

# The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

December 2002



**Feature Articles**

*The Judgment Seat of Christ*  
 Pastor Paul M. Sadler ..... 7

*A Birthday Celebration?*  
 Pastor Cornelius R. Stam ..... 13

*Many Infallible Proofs*  
 Dr. Arthur Birkby ..... 17

**Departments**

From Our Mailbag ..... 4

How Would You Have Handled the Situation? ..... 6

Question Box ..... 11

The Seasons of Our Life ..... 12

The BBI Byline ..... 25

News and Announcements ..... 26

The *Berean Bible Society* is an organization for the promotion of Bible study by means of newspaper series, recorded Bible lessons, and the distribution of Bible study literature. It is a non-profit organization, a work of faith supported by the gifts of Christian friends.

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; *Composition and Layout:* Kevin J. Sadler

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

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

*Berean Bible Society* Main Office: (262) 255-4750  
*Berean Bible Society* Fax Number: (262) 255-4195

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

*Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., CST*

**The *Berean Searchlight* (ISSN 0005-8890), December 2002. Volume 63, Number 9.**

The *Berean Searchlight* is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Road, PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Second-class postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Road, PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756.



## From the Editor to You:

---



Dearly Beloved,

Whether the occasion is a holiday, a birthday celebration, or a graduation, it is customary to give a gift. While some gifts are given out of necessity, for the most part, a gift is an expression of our love. We normally bestow these tokens of our affection on those whom we feel deserve the honor. But God's ways are not our ways. He gave the gift of His beloved Son to His *enemies*. That's a true love story! Oh, the wonder of His grace that God sent His only begotten Son, the Son of His love, to save sinners like you and me while we were fleeing from the glory of His presence. Little wonder the Apostle Paul says, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

The word "unspeakable" here has the idea of "indescribable." The gifts I've received through the years were all describable. Some may have been a little harder to describe than others, but describable nonetheless. But the gift of God's dear Son is *indescribable*. Who can explain the incarnation; how the eternal Son of God left heaven's glory and took upon Himself the form of human flesh, yet was not tainted with our sin. Who can explain how Christ was wholly God and wholly human in one person? These wonders can only be received through the eye of faith.

The manger and the Cross stand at the two extremes of our Lord's life, but they are connected by the tapestry of redemption. Hence, "Christ Jesus *came* into the world to save sinners." A love story that ends with a death is tragic; in contrast, the death of Christ is the greatest demonstration of love this world has ever seen. How much does God love you? He gave His only begotten Son to die on your behalf. You see, Christ wasn't dying for His sin, He knew no sin; He was dying for your sins and my sins at Calvary. He was made sin for us that we might receive the righteousness of God in Him. Have you trusted Him?

Surely you would never think of paying for a gift; why, the giver would be highly offended—how much more so with God. The payment for your sins has already been furnished by the Giver; simply receive Him as a gift from God. If you have, then why not thank Him today for His unspeakable gift? After all, this is the Gift that includes all others!

May you and yours truly have a blessed Holiday Season in the Lord.

With praise and thanksgiving,

Paul M. Sadler  
President

**From West Virginia:**

"Thanks, once again, for your monthly notes and exhortations to stay close to God's Word. It is a wonderful thing to *understand* God's message to us through His chosen vessel, the Apostle Paul. I cannot imagine the frustration of trying to live today without Him (Jesus Christ)."

**From Arizona:**

"I just wanted to thank the BBS for their continual dedication to the truth. It has definitely helped me mature as a Christian."

**From the Internet:**

"Our newspaper features your *Two Minutes* clip. I read it periodically. However, I am displeased that you force your own view of Christianity and the Bible and condemn other Christians. That's not evangelism. I just read this one where you imply no need for baptism and show disregard for the Church. The Bible is clear on the promises in baptism and the Church." (Dear Friend, salvation is not in a water ceremony or the Church. Salvation is a relationship with Jesus Christ which is established by believing that He died for our sins and rose again—See Rom. 4:5 cf. I Cor. 15:1-4. Ed.)

**From Georgia:**

"I'm writing to express appreciation for the *Berean Searchlight*, which you publish and distribute. It's both refreshing and edifying. I would like to receive it. So far it has been given to me."

**From the Internet:**

"Hello Saints. Thanks very much for sending the booklets containing the *Life and Letters of Peter*. God Bless you."

**From Florida:**

"My sister told me about the *Berean Searchlight* and how it has helped her to understand the Word of God. She is blessed with each magazine she receives from you. Would you start sending me the *Berean Searchlight*? Thank you and God bless!"

**From Michigan:**

"I ordered 10 of these pamphlets, *The Logic of the Plan of Salvation*, at the time Paul Sadler was here for a family conference. I was very blessed and praise the Lord for Pastor Sadler in making the Word of God so understandable. God bless you all at BBS and give a special "HELLO" to Pastor Stam. He was a very special force in my family's coming to know the revelation of the Mystery that God gave to the Apostle Paul."

**From Iowa:**

"We enjoyed the *Searchlight* this month. We found the article about *What Age Was Jesus Baptized* to be very interesting, and to learn about why He was baptized—"to fulfill all righteousness." We now know what 'all righteousness' means. And also that water baptism is not meant for our time. Thank God for this explanation!"

**From Florida:**

"We pray for you all that you will allow our Lord to be in control of your minds and lives. We praise Him for His work through you all."

**From Virginia:**

"Recently, I have been re-reading Mr. Stam's book, *Holding Fast the Faithful Word*. It's grievous that many of the well-known Fundamentalist Bible teachers misrepresented and lied about what Messengers O'Hair and Stam wrote and taught. That must have been a great burden for Mr. Stam. When I found a website with the same falsehoods, I felt I had a duty to try and present the facts. By the way, I had the privilege of meeting and hearing Pastor Sadler at a conference in Richmond a few years ago. Please give him my best." (I know firsthand of many of the sorrows Brother Stam endured to bring us where we are today. We owe all of the original pioneers a word of thanks for their sacrifice. Ed.)

**From Indiana:**

"Keep the Light shining....Thank You for the *Searchlight*."

**From the Internet:**

“I have read just about everything Pastor Sadler and Pastor Stam have written over the past four years. I was raised a *Baptist*, educated in the *Reformed Presbyterian/Covenant* theological tradition, and by the grace of God exposed to the Word, rightly divided, through the witness of a taxi cab driver in Martha’s Vineyard. Scripture has taken on new meaning since then and changed my life. I now have the opportunity to teach the Book of Acts Sunday evening at a local Christian church. Pray that those who attend will be receptive to the Word, rightly divided.” (Talk about deliverance—only grace can produce this type of result. Ed.)

**From Ohio:**

“Please use this gift where most needed. Thanks for the *Searchlight* that arrives every month. It helps me to understand more.”

**From New York:**

“I just received my September *Searchlight*—they are so wonderful. I never cease to see the simplicity of the gospel and how you share the truth of Paul. I was taken in by modern churches all around us. Right now I have to leave one that teaches King James Only....I am 81 so I don’t have too long to go either way. I think that the Rapture is very, very close. Praise the Lord!!”

**From Tennessee:**

“Just a quick note to thank you for the wonderful ministry that the *Berean Bible Society* provides for all of us Grace Believers. We would like to send this gift monthly to help further the goal of ‘making all to see the fellowship of the Mystery.’ Again, thank you for your selfless work, and we enjoyed meeting you at the Goodlettsville Conference. It is through Pastor Stam’s book, *Things That Differ* that we came to see right division and I wish you would thank him for me.”

**From Florida:**

“A friend gave me a copy of your booklet called the *Berean Searchlight*. I enjoyed it so very much I would like to receive them on a regular basis.”

**From Ohio:**

“Thanks so much for sending *Two Minutes With the Bible* by e-mail. With a minimum of editing, I can place each day’s article in my Personal Notes of the Online Bible, making it easily accessible for future reference. What a great idea it was to make these available via the Internet. It is exciting to see how your use of the Internet is expanding your much-appreciated ministry to the Body of Christ. ‘God grades on the Cross, not on the curve!’”

**From Massachusetts:**

“Thanks so much for your ministry. You are among the few who actively proclaim God’s gospel program for this age of Grace. I have learned so much about God’s plans and purposes through your publications. Thank you! May God continue to bless your outreach and use you to draw people unto Himself.”

**From Ohio:**

“I want to thank Pastor Sadler for sharing his time and spending it with me over the phone. It was very helpful.”

**From New Zealand:**

“Greetings from us in the southernmost part of New Zealand. Thank you for your faithful continuance in sending the *Berean Searchlight*. We pass them on to interested folks who are encouraged and edified. We have all issues of the *Searchlight* indexed back to 1972.” (A small number of assorted *Searchlight* Bound Volumes are still available—1960 thru 1976—\$5.00 each. And 1980 thru 1988—\$7.00 each, plus postage. We also have some individual issues available from 1989 to the present upon request for \$1.00 each. Ed.)

“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

## ***How Would You Have Handled The Situation?***

An experienced visiting Grace Pastor and teacher, who was conducting a week of meetings, asked for questions from the floor after one of his nightly meetings. A lady then asked him, "How do you reconcile Romans 4:5 with James 2:24?"



The question could have been answered in either of two ways:

(1) James 2:24 is preceded by a "timeline" in a preceding verse, James 2:21, "was not Abraham our father justified by works, **when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?**" Romans 4:5 on the other hand occurred before Isaac was even born, many years **before** Abraham "had offered Isaac...upon the altar." (Cf. Genesis 15:2-6). So then, Romans 4:5 stands!

(2) Ask the person who posed the question to open her Bible to James 1:1 and read it aloud. After reading the verse, ask her the question, "Are you a Jew?" "Are you a member of one of the twelve tribes of Israel?" The lady's answer will be an indignant "No!" Then say to her, "The Book of James is not your mail; James 2:24 was written to Jews, the twelve tribes scattered abroad." Romans 4:5 still stands!

The above was related to the writer and his wife by that lady who since has become a Grace Believer.

The visiting pastor used answer (2) above. He knew that the lady, being of a prominent denomination, was not acquainted with the Bible; her only help being "Quarterlies." If the word "timeline" of the first approach had been used, the visiting pastor would have "lost" the attention of the lady. The more direct approach was the most appropriate way to respond to her question. The visiting pastor was C. R. Stam. The church that he visited was the *Forest Park Bible Church*, Mobile, Alabama, whose pastor is Roy Lange.

The writer gives the above happening as an illustration of directness since lately he has been deluged with mail with argumentation that runs "all over the woods" to make a point rather than using the *direct* approach. In the writer's experience in working in government and private industry he has found that a letter will receive more attention if it is short and to the point (i.e., direct) rather than one that rambles "all over the woods," as it were.

—Gene Street, Bible Teacher

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

By Paul M. Sadler



In the glory days of American sports, when athletes competed for the love of the game or event, Jim Thorpe stands out as perhaps the greatest all-around athlete our country has ever produced. Born near Prague, Oklahoma in 1888, Thorpe began his athletic career at a small school in Carlisle, Pennsylvania where he established himself as an outstanding football player, both at the college and professional level. But he was probably best known for his remarkable achievements at the 1912 Olympics held in Stockholm, Sweden.

At the Stockholm games, Jim Thorpe, a Native American Indian, became the first athlete to win both the Pentathlon and the Decathlon. The Pentathlon is a one-day event which includes the long jump, javelin throw, 200-meter race, discus throw, and 1,500-meter race. The two-day Decathlon is a rigorous 10-event competition. On the first day, the participants compete in the 100-meter race, long jump, shot-put, high jump, and 400-meter race. On the second day, they compete in the high hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin, and 1,500-meter race. Having participated in some of these track and field events years ago, I can say that this was an amazing accomplishment.

Sadly, Jim Thorpe, was disqualified when it was learned that he had played baseball for a small salary

some years earlier. The *Amateur Athletic Union* ruled that he was, therefore, “a professional athlete and ineligible to compete in the Olympic Games.” He was subsequently stripped of his Gold Medals for failing to observe the rules.<sup>1</sup>

The Apostle Paul says that those who participate in these games “do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.” What we do for Christ now, which is likened to a race, will echo throughout eternity. The apostle’s great fear was that when he preached to others he would fail to bring himself into subjection to the things of the Lord, and consequently be disqualified at that day. In a nutshell, he didn’t want to be a hypocrite.

## A SOLEMN OCCASION

**“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”**

—II Corinthians 5:10

The themes of redemption and judgment are woven throughout the Scriptures. So it is important to rightly divide the Word of truth to ascertain which judgment pertains to us. Since Paul uses the personal pronoun “we” in the above passage and foregoing context, we can safely conclude that he is addressing the members of the Body of Christ. The *Judgment Seat of Christ* is a dispensational phrase solely found in Paul’s epistles. It is referred to in his revelation as “the day,” “that day,” and “the day of Christ.” This particular judgment will be a review of the believer’s conduct and service which takes place at the Rapture of the Church. According to I Thessalonians this is

a planned meeting that was kept secret since the world began (Rom. 16:25 cf. I Thes. 4:17).

*“For we must all appear.”* Every believer in Christ has an appointment with the Lord—pastors and members of their congregation, Bible teachers and students, evangelists and converts, faithful and unfaithful, etc. Little wonder the Scriptures warn both leaders and those who sit under their ministries accordingly:

**“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon” (I Cor. 3:10).**

**“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Heb. 13:17).**

While Paul makes frequent references to the Judgment Seat of Christ in both his early and latter epistles, he deals extensively with the subject in the Corinthian letters. This isn't without rhyme or reason; the apostle wanted the Corinthians to understand the gravity of their ungodly conduct. They seemed to be oblivious to the fact that someday they were going to stand before the Lord and give an account of their actions. Some may have even denied this based on the assumption that we are seated with Christ in the heavenlies. Although this is true positionally, the practical outworking of the matter is determined by our present conduct. The Corinthians would one day have to answer for the turmoil they caused in the local assembly, due to their envy, strife, divisions, carnality and immoral lifestyles.

This raises the question as to why God doesn't simply judge believers

when they die. Why wait until the Rapture of the Church? Here we must keep in mind that our lives touch the lives of others even in death. For example, Pastor J. C. O'Hair died in 1958, yet his writings and tape messages continue to bring others into a knowledge of the Mystery. Even though he is dead, he yet speaketh! Conversely, the Christian father who carelessly lives a worldly life influences his children to follow in his footsteps. The long-term effects of such a lifestyle will not be overlooked at that day.

But God has another reason to withhold judgment until the Judgment Seat—a solemn one indeed! Paul says, “Every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12). The terms “every one” and “himself” clearly indicate that each of us will stand *individually* before the Lord to give an answer for our behavior. But this doesn't imply that others will not be present at times during the course of this examination. In fact, this will be a necessity to set the record straight. More will be said about this later.

## THE JUDGE

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” As the phrase implies, Christ will be our Judge. According to John 5:27 the Father has placed all judgment into the hands of His dear Son. He is the perfect Judge. Even though the Mystery was still a secret when the events of John chapter five occurred, the principle of Christ's judgeship certainly applies during the administration of Grace.

The apostle says in Colossians 2, “In Him [i.e. Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” As God, He knows our innermost thoughts and motives and the intent of the heart. On the other hand, He took upon Himself the form of a human



servant and dwelt among us. No one will be able to stand before Him at that day and say, "Lord you just don't understand!" Oh, but He does, my dear friend. Christ suffered in all points as we, yet without sin. As the prophet said, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3).

The Greek word for Judgment Seat here is *Bema*. In biblical times it was a raised platform, with ascending steps, where rulers handed down decisions (Acts 18:12-16). It was also the place where the judges presided over the Greek games. From this vantage point they could see the entire field of events. To be summoned to the *Bema* meant one of two things; either the participant was disqualified for disobeying the rules or rewarded with a garland for winning a particular event.

When we appear with Him in glory, Christ will hold a position of exaltation. As the righteous Judge, He will be clothed in glory, honor and majesty as we stand before Him. Unlike the Great White Throne, condemnation is not the issue at this judgment. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). Since the sin question was answered for the believer at Calvary, this examination has to do with whether or not we have devoted our life to Christ and faithfully served Him. But will our sins be taken into consideration at the *Bema*? We will have more to say on this later.

**"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."**

There has been an ongoing debate if the phrase "the things done in his body" is speaking of the believer's body or the Body of Christ.

It seems clear that Paul has the individual believer in mind. The original *dia tou somatos* has the idea of the things done "through our body." In other words, there is a moral accountability insofar as our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We are, therefore, accountable for its deeds, whether they are good or of no value. For example, we believe Paul's instructions to the Colossians capture the moral responsibilities of slaves and masters or employees and employers.

**"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons" (Col. 3:22-25).**

In the final assessment, the Lord is going to compensate both labor and management for the good they have done and whatever wrongs they may have committed. Every believer in Christ can expect to receive a reward for good conduct and loss for misconduct. Little wonder Paul adds:

**"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences" (II Cor. 5:11).**

While the Corinthians lived as if there was no tomorrow, Paul cautions them regarding the "terror of the Lord." Some have concluded that the apostle is now turning his attention to the unsaved, but this interpretation does a great injustice to the context in which the passage is set. The terror or *fear* of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. But in

what sense should the believer fear the Lord? Consider for a moment standing before the Lord with perfect recall of every idle word, thought and deed. We should fear the possible devastating consequences of a misspent life, not to mention the inspection itself.

With this in mind, Paul sought to persuade men as to the gravity of the occasion. Of what did the apostle seek to convince believers? Since the behavior of the Corinthians left much to be desired, Paul is passionately trying to persuade them to walk worthy of their calling. This beckons the question, are we living up to God's expectations? Paul could confidently say, "But we are made manifest unto God." You see Paul had a clear conscience concerning his actions among them. Thus, he desired that his manner of life before the Lord would be manifested in his hearers' consciences that they, too, would be to the praise of His glory at that *day*. (See II Tim. 3:10,14).

### THE PREMISE OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT

**"Ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 3:10,11).**

As we turn to I Corinthians Paul addresses our *service* in relation to the Judgment Seat of Christ. Interestingly, as he develops this theme he uses the metaphor of the "temple" in verse 16. While we lay great emphasis upon rightly dividing the Word of truth, we must also recognize that there are connections between the two programs of God. As members of the Body of Christ we are numbered with the household

of God and therefore joined to the *living temple*, which God foreordained before the foundation of the world. This explains why Paul uses the metaphor of a temple when he speaks of us collectively. Hence, Ephesians Chapter 2:

**"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye *also* are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:21,22).**

God has raised up a new masterbuilder to add an addition to the household of God that was not included in the original plans of the Prophetic Program. It was hidden in the mind of God until the raising up of the Apostle Paul. He is the divinely ordained architect who laid a new section of foundation, which is Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:1-10). The apostle was very, very careful not to build upon another man's foundation, nor should we (Rom. 15:20). Of course, he was referring to building upon Peter's foundation who preached Jesus Christ according to the Kingdom promised by the prophets of old.

Like a father, Paul warns us, "I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon" (I Cor. 3:10). The foundation upon which the Judgment Seat of Christ is based will be Jesus Christ according to His heavenly ministry, as revealed by Paul. So then, as we serve the Lord we must take care to use Pauline materials when building upon our foundation, otherwise we will suffer the consequences at that *day*.

*To Be Continued!*



---

### Endnote

1. Source: *World Book Electronic Reference Library—Millennium 2000*.

## Question Box

*“Pastor, do you believe the star that appeared the night Christ was born was a natural phenomenon or a supernatural event?”*

During the years of my pulpit ministries I usually spent two or three weeks around the holidays addressing the misconceptions and unfounded traditions regarding the birth of Christ. While many have sought to establish that the appearance of the star was a natural phenomenon, such as the alignment of certain planets, the truth of the matter is the event was *supernatural*.

The Apostle Paul says, “When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law” (Gal. 4:4). Everything in relation to the birth of Christ was according to God’s plan and purpose, including the unusual star that appeared that night. We believe it was a manifestation of the Shekinah glory of God to announce the arrival of His dear Son. In the garden, the moment Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and sinned against God, the glory covering our first parents departed, leaving them naked and alienated. Thankfully, what was lost in Adam is restored by Christ’s redemptive work; thus, man can again approach God, by faith, on the basis of the shed blood of Christ.

The pillar of cloud that stood between the camp of the Egyptians and Israel at the shores of the Red Sea, provided *light* for the people of God, but was darkness to the enemy. This was the Shekinah glory of God (Ex. 14:19,20 cf. 16:10). On the night Christ was born, this same glory appeared in the form of a star, illuminating the starry heaven to herald the coming of God’s Son. It was not only seen by the wise men in the Far East, it also shone round about the shepherds in the field keeping watch over their flocks that evening. Hence, “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid” (Luke 2:9).

Although tradition says the wise men followed a “yonder star” to the manger that night, this is simply not supported by the biblical record. Obviously, the wise men concluded the Messiah of Israel would be born in the land of Israel. So when they arrived two years later they naturally inquired at Jerusalem, “Where is He that is born King of the Jews?” Interestingly, they said to Herod, “We have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him.” Had they been following the star there would have been no need to make such an inquiry at Jerusalem.

Upon learning the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem, they continued their pilgrimage to the city of David. However, their journey was abruptly interrupted when the Shekinah glory of God *reappeared* in the form of a star to guide the wise men to Nazareth where Mary and Joseph now resided. Little wonder, “when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy” (Matt. 2:9-12 cf. Luke 2:39,40). Both appearances of the star clearly indicate a supernatural event.

—Pastor Sadler

## The Seasons of Our Life

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is God's will for me? This is a question that all of us have asked at one time or another. Does God have a plan for our children? How about our teenagers? How does God want us to look for a marriage partner? As parents, what is our role, and what should "retired" saints be doing?

The Word of God covers all the "Seasons of Our Life." We simply need to look to God's Word for His wisdom. Pastor Joel Finck is well known for his pro-family stance, and we are looking forward to having him with us for our *Spring Bible Conference*. This is a conference that both young and older saints will find enjoyable and will want to attend. Single, married, "empty" or "fully" nested, please plan on heading to Orlando in February 2003.

—Pastor David Siegmann

**Speaker:** Pastor Joel Finck

**Dates:** February 21-23, 2003

**Location:** *Fellowship Bible Church*  
310 N. Hiwassee Road  
Orlando, Florida

**For additional information**, please contact: Pastor Siegmann at 352-243-1005 or 407-294-0020. The website at the assembly is: <[www.FellowshipBible.com](http://www.FellowshipBible.com)>. All are welcome!

## Alaskan Grace Cruise Conference

**Dates:** September 20-27, 2003

### Scheduled Speakers:

Curt Crist, Pastor of *Grace Bible Church*, Hendersonville, NC  
Paul M. Sadler, President of *Berean Bible Society*, Milwaukee, WI

### Holland America—Alaska 7-day Explorer Cruise

*Seattle • Juneau • Sitka • Ketchikan • Victoria, B.C. • Seattle*

For prices, brochures, and for further details about this exciting event, please contact our hosts: Pastor Curt & Debbie Crist, PO Box 568, Edneyville, NC 28727, or phone: (828) 685-2243 or (828) 606-9056.

# A Birthday Celebration?

By Cornelius R. Stam



**“And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross.**

**“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:**

**“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;**

**“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

—Phil. 2:8-11

**“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power,**

**“Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,**

**“Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.”** —Eph. 1:19-21

**“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more.”** —II Cor. 5:16

Are we a bit negative about Christmas? Perhaps. However, let's see what *God* has to say about this subject in His Word.

Leaving aside technicalities, there is surely something wrong, basically wrong, about the world's—yes, and the Christian world's—celebration of the birth of Christ.

There is no indication anywhere in Scripture that a celebration should be held in remembrance of our Lord's birth—as there *is* with regard to our Lord's *death* (I Cor. 11:23-26). There is no evidence that any of the apostles observed such a celebration or taught their followers to observe it. This, we concede, does not mean that we *may not* celebrate this glorious event, but certainly the Word, rightly divided, leads us to a higher plane.

When our Lord's "birthday" arrives, we see on every hand likenesses of the babe in the manger, or the babe in His mother's arms. This is sweet and touching indeed, for who does not love a little babe, especially in the arms of a young mother? Ah, but even apart from the Scriptures, it should occur to every thoughtful person that this is not the way to celebrate one's birthday.

Let us stop and think. If I were to be given a book in celebration of George Washington's birthday, I would not expect it to be filled with pictures of the great general as a babe in various poses. I would expect to find pictures and narratives regarding the general's courage and perseverance, his ascendancy to the Presidency of the United States of America. I should expect to find him as "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."



If I should be given a book in celebration of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, I would not expect to find the book filled with pictures of a babe, or to read anecdotes about the joy that attended his birth. I should expect to read of his kindness and courage; of the great obstacles he overcame in trying to hold the Union together. I should expect to read about how, in this great endeavor, he paid the greatest of all prices—his life, as he was slain by an assassin. In the photographs shown I should want to see those sad eyes, those stooped shoulders, and that wrinkled face. And I believe that this would be so with every one of my readers.

Then why, in the celebration of our Lord's birthday, is He constantly depicted as a babe? Is it any wonder that, anticipating the errors of the religious world, God should tell us through Paul that henceforth we are no longer to know Him "after the flesh"? Indeed, the Apostle wrote in a day when many still living *had known* Christ after the flesh, yet he wrote:

**"Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *Him* no more" (II Cor. 5:16).**

What trick of Satan is this, so to de-emphasize, so to minimize, the present glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Why is it that in so many churches throughout Christendom our Lord, on that day, is depicted as a baby, with manger scenes set up on platforms, and some aspect of the "Christmas story" told? Should we not rather be proclaiming how He went to Calvary

for us and blotted out "the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross" (Col. 2:14)? Should we not be proclaiming to all how He defeated Satan and his hosts, and "*made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it [i.e., in the Cross]*" (Col. 2:15)? And should we not make it a special point to show that He has now "*passed into the heavens*" (Heb. 4:14), and "*entered... into the Holy Place,*" the very presence of God, "*having obtained eternal redemption for us*" (Heb. 9:12). And should we not be revelling in the fact that the simplest believer may now be "*justified freely by [God's] grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*" (Rom. 3:24), that our blessed Lord is now at God's right hand as the Great Dispenser of grace to a lost and doomed world? But as it is, what event in our Lord's life and ministry genders the most excitement and prompts the greatest celebration of the whole year? Not His accomplishments, but His birth—and this is a pity.

## THE INCARNATION

It is blessedly true that our Lord's birth was different from that of the greatest of men. His birth was an *incarnation*: God coming into this world "in the flesh," and doubtless this should be, as it too seldom is, emphasized, but certainly not apart from what, in the very nature of the case, that God-man came to accomplish:

**"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." (I Tim. 1:15).**

And in this very connection one of the great exploits of our Lord is

again emphasized. He came into the world to save sinners—even *the chief of sinners*, Saul of Tarsus (I Tim. 1:15), who had made havoc of the Church, and had breathed “threatenings and slaughter” against all who believed in Christ and loved Him. Indeed, it is the very uniqueness of our Lord’s birth, the very fact that here was “Immanuel,” i.e., “*God with us*,” that should hinder us from worshipping Him as a mere babe in a manger. The truth of the incarnation involves far more than the birth of Christ.

“What trick of Satan is this, so to de-emphasize, so to minimize, the present glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!”

All this brings us back again to II Corinthians 5:16.

It was not long *after* the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ that the world was given a glowing example of what was accomplished at Calvary.

At Pentecost, Peter had rightly pointed out that the “last days” of prophecy had begun:

**“This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel....in the last days saith God” (Acts 2:16,17).**

What then had been predicted by the prophet Joel? Two things, basically: that God’s Spirit would be poured out upon His own (Acts 2:17,18), and that God’s wrath would be poured out upon His enemies (Vers. 19,20).

As we know, the Holy Spirit was poured out, but not the judgment. When all was ready for the pouring out of the bowls of God’s wrath,

God, who is “slow to anger, and plentiful in mercy,” interrupted the prophetic program to *save* His chief enemy on earth, the leader of the rebellion against God and His Christ: *Saul of Tarsus*.

As the Gentiles were given up and scattered over the face of the earth at Babel, so now He gave up the favored nation, and soon they were scattered abroad over the face of the earth. What does this leave us but a world of *individuals* lost and condemned before God? But:

**“God hath concluded them all in unbelief, THAT HE MIGHT HAVE MERCY UPON ALL” (Rom. 11:32).**

No longer does the great wall between Jew and Gentile stand:

**“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).**

**“For He [Christ] is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.**

**“...that He might reconcile both unto God in one Body by the Cross, having slain the enmity thereby” (Eph. 2:14-16).**

According to the prophetic program it was the Cross that *made* the enmity<sup>1</sup> between God and man, for in Psalm 110:1 we have the Father saying to the Son:

**“Sit Thou at My right hand, *until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.*”**

In Psalm 2, again referring to man’s rebellion against Christ, we read that:

**“He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.**

**“Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure” (Vers. 4,5).**

Ah, but the prophetic program has now been *interrupted* by God's overabounding grace:

**“Where sin abounded, *grace did much more abound*:**

**“That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might *grace reign*” (Rom. 5:20,21).**

Now the Law has given way to grace, and prophecy to the mystery which was “kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest...” (Rom. 16:25,26).

As we have pointed out, not only are we now no longer to know *men* after the flesh, we are not to know *Christ* after the flesh (II Cor. 5:16). God is not now establishing His kingdom upon earth; He is forming the Body of Christ, with a position and prospect in the heavenlies.

Thus the Apostle goes on to say:

**“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is [or “there is”] a new creation; old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new” (Ver. 17).**

It does not mean here that for the believer in Christ suddenly all the old temptations and habits have passed away and all has become new, for this is not so. Rather, when the Apostle says that old things are passed away and all things are become new, he speaks of *the program of God*, and he goes on to explain that in this new program,

**“All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation” (Ver. 18).**

In the program of the Body of Christ there is no Mosaic Law to threaten, no blood sacrifices required for forgiveness, no washings or oblations: “*all things are of God*.” It is He who reconciled us to Himself in Christ:

**“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” (Ver. 19).**

Through the death of Christ, God has now assumed the role of a Savior (I Tim. 1:1; Titus 1:2,3), and the door of grace has been flung open wide for all to enter by faith.

How wonderful!

**“For...when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of *His Son*” (Rom. 5:10).**

He does not ask anything from man. Rather, in infinite grace, He considers the death of *His Son* as the payment for *man's sins*, so that as far as *He* is concerned, the world has been reconciled to Him.

And now God has given to us “*the ministry of reconciliation*.” This is our “*great commission*” (II Cor. 5:18,19) and it explains why the book of Acts closes with Paul, God's ambassador, *in prison*. Should one of America's ambassadors be thrown into prison by another government, America would doubtless declare war tomorrow, but God did not do so. He left Paul in prison, and this is where the record of Acts closes. And he leaves *us* here too, on enemy territory.<sup>2</sup>

Thus he explains:

**“God was in Christ [i.e., at Calvary], reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (Ver. 19).**

How amazing that we can go to the vilest sinner, in the name of our glorified Lord, and tell him that the amnesty has been proclaimed, that God is not, for the time being, imputing man's trespasses against him, but that he may be reconciled to God and to Christ by grace through faith.

And thus it is that the Apostle closes this passage as one who




stands here instead of Christ, now highly exalted in heaven, saying,

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

**“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (Vers. 20,21).**

Thus, while we do indeed rejoice that our Lord was born, a tiny babe, into the human race to become one

of us, we *know* Him as the God-man exalted “far above all,” as the great Dispenser of grace. 

---

## Endnotes

1. The enmity now slain by the Cross.
2. Psalm 2:1-3 aptly describes man’s declaration of war against God. But God did not make a counter-declaration. Instead, He left Paul, and leaves us, surrounded by His enemies, so that we may bring to them the message of grace and reconciliation. *What a commission!* How much greater than the commission given to the eleven!

---

Dr. Arthur Birkby is Music Professor Emeritus from the *University of Wyoming*. He also served on the faculties of *Western Michigan University*, *Westminster College*, and the *Philadelphia Conservatory* where he was a Graduate Fellow. Brother Birkby is now retired and lives with his wife, Mary, in Salem, Oregon. In addition to his career as a concert organist in Europe and the United States, Dr. Birkby has long been an ardent defender of the gospel of the grace of God. —Ed.

---

## Many Infallible Proofs

By Dr. Arthur Birkby

One method of showing the truth of Scripture is by prophecy fulfilled. Another is to show that tangible, historical, secular evidence that non-believers accept is also established by the Bible. The branch of theology that deals with the defense and proof of Christian doctrine is known as “apologetics.” For us as believers, our faith in the Scriptures is all that is required, and our belief is all that is necessary. The reason, however, for resorting to defending the Bible by means other than mere belief is to have a testimony of reasonableness, common sense, and credibility which may win others to our faith. Let me give some examples of Biblical truth which make it difficult for non-believers to discredit the Bible as the literal Word of God.

Abraham came from Ur in Chaldea. Chaldea was the old name for Mesopotamia, or Babylon, which we

now call Iraq. Excavations in the 20th century by the eminent scientist C. Leonard Wooley attest to the existence of Ur, long thought by many scholars as being completely mythical. Found in Ur were middle class houses having 10 to 20 rooms on upper and lower floors. A school was found that existed during Abraham’s era, and the pupils were taught the three R’s as today. They used multiplication and division tables and worked with square and cube root. Think for a moment about someone you know today who may be unable to do these kinds of calculations. A bill of lading dating from 2040 B.C. showed a highly developed commerce at the time of Abraham. Even the name “Abraham” was found on excavated tablets.

Modern scholars have said that there were no camels in Egypt at the time of Abraham, although the 12th chapter of Genesis says Abraham

had camels. Archeologists have since found not only statuettes, plaques, and rock carvings of camels, but also camel bones, skulls, and camel hair rope dating from 700 B.C. back to 3000 B.C.

Chapter 15 of Genesis tells about God's Word to Abraham, that his descendants would be slaves in Egypt for four centuries, but would return to Canaan in the 4th generation. Exodus 12:40 says that Moses led the Israelites from Egypt after 430 years in bondage; and Moses was the 4th generation from Jacob: Levi, Kohath, Amram, and then Moses. It has to be more than wild happenstance that Luke in the New Testament Book of Acts, written more than a thousand years later, mentions this same historical event.

What could be greater evidence of the Bible's uncanny, long-term accuracy than the account of Ishmael, the child of Abraham and Hagar. You will remember that Hagar was the Egyptian servant of Sarah, Abraham's wife. The Lord told Hagar that her child would have descendants without number, and that they would be wanderers and always in conflict. These of course are the Arabs of today, and the Arabs have been nomads for 4,000 years.

Chapter 17 of Genesis tells God's promise that kings would be among Abraham's descendants. This has been fulfilled countless times: all of the kings of Israel and Judah came from Abraham. Genesis contains many, many more evidences which confirm Bible truth; but our space limitations require that other Scripture passages be considered.

In Exodus, as one traces the route of the 40 year wanderings of Israel through the wilderness, it is discovered that the geographical features of that part of the world as described in the book correspond entirely to

what a modern map would provide. Moses, the writer of Exodus, as well as the other of the first five books of the Bible, could not have come up with such a documentary by sheer chance.

Bible critics, upon reading about a seven-candle lampstand in the tabernacle in Exodus 25, declared that such a candelabra was unknown until 600 B.C. in Babylonia. However, excavations just south of Jerusalem by the renowned archeologist W. F. Albright revealed seven-sprouted lampstands dating from 1200 to 1400 B.C.



The Book of Leviticus states that, in spite of all the attempts of enemies to hate and destroy the Jews, the Lord will never allow them to be completely wiped out. Scattered for 25 centuries, and with never-ending attempts to eradicate them from the face of the earth, they not only continue to exist, but are a force that cannot be denied. Even if only a very few Jews were left in the world, after the diabolical effort to exterminate them, it would be more than sufficient evidence to trust the Word of God. By comparison, just ask what happened to the numerous other peoples whose future was not assured by God. Where are the Amalekites, the Amorites, Jebusites, Hittites, Philistines, Assyrians, and all the other nations that existed in history? There is not a trace of them today.

Although the Bible mentions the Hittites 48 times, critics have long contended that any such people, if they did exist, were of little consequence. The archeologist G. A. Barton mentions in his book, *Archeology and the Bible*, that an archive of clay tablets records a military treaty between the Hittites and Egypt thirteen centuries before the birth of

Christ. This would certainly make the Hittites a significant culture with whom the Egyptians were politically involved.

Going on to another section of the Bible: The book of Joshua details how Israelite soldiers marched around the city of Jericho seven times in a day. Sir Charles Marston's book, *New Biblical Evidence*, reports that the excavations of old Jericho show walls to be only 650 yards—which is a third of a mile—in circumference, enclosing an area of only seven acres. Thus a seven-lap march in one day is entirely feasible. Excavations of other ancient cities such as Troy, and even Jerusalem, show that the walled sections were places of refuge to which people could flee in time of trouble, and did not enclose the entire city where people regularly resided.



Excavations at old Jericho

The Bible quotes Joshua as cursing anyone who would rebuild Jericho (Josh. 6:20), declaring that any such person would suffer the loss of his oldest as well as his youngest son. When the book of I Kings was written centuries later, it recounts how the evil King Ahab endeavored to rebuild the city (I Kings 16:34). Listen to this detailed description of the rebuilding: "The builder was from Bethel, and was named Hiel. As the foundation of the city was laid, Hiel's first-born son, Abiram, died; and as the gates were set up in the walls, his youngest son, Segub, died." It seems unreasonable to assume

that a duplicitous plot between Bible writers who did not know each other, and who lived centuries apart, could have manufactured such a tale whose pieces fit together so perfectly. Anyone, or any group of conspirators attempting to plan a story like this by deceit would certainly be doomed to failure. But because the Scriptures are all divine in their authorship, one needs never to worry that close scrutiny will reveal anything but absolute truth.

Probably the most boring part of the entire Bible is, at the same time, a most revealing evidence of its being God's truth. I am referring to the book of I Chronicles. I have read it through, and if you do not want to read it through, at least leaf through it to see the genealogies. No one—absolutely no one—would contrive such a book as a self-serving act with the pretext of promoting some religious dogma. One thing such a book does show is God's personal concern for everybody—each individual who was ever born.

Today's thinkers, philosophers, and so-called intellectuals place great importance on secular intellects of the past such as those of ancient Greece. Concerning the earth, those presumed masterminds came up with the most bizarre, hare-brained ideas as to be laughable by any civilized intelligent standard; and still the Greek scholars are revered today by those who refuse to recognize the wisdom of God and His Holy Book. If the Bible were to assert that the earth was carried on the shoulders of the god Atlas, who stood on the backs of giant tortoises, which stood on the backs of elephants, this would be more than sufficient reason to discredit the Holy Scriptures as being of God. What does the Bible say about the earth? What keeps it up? Job 26:7 states that God

spreads the skies over empty space and suspends the earth on nothing. The Bible is not a book of science; yet in not even one point does it contradict any principle of modern science that has been established as fact rather than mere theory.



There are in this country, and in several European countries, chapters of the *Flat Earth Society*, whose members are convinced that the earth is not round. Up until the 15th century, centuries after Isaiah lived, no one knew, nor would many people believe, that the earth was not flat. Without benefit of a telescope or a knowledge of the physics of astronomy, Isaiah wrote in chapter 40, verse 22, that the Lord sits enthroned above the circle of the earth. Noted Bible teacher, J. Vernon McGee has stated that the word, "circle," is synonymous with "globe," a round geometric figure.

Moses was not an oceanographer, but in Genesis 7:11 he wrote that fountains, or springs, of the great deep burst forth, at the same time the rains fell from heaven, flooding the earth. Only relatively recently have our scientists discovered that there are, indeed, great water fountains erupting from the ocean floor.

There was a time when Babylon was where mighty kings exalted themselves above the God of heaven; and that Babylon might ultimately become only a memory would have been unthinkable. However, Isaiah prophesies in chapter 13, verses

20-22 that Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of their pride, will be overthrown like Sodom and Gomorrah; she will never be inhabited throughout all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherd will rest his flocks there; jackals, owls, wild goats, and hyenas—only desert creatures—will lie there.

In contrast, the city of Tyre according to Isaiah 23:14-18, was to be devastated and desolate for 70 years, and then restored. What actually happened was that Tyre was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and was left in ruins for 70 years, but rebuilt by Alexander the Great. The 18th verse goes on to say that Tyre would return to a life of commerce, and the profits would not be hoarded, but instead be consecrated to God. Eventually, true religion did return to Tyre. Jesus visited Tyre as did Paul, as we can read in Matthew 15:21 and Acts 21:3-6. The historian Eusebius wrote that when the church was founded in Tyre, much of the city's wealth was dedicated to God; and Jerome, another noted historian of the 4th century A.D., wrote that the wealth of Tyre's churches was not stored away, but given to those of the church who were in need.


Mathematics is regarded as the purest of the sciences, and the value of the Greek letter "pi" as approximately 3.1416 is recognized as a basic numerical constant throughout the universe as well as a function of geometry. How easy it would have been for an author of one of the Bible's books to err in recording some data involving mathematical computations. Only God's inspired authorship, however, prevented any such thing from happening. In I Kings 7:23 is given a description of the huge water reservoir in the temple used for ceremonial washings. We are told that the basin was 10 cubits,

or about 15 feet, in diameter and 30 cubits in circumference. Technically, using the value of “pi,” this should be 31.416 cubits rather than 30. But in verse 26 we learn that the basin was a “hand breadth” thick, or about three inches thick, which would make the inside circumference 30 cubits as the Bible says. Even the most nit-picky critic should be impressed with this evidence of Biblical accuracy.

Luke, in Acts 17:6, refers to a city official by using the Greek term, “Politarch.” This term has never before been found in Greek literature, so Bible critics have pointed out what seemed to be an invention by Luke. In the year 1835, an arch in Thessalonica was discovered with the term “Politarch” inscribed on it, and the Apostle Paul was in Thessalonica at the time of which Luke was writing. In 1867 the arch was destroyed, but the block containing the word “Politarch” was rescued and is now in the British museum. My wife, son, and I saw the display of Greek memorabilia when we visited the museum, but unfortunately we did not take note of this particular piece of stone. Incidentally, since the discovery in 1835, this same description has been found on 16 other monuments in various other localities in Greece.

In summary, all of the foregoing examples—which hardly scratch the surface—demonstrate the uncanny, inexplicable accuracy and complete reliability of God’s Word. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself in John 17:17 said that God’s Word is Truth. In John 10:35 the Savior says the Scriptures cannot be broken;

and Matthew 5:18 quotes the Lord as saying that the smallest letter (which is iota in Greek) or the least stroke of a pen (referring to the minuscule embellishments added to the Hebrew alphabet) would not disappear as long as there was a heaven and an earth. The Bible teaches that there will be a heaven and an earth forever.

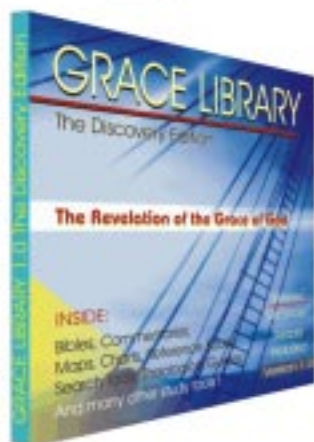
Let me conclude by suggesting that whenever we are confronted with presumably authoritative opinions that seem to be at variance with what one reads in our Bible, we take to heart the Apostle Paul’s words found in his first letter to the Corinthians. He triumphantly declares, “I know very well how foolish it sounds to those who are lost, when they hear that Jesus died to save them. But we who are saved recognize this message as the very power of God. For God says, ‘I will destroy all human plans of salvation no matter how wise they seem to be, and ignore the best ideas of men, even the most brilliant of them.’ So what about these wise men, these scholars, these brilliant debaters of this world’s great affairs? God has made them all look foolish, and shown their wisdom to be useless nonsense. For God in His wisdom saw to it that the world would never find God through human brilliance, and then He stepped in and saved all those who believed His message, which the world calls foolish and silly... This so-called ‘foolish’ plan of God is far wiser than the wisest plan of the wisest man, and God in His ‘weakness’—Christ dying on the Cross—is far stronger than any man.” Amen and amen! 

---

Brother Birkby’s able defense of the Scriptures reminded us of the Apostle Paul’s words, “*For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.*” Dr. Birkby has graciously agreed to discuss these timely matters further with anyone who may be interested. He can be reached via e-mail at: <abirkby@attbi.com>.

# Grace Library

## Bible Software



An excellent study tool for researching the gems in God's Word!  
Perfect for personal studies or class presentations, useful for digging deeper into Scripture, enabling you to "glean" from any topic. Then, print or save to share with others!

32 Theological Books  
16 Commentaries  
Reference Books + Bible Dictionary  
25 Charts and 12 Color Maps  
5 Bible Translations, including KJV  
Search Engine Included

More than 90 works on one CD-ROM with a combined value of over \$1,000 dollars!

**Featured Authors** Cornelius R. Stam, Joel Finck, W. Edward Bedore, Paul M. Sadler, Wm. P. Heath, John LaVier, Sr., C. F. Baker, Craig MacDonald

For more information or to place an order, access the web sites

[www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org) or [www.tbsministries.com](http://www.tbsministries.com)

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

**Special Price: \$ 34.99**



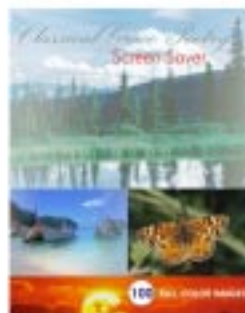
\* Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. Currency!  
\*\* Now Credit Card orders through BBS and TBS



**Grace Library**  
for Palm & Pocket PC



**NEW!**  
Visit the TBS website  
for more details



*Classical Grace Poetry*  
Screen Saver

The Grace Library for desktop and laptop computers has now been made available in a format for Palm and Pocket PCs.

Over 100 Screen Savers with poems by various authors including J.C.O'Hair, C. R. Stam, Wm. P. Heath, and others.



**Christmas Special**

Buy a CD for a friend through the TBS website and have it sent to their home, beautifully wrapped, in your name!

**TBS**  
ministries

A Ministry of The Berean Bible Society  
Sharing the Word of God to future generations.

# *Two Minutes With the Bible*

What better way to show our appreciation for all of God's bountiful blessings than by having daily devotions in the coming New Year!



*366 Daily Devotionals*

*Fundamental*

*Dispensational*

*Practical*

*Timeless*

**HARDCOVER**

***Special Price: \$8.00***

***New!***

**BIBLE STUDIES ON TAPE**

***New!***

## **Audio Cassette Tapes**

By Paul M. Sadler

For a limited time we are offering two fascinating studies on the Word of God, rightly divided. Both of these messages received a warm response when they were delivered earlier this year at the *Annual Berean Bible Fellowship Conference* in Cedar Lake, Indiana, and the *BBF Fall Bible Conference* in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Hopefully, they'll be a blessing to you, too!



**Message 1: *Who is a Jew?***

(Romans 2:17-29; 3:1,2)

**Message 2: *The Judgment Seat of Christ, Reward or Shame!***

(II Corinthians 5:10,11)

**One Tape with Album**

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

**THESE OFFERS END DECEMBER 31, 2002**

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

Orders up to \$20.00, please add \$2.00 for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add 10% for postage and handling.

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

# *A Gift to Remember*



## **The Twofold Purpose of God**

By C. R. Stam

We recommend this particular work for those who are new to the Grace message. Pastor Stam effectively contrasts the two programs of God in relation to Christ's incarnation, death, burial and resurrection.

**HARDCOVER**

**85 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 who were used of God to dispense these truths.

**HARDCOVER**

**78 PAGES**

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

## **THESE OFFERS END DECEMBER 31, 2002**

(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)

Orders up to \$20.00, please add \$2.00 for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add 10% 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)

---



## THE BBI BYLINE

**D**o you have a desire to be in full-time service for the Lord, but don't know where to begin? **Berean Bible Institute** exists for the purpose of helping individual believers prepare themselves to effectively serve God by teaching them the Word of God "*rightly divided*" and providing them with the skills necessary to put their knowledge into action.

**BBI's** program focuses on teaching sound doctrine from the Word of God with an emphasis on the importance of the distinctions of the present dispensation of Grace as committed to the Apostle Paul. **BBI's** method is the classroom setting with a variety of instructors in order to provide a balanced Bible education. **BBI's** goal is to help prepare those who will take the gospel of the grace of God to the next generation.

If your heartfelt desire is to be actively engaged in the work of ministry as a pastor, evangelist, missionary, Bible teacher, or youth worker, **BBI** can help you get started. If you are serious, then we invite you to consider **Berean Bible Institute**.

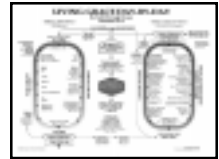
***Spring Semester begins January 27, 2003!***

For more information, please contact: Dr. W. Edward Bedore, PO Box 40, Germantown, WI 53022, or phone: (262) 255-4094, fax: (262) 255-4195, e-mail: <berean@execpc.com>.

---

### Practical Living Charts

*Berean Bible Institute* has produced 2 charts entitled: "The Two-Fold Application of God's Grace in the Believer's Life" and "Living Grace Day-By-Day."



These charts deal with the practice of living grace daily. Both charts are 8 1/2 x 11 inches and are in full color. They sell as a set for **\$5.00**, which includes postage and handling. To order, simply write to *Berean Bible Institute*, PO Box 40, Germantown, WI 53022 or phone: (262) 255-4094.

---

### Are You Receiving the BBI Bulletin?



#### Included in its contents:

*Institute Update, Challenging Articles, Updated Class Schedules & Class Descriptions, "Mail Received at Box 40," "The Bulletin Board," and more!*

To receive the *BBI Bulletin* simply write to: *Berean Bible Institute*, PO Box 40, Germantown, WI 53022. Sent *free* to anyone anywhere!

---

---

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

---

**HOMEGOING:** Our dear Brother John McKay wrote to inform us that Pastor Wilbur Smith died September 29, 2002 at his home in Wauseon, Ohio. Wilbur was born June 22, 1937, studied under Pastor Charles Baker of the *Milwaukee Bible Institute* and graduated from *Grace Bible College* after its first year in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He pastored Grace Churches in Beloit, Wisconsin; Edinburg, Illinois; Westhope, Ohio; Midland Park, New Jersey; Muskegon, Michigan; and was an associate minister of *Grace Bible Church* in Defiance, Ohio, at the time of his death. He had taught in the public schools of Deshler and Wauseon, Ohio, and is survived by a son, a daughter, and seven grandchildren. His wife Shirley died July 22, 2001 after a long struggle with chronic leukemia. May God comfort these dear folks with the full assurance of our Blessed Hope in Christ Jesus.

**GRATEFUL PARTNERS IN THE MINISTRY OFFER THANKS** for the faithfulness, cooperation, assistance and encouragement of the entire BBS staff over the past year as *TBS Ministries* launched the Grace Library CD-Rom Bible Software, we thank you! May it be “*to the praise of the glory of His grace*” (Eph. 1:6)—Tony and Barb Sistelos.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Like the Marines, we are looking for a few good men and women to volunteer their services. If you live in southeastern Wisconsin and would like to give us a helping hand with mailings, please contact Bunny Miller here at BBS. Normally our volunteers assist us three or four times a year. The fellowship is in keeping with our dispensation—*heavenly!*



**THE OLD LIGHTHOUSE:** If you plan to submit a photograph of a lighthouse for the front cover of the *Searchlight* in the near future, be sure to take the picture *vertically*, leaving a small amount of white space at the top. In addition, please do not write on the back of the picture. According to our typesetter, when the picture is scanned the print bleeds through to the other side. Simply jot the name and location where you took the photograph on a separate sheet of paper. Allow me to take this opportunity to personally convey my appreciation to those who have submitted pictures of lighthouses over the past few years. Thanks to you, we have quite an impressive collection. But, pictures of lighthouses are like dessert—there’s always room for more!

---

\*The picture of the lighthouse that appears on the front cover was taken by Lindy Root. The *South Haven South Pier Lighthouse* is located in South Haven, Michigan, which has the distinction of being the blueberry capital of the world. The lighthouse was built in 1903 and is still active. It is connected to the shore by an elevated catwalk which permitted light keepers to get to the tower in rough weather. Its light is visible for 13 miles.

---

## PRICE LIST

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

#### (Hardcover—Gold Stamped)

Acts, (Commentary) Volumes I & II .....	\$18.00
Acts, (Commentary) Volumes III & IV (w/Bible Index) .....	18.00
Author's Choice, The .....	9.00
Baptism and the Bible .....	8.00
Colossians (Commentary, w/Bible Index) .....	12.00
I Corinthians (Commentary) .....	10.00
II Corinthians (Commentary) .....	10.00
Divine Election and Human Responsibility .....	8.00
Galatians (Commentary, w/Bible Index) .....	12.00
Hebrews, Who Wrote It and Why? .....	8.00
Holding Fast the Faithful Word (w/Bible Index) .....	12.00
Lord's Supper and the Bible, The .....	7.00
Man, His Nature and Destiny .....	10.00
Moses and Paul (w/Bible Index) .....	7.00
Pastoral Epistles (Commentary) .....	10.00
Paul, His Apostleship and Message (w/Bible Index) .....	9.00
Romans (Commentary) .....	10.00
Satan In Derision .....	9.00
Sermon on the Mount, The .....	8.00
Suggestions for Young Pastors .....	8.00
I & II Thessalonians (Commentary) .....	9.00
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index) .....	10.00
True Spirituality (w/Bible Index) .....	9.00
Two-Fold Purpose of God, The (w/Bible Index) .....	7.00
Two Minutes With the Bible .....	10.00

#### (Paperbacks)

No Other Doctrine .....	\$7.00
Our Great Commission (w/Bible Index) .....	7.00
Present Peril, The .....	7.00
Satan In Derision .....	7.00
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index) .....	8.00

### WRITINGS BY PAUL M. SADLER—PRESIDENT

#### (Hardcover—Gold Stamped)

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (w/Bible Index) .....	\$10.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (Commentary, w/Bible Index) .....	14.00
Triumph of His Grace, The (w/Bible Index) .....	11.00
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
Water Rite, The (Booklet) .....	1.00

### SPECIAL OFFERS

All 26 Hardcover Books by C. R. Stam, Plus "No Other Doctrine," "Our Great Commission," and "The Present Peril" .....	\$215.00
Set of Current Booklets by C. R. Stam .....	40.00
Set by C. R. Stam (Books and Booklets) .....	255.00
Set on Acts by C. R. Stam (w/Bible Index) .....	30.00

“A man who cannot forgive, is a poor man indeed,  
for he punishes himself for the sins of others.”

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

PERIODICALS  
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI