

# The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

March 2011



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

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# From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every once in a while we receive a *Searchlight* cancellation email from the son or daughter of one of our readers, letting us know that Mom or Dad have either passed away or are no longer able to read the *Searchlight* due to failing vision. I always write back to thank the writer for taking the time to let us know about this, for it saves us the money we need to send the *Searchlight* free of charge to someone else, and helps us to be better stewards of the Lord's money.

The problem, of course, is that for every thoughtful son or daughter who is kind enough to write us, there are probably many more who are just too busy to show the same consideration, and simply discard the magazine month after month. Knowing this, Pastor Stam would occasionally send out a letter to the entire mailing list, enclosing a form that had to be filled out and returned to us to continue to receive the *Searchlight*. Recent hikes in the cost of printing and mailing the *Searchlight* convinced us that the time had come for yet another check on our mailing list.

By now you have probably received a special mailing containing your subscription renewal form. It is important that you fill out the form and return it to us in the postage paid envelope **by May 31st**, or your subscription to the *Searchlight* will be canceled. If by chance you did not receive or notice the special mailing, simply write or email us with your full name and address, and an email address if you have one and care to share it. We'd also like to know if we should address you as Mr., Miss, Mrs., or Mr. and Mrs., and the name of your spouse if you are married. Of course, if you forget and find yourself canceled, you can always write us to renew your subscription later.

If you are online, the easiest way to confirm your subscription is by filling out the form at [www.bereanbiblesociety.org/slssubscribe.html](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org/slssubscribe.html). You can also choose to cancel your subscription and read the *Searchlight* online. Just be sure to visit [www.bereanbiblesociety.org/searchli.html](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org/searchli.html) and sign up for the monthly email notification that will alert you when the new magazine is posted each month.

We are sorry to trouble you with this, but if you are a contributor to *Berean Bible Society*, we feel sure you would want to know that your sacrificially given dollars are not being wasted sending *Searchlights* to addresses where they are not being read.

Thanks in advance to everyone,  
Pastor Ricky Kurth



# Who's Who?

By Paul M. Sadler



We frequently receive requests or donations from those who confuse BBS, BBF and BBI. This is certainly understandable, especially among those who are new to the Grace Movement, since all three names begin with *Berean Bible*. When a gift or order is sent to the wrong organization, it has to be sent back to the sender with a letter of explanation. This, of course, causes a major delay in processing the donation or order.

The *Berean Bible Society* (BBS), *Berean Bible Fellowship* (BBF), and the *Berean Bible Institute* (BBI) are often called sister organizations because our doctrinal statements mirror one another. While this is true, it is important to remember that we are three *distinct* organizations, each of which is served by its own board of directors. The following is a brief synopsis of each ministry:

**Berean Bible Society (BBS)** was established in 1940 for the sole purpose of helping believers understand and enjoy the Bible. This is accomplished through the publication of the *Berean Searchlight*, literature, Sunday school curriculum, CD/DVD messages, *Two Minutes with the Bible*, and our conference ministry. I am the President of this organization. We can be reached at *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Road, P.O. Box 756, Germantown, Wisconsin 53022. Our web address is [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org). Email: [berean@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:berean@bereanbiblesociety.org). Phone: (262) 255-4750.

**Berean Bible Fellowship (BBF)** was established in 1968. Pastor Dick Ware is the President of this organization. The *Berean Bible Fellowship* is a fellowship of individual believers in Christ who have banded together to promote the gospel of the grace of God and the Word of God, rightly divided. The BBF holds two national conferences annually in June and October. They also offer CDs and DVDs of the messages that were preached by grace pastors and teachers at their conferences. They can be reached at *Berean Bible Fellowship*, P.O. Box 387, McFarland, Wisconsin 53558. Their web address is [www.bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com](http://www.bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com). Email: [mrware@aol.com](mailto:mrware@aol.com). Phone: (870) 941-6110.

**Berean Bible Institute (BBI)** was established in 1996. Dr. Robert Nix is now the President (see page 12). *Berean Bible Institute* is a school of college level adult education that provides sound Biblical and doctrinal courses of study. It also provides training in ministry and leadership skills to help individuals become prepared to do the work of the ministry in local churches and on the mission field. You can contact the school at *Berean Bible Institute*, 116 Kettle Moraine Drive S., P.O. Box 587, Slinger, Wisconsin 53086. Their web address is [www.bereanbibleinstitute.org](http://www.bereanbibleinstitute.org). Email: [bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org). Phone: (262) 644-5504.

Thanks so very much for your assistance as we labor together to make known the riches of His grace.



*Grace Christian Church, Independence, KY*



*Falls Bible Church, Menomonee Falls, WI*

# Called According to His Purpose

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

## How I Came to See Paul's Gospel— A Personal Testimony

### THE EARLY DAYS

It wasn't long after we trusted Christ that my wife Vicki and I became actively involved at the local Baptist Church. We sat under the ministry of Pastor Weldon Causseaux, who led us to the Lord. This proved to be a very profitable time for us spiritually, as we learned all the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

During this time, Pastor Causseaux asked me to serve as the Youth Leader of the assembly. The youth group was primarily composed of senior high students, most of whom knew and loved the Lord. Accepting this position turned out to be a major turning point in my Christian life. Later I became a member of the Board of Deacons, which gave me the opportunity to fill the pulpit occasionally in the pastor's absence and assist him in other areas of

the work. We were one of the more conservative American Baptist assemblies in the area and therefore, when Pastor Causseaux accepted a pastoral position in the south, we called a Bob Jones University graduate as our new pastor.

For the most part, the family members of our young people attended the assembly as well, so when the kids went off to college, they returned home during the summer months and faithfully attended the young people's meetings. To their credit, most Baptists are very dedicated to their local assemblies and Baptist teachings. We had some great discussions at these youth meetings, where I quickly learned how insightful young people can be. While they never questioned the foundation of Baptist teaching or traditions, they did want to discuss what they perceived to be inconsistencies.



As Baptists, we were taught that it was our responsibility to carry out the Great Commission, which, of course, always took us back to the four Gospel accounts. One of the questions that troubled them at the time was the Lord's statement in Matthew 15:24:

**“But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”**

Furthermore, our Lord instructed His disciples to confine their ministry only to the nation Israel and not go into the way of the Gentiles or into any city of the Samaritans (Matt. 10:5-6). “But we’re Gentiles! Where do we fit in?” This particular question of our young people prompted me to approach the pastor about the matter. Their inquiry, which I really didn’t have a good answer for at the time, became my inquiry.

I asked the pastor in his office one day if it seemed to him to be terribly inconsistent, as Gentiles, to be going back to the four Gospels where the house of Israel always seemed to be in view. I will never forget his response. He said, “You shouldn’t be overly concerned about such things. It is more important to win lost souls to Christ.” In other words, he didn’t know, and his actions made it clear that he wasn’t interested in looking into it. I certainly agree that the salvation of lost souls is extremely important, but his response left me with an uneasy feeling because I was interested in learning more about the Word of God.

**“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and**

**if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17,18).**

On another occasion, I inquired as to why the supernatural sign gifts did not follow those of us who believed if we were working under the Great Commission—signs such as healing the sick, speaking in new tongues, taking up deadly serpents, and drinking any deadly thing with no harm coming to us (Mark 16:15-18).

**“...the Bible became a new and living Book that really could be understood.”**



I distinctly recall the pastor saying that possibly the reason I didn’t have these gifts was because I did not have enough faith, to which I responded, “That may be true, but what about all of those believers who have been faithful? Why is there an absence of these supernatural gifts in their lives?” To this I got a shrug of the shoulder, along with a suggestion that I took things far too seriously!

To me, it seemed that the teachings we were following were not consistent with the Scriptures we were proclaiming. Sadly, those who hold to an Acts 2 position leave themselves wide open to Pentecostalism. In fact, the very pastor who was reluctant to answer my questions departed from the Baptist faith and became a Pentecostal.

## **CALLED BY HIS GRACE**

**“Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began” (II Tim. 1:9).**

It was around this time that I began to sense the Lord’s call to enter the ministry on a full-time basis. His prompting was so obvious that it actually scared me. I really wrestled with this decision; imagine it, telling the Lord He surely didn’t mean me! I “reasoned” with Him that there were so many other capable men who were far more qualified than I would ever be. To assist in my denial that the Lord could use me in this capacity, Satan caused a wave of depression to sweep over me. But the Lord continued to make it perfectly clear to me that this was His will for my life.

After weeks of sleepless nights of trying, with Satan’s assistance, to talk myself out of it, I heard a message delivered by a godly pastor who had been in the ministry for many years. It was as if he was speaking directly to me. I remember his words to this day:

“Young man, perhaps God is calling you into the ministry but you have convinced yourself that you are unqualified. After all, there are men with college and seminary degrees who are far more capable. That may well be true, but the majority of them are unwilling to stand for the truth of God’s Word. God is looking for men who are willing to stand for the truth. Accept His call today; you will never regret your decision.”

I sat there astonished at his words. If there was one thing I was more than willing to do, it was to stand for the truth! It was at that moment I knelt in prayer and submitted myself to the Lord’s calling. The pastor was right; I have never regretted that decision. This all took place back in the early Seventies, during the recession, when everyone sat in long lines to purchase gas. It was the worst of times in that it was nearly impossible to sell a house and find work, but the Lord went before us to remove all the obstacles that appeared to be in the way.

Even though I was perplexed about Baptist doctrine, I inquired at *Bob Jones University* and *Lancaster School of the Bible* for information on enrollment in their ministerial courses. As I was making arrangements to attend one of these two schools, Mrs. Margaret Waldrop, a good friend of the family, called to suggest that before I made a final decision, I should visit the *Berean School of Bible and Theology* located northwest of Pittsburgh. Unknown to me at the time, Mrs. Waldrop was a grace believer who knew the school was a grace school, but she simply left the matter with the Lord for me to find out on my own. Great move!

Since the school was nearby, I contacted them to set up a meeting. It was agreed that we would meet on a Friday evening. That Friday, Vicki and I loaded the kids into the car and dropped them off at Grandma’s. As we headed north that evening, it was pouring rain. I mean a torrential downpour! A little over halfway to the school, the engine began to sputter and then stalled as I drifted to the

side of the road. I turned off the headlights and tried to start the engine. To my surprise, it started. Sure that I had dodged a bullet, I put the car into drive to continue the trip, only to have it stall again. After two more failed attempts, we knew we were stranded. Satan, who gladly assisted in my denial before I accepted God's calling, now was doing everything in his power to hinder me from ever going into the ministry. Had it not been for the grace of God, he might have accomplished his objective.



If you are thinking this trip sounds eerily similar to the one before my conversion, you would be correct—another car, another back road, another State Trooper. Since we were out in the middle of nowhere, the only option we had was to wait for someone to stop. We didn't have cell phones back then!

*About an hour later*, a Pennsylvania State Trooper pulled up behind us with his lights flashing. He was very helpful and assisted me in trying to get the car started, but to no avail. Once we concluded our attempts were futile, the Trooper called a tow truck to have the car towed to an area garage, and then gave us a ride to the police station. Vicki and I

ended up spending the evening at the police station, waiting for a family member to give us a ride. Needless to say, we never arrived at the school that night.

The next day we learned that, when I filled up the gas tank the night before, we had also gotten water with our gas. As you know, combustion engines don't run well on water! After we picked up the car, we planned another meeting at the school for the following week, this time in the afternoon. What happened next is unbelievable, but true.

On the day agreed upon, I made another trip to visit the school. On the same stretch of road where we stalled the week before, a car coming from the other direction drifted into my lane. The driver was looking at something on the passenger seat and not paying attention. Of course, the rule of thumb is never to swerve into the other driver's lane, simply because when he becomes aware of what's happening, he's naturally going to swing back into his own lane. When it was apparent we were going to hit, I swerved my car off the road to avoid a collision. Thankfully, I made it across a drainage ditch without rolling over and proceeded into a field. This all took place at the exact same spot where I broke down a week earlier.

Once I got the car stopped, I sat there nearly paralyzed by what had just transpired. My first thought was to turn around and go home. I concluded this was apparently not the right time to enter the ministry. In fact, I started to pull the car out of the field, headed for home, but abruptly stopped for some unknown reason.



It's difficult to explain, but I was suddenly overcome with the sense that this wasn't the right thing to do. As I sat there, it occurred to me that the Lord wouldn't hinder me from going into the ministry, but Satan most certainly would! From that point on, as determined as he was to prevent me from entering the ministry, I was just as determined to honor God's calling into His service.

### AN INTERESTING EXCHANGE

Upon arriving at the school I met with Pastor David Caslander, the Founder and Administrator of the *Berean School of Bible and Theology*. Little did I realize at the time that Brother Caslander was a Berean with a knowledge of Paul's gospel and the Word, rightly divided. After exchanging a few pleasantries, Pastor Caslander and I sat down to discuss the ministerial course of study that the school offered. After reviewing the school's doctrinal statement and curriculum, we had a general discussion of the Scriptures.

Since the school was fundamental and dispensational, I shared with Pastor Caslander the questions that were on my mind. To my amazement, he pointed out that the solution to all of my problems in the Scriptures was to rightly divide the Word of truth. He showed me the importance of Paul's apostleship and message, sharing that Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles and that we, being Gentiles, must turn to his epistles for our doctrine, position, walk, and destiny as members of the Body of Christ (Rom. 11:13; I Cor. 14:37).

I noticed that the school's doctrinal statement said there were no ordinances to be practiced today. Of course, everyone knows there are two ordinances to be observed in the Church: water baptism and the Lord's Supper—or at least that's what I had been taught. When I asked Brother Caslander about the plank, he wisely tried to avoid the question, hoping that I would first come to see Paul's distinctive ministry before he had to address the subject. When I pressed the matter he gave the following response:

"We agree that water baptism was an ordinance when it was being practiced, but the question is this: Is it to be practiced today? You see, when the Apostle Paul received further revelations about the Cross, we learn that Christ has 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). He explained how ordinances were the rules and requirements of the Law of Moses, and how the Scriptures are clear that we are no longer living under the Law, but rather we are living under grace today (Rom. 6:14). Consequently, he said, water baptism is not to be practiced today. The Lord's Supper, he added, never was an ordinance and is to be observed in the administration of grace as Paul instructs us in I Corinthians 11:23-26.

To say that Pastor Caslander had to help me up off the floor would probably be an understatement. I had heard all types of things about baptism, but this was a first! Being a dedicated Baptist I mounted a defense that I now look

back on as being feeble at best. Brother Caslander handled the discussion in a Christ-like manner and graciously asked me what I believed about water baptism. I responded: “We believe that we are to follow in Christ’s footsteps and be water baptized as an expression of faith. He’s our example!” Pastor Caslander shared with me from the Scriptures why that is impossible today, which made perfect sense.

After he dismantled my argument on that point, I said, “We know water baptism isn’t required for salvation today, but surely you believe it’s an outward sign of an inward work of grace.”

Brother Caslander replied, “I can show you that water baptism is *required* for salvation under the Law as an expression of faith, but you cannot show me where it wasn’t required” (Mark 1:1-5; 16:15,16; Luke 7:29; Acts 2:37,38; 8:35-37). “May I challenge you with this, Paul: Can you show me from the *Scriptures* where baptism is merely an outward sign of an inward work of grace, as you say?”



I was sure I could, but after fumbling through the Scriptures I said to him, “I will have to get back to you on that one.”

“Brother Sadler, I leave you with this: The question you need to answer for *yourself* is, are you going to continue to follow the

traditions and commandments of men or are you going to base the ministry God has called you to on the Word of God?” (Mark 7:13). “The choice is yours!”

Being a Baptist at heart, I remember saying to him that these things just could not be, at which time he encouraged me to study to see if these things were so, reminding me that Paul’s gospel was the answer to my questions. It was obvious to me after I left that I had been in the presence of a man who was well equipped in the Scriptures. After sitting under his ministry for three years, I have always felt that Pastor Caslander is one of the few theologians that we have in the grace movement.

Upon arriving home, I contacted our pastor to set up a meeting with him the next day. I was sure he would have the needed ammunition for me to convince Pastor Caslander how far out in left field he was. When I asked pastor where I could find the passages that stated water baptism is not required, but *only* an outward sign of an inward work of grace, his answer wasn’t what I expected. He said, “There are no such passages in the Scriptures that I know of.” I must say, at least he was honest. He proudly added that this saying had been a well-worn tradition handed down to us through the generations. His reaction to my question made it very clear that I had absolutely no right to question Baptist tradition!

While I still have the greatest respect for our Baptist brethren, especially for their evangelistic efforts, the pastor’s response set me on a new path. Pastor Caslander’s challenge now took on a new

meaning. It seemed he was correct that I was following the traditions and commandments of men and I wasn't even aware of it. After weeks of study, the Holy Spirit brought me to the conclusion that Brother Caslander was right, at which time I submitted myself to the gospel of the grace of God. It was like experiencing the joy of salvation all over again!


For the first time in my Christian experience, the Bible became a new and living Book that really could be understood. Being thrilled with my discovery, I was sure my Baptist friends would be as excited as I was about this new-found truth! After all, it was the key that unlocked the Sacred Secret. To my surprise, I found myself on the outside looking in, as it were. I was told in no uncertain terms, "If you preach this grace message, you'll never have a church, nor will you ever amount to anything in the Lord's work." Sadly, I had become their enemy because I had told them the truth! I viewed this as another of Satan's attempts to discourage me from entering the ministry.

We sold our home that we had built three years earlier and moved the family to the school's campus. While it was a long drive, I was able to keep my job at *Mine Safety Appliances Company* during the years we attended school. My wife and I both enrolled at the *Berean School of Bible and Theology* (now closed), although for some time thereafter Vicki remained a Baptist at heart. She refused to accept my new-found teaching, but was willing to attend Bible school, saying that she felt that the Lord would lead us through me.

It was about a year later that she came to see the wonders of God's grace and was freed from the traditions and commandments of men as well. We both have since been staunch defenders of the revelation of the Mystery that was first committed to the Apostle Paul (Rom. 16:25; Col. 1:25-27).

After graduating from Bible school, we accepted our first pastorate at *Grace Christian Church* in Independence, Kentucky. After a two-year tenure, we received a call to pastor the *Falls Bible Church* in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. We had the privilege of being there for nearly ten years and will long remember the faith, hope, and love of this beloved assembly. In September 1987, I accepted the presidency of the *Berean Bible Society*, which, as you know, is a national/international grace organization for the promotion of the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery. This year, by God's grace, will be my 24th year at the helm. Most humbly I say, to God be the glory, for great things He has done!

I sincerely pray that this testimony will be used of the Lord to encourage you always to have an open mind and an open heart to God's most precious Word. If you do, He will direct your steps in the pathway of righteousness for His name's sake. May God give us the courage to stand up against those who would rob us of the truth of Paul's gospel!

**"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10).** 



# Letter of Transition

Dear Friend of BBI,

In March of 1996, I met with the Board of the *Berean Bible Society* to discuss establishing a Bible and ministry-training school to serve the Grace Movement. The focus would be on teaching the Bible from a mid-Acts grace perspective, while equipping the students with the ministry skills needed to minister in Grace Churches, on the mission field, or wherever the Lord might call them. The result of this meeting was the establishment of *Berean Bible Institute*. BBI began under the guidance of the BBS Board of Directors, and three years later, became an *independent* ministry. Since then it has grown and has had a significant impact on the Grace Movement.

Since 1996 I have been privileged to serve as the Executive Director of BBI. Space will not allow me to mention all who have had a part in this ministry, but I thank God for the BBS Board that nurtured it, the BBI Board that faithfully guided it, for every instructor who taught a class, for all of the support staff, for those who volunteered their time to help in so many ways, and for every saint who provided financial support in whatever amount. Each one is greatly appreciated.



Dr. Ed Bedore

Leading BBI has been a blessing, but the time has come to hand over the leadership to another. As of March 1st, I will resign from the position of Executive Director, and that position will be eliminated and replaced with the position of President. At that time, Dr. Robert Nix will become President of *Berean Bible Institute*. Dr. Nix has been teaching at BBI for five years, during which time I have come to appreciate him as a teacher and a leader. He is a solid Grace believer who is balanced in doctrine. Brother Nix has been an asset to BBI since joining the faculty and I believe he is God's man for this job at this time, and that he will provide the



Dr. Robert Nix

leadership for *Berean Bible Institute* to continue to grow and maintain its goals and purpose as a Grace ministry. Please keep Brother Nix and BBI in prayer as this transition of leadership takes place.

And what about me? Well, I am not leaving, but will continue on as a BBI instructor, with more time to devote to Biblical research and writing. I will also continue as editor of *The BBI Bulletin* and *Bible Answers to Bible Questions*. I am looking forward to working under Dr. Nix's leadership in this new capacity.

Your fellow servant in Christ,  
Dr. W. Edward Bedore  
I Cor. 15:57-58

# THE LORD'S SUPPER (Cont'd)



## Its Doctrinal Position

By Pastor Ken Lawson

*Grace Memorial Church, Edinburg, IL*

**H**aving examined what the Lord's Supper is *not*, let us give a positive affirmation of what it *is*, as well as its spiritual significance. I Corinthians 11:23-29 is the key passage we will be examining.

### **1) It is a Pauline revelation from the glorified Christ.**

Paul says, "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you" (v. 23). This is the same language which he uses to describe the distinctive gospel (of the grace of God) which the ascended, glorified Christ revealed directly to him apart from any human instrumentality (I Cor. 15:3,4; Gal. 1:11,12). Furthermore, when Paul went up by revelation to Jerusalem in order to tell them of the new gospel which God had committed to him, they (the 12 apostles and the Jerusalem church) added nothing to his knowledge—that would include the Lord's Supper. Rather, he was able to tell them about the new revelations committed to him (Gal. 2:1-9). In short, Paul received the teaching of the Lord's Supper directly from the glorified Christ and it became a part of his independent apostleship and message.

### **2) It is a Thanksgiving (Eucharist).**

The Scripture reads, "And when He had given thanks" (I Cor. 11:24). When we eat the bread and drink the cup, we thank God for sending His only begotten Son to die for us and pay the penalty for our sins with His precious blood. It is a common worship service in which we bow our hearts together in grateful wonder of Christ's person and work.

### **3) It is a Memorial.**

Twice in the passage it reads, "...this do in remembrance of me" (vv. 24,25). When we observe this blessed memorial, we remember that



our Lord Jesus Christ was hanging on the cross in agony and disgrace for us! We also remember Him as our resurrected, ascended, glorified Head in heaven who will someday appear for us as our Blessed Hope. Thus the commemoration of the Lord's Supper reflects back to the cross but also reaches forward to His coming (v. 26).

#### 4) It is a Representation.

When Jesus told His disciples "this is my body" and "this is my blood," some religious groups have taken those words very literally. For example, the Roman Catholic Church teaches that when the bread (wafer) is blessed by the priest, it ceases to be bread and wine and is transformed into the literal body and blood of Christ. The host (bread) is even elevated for the congregation to adore as Christ Himself! This is called the doctrine of Transubstantiation.



The Lutheran and Anglican churches also believe in the "real presence" of the Lord in the bread and wine. Their belief is that the elements remain bread and wine but that Christ is present spiritually in them, which can only be apprehended by faith. This is called the doctrine of Consubstantiation.<sup>6</sup>

Both of these views fail to recognize the metaphors (figures of speech) which our Lord used:

**"I am the bread of life" (John 6:35,48).**

**"I am the door" (John 10:9).**

No one would argue that Jesus was saying that He was a literal door or a loaf of bread. Rather that He is the spiritual food and the way to enter into eternal life. Likewise, the language of the Lord's Supper passages is not literal, although what the bread and wine signify are. The meaning of Christ's words are: "This bread is [i.e. represents] my body" and "This cup is [i.e. represents] my blood." So the bread and wine are symbols of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. Those who insist on a literal meaning of Christ's words here should consider I Corinthians 11:25 which says, "This cup is the New Testament in my blood." How can a cup literally be the New Testament?

#### 5) It is a Command.

When the Lord said "this do" in I Corinthians 11:24,25, the verb *do* in both cases is in the imperative mood in the Greek text, the command mood. Observing the Lord's Supper is a *command*.

#### 6) It is a Proclamation (Testimony).

"Ye do *show* the Lord's death till He come" (v. 26). The word *show* means to preach, announce or proclaim. When we partake of the Lord's

Supper, it is a demonstration to believers and unbelievers alike of what our Lord accomplished on the cross for our redemption.

### **7) It is a Communion (Fellowship).**

**“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread” (I Cor. 10:16,17).**

The word *communion* means fellowship, to share in common, a joint participation. During the Lord’s Supper, we have fellowship with our Lord as we meditate upon His finished work. We also have fellowship with other believers as we recognize that Christ has made us one with Himself and so with each other. This is an aspect of the Supper which the twelve apostles knew nothing about and is unique to Paul’s revelation of it. In the above passage, Paul reverses the order and speaks of the cup first and then the bread. He does this so that he might add this truth which relates to the body of Christ: “...for we being many are one bread and one body.” See also I Corinthians 11:29: “not discerning the Lord’s body.” This is a double meaning which refers not only to the Lord’s physical body but also to His spiritual body (the Church, the Body of Christ).

## **Review: The Lord’s Supper**

### **It is not:**

- 1) The Passover
- 2) An Ordinance
- 3) For Forgiveness of Sins
- 4) Imposed
- 5) Jewish-Kingdom only
- 6) Transitional
- 7) Incompatible with Spiritual things

### **It is:**

- 1) A Pauline Revelation
- 2) A Thanksgiving
- 3) A Memorial
- 4) A Representation
- 5) A Command
- 6) A Proclamation
- 7) A Communion

We trust many will be helped by the foregoing information and encouraged to partake with an informed mind and grateful heart concerning the spiritual content of this blessed observance. There are two other issues however, which demand our attention. Some Christians have been frightened by the stern warning associated with this passage. “Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, *unworthily*, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord....For he that eateth and drinketh *unworthily*, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body” (I Cor. 11:27,29).

Many believers have great uncertainty of mind about this warning. As the elements are passed in church, they say within themselves, “I am

not as good a Christian as I should be. I do not feel worthy to partake. I know that if I do, I may be guilty of something and may eat and drink damnation to myself. I must abstain. I must not partake.”

For those with this apprehension, I have good news. This is a good example of how people can take verses out of context and interpret them to mean what they do not. Our worthiness comes not from ourselves but from God who has made us to be one with Christ. Notice especially that it does *not* say that you may be *unworthy* (an adjective). Rather, the word is *unworthily* (an adverb), meaning “in an unworthy manner.” The issue in the Corinthian church was not their personal worthiness to partake<sup>7</sup> but the unworthy manner by which they partook. We are not left to guess as to what the unworthy manner was or how it was dishonoring to the Lord.

“This is an aspect of the Supper which the twelve apostles knew nothing about...”



**“For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not” (vv. 21,22).**

The early Christians periodically held what they called the Agape (love feast), which was similar to our pot luck supper. At its conclusion, they observed the memorial to Christ’s death, followed by a collection for the poor. The whole thing was called the Lord’s Supper.<sup>8</sup>

The Corinthians had made a mockery of it and their false spirituality was a sham. Paul says in effect, “The church, the body of Christ is the union of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Head with you as the members. There is now no difference between Jew and Gentile, male or female, rich or poor, bond or free. You are all members one of another. But what are you doing? You rich people are coming to the Lord’s Supper early and eating all the food and getting drunk. When the poor people arrive, the food is gone and they have to leave hungry. You may call this the Lord’s Supper but it is not. By your gluttony and selfishness you are denying everything that God has made you in Christ. You don’t understand what the Lord’s body (the Church) is all about. By your actions, you are guilty of *dishonoring* the body and blood of the Lord. Stop forming your own exclusive cliques and divisions and welcome all the believers into the fellowship. If you judge yourselves in this matter, God will not have to judge you.” This is what it means to eat and drink unworthily, resulting in damnation.<sup>9</sup>

Unless a person is involved in this sin or is being disciplined by the church,<sup>10</sup> any believer in Jesus Christ is welcome (Open Communion)

to partake of the Lord's Supper. "But let a man examine *himself*, and so *let him eat* of that bread, and *drink* of that cup" (v. 28).


The final issue to be dealt with is the fact that because of the disorder at the Lord's table, Paul writes, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep [i.e. have died]" (v. 30). God's chastening hand was upon His people even to the point of sickness and death. If this is still the way God deals with people over the Lord's Supper, you might think that they would be dropping like flies.

However, I know of no present-day church that is repeating the specific sin of the Corinthians. Further, God usually showed His disfavor of sin in special ways at the beginning of a dispensation. Since the dispensation of grace has been fully revealed, the completed Word of God has become our disciplinarian (II Tim. 3:16,17; 4:2). We now have a written record of God's displeasure toward those who would cause discord within the Body of Christ as well as instructions for its remedy.

### Why Should We Take the Lord's Supper?

1. Because our Lord asked us to. We show the Lord's death until He comes. Since Jesus Christ has not yet come again, it is evident that His desire is still for us to remember Him this way.

2. Because we worship together with grateful hearts the Lord Jesus Christ, who is everything to us. The redemption truths symbolized in the Lord's Supper are unspeakably precious to the heart of God and should be to every believer.

3. Because we recognize Paul's distinctive revelation of it which speaks directly to the Church, which is His Body. We have fellowship with each other in the one Body concerning the things of Christ. 

### Endnotes

6. These religious groups rely heavily on the John 6 passage which reads, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, ye have no life in you" (v. 53). This has nothing whatever to do with the Lord's Supper. The confusion is erased when we read verse 35 with it, "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." Obviously, to eat the flesh of the Son of man is metaphorical language for *coming* to Him just as drinking His blood is for *believing* on Him. Strangely enough, the literal interpreters of these Scriptures become very symbolic when it comes to Bible prophecy.

7. If our worthiness in ourselves were the issue, no one could partake.

8. Because of the potential for abuse and the instructions given by Paul, most church groups have dropped the Agape feast and observe only the remembrance of Christ's death (I Cor. 11:22,34).

9. The word damnation (Greek *krima*) refers not to eternal damnation of the soul but to the temporal judgment of verse 30. These believers were sealed with the Holy Spirit and thus eternally secure in Christ (Eph. 1:13; 4:30).

10. See I Corinthians 5, Romans 16:17, Titus 3:10,11, I Timothy 1:19,20, II Timothy 3:5, II Thessalonians 3:6-14.

## Question Box

*“What is your view of Daniel’s seventy weeks of years? According to most Bible commentators, this prophecy teaches that Christ was cut off at the Cross.”*

Daniel’s seventy weeks of years cover **all** the major *prophetic events* that will take place between the “commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem” (Dan. 9:25, referring to Neh. 2:1-8) to the “bringing in of everlasting righteousness” (Dan. 9:24, referring to the Millennium). If the Messiah was cut off at the Cross, as you point out that some teach, the next thing to *immediately* take place, according to Daniel 9:26,27 would be the seven year Tribulation period.

Here’s the problem that I’ve never heard anyone give a suitable answer to: If the above is true, what about the prophetic events that would then be left *unfulfilled*, such as Christ’s burial and resurrection, the ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost? After Israel’s first rejection of the Savior, she was given a “second chance” to receive her Messiah in answer to Christ’s prayer at Calvary. One of the seven last sayings of our Lord as He hung on the Cross was, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). In Acts, Chapters 2 through 7, we find confirmation that God the Father answered that prayer and indeed Israel was given another opportunity to receive Him. If she then still refused to respond to God’s gracious offer of repentance, this would result in the Messiah being cut off.

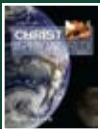
In Daniel 9:24, Daniel is simply summarizing in advance what is going to transpire over the entirety of the seventy weeks of years, which includes making “an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity.” Interestingly, while the work was accomplished on Israel’s behalf at Calvary, according to prophecy, she will not receive the forgiveness of her sins until the coming kingdom (see Acts 3:18-21).

One thing that is often overlooked in this discussion is the “added year” foretold in the parable of the barren fig tree, which represents Israel. This is the year between Calvary and the stoning of Stephen, when the chosen nation was given that “second chance” to receive her Messiah (Luke 13:6-9). As we know, her answer to God’s gracious offer was the martyrdom of Stephen. Scripturally, it makes sense to believe that this was the point at which Christ was cut off. The next prophesied event after Israel’s rejection would have been the Tribulation period, had not God *interrupted* His prophetic program with the Mystery.

At the stoning of Stephen, Israel was set aside in unbelief and the prophetic clock was stopped with exactly “one week” or 7 years yet to be fulfilled on Daniel’s prophecy. Therefore, after the Rapture of the Church, God will pick up right where He left off: at the martyrdom of Stephen. At that point, He will chasten Israel and pour out His wrath on this Christ-rejecting world, which will be the Tribulation.

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler





The following Sunday school lesson is from the newly released Middle School Book 3, *Christ in My World*. To order, call 262-255-4750 or visit [www.growingupingrace.com](http://www.growingupingrace.com).



Key Verse: **Matthew 27:32**

**"And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross."**

## LESSON 28

# THE BIBLE & ARCHAEOLOGY

By Steve Shober

Part 2

Archaeology makes Bible study more exciting.

### ENGAGE

Christians do not have to fear science, nor can they trust it without careful study. Good archaeological analysis confirms we can have absolute confidence in God's Word.

## ENLIGHTEN

### Introduction

This week we will look at archaeological findings that pertain mostly to New Testament times. Some of the information presented is designed to help students understand archaeological findings that are reported in today's news.

### Dead Sea Scrolls

The period between the Old and New Testaments was a struggle in the Jewish community, as they coped with Greek rule and a lack of new prophets from the Lord. Different religious parties emerged, such as the Sadducees and Pharisees, as mentioned in the Bible. Paul was a Pharisee before he placed his faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 23:6). Another group was called the Essenes. They are not mentioned in the Bible, but they have had a long-term influence upon Bible

believers. The Essenes lived in the Judean wilderness near the Dead Sea. There is good and bad news connected with this group.

In 1946-47, according to reports, an Arab shepherd was searching for his lost sheep when he entered a cave near the Dead Sea. There he discovered a collection of pottery, some of which contained ancient Hebrew writings.<sup>1</sup> One was



a scroll 24 feet long, containing the book of Isaiah. Following this, archaeologists searched many caves in the area, and eleven caves

near a place called Qumran had scrolls in them. Fragments of nearly every book of the Old Testament (OT) were found. This was a great archaeological discovery because the texts represent the oldest surviving witness to the OT (Second Century BC). At first, Biblical scholars thought these new texts might suggest major corrections to our OT text. However, these ancient documents were almost identical to the Hebrew text used for our Old Testament. The absolute accuracy of the OT was supported by these finds, preserved as Jeremiah 32:14 stated. This is the good news.

Some of the finds at Qumran date from the Second Century BC to around 70 AD. It appears the residents at Qumran, or those living in the caves, were Essenes. The Essenes were excellent protectors of the Old Testament. It may be that the scrolls were placed there as a secret hiding place to preserve them prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

The Essenes were a sect that had many strange beliefs (men only, lived in the wilderness in communes, no marriage, sold all they had, totally separated from society, etc.). They were also a community that wrestled with how to be faithful to the Law of Moses. They were not Christians. So the bad news is that there were many Essene writings in these caves that are based upon their beliefs, not the Bible. Many people today mistakenly think these writings are equivalent to the Bible. These writings are deceptive and many Christians are misled by them, for they do not agree with what the Lord revealed to Paul.

### Discussion:

**Archaeology can unearth real items which give a false message, such as the Essene writings found in the caves near Qumran. How can a person know what to believe?**

(Thoughts: Believe the Bible and read all other writings skeptically. God has preserved His Word in the Bible, and it is complete. There are no lost books of the Bible that have to be found through archaeology or otherwise).

### The Temple

The original temple was built in hilly country in Jerusalem. To build on hilly ground it was first necessary to level the site by building a huge platform out of rock. The platform that was built was about 861 feet long and it leveled off the rounded stone mount that existed (thus this platform is called the "Temple Mount").<sup>2</sup> This platform



provided a level base for the temple and all the associated facilities. The original temple was built by Solomon around 1,000 BC. It was destroyed by the Babylonians (586 BC) and rebuilt by Ezra (Ezra 3-6)

on the exact same spot. Then, closer to the time of Christ, Herod the Great extended the platform. One of his walls is the place tourists visit today, called the “Wailing Wall.” It is sacred to Jews as a place of prayer.<sup>3</sup>



The temple was the place where one of the disciples said to Jesus, **“Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Mark 13:1-2).** This is the temple where many early believers met for worship (Acts 5:12-16). This temple was restored by Herod the Great after the former temple deteriorated. This temple was destroyed by Titus in 70 AD. (Some believe the destruction noted in Mark 13 refers to a future destruction of a new temple that will be built).

On the Temple Mount today there is no Jewish temple. In fact, the Temple Mount is controlled by Muslims who have built a mosque there and a building called the Dome of the Rock. It seems the original temple was built in the area now occupied by the Dome of the

Rock. We know the temple will be rebuilt prior to or during the Tribulation (and again be destroyed). Will the Temple Mount have both the temple and a mosque during the Tribulation, or will the mosque be destroyed first? No one knows.

### Erastus Stone/Pavement

Sometimes minor Biblical characters can add a lot to our understanding and appreciation of the Word. One such character is Erastus. In the book of Romans, which was written in Corinth, Paul sends greetings from various people, including Erastus. Erastus is called the equivalent of the city’s director of public works (Rom. 16:23). It was probably the same Erastus that gave up his position as a city director to travel with Paul (Acts 19:22). At the end of Paul’s ministry, he mentions that Erastus was back in Corinth (2 Tim. 4:20). Interestingly, one of the intriguing discoveries at Corinth is a pavement, of which 62 feet are preserved. This pavement is inscribed, “Erastus in return for his aedileship laid [this pavement] at his own expense”.<sup>4</sup> “Aedileship”



refers to a Roman official’s position as director of public works. This is most likely the Erastus that Paul mentions (not a common name then). This one section of pavement has been preserved for 2000 years, providing evidence of the absolute accuracy of Paul’s writings.

## Discussion:

**Suppose you were the director of a museum and a stone statue was brought to you—a statue representing a god worshiped years ago. Should you destroy it in accordance with Deuteronomy 7:2,5?**

(Thoughts: Do not destroy it; it is not your property. You may want to consult with other Christians as to how to handle this situation. Deuteronomy 7 was not given for you to follow, but 1 Corinthians 8:4 was: “...**an idol is nothing in the world...**”).

## Simon and Sons

After Jesus was beaten, mocked, and a crown of thorns was pushed onto His head, He had to carry His Cross to Golgotha, the place of a skull. As He went, the Roman soldiers forced a man named Simon of Cyrene to carry the Cross (Matt. 27:32). Simon is a Jewish name, and he was probably in Jerusalem for the Passover, like thousands of other Jews. Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus (Mark 15:21). In 1941 a sealed tomb near Jerusalem revealed its secrets. There were eleven ossuaries (coffins) in the tomb; one had the names “Alexander and Simon” painted on the front, and inscribed on the back were the words, “Simon/Alexander [son] of Simon.” This ossuary seems to be the container for the bones of Alexander (son) and Simon, the man who carried the Cross for our Savior.

The tomb did not contain the name of Simon’s other son, Rufus,

but his name is in the list of Christians at Rome whom Paul greets (Rom. 16:13). It is very possible this Rufus is the son of Simon. So, archaeological evidence of Simon and Alexander substantiate the writings of Paul and the life of Christ.

## Shroud of Turin

The discussion about the Shroud of Turin is included in this lesson because it is a topic of considerable popular interest, not because it is of great archeological value. The Shroud is a long piece of linen burial cloth that some claim was wrapped around Jesus before He was placed in the tomb. It is impossible, at this time, to prove its authenticity. It first appeared in 1357 AD in France, and in 1578 it was relocated to Turin, Italy where it remains to this day. The Shroud has a faint brownish-red image on the front and back which is hard to make out. In 1898 it was photographed for the first time, and the black and white negative of the



photo revealed the image of a man<sup>5</sup> who appears to have been whipped and crucified. For example, a blood

stain appears on the wrist and foot. In 1978 it was photographed under blue light, yielding a more remarkable picture of the image. How the image got on the Shroud is still unknown.

There is no convincing evidence that the Shroud dates to the time of Christ. In fact, radioactive carbon dating indicates it is about 600 years old, but the thread tested may be from a repair made to the Shroud 600 years ago, not the original Shroud. Some scientists claim the image was made by paint, and therefore is a fake. Others claim that the substance is blood. Pollens collected off the Shroud indicate it came from a dry climate, like Jerusalem, not France or Italy. It is unlikely officials will allow more tests on the Shroud in the near future. The verdict is still out as to whether the Shroud is a true burial cloth or a clever fraud. Even if it were from Jerusalem and from the first century, that does not prove it was the cloth used for Jesus. This is a case where a finding may be “too good to be true.” One has to be very skeptical of items that are kept in secret, have a mysterious origin, and are not open to scientific study. Certain religious groups can get a lot of attention by claiming to have something that belonged to Jesus Christ. At this time, it would be wise to regard the Shroud as something of interest, but of doubtful authenticity.

## ENERGIZE

### Summary and Application

Our study of archaeology has shown there are many items that

have been unearthed to give evidence that the Bible is reliable and accurate in every detail. The Dead Sea scrolls show the Old Testament was carefully and faithfully preserved and in the form we have it today. We have to be careful with the writings of the Essenes, however. The Wailing Wall and its Temple Mount are revered holy sites by Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Some day a new temple will be built on this holy site. Minor characters such as Simon, Rufus, Alexander, and Erastus provide overwhelming evidence that we can rely upon God's Word. The Shroud of Turin is something of interest but very likely not authentic.



The contents of these lessons confirm that the Word of God has historical support and archaeological verification. Archaeology is a profession worthy of consideration,<sup>6</sup> but be aware, there is controversy in this field of study. Many archaeologists do not believe the Bible or in Christ, so they have a hidden agenda of trying to disprove the Bible. It is important that Bible believers be trained in archaeology so they can have an influence.




## Gospel

The Bible is designed to teach spiritual truths. The main spiritual truths are belief in one God, whose Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, died for us and rose again to pay the penalty for our sins. Once we believe that our sin is paid, we are “saved.” The Bible says, “...whosoever shall call upon [believe] on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13).

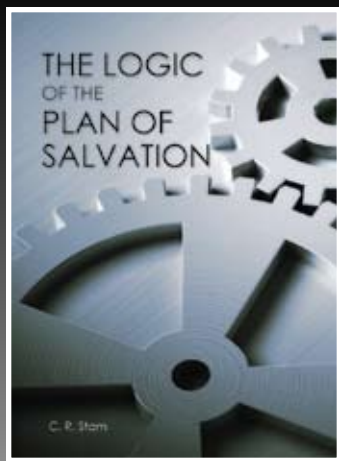
## Encouragement

Christian teens living for Christ are often considered different, even weird. It seems other teens tend to be very hard on those who are a little different than they. Our Lord said this would happen to us. As

you get older, you will find that the struggle with others may change, but it is common for Christians to endure some form of ridicule. If you study hard and are sincere in your faith, people will grow to respect that faith and your godly convictions. 

## Endnotes

1. Dead Sea Scroll fragments. Photo by BiblePlaces.com.
2. Temple Mount (Dome of the Rock, top left). Photo by ebibleteacher.com.
3. Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. Photo by canstockphoto.com.
4. Erastus Stone/Pavement. Photo by LinearConcepts.com.
5. Shroud of Turin, enhanced image of face. Photo by Barrie Schwartz.
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# Keep Your Eye on the Finish Line

**“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work” (John 4:34).**

Here in John 4, the Lord was just beginning His ministry, *but He already had His eye on the finish line*. What a great example for us! It is so easy to get caught up in the details of everyday life and give little or no thought to life's end. As Pastor Stam used to say, “Most people live for this life as if it were never going to end, and they live for the next life as if it were never going to begin, when the very opposite is the case!” Too often this is true of God's people as well.

Of course, as grace believers we are not just interested in what the Lord Jesus would do. Since we follow Paul as he followed Christ (I Cor. 11:1), we look to Paul as our example. But this is how he lived *his* life as well! He talked about how it was his goal, as he says, to “*finish my course*” (Acts 20:24). He too lived his life with his eye on the finish line!

If you are wondering what it means to live like this, notice that the Lord said that while on life's journey, He made it His “meat” to do God's will. The Bible word “meat” speaks of food of any kind, and food is *the most important thing in your physical life*. If you don't believe that, just try going without it for a few days! This writer has a friend who says that while fasting, he will sometimes go to the grocery store just to *gaze upon* food! Thus the Lord was saying that continuing to do the will of His Father was *the most important thing in life*, and the way to live with the finish line in view.

How about you, dear Christian friend? Are you living *your* life with your eye on the finish line? It is important to notice that while the Lord talked about the finish line at the *beginning* of His ministry, Paul spoke of it as he neared the *end* of his life. And so if you are a young Christian, it is not too early to start living with the finish line in view, and if you are a “seasoned citizen” in the kingdom of God, *it is not too late!*

—Pastor Ricky Kurth

# West Valley Grace Fellowship Bible Conference



**Location:** *West Valley Grace Fellowship*  
12213 West Bell Road, Suite #211  
Surprise, Arizona

**Dates:** March 25-27, 2011

**Guest Speaker:**

Paul M. Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*

For additional information, please contact:

Pastor Mark Dilley (623) 583-4186  
or email: [jjdster@gmail.com](mailto:jjdster@gmail.com)

Jim Humphrey (623) 466-7636  
or email: [jhumph783@aol.com](mailto:jhumph783@aol.com)

## Annual Bible Conference of the Berean Grace Fellowship

**Location:** *Kenbrook Retreat Center*  
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

**Dates:** Friday, April 29th through Sunday, May 1st, 2011

**Speakers:** Pastor Paul M. Sadler,  
Pastor David Hobbs, Bible Teacher Joe Torres

**Theme:** *Six Miracles of Calvary*

For more information, contact:  
Bill Schaeffer 717-949-3020  
or email [hitnmis@verizon.net](mailto:hitnmis@verizon.net)





## BBS Letter Excerpts

### From Indiana:

"In the December issue of the *Searchlight*, I could hardly contain myself as I read the wonderful article, *Are You Secure?* How many days and nights had I agonized over the fear that I had failed God, and was lost. I thank God for Brother Paul Sadler, who so eloquently put forth this truth."

### From Illinois:

"If you see or talk to Pastor Sadler, can you tell him I loved his article/testimony in this month's *Searchlight*? It was a beautiful testimony and brought tears to my eyes!"

### From Florida:

"I thoroughly enjoyed your personal testimony, Pastor Sadler. It brought smiles and tears of joy to my soul. I shall read it again. Wow! You were a hard nut to crack! I wonder if all 'Pauls' are characterized by hard-headedness....Please know that I hold you dear to my heart as I do with all the brethren at BBS."

### From our Inbox:

"We need 10,000 more videos like this!" (To view the videos Brother John Baker has made of our writings, visit our web site and click on "Videos."—Ed).

### From New York:

"Thanks for your *Berean Searchlight* issues. They are a blessing to me when I read them on my short breaks at work."

### From our Inbox:

"I just discovered on your site I can find any Scripture reference posted by Bible book and reference number. It is a very handy and highly organized system." (Many thanks to our good friend Roger Newell, who does the organizing. See page 30.—Ed).

### From Florida:

"Thank you for a great article by Pastor Sadler. My wife attends a congregation that believes you can lose your salvation, and this article is just what I've been looking for, simple and easy to explain to someone."

### From our Inbox:

"Three years ago, my husband and I came to listen to one of your conferences where we had the honor to listen to Pastor Sadler in person and even have lunch with him! What great memories we cherish!"

### From North Carolina:

"I am learning sooooo much from your magazine. Thanks so much for sharing God's Word rightly divided."



"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



# West Virginia Spring Bible Conference

**Location:** *Holiday Inn*, 301 Foxcroft Ave.,  
Martinsburg, West Virginia

**Date:** Saturday, March 26, 2011

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

**Theme:** *Grace in Action (Romans 14)*

For further information, please contact:  
Jim Miller at 304-671-1458, or [jmiller4181@gmail.com](mailto:jmiller4181@gmail.com),  
or visit [www.biblestudyforall.org](http://www.biblestudyforall.org)

## Little Rock Spring Bible Conference

**Location:** *Holiday Inn Presidential*  
600 Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas

**Dates:** April 8-10, 2011

**Guest Speakers:**

Bible Teacher Les Feldick  
Pastor Gregg Bing, Pastor Kevin Sadler

**Theme:** *Distinctions of God's Grace Program*

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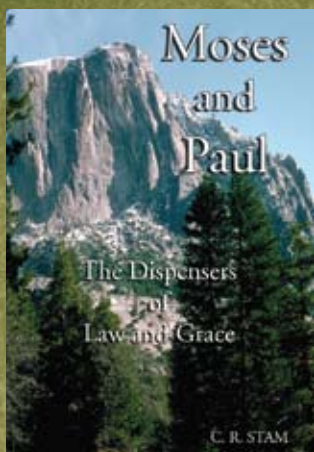
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# March Special

Once you've learned about the authority of Paul  
by comparing it to the authority of Moses in...



## Moses and Paul

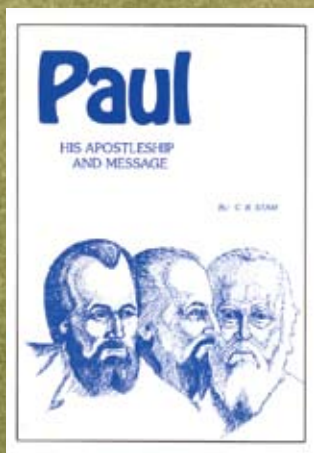
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# News and Announcements

**Web Site Advances:** BBS Webmaster Richard Church reports that a recent reformatting of our J. C. O'Hair library, as well as our presence on Facebook, have helped draw more people to our web site than ever before. Visitors to [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org) viewed over a *million* pages of Bible study articles in 2010, and so we would invite you to pray for fruit from all of this time spent studying God's Word rightly divided.

**And you thought it was just you!** Your editor feels bad every time we turn down one of the many requests we receive from *Searchlight* readers to be your Facebook friend, or link with you on LinkedIn, but we just don't do social networking! We registered with Facebook for the sole purpose of checking BBS's page from home. We love you all in the Lord, however, and want to be sure that none of you feel snubbed.

**Scripture Index Update:** Our good friend Roger Newell has once again provided us with a yearly update to the Scripture index. If a verse of Scripture has been referenced in the *Searchlight*, you can find our comments on it, dating all the way back to the earliest issues posted on our site. This index teams up with our search engine to provide you with a virtual online grace commentary to the Word of God.

**Berean Bible Institute** is pleased to announce that our entire first-year program is now available through *Distance Studies*. Upon completion of the first year courses, the student is awarded the Certificate of Basic Bible Studies. This 30 credit hour program lays a Biblical foundation for the students, and helps prepare them to serve the Lord in any vocation the Lord may have for them. Find more information at [www.bereanbibleinstitute.org](http://www.bereanbibleinstitute.org), email us at [bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org), phone us at 262-644-5504, or write us at Berean Bible Institute, PO Box 587, Slinger, WI 53086.

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



Our cover lighthouse photo is of *Sand Island Lighthouse*, located near Bayfield, Wisconsin. Built in 1881 from locally quarried brownstone, it is the westernmost lighthouse in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, which consists of 21 individual islands.

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(Genesis 32:10).

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