaven on earth, the Lord promised Israel that *"all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive"* (Matthew 21:22). This is because in the kingdom, Israel will be filled with and *controlled* by God's Spirit (Ezekiel 36:27) and can be trusted with such a wonderful prayer promise. But today *"we know not what to pray for as we ought"* (Romans 8:26). Without the control of the Spirit, what a disaster it would be if people who didn't know what to pray for as they ought received everything they asked for in prayer! But while we *don't* know what to pray for, we *do* know that *"all things work together for good to them that love God"* (Romans 8:28). Knowing this will give you *"the peace of God, which passeth all understanding"* (Philippians 4:6,7) whether or not you receive what you have asked for in prayer.

#### **5. Begin to share the gospel with others.**

The word "gospel" simply means *good news*, and God wants everyone to know about *"the gospel of the grace of God"* (Acts 20:24). As Christians, we are *"ambassadors for Christ"* (II Corinthians 5:20) and

as His representatives here on earth, it is our privilege to introduce people to Him. It is a natural thing to want to share good news with others. During the siege of Samaria, four starving Hebrew lepers thought that perhaps the besieging Syrian army might pity and feed them, and so ventured out among them one night (II Kings 7:3-5). They discovered that the Lord had frightened the army into leaving in such a hurry that they left all of their food behind (v. 5-7). The lepers ate to their heart's content (v. 8), then said, "*We do not well, this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace...now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household*" (v. 9). Similarly, now that you have "*tasted that the Lord is gracious*" (I Peter 2:3), you will want to share "*the gospel of your salvation*" (Ephesians 1:13) with others.

You may fear you will be unable to answer questions that others might ask, but God understands we can only "*speak the things which we have seen and heard*" so far in His Word (Acts 4:20). When the Lord healed a blind man (John 9:1-7), jealous religious leaders questioned him to try to discredit him (v. 13-24). He replied, "*one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see*" (v. 25). As a new Christian, you can say the same, spiritually speaking. Then the more you study God's Word, the more you will be "*ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you*" (I Peter 3:15).

### **6. Begin to give of your finances to the Lord's work.**


The work of the ministry is carried on by men who "*forbear working*" at secular labor, but who have a right to eat, drink and support a wife and family like anyone else (I Corinthians 9:4-10). Thus if you benefit from the "*spiritual things*" that they teach you, God asks you to minister unto them in material things (v. 11) so that they can continue to minister God's Word to you, and reach out to others, with sufficient funds to carry out the work of the ministry.

Under the Law of Moses, Israel was required to "tithe," i.e., give one-tenth of their income to the Lord for the maintenance of their priests (Leviticus 27:30-32; Numbers 18:24). Tithing was compulsory, and they "*robbed*" God when they withheld it (Malachi 3:8,9).

Since under Law God blessed Israel when they obeyed Him and cursed them when they did not, God challenged Israel to "*bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse...and PROVE [test] ME now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing*" (v. 10). But under grace, God has already opened the windows of heaven and blessed us "*with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*" (Ephesians 1:3). Thus Paul challenged the Corinthians to "*prove the sincerity of your love*" (II Corinthians 8:8) by responding to His grace financially. Do you see the difference? God told Israel to test Him with their obedience to see if He wouldn't bless them in response. But today, *God tests us* by blessing us *up front*, then asking us to be obedient givers to His work.



So unlike Israel, we are not to give “*of necessity*” (II Corinthians 9:7), we are not commanded to tithe, but are rather instructed to give “*as God hath prospered*” us (I Corinthians 16:2). Some cannot afford to tithe, others can afford to give more than ten percent, but all must give out of a grateful heart for all that He has done for us in Christ.

While there are many Christian causes worthy of our support, God would have “*all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth*” (I Timothy 2:3,4), and He would have “*all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery*” (Ephesians 3:9). Thus care should be taken to financially support only churches and organizations that preach the gospel and teach God’s Word rightly divided (II Timothy 2:15). 

## Question Box

*“Does Romans 13:8 teach that Christians shouldn’t borrow money for house loans, etc.?”*

**“Owe no man any thing...” (Rom. 13:8).**

We know from the previous verse that Paul cannot be saying that Christians should never owe anyone money:

**“Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due...” (v. 7).**

By living in a nation, we incur a debt to that nation by partaking of their services. So Paul cannot be saying in these two verses, “Pay the government what you owe them, but never owe anyone anything.” What then *is* he saying?

Well, when we “owe” the government our tax money, when is it *due*? Most of us pay weekly, bi-weekly or quarterly. In between these payments it is not a sin to live in their debt, it is only a sin when we fail to pay what we owe when it is due. Similarly, when we take out a loan, it is not a sin to live in debt to the creditor, it is only a sin when we fail to make the monthly payment. A Scriptural example of this same principle can be found in Deuteronomy 24:14,15:

**“Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor.... At his day thou shalt give him his hire...lest...it be sin unto thee.”**

Say an employer hires a man for ten dollars an hour. One hour after he starts work, the employer now owes him ten dollars. But it is not a sin if he doesn’t rush out to pay his employee every hour. It is only a sin if he does not pay the man “*at his day*,” i.e., on payday. In the same way, there is no sin in taking out a loan, as long as regular payments are made on the appointed days.

—Pastor Kurth



# The Memoirs of Pastor Cornelius R. Stam



*Pastor Stam's Boyhood*  
*The Stam Family*  
*The Martyrdom of John and Betty*  
*Pastor Stam's Call into the Ministry*  
*The Good Fight of the Faith*  
*A Full Measure of Devotion*

This volume also gives a brief history of the Grace Movement from the standpoint of Pastor Stam's ministry.

*Supplies are limited!*

**Hardcover**

**131 Pages/with pictures**

This offer includes a complimentary copy of the *50th Anniversary Memorial Book* mentioned in the *Memoirs*.

***Special Price: \$10.00***

## The Real Christmas Story

By Paul R. Pontis

*The Real Christmas Story* contains a wealth of historical and biblical knowledge. Brother Paul Pontis does the reader a real service as he effectively challenges commonly held traditions surrounding the birth of Christ. Besides being enjoyable to read, this work is also a valuable reference guide.



**PAPERBACK**

**121 PAGES**

Limited Supply!

***Special Price: \$6.00***

**THESE OFFERS END NOVEMBER 30, 2004**

*(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)*

Orders up to **\$20.00**, please add **\$3.00** for postage and handling.

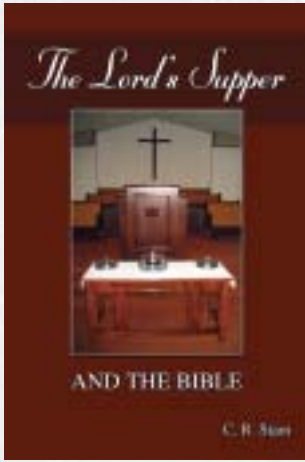
Orders over **\$20.00**, please add **15%** for postage and handling.

*\*Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency!*

# A New Look for Some Old Favorites

## *New Format and New Covers*

They say you can't judge a book by its cover, but many people do! These new covers "*adorn the doctrine*" found within in an appealing way.



### **The Lord's Supper and the Bible**

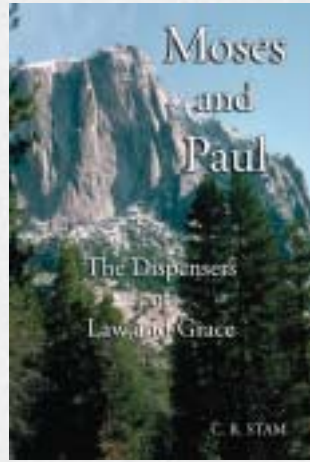
By C. R. Stam

In seeking the *truth* as to the Lord's Supper we must go to the Word of God alone. As you'll see, Pastor Stam presents a clear case for the proper observance of the Lord's Supper during the administration of Grace.

**PAPERBACK**

**115 PAGES**

***SPECIAL PRICE: \$6.00***



### **Moses and Paul**

By C. R. Stam

Those who struggle with rightly dividing the Word of truth will find this volume most helpful. Here Pastor Stam contrasts Law and Grace and the two revelators, Moses and Paul, who were used of God to dispense these truths.

**PAPERBACK**

**78 PAGES**

***SPECIAL PRICE: \$6.00***

**THESE OFFERS END NOVEMBER 30, 2004**

*(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)*

Orders up to \$20.00, please add \$3.00 for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add 15% for postage and handling.

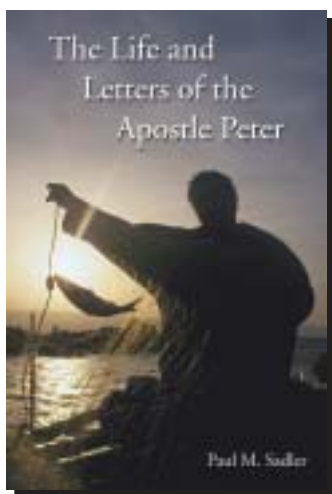
*\*Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency!*



***It's hot off the press!!!***

# **The Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter**

By Paul M. Sadler



*An expositional  
commentary*

*Did Peter and Paul  
preach the same gospel?*

*Explore Biblical  
relationships*

*Examines the old  
world that perished*

**HARDCOVER**

**250 PAGES**

(w/Scripture Index)

***Introductory Offer: \$11.00***

***\*This timely volume is now in stock!***

**THIS OFFER ENDS NOVEMBER 30, 2004**

**(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)**

Orders up to \$20.00, please add **\$3.00** for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add **15%** for postage and handling.

*\*Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency!*

---

**Orders:** Berean Bible Society, PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022

Phone: (262) 255-4750; Fax: (262) 255-4195

[www.bereanbiblesociety.org/literature](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org/literature)

---

**From Nigeria:**

"I was a Catholic before I was converted by reading some magazines from *Berean Bible Society*. Since then I have been following up with your studies. I am praying for help to enable me to study very well in order to establish a Grace church here in Nigeria."

**From Cameroon:**

"I enjoy the Grace message as the *Searchlight* enlightens me of Paul's teaching. I pray God to use me one day in my society to spread this message to all who have not heard. Praise God for Paul and all those who help to spread this message."

**From Washington:**

"I definitely want to express my heartfelt thanks for all the material and books I have purchased from you. You have really opened up the world of Bible study. It's fun once you've learned to rightly divide. Right now in prison, I'm not able to give you financial help, but I do remember you in my prayers. This time of incarceration has been such a blessing to me. It has given me the humbling experience and time I needed to study and learn about Christ. Thank you all again. Your ministry really does make a difference." (Thank you for praying for us.—RK).

**From the Internet:**

"I appreciate that we need the whole Bible, and I have read it through many times in my life, but now I feel the need to concentrate more on this final mystery revealed to us by Paul and to share it with others."

**From West Virginia:**

"A friend gave me a copy of the *Searchlight* to read. I'm so impressed with the Revelation articles that I am signing up for my own subscription."

**From Texas:**

"I am Education Director at our church. Our pastor has been teaching my Sunday School class the basics of identification and union with Christ along with the dispensational division of Scripture verses the covenant theology that most are steeped in. The class has been ravenous. Pastor began much of his progression toward 'rightly dividing the Word' after he 'happened' on a copy of *Things That Differ*. Although not in total agreement with Brother Stam, he has benefited enormously (as have I) through his writings and the resultant understanding of Scripture he's gained as he went back and searched the Scriptures to see if these things were true! Our local church, in turn, has also benefited! Thanks for your offer to help with our questions; be prepared to deliver!"

**From Wisconsin:**

"Thank you very much for the explanation of James 2. Five years ago I took Dispensational Survey at BBI with Pastor Sadler. I learned enough that it all makes sense to me now. Now I can answer more of my children's questions, and anyone else's for that matter. I find my love for the Lord and His Word continuing to grow."

**From the Philippines:**

"I just received *Acts, Dispensationally Considered and Man, His Nature and Destiny* by Pastor Stam. I now have ammunition to answer the Universalists here, and to equip the saints." (Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!—RK).

**From the Internet:**

"I just want to extend my deepest gratitude for sending me your new messages. I am blessed. The words were also sent to the young people in our church through my teaching."

**From Florida:**

"I was introduced to the *Berean Searchlight* through a brother in passing and I am now able to study and understand the Bible like I've never been able to before. Please place my name on your mailing list to receive the *Berean Searchlight*."

**From Texas:**

"Thank you for checking on my order. I suppose I'm somewhat anxious. I've not read Pastor Stam's teachings before until a few weeks ago, having long enjoyed Darby and Newell and more recently Miles Stanford. I can't wait to get these books!"

**From Oregon:**

"My wife and I have enjoyed the *Searchlight* for several months now. I had missed the dispensational teaching for such a long period of time. I would like to request the *Searchlight* be sent to my daughter. It's my impression she needs spiritual help and guidance." (Father knows best!—RK).

**From Maine:**

"I married my childhood sweetheart. She died in 1974 when we were missionaries in El Salvador. I am so blessed by your new articles on depression. I have been a missionary and a preacher. I hurt my back at work in 2003 and haven't worked since. Depression? You bet. Suicide? Too chicken, plus I wouldn't do that to my family. Die in my sleep? Sometimes I wish, but, not. I am an alcoholic. I don't drink now, but I *know* I'm seriously depressed. It's not spiritual. But your new article is at least helping me to understand a little more. Is it my fault? I do know that I'm partially (if not primarily) responsible."

**From South Dakota:**

"I was blessed when reading Steve Shober's article on depression. I am the chaplain of the disabled American veterans at Sioux Falls."

**From Wisconsin:**

"Thank you for your stance on the Word of God rightly-divided. It is a blessing. This year in our home school we will be studying four of Pastor Stam's books for our Bible curriculum: *Two Fold Purpose of God, Things That Differ, No Other Doctrine, and The Present Peril*."

**From the Internet:**

"Thank you for that timely reply. I am going to print it out for my neighbor. Pastor Stam's books are proving to be quite an asset as a study tool to help me find this information in the Bible."

**From Texas:**

"I have been receiving the *Berean Searchlight* since 1960 and I have read most of your books. I can never thank you enough for the help you have been to me in my ministries."

**From Indiana:**

"Thank you for all you have done for my education in the gospel of grace, and especially for answering all my questions so promptly. Jamie Botner sent me in this direction back in 1992." (We're happy to water what Jamie planted!—RK).

**From New York:**

"I'm thankful for the simplicity of the Pauline letters, compared to the distorted teachings of so many of our denominational churches today. I have been blessed with a little extra this month, so I'm sharing it with 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



# New Grace Library



## Premier Edition Grace Bible Software with OVER 200 WORKS

Theological Books  
Commentaries  
Reference Books + Bible Dictionary  
Charts and 12 Color Maps  
7 Bible Translations, including KJV,  
Greek and Hebrew  
Search Engine Included

### Featured Authors

Cornelius R. Stam	J. C. O'Hair	Ernest Campbell	Rollin Wilson
Joel Finck	Harry Bultema	Robert Hill	Wm. P. Heath
W. Edward Bedore	Charles F. Baker	Donald Webb	John LaVier Sr.
Paul M. Sadler	S. Craig MacDonald	C. I. Scofield	Robert Hanna
			...and more!

### BONUS

Included with the  
Premier Edition of  
the Grace Library CD-ROM,  
Introductory Versions of

=

Grace  
Library  
for Palm  
&  
Pocket PC

+

Classical Grace  
Poetry



Screen Saver

Explore, study, learn, enjoy, navigate, share, research, utilize 



Special Price: \$ 49.99



\* Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency!

For more information or to place an on-line order

access the web site - [www.tbsministries.com](http://www.tbsministries.com)

or contact Berean Bible Society (262) 255-4750.



Taking the Word of God to future generations.

## THE BBI BYLINE

# What Did Paul Preach About Grace?

## Ephesians 3:1-7

By W. Edward Bedore, Th.D.

Executive Director, *Berean Bible Institute*

The salvation of man throughout the ages has always depended on God's grace, as fallen man could never merit or earn the favor of a Holy and Righteous Creator God. Faith believes, and therefore acts on what God reveals. Abel offered a blood sacrifice, Noah built an ark, Abraham left Ur to go to Canaan, Moses and the people of Israel killed the Passover lamb. The Mosaic Law was a system of ordinances, rituals, and sacrifices that had to be kept by faith. The keeping of the law by itself could never earn eternal life, simply because man was not capable of keeping it perfectly. So, by faith, those who believed God's Word to them offered the required sacrifices, believing that somehow God would accept the blood as a covering for their sin.

To the Apostle Paul was revealed a secret by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. With the

revelation of the mystery (Romans 16:25) given to Paul, the Lord ushered in a new dispensation, the dispensation of grace. While salvation has always been by grace through faith, faith has not always stood alone. Faith imposed the keeping of God-given requirements, not to earn salvation, but as a required outward sign of trust in God. But now we are instructed simply to believe (trust in, rely on) the finished work of the Lord Jesus alone, knowing that He died for our sins and has been raised from the dead. Any attempt to add man's works to Christ's finished work is an outright denial of God's grace and the sufficiency of Christ, and thus perverts the Gospel of Grace. God's requirement for salvation today is that we simply believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:8-9). What are you trusting in?

### Are You Receiving the BBI Bulletin?



Included in its contents: *Institute Update*, *Challenging Articles*, *Updated Class Schedules*, *Course Descriptions*, "Mail Received at Box 587," "The Bulletin Board," and more!

To receive the *BBI Bulletin* simply write to: **Berean Bible Institute**, P.O. Box 587, Slinger, WI 53086. Sent *free* to anyone anywhere!



---

---

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

---

**THE WRITINGS OF J. C. O'HAIR NOW ON OUR WEBSITE:** Thanks to the painstaking effort of Pastor Doug Lee, who compiled many of Pastor O'Hair's writings onto a CD, these valued articles can now be reread by those who knew and loved the author and the truth he proclaimed. Our thanks also to the O'Hair family, who graciously gave permission to *Berean Bible Society* to display these studies. Now these messages from the pen of one of our founding fathers can be shared with new generations of Grace believers. Just visit us at [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org).

**A NEW CHURCH:** *GraceWay Bible Fellowship* of Slinger, Wisconsin meets at the *Slinger Elementary School* cafeteria, 207 Polk St. Tom Mills and Dave Van Wyck help Pastor Mike Fritz with the teaching and preaching Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Pastor Fritz at: 262-644-9030, or visit their website at: [www.gracewaybible.com](http://www.gracewaybible.com).

**A BLESSED EVENT:** *Berean Bible Institute* students Tom and Dawn Mills of West Bend, Wisconsin, are rejoicing over the birth of their daughter Eden Grace on August 19th, and we "*rejoice with them*" (Rom.12:15).

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH** of Oshkosh, Wisconsin is looking for a pastor. Interested candidates should contact Randy Hughes at 920-236-9024.

**A NEW GRACE CHURCH:** *Grace Fellowship Bible Church* of Sheridan, Arkansas, is now up and running with Sunday School, Sunday morning worship service, Sunday evening service and Wednesday evening service. These enthusiastic new Grace believers have already purchased land and are in the process of building a church building. If you live in the area, please contact Pastor Dick Ware at: 870-942-2799 for their current location, times of services, and additional information.

**CLARIFICATION:** In the August issue of the *Searchlight* your Editor stated: "Therefore, in all likelihood the Second Advent will take place sometime in the fall" (page 10). This statement was not meant to imply that the Rapture will take place in the fall of the year if we work backward from the Second Advent. Of course, there are far too many variables for this to be the case. This is why I used the phraseology "in all likelihood." We believe the Rapture is *imminent* and could transpire at any moment. The point I was attempting to drive home was, unlike the Rapture, the Second Coming of Christ is associated with signs, times, and seasons.

---

\*The picture of the lighthouse that appears on the front cover was taken by Mrs. Betty France. The *Sherwood Point Lighthouse*, near Idlewild, Wisconsin, holds the distinction of being the final manned light on the Great Lakes. It wasn't automated until the fall of 1983.

---

## PRICE LIST

### BIBLE STUDY BOOKS BY CORNELIUS R. STAM—FOUNDER

#### (Hardcover—Gold Stamped)

Acts, (Commentary) Volumes I & II .....	\$20.00
Acts, (Commentary) Volumes III & IV (w/Bible Index) .....	20.00
Author's Choice, The .....	10.00
Baptism and the Bible .....	9.00
Colossians (Commentary, w/Bible Index) .....	13.00
I Corinthians (Commentary) .....	11.00
II Corinthians (Commentary) .....	11.00
Divine Election and Human Responsibility .....	9.00
Galatians (Commentary, w/Bible Index) .....	13.00
Hebrews, Who Wrote It and Why? .....	9.00
Holding Fast the Faithful Word (w/Bible Index) .....	13.00
Lord's Supper and the Bible, The .....	8.00
Man, His Nature and Destiny .....	11.00
Memoirs of Pastor Cornelius R. Stam, The .....	12.00
Moses and Paul (w/Bible Index) .....	8.00
Pastoral Epistles (Commentary) .....	11.00
Paul, His Apostleship and Message (w/Bible Index) .....	10.00
Romans (Commentary) .....	11.00
Sermon on the Mount, The .....	9.00
I & II Thessalonians (Commentary) .....	10.00
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index) .....	11.00
True Spirituality (w/Bible Index) .....	10.00
Two-Fold Purpose of God, The (w/Bible Index) .....	8.00
Two Minutes With the Bible .....	11.00

#### (Paperbacks)

No Other Doctrine .....	\$8.00
Our Great Commission (w/Bible Index) .....	8.00
Present Peril, The .....	8.00
Satan In Derision .....	8.00
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index) .....	9.00

### WRITINGS BY PAUL M. SADLER—PRESIDENT

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	\$11.00
Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter, The (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	12.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	15.00
Triumph of His Grace, The (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	12.00
Are You Secure? (Booklet) .....	1.00
Historical Beginning of the Church, The (Booklet) .....	3.00
Institution of Marriage, The (Booklet) .....	4.00
Supernatural Sign Gifts of the Acts Period, The (Booklet) .....	4.00
Trials and Temptations (Booklet) .....	2.00

### SPECIAL OFFERS

26 Hardcover Books by C. R. Stam, Plus "No Other Doctrine," "Our Great Commission," and "The Present Peril" .....	\$240.00
Set of Current Booklets by C. R. Stam .....	40.00
Set by C. R. Stam (Books and Booklets) .....	280.00
Set on Acts by C. R. Stam (w/Bible Index) .....	35.00

**“In every thing give thanks: for this is the  
will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”  
(1 Thes. 5:18).**

**THE BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT**  
N112 W17761 MEQUON ROAD  
PO Box 756  
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022-0756

**PERIODICALS**  
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI