

The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

April 2007



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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:



Dearly Beloved,

The *Berean Bible Fellowship Conference* was established in 1968 by those who had dedicated themselves to the preservation of Paul's apostleship and message. Since those humble beginnings BBF has sought to avoid the pitfalls of denominationalism by not exercising authority over any of our local Grace Churches. The conference is rather a loosely knit fellowship of individual Grace believers who simply desire to see the furtherance of the gospel of the grace of God. We feel all of our Grace organizations and assemblies function best if they are *independent* of one another.

The past several years the attendance at the conference has grown appreciably. In fact, there were services last year throughout the week where it was difficult to find a seat (additional seating is now available if needed). For those who have never attended an annual *Berean Bible Fellowship Conference*, on behalf of BBF, we would like to invite you to join us this year. We promise you will have a wonderful time of fellowship with those of like-precious faith. This year Pastor Ricky Kurth will be our *Bible Hour* teacher. Ricky will be presenting a four-part series entitled: "Discerning the Will of God."

Once again, the conference will be held at the beautiful *Cedar Lake Conference Center* located in Cedar Lake, Indiana, just one hour southeast of Chicago. Over thirty Grace pastors and Bible teachers from around the country will be in attendance to minister the Word, rightly divided. If you are searching for sound *Grace Literature*, this is the place to come. Numerous Grace Ministries will be represented at the conference offering books and booklets, Sunday School Curriculum, Lessons on DVD, Electronic Libraries, and Music CD's. You will be interested to know that there are Missionary presentations, testimonials, and Question & Answer sessions scheduled for the week as well.

While the facilities at Cedar Lake fill up quickly, there are motels within a reasonable driving distance. If you are unable to attend the entire week, why not join us for the weekend. For additional information or to receive a brochure, please see page 12. Hope to see you there!

Amazed by His grace,
Paul M. Sadler, President

If you died today, where will you spend eternity? In heaven or hell?

Why would God let you in to His heaven?

Many feel the “good Lord” would let them in. Others feel God isn’t going to send anyone to hell or that neither heaven nor hell are real.

What do you have to do to go to hell? NOTHING!

What do you have to do to go to heaven? *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved”* (Acts 16:31).

I ask you, “Are you **SAVED?**” **Saved from hell?**

We all want forgiveness of our sins, but how do we get rid of our sins? Many know they are **guilty** of sinning, but they balance that guilt by **blaming** others, circumstances, or even God. Blame won’t help.

First, I knew I was a sinner, because I was born in sin at birth (Rom. 3:23). Adam sinned and so death passed upon me (Rom. 5:12). I sinned against God and didn’t do what was right (James 4:17).

Second, I knew I was unsaved. As a teenager, I heard a preacher say I am going to hell unless I personally trust or believe what the Bible says about Jesus Christ’s dying, shedding His precious blood to wash my sins away forever and that He rose again for me (I Cor. 15:3,4).

Third, I believed and Christ gave me eternal life (Rom 1:16). When I trusted Christ as my personal Savior, He forgave all my sins—past, present and future. I have newness of life in Christ (Rom. 6:4).

Finally, I received His salvation with solid assurance that I will never lose it (Col. 2:2; I Thes. 1:5). You and I will spend eternity somewhere—either heaven or hell. When the devil makes me doubt, *I remind him that I was saved by what Jesus Christ did on the Cross.* I am saved by what the Bible says, NOT on how I feel or by anything I did (Eph. 2:8-9).

Now what about you? God, the Bible, heaven, and hell are *real*. He is calling to you right now. I ask you to trust Christ as your personal Savior today. Believe in Christ’s finished work on the Cross and He will help you as a new creation in Christ (II Cor. 5:17).

Are you saved? Read the Bible. God will speak to you through His Word. *I did, and God is everything to me now.* He hears my every prayer. I know that when Christ returns in the clouds to call the saved home, I will go and God will welcome me in! I’m family!
—Doug Cox

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 1:25-30

By Paul M. Sadler

“And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; that your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.”

—Phil. 1:25,26

A PIONEER SPIRIT

Paul was a man of *action* who wasn't deterred by what many would deem adverse circumstances. He had learned early in his Christian experience that in whatever state he found himself “therewith to be content.” Since Paul wasn't preoccupied with what might or might not happen to him, it allowed the Spirit of God to work freely through him, as seen in the portion before us. After the apostle recorded it was his desire that Christ might be magnified in his body, “whether it be by life, or by death [execution],” he may well have paused for a moment, which writers are prone to do. In that moment of time, the

Lord apparently revealed to him that the hour of his departure to glory was not yet at hand; thus the Spirit of God led Paul in the next stroke of the pen to write:

“And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith.”

Notice how the apostle passed from a state of uncertainty about his future to being *confident* his work wasn't finished among those at Philippi, not to mention the other members of the Body of Christ who would also benefit from his extended ministry. There is strong Scriptural evidence that Paul was indeed released from his first Roman imprisonment in fulfillment of the above revelation. For the saints at Philippi this meant the *furtherance* and joy of their faith. The term “furtherance” in verse 12 and here in verse 25 has the idea to cut beforehand, to make progress, to advance, etc. While this term has the same meaning in both

passages Paul applies it in a completely different way.

In verse 12, “furtherance” is used in relation to the *advancement* of the gospel. When Paul was hauled off to Rome as a prisoner, it gave him a unique opportunity that he would not have had otherwise to introduce the household of Caesar to Christ. This is how the gospel is carried to the regions beyond to those who are yet in darkness.

A contemporary example would be *Things To Come Mission*. In the late fifties TCM entered *uncharted territory* when they introduced the gospel of the grace of God in the Philippines. Although it was slow going at first, gradually the Filipino people responded to the good news that God loved them and Christ died for their sins. Today there are over 500 Grace Churches in the Philippines and five Bible schools that train men and women for full-time Christian service. A few years ago I took a short-term missionary trip to the Philippines with TCM and saw firsthand the fruits of this labor of love. It was my desire to encourage these brethren in the faith, but it turned out that I was the one who returned encouraged by their *commitment* to the preaching of Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery.

Once the work was well-grounded in the Philippines, *Things To Come* forged ahead with the same pioneer spirit when they carried the gospel of Grace into Indonesia, which is predominantly an Islamic country. They began in Jakarta where a Grace beachhead was established with the help of Filipino missionaries that they had

trained in the Philippines. Plans are now being made to expand this outreach into nearby Cambodia.

In verse 25, Paul’s continued ministry among the believers at Philippi would give him an opportunity to help *further* their faith. The apostle didn’t want them to be satisfied with where they were at in their spiritual lives, which believers are often prone to do. Like the villager who takes a machete to clear a new path through the jungle, Paul’s desire was for them to forge ahead that they might have a fuller understanding of the will of God in their lives. For example, they most assuredly understood that they were saved by grace, but were they consistently exhibiting *grace* toward one another in a spirit of like-mindedness (Phil. 2:2,3). You see, the result of growing spiritually would bring them even greater *joy* in Christ.

But there was another reason the apostle desired to see the furtherance of their faith. The passages that follow clearly indicate that there were storm clouds gathering on the horizon. The Philippians were already experiencing persecution for their faith and Paul knew through the Spirit that the worst was yet to come; therefore, he wanted them to be *prepared* beforehand so they could weather the storm to the glory of God. The following account illustrates how this is accomplished:

Years ago, a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the sea,



wreaking havoc on buildings and crops. As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals. Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer. “Are you a good farm hand?” the farmer asked him. “Well, I can sleep when the wind blows,” answered the little man. Although puzzled by his answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man’s work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand’s sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, “Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!” The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, “No sir! I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows.” Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Nothing

could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

When you’re prepared; spiritually, mentally, and physically you have nothing to fear. Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life? The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm in advance. We secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves in the Word of God. We don’t need to understand why the storms have come; we just need to trust Him to have peace in the middle of them.¹

Paul’s concern that the Philippians be prepared in *advance* of the coming storms still rings true today. We, too, need to be equipped in the faith beforehand. Whether we are confronting the various forms of false teaching that are sweeping through the Church today or the threat of a future persecution, it is important that our spiritual roots go deeply into the fertile soil of God’s Word, rightly divided. A tree is only as stable as the depth of its roots.

LIVING IN LIGHT OF OUR CITIZENSHIP

“Only let your conversation be as it cometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel!” (Phil. 1:27).

The word “conversation” in the Authorized Version is a translation of the Greek term *politeuomai*, which is a *verb*. The noun form

of this word has the idea of *citizenship*. But Paul intentionally used the verb form meaning “to conduct oneself worthily as a citizen of the city or state.” Essentially all citizens have *rights* and *responsibilities* in a Republic, the latter of which Paul is emphasizing in this context.

“...we esteem the reproach of Christ as eternal riches....”

As American citizens our *Bill of Rights* guarantees us the privilege of the freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, the right to keep and bear arms, the rights against unreasonable search and seizure or cruel and unusual punishment, the right to a fair trial by jury, etc. With these unalienable rights comes the *responsibility* as U.S. citizens to serve on a jury, if chosen. Seeing that so many paid the ultimate price to secure our freedom we are called upon to *vote* to preserve the liberties we enjoy. Furthermore, every April we are required to pay federal and state income taxes to keep the nation financially solvent, which benefits us all in one form or another. These are only a few of the responsibilities that we, as citizens, gladly bear for the sake of our country.

The saints at Philippi highly esteemed their citizenship as well, because it was such a prized possession. They willingly gave their loyalty and allegiance to Rome, which guaranteed them

certain rights. Essentially, their citizenship was their life. Paul being keenly aware of this reminds them that they were also citizens of heaven; therefore they were to *conduct* themselves in a worthy manner for the sake of the gospel. Then he explains how this was to be accomplished:

“That ye stand fast in one Spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27b).

Paul points out the need for there to be *unity* among them. Apparently there were some within the assembly who were questioning one or more of the sevenfold unities of the Spirit. Consequently, there was a *union* in the assembly, but there wasn’t *unity*. Allow me to illustrate: If I take two pieces of clear plastic and screw them together I have a “union” between the two objects. However, if I take the same two pieces of plastic and melt them down and inject the molten plastic into a mold to produce a lens, the end result is *unity*—the two have become one! Unity is *oneness*! While the believers at Philippi were putting up with one another (union) there wasn’t a oneness among them. But how is oneness achieved?

“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one Body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:3-6).

What some at Philippi failed to remember was, it wasn’t Paul or the ones with whom they were

disputing who established these doctrines of grace, but the Spirit of God. *Unity* in every local Grace assembly is based on adherence to the sevenfold unity of the Spirit. Those who had departed from one or more of these teachings were to *realign themselves* with Paul's gospel that the oneness of the assembly might be restored.

Paul charges the entire assembly to "stand fast," that is, don't allow this to deteriorate into a division, one that could well cause irreparable damage. In our day many local churches can attest that failure to heed Paul's counsel here is catastrophic. They experienced the sad reality that once everything went to *pieces* "all the king's men" were unable to put them back together again. As we have seen, the Philippians were to be of "one mind" by maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace—"striving together for the faith of the gospel." The term "striving" here is the old English word for "fight." In other words, the Philippians were to stand shoulder to shoulder *together* fighting the good fight of the faith. Believers today get this all mixed up, because it seems as though they are fighting with one another, which only serves to bring reproach to the name of Christ.

"Whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs" (vs. 27).

Before we continue, we want to note how the apostle originally introduced his charge. Unsure exactly what the Lord's will would be upon his release, Paul was uncertain if he would see the Philippians any time soon. But he did want to hear how they were

progressing in the faith. You see, the apostle did not want these brethren to become too dependent upon him. While he was a spiritual father to them, he desired that they stand on their own two feet, spiritually speaking. Their faith was to be centered in Christ, not the apostle. God has graciously given the Church spiritual leaders to provide direction in the things of God. But it is the believer's responsibility to *prove* the things that differ so that he might grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It isn't uncommon to hear about a godly pastor being called to a new pastorate, only to find out that many of his former assembly scattered to the wind after his departure. This beckons the question, were they following the message or the man? You will do well to remember, it is unwise to place your faith in a man, as godly as he may be, simply because if he should fall you may become disillusioned and depart from the faith along with him. If your eyes are on Christ, everything can collapse around you, but you will still be standing when the dust settles.

TRIUMPHANT IN CHRIST

"And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God" (Phil. 1:28).

Paul challenges the saints at Philippi not to be "terrified" or *frightened* by their enemies. The term "frightened" was often used in biblical times to describe a herd of horses that stampede after being startled by an unfamiliar sound. These brethren were

to *stand up* to the intimidation of their adversaries and not bolt from the faith. By so doing, their courageous stand in the face of danger would turn the tables on their enemies by reminding them that they were headed for eternal destruction in hell. Thankfully, believers down through the centuries have heeded Paul's words, which has been an outward demonstration of their eternal salvation, as they stood *unafraid* before their persecutors. It has always been an anomaly to unbelievers as to why they are unable to make those who are sold out to the gospel afraid.

On more than one occasion Pastor Stam shared with me how his brother, John, and his wife, Betty, were undaunted by the threat that the communists posed where they were ministering in China. In fact, just two weeks before their martyrdom at the hands of the communists in 1934, John wrote home to say that their hearts' desire was that Christ might be magnified, "whether by life or by death." Pastor Stam said, the world would have concluded this was the deathblow to missionary work in China. Who in their right mind would risk their life to go there after this happened? But within one month more than 200 young Christian men and women applied to the *China Inland Mission* to go as missionaries to the very city in China where John and Betty were beheaded, and thousands of others consecrated their lives to missionary work at missionary conferences all over Europe and America. This is something the world will never understand.

We want to pause here a moment to say that the Lord dealt extensively with the subject of *eternal punishment* during His earthly ministry. According to the Scriptures, when the unsaved close their eyes in death they are sent to the unseen world (Gr. *hades*) located in the center of the earth, where they are *presently* suffering in torment. Without hope of reprieve, they will remain in *hades* until the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the kingdom age. All unbelievers of all past ages will stand before God at that day and will be judged according to their works. This will determine the degree of their punishment in hell (Gr. *gehenna*) for eternity (Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:11-15; Mark 9:42-47).

Seeing that the subject of eternal torment was so effectively addressed by our Lord and others in the Scriptures, it wasn't necessary for Paul to belabor the point in his epistles, especially since he was given the responsibility of dispensing the revelation of the Mystery. However, he does *confirm* the torment of those who spurn the love of God and reject Christ, as noted here in Philippians when he speaks of the *perdition* of the unsaved. According to Thayer "perdition" in this context has the idea of "destruction which consists of eternal misery in hell" (See also II Thes. 1:9).

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

When we believe on Christ we have life and life eternal, but

when we suffer for His sake we are rewarded. We learn here that the gift of God's grace is not only extended to us when we believe on Christ, but it is also a *grace* to suffer for Him, as the term "given" conveys. Mankind has much to say about suffering, but it being a gift of grace isn't a part of the discussion. You see, this *grace* is not only for our benefit, but the benefit of others. The Philippians, for example, were suffering the same conflicts Paul experienced when he first visited Philippi. As we know, the apostle suffered many cruel injustices at the hands of evil men, but it resulted in the furtherance of the gospel when the Philippian jailer and his household were saved.

We experience many of the same afflictions that Christ encountered. Who among us has not suffered the rejection of family members? Perhaps you've been passed over for a promotion because of your Christian testimony, or worse, you lost your job! The world hated Christ without a cause, and the same is true of us. But we esteem the reproach of Christ as eternal riches, simply because a great recompense of *reward* awaits all those who suffer for His name's sake. That's grace!

To Be Continued!



Endnote

1. Author Unknown.



Grace For Today's 4th Annual Encouragement Conference

Dates: May 26-28, 2007

Location: *Eddy Farm Conference Center*
Sparrow Bush, New York

Guest Speakers:

Paul M. Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*
Dennis Kizonas, *Grace For Today*
Leon Gilchrist, *Grace For Today*
Pastor David Hobbs, Apollo, Pennsylvania
Dr. John Mark Stevens, Bible Teacher
Joe Torres, Bible Teacher
Elizabeth Kizonas, Bible Teacher

To receive a conference brochure and registration form, please contact: Alba DeGracia, Registrar: *Grace For Today*, P.O. Box 798, Times Square Station, New York, NY 10108, or e-mail: registrar@gracefortoday.org, or call 1-800-803-0003.



39th Annual Berean Bible Fellowship Conference

Location: *Cedar Lake Bible Conference Center*
Cedar Lake, Indiana

Dates: June 16-21, 2007

Theme: *Be Encouraged* (II Corinthians 8-13)

Bible Hour Teacher: Pastor Ricky Kurth

Guest Speakers from around the country will be present to proclaim the riches of God's grace!

Music Directors: Mr. & Mrs. Jim Wade

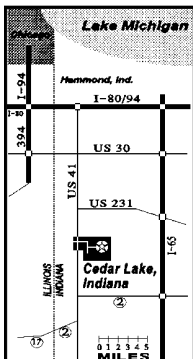
At the Piano: Mrs. Virginia Shriver

Accommodations: BBF recommends that reservations be made early, although accommodations are often available for latecomers. For reservations, write or phone: *Cedar Lake Conference Center*, Reservations Manager, PO Box 665, Cedar Lake, IN 46303, or phone: (219) 374-5941.

Facilities for travel trailers, motor homes, and tent camping include electric/water hook-ups, dump station, showers, etc.

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

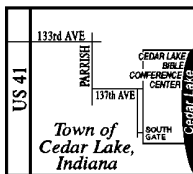
Pastor Floyd Baker, BBF President, at (812) 490-4156
or *Berean Bible Society* at (262) 255-4750



Cedar Lake Conference Center is located in the town of Cedar Lake, in northwest Indiana, twenty miles south of Chicago.

By Auto: US 41 to Cedar Lake, Indiana:

- At the traffic signal in Cedar Lake, turn east on 133rd Ave. 3/4 mile to the traffic signal at Parrish.
- Right on Parrish for 1/2 mile to 137th Ave.
- Left on 137th Ave. for 1/2 mile to the Conference grounds. Enter at the South Gate for parking and registration.



If traveling by air into Chicago's O'Hare or Midway airports, call the Conference Center to arrange pickup.

The Twelve Apostles and Us

By C. R. Stam

OUR
GREAT
COMMISSION



What is it?

UNQUALIFIED OBEDIENCE TO THE “GREAT COMMISSION”

We have seen that Paul would not have qualified as Judas' successor, for the Lord had said to His apostles:

“Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28).

Thus it was that Peter, *before Pentecost and the offer of the kingdom*, declared that according to Scripture another would have to be chosen to fill Judas' place—and that this person would have to be one who had *“compained with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John [the first day of Christ's earthly ministry], unto that same day that He was taken up from us [the last day of His earthly ministry]”* (Acts 1:15-22).

The choice of Matthias to succeed Judas was made after much

earnest prayer (Acts 1:14), in obedience to the Scriptures (Ver. 20), and evidently under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for we read that *“the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles....And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost”* (1:26; 2:4).

This infilling with the Holy Spirit empowered the Pentecostal believers not only to speak with tongues and work miraculous signs, but also to live lives that were entirely under the Spirit's control, so that we find no trace of error or sin in those early chapters of Acts. Indeed, we read in Acts 4:32,33, when their number had grown to more than five thousand men alone, that

“...the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had all things common.

“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.”

This way of life was nothing less than a fulfillment of Ezekiel 36:27:

“And I will put My Spirit with-in you, and *cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them.*”

This also confirmed Peter’s declaration that the last days had begun.

Thus divinely chosen, equipped and empowered, the twelve apostles immediately began carrying out their commission—all of it.

How futile, then, has been the choosing of commissions by God’s people today! How wrong to *select* certain passages from our Lord’s parting instructions to bind upon the Church of this dispensation! How wrong to arbitrarily disregard the other passages! Yet this is what is being done by those who believe that *both* the commission to the eleven *and* the epistles of Paul belong to God’s program for our day.

The twelve apostles had no such problem. These instructions had been given to *them*. It was *their* “great commission” and they considered it *all* binding, thus they began immediately to obey all of it in detail. Let us now examine all the records of this commission again and see how amply this is confirmed. That their work was *interrupted* by Israel’s rejection of Christ and the revelation of the mystery, does not affect the fact that they were faithful to their commission in its entirety.

Here it will be necessary only to deal with such details of the commission as have been, or might be, brought into debate. With the rest there is no problem.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Teach, Baptizing

“...*teach all nations, baptizing them....*”

We have seen that the *King James* translators rendered the Greek *ethne* by the word *Gentiles* when used in contradistinction to Jews, or Israelites. Here, however, all nations, *including Israel*, are in view as noted above, hence the translators correctly rendered the Greek word by our English word *nations*.

The twelve did immediately begin to obey this part of the commission for, as we know from Luke and the Acts, the apostles made their first appeal to Israel, the first nation to be brought under Messiah’s sway, and those who truly repented and believed were baptized.

A Baptismal Formula?

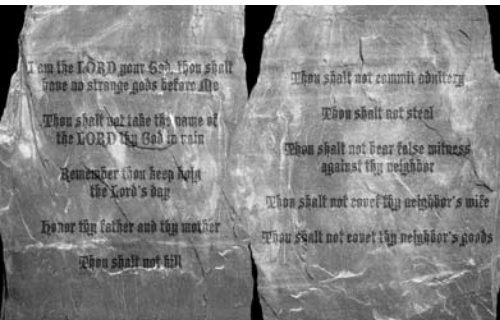
“...*baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*”

As we have seen, some object that Matthew’s record of the commission could not have been intended for the apostles because they did not use the “formula” here given, but rather baptized “*in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (Acts 2:38; 8:16). To this we offer a twofold reply:

1. There is no indication that the phrase “in the name of,” etc., was meant by our Lord to be a *formula*. They were not instructed to *repeat these words*, but simply to baptize *in the name of*, or *by the authority of*, the triune God, just as a British officer might apprehend a criminal *in the name of the queen*, or an American officer

might shout: “Stop, *in the name of the law!*” or our ambassador to France might speak or act *in the name of the government of the United States*. The repetition of words here is not in question, but rather the authority of the representative. Furthermore, when we read that people were baptized “in the name of the Lord Jesus,” we must not forget that “*in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*” (Col. 2:9).

2. Matthew’s record clearly states that this commission was for *their* obedience. “Go ye,” is the Lord’s simple command, and it is a perversion of Scripture to conclude that He must have meant this order to be carried out by others who will live at a future time.



Obedience to Moses’ Law and All the Lord’s Commands

“Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you.”

We have seen from Galatians 4:4, Matthew 23:1-3 and 28:20 that our Lord Himself was under the law of Moses and taught His disciples complete subjection to the law. Thus, in obedience to His instructions in Matthew 28:20 the twelve taught their hearers

subjection to Moses’ law and set the example themselves.

1. In those early chapters they practically lived in the temple. In Acts 2:46 we find them “continuing daily with one accord in the temple.” See also Acts 3:1,3,8,11; 5:20,21,25,42. In the last of these verses we read that “*daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*”

2. We are informed in Acts 22:12 that Ananias, the person who baptized Paul, was “*a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there*” (Acts 22:12).

3. At the great council at Jerusalem it was agreed *only* that the *Gentile believers* were not to be subjected to the law of Moses. The status of the Jews was not even discussed. It is evident that they had, until that very time, remained under the law, and they evidently assumed that they were so to continue. God had not yet given the twelve any revelation delivering believing Jews from the law (See Acts 15:1,19,21; Gal. 2:3,7,9).

4. In the latter part of Acts (21:20-25), we are specifically informed that whereas it had been “written and concluded” that the Gentiles should not be subjected to the law of Moses, the Jews which believed remained “*zealous of the law.*”

5. Not until the raising up of the Apostle Paul do we hear any such declaration as: “But NOW the righteousness of God *without the law* is manifested” (Rom. 3:21), or “through this man [Christ] is preached unto you the forgiveness

of sins; and by Him all that believe are justified from all things, *from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses*" (Acts 13:38,39).

As to the *Sermon on the Mount* and the other commands referred to in Chapter 3, they obeyed these too. They *did* liquidate their assets and turn the proceeds over for the common good.

Acts 2:44,45: "And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

"And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

Acts 4:32,34,35: "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

"Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

"And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."

Even the apostles went forth in obedience to Matthew 10:9,10, carrying "neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in their purses," so that Peter could say to the lame man at the temple gate: "Silver and gold have I *NONE*" (Acts 3:6).

This was indeed a foretaste of the wonderful kingdom of Christ, the "*times of refreshing*" referred to in Acts 3:19. What blessed fellowship, with everyone spontaneously living for others rather than for self!

So the apostles immediately began to carry out *all* the details

of that segment of their commission recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. They did not, like some today, presume to choose what they should obey and ignore the rest.

"...the twelve apostles immediately began carrying out their commission—all of it."

It is true that they did not get to all nations with this wonderful program, but this was not due to any failure on their part. As we have seen, it was because Israel, the first nation, stubbornly rejected Messiah, so that God finally set her aside (temporarily) as a nation and, in matchless mercy and love, interrupted the prophetic program, ushering in the present parenthetical dispensation of grace through Paul, who had been our Lord's bitterest enemy on earth but was now the appointed herald of His infinite grace.

MARK 16:15-18 Which Gospel?

"Preach the gospel."

Many have supposed that this command of our Lord conclusively proves that the commission to the eleven is for our obedience, but this is not so. We have demonstrated by the clearest Scripture that the eleven at that time knew nothing of the gospel of the grace of God. They knew only "the gospel of the kingdom." True, the King had now been crucified and raised from the dead, but this did not change the basic content of their message.

Only now, rather than proclaiming the kingdom “at hand,” they could actually *offer* the return of Christ to sit on David’s throne, along with “the times of refreshing,” which every true Israelite longed for (Acts 2:29-31; 3:19-21).

Baptism and the Remission of Sins

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”

The apostles preached and practiced exactly this. When some of Peter’s hearers were convicted of their sins and asked: “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Peter did *not* tell them that Christ had died for their sins and that they could receive salvation as the gift of God’s grace, apart from religion or works. Rather he said:

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

Years ago, in a series of debates on dispensationalism, the author asked his opponent: “Suppose, after a Sunday evening service, some of *your* hearers were convicted of their sins and asked you and your co-workers: ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ Would *you* tell them what Peter told these convicted sinners at Pentecost?” “Why, of course!” he exclaimed. “*In those words?*” I persisted. He thought for a moment and then replied: “Well, I guess not exactly in those words.” The fact is that this pastor would not at all have said to his hearers what Peter said to his. Even though a Baptist, he would not have said: “Repent and be baptized *every one of you* in

the name of Jesus Christ, *for the remission of sins,*” for he believed that subjection to water baptism should be left to each believer’s conscience, and he did *not* believe that it had anything to do with salvation. He would rather have said what Paul said when the convicted Gentile jailor asked: “*What must I do to be saved?*” Like Paul, he would have said: “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved...*” (Acts 16:31). But Peter, at Pentecost, preached what he was commanded to preach under his commission: “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*”

The Sign Gifts

“And these signs shall follow them that believe...”

Filled with the Holy Spirit, the apostles and disciples also began carrying out this part of their great commission:

Acts 2:4: “And they...began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 2:43: “And...many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.”

This, of course, did not please the Jewish leaders, but they could not gainsay the facts. We find the members of the Sanhedrin discussing the situation in Acts Chapter 4.

Acts 4:16: “What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.”

And the evidence mounted even higher after that.

Acts 5:16: “There came also a multitude out of the cities round

about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.”

Acts 6:8: “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.”

Acts 8:6: “And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.”

It is not germane at this point to discuss the reasons why Paul also wrought miracles, except to explain (1) that God gave him “the signs of an apostle,” chiefly as a confirmation to the twelve and the Jewish believers that his ministry was indeed of God, and (2) that these “signs” were wrought during his *early* ministry, until Israel was officially set aside in Acts 28:28.

LUKE 24:45-48; ACTS 1:8 Beginning at Jerusalem

Luke 24:47: “...*beginning at Jerusalem.*” Acts 1:8: “...*and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”

This they also did. Indeed, so scrupulous were the twelve in their obedience to these instructions that Jerusalem remained their headquarters even when the disciples were “scattered abroad” by the great persecution that arose when Stephen was stoned to death.

The twelve, Matthias replacing Judas, had begun to carry out their world-wide mission, but had not gotten beyond their own nation. We should always associate

Acts 1:8 with Acts 8:1 in our study of the Acts, for Jerusalem, rather than turning to Messiah so that the apostles could go on with their “great commission,” had started a “great persecution” against the Church there, with the result that “*they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles*” (Acts 8:1).

The twelve have often been charged with bigotry and unfaithfulness for remaining in Jerusalem at this time. In fact, however, it was rare courage and fidelity to their commission that kept them there while persecution raged and their very lives were in danger. They remained at Jerusalem for the same reason that the rest fled: because Jerusalem was *not* turning to Christ. The first part of their commission had not yet been completed, therefore they were duty-bound to remain there.

Certainly the twelve did not remain at Jerusalem because they were prejudiced against the salvation of the Gentiles. There is too much Scriptural evidence against this. Rather, they remained there because they had a clear understanding of the prophetic program and of their Lord’s commission. They knew that according to covenant and prophecy the Gentiles were to be saved and blessed *through redeemed Israel* (Gen. 22:17,18; Isa. 60:1-3; Zech. 8:13). Our Lord had indicated no change in this program, and He Himself had worked in perfect harmony with it. Before His death He had insisted that Israel was *first* in God’s revealed program, commanding His disciples

not to go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, but to “*go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel*” (Matt. 10:6), and saying to a Gentile woman who came for help: “*Let the children first be filled*” (Mark 7:27). And now, in His “great commission” to the eleven, He specifically stated that they should *begin at Jerusalem*, as we have seen above.

It is amazing that some should charge the twelve apostles and the Jewish believers with prejudice against the Gentiles because they did not immediately go “to the uttermost part of the earth,” when they were explicitly *told* by the Lord to make disciples of all nations *beginning at Jerusalem* and when there is so much evidence that they longed for the salvation of the Gentiles and rejoiced when Gentiles turned to Christ (See Acts 3:25; 10:9,15; 11:18,23,24; 15:3; 21:19,20).

Which took the greater courage, to flee from Jerusalem now or to remain there in the raging persecution, in daily peril of death? Wouldn't unfaithful men have fled at such a time? We are not blaming the multitude of the disciples for fleeing for their lives, but are rather giving the twelve due credit for faithfully carrying out the orders specifically given them.

JOHN 20:21-23 **Remitting Sins**

“Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them.”


The apostles were surely laboring under this part of their commission when they baptized their convicted hearers “*for the remission of sins*” (Acts 2:38,41).

At the series of debates on dispensationalism referred to earlier, our opponent asked: “Do you mean to tell us that Peter, at Pentecost, did *not* proclaim the gospel of the grace of God?” I responded that this was exactly what I believed. This amazed him, so I asked him to define the gospel of the grace of God. To this he replied correctly: “We’d have no disagreement on that. I believe that the gospel of the grace of God is that we are sinners, condemned to judgment, but that because Christ died for our sins we may be saved by grace through faith in Him, plus nothing.” I then asked him whether he could find this in Peter’s Pentecostal address. “Yes,” he said. However, we had agreed that in this debate questions would be answered by the Word of God alone, so he stood looking at Acts 2 for some time, until finally he continued: “Well, it does say here in Verse 21 that ‘Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,’ but I know what you’ll say about that.” “What will I say?” I asked. To this he replied: “Well, I guess you’ll say that when they did call Peter said, ‘Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.’” “Yes,” I replied, “that is exactly what the record says.”

Those who, like this pastor, have supposed that Peter at Pentecost proclaimed “the gospel of the grace of God,” should ask themselves why he did not tell them that Christ had died for their sins, so that they might be saved by grace, through faith alone; why, instead, he demanded repentance and baptism for the remission of sins.

Doubtless this is what is back of Paul's statement in I Corinthians 1:17: "For CHRIST SENT ME NOT TO BAPTIZE, but to preach the gospel:¹ not with wisdom of words LEST THE CROSS OF CHRIST SHOULD BE MADE OF NONE EFFECT." This, *the cross*, was the heart of Paul's God-given message. This is what *he* preached "for the remission of sins," and this is why his gospel is also called, "*the preaching of the cross*" (I Cor. 1:18).

Mark 1:4 states plainly that John the Baptist preached "THE

BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS." This part of God's program was not changed by the commission to the eleven. The great change came later, with the raising up of Paul, the chief of sinners saved by grace. *He* declared that Christ had *not* sent him to baptize (as John and the eleven had been sent) but to preach the gospel—"the gospel of the grace of God." 

Endnote

1. The gospel committed to *him*, of course (Acts 20:24).

Question Box

"Jeremiah 1:5 says that Jeremiah prophesied to the nations. I thought all Israel's prophets prophesied to Israel?"

Jeremiah wrote primarily to all Israel (Jer. 2:4; 3:12,20; 4:1, etc.) living in Judah (2:28; 4:4,5; 5:20; 7:2). However, he *also* addressed the Gentiles (1:10; 4:16; 6:18; 46:1-51:64).

It is easy to see why God would use one prophet to address both. The nations were about to be conquered by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. However, because of her sin, God was going to allow Israel to be conquered also (Jer. 25:9). Thus the book of Jeremiah was God's warning to *both* about this impending Babylonian onslaught (Jer. 25:15-33).

We see something similar in the Book of Daniel. The beginning and ending of Daniel are written in Hebrew. However, from Daniel 2:4 to Daniel 7:28, Daniel writes in "Syriack" (2:4), the native tongue of the Babylonian Empire. This was because the prophecies of these chapters would affect more than just Israel. Daniel's predictions of the rise of Media-Persia and Greece would *also* affect many other countries, so God used Daniel to warn these nations in their own language.

Finally, it is interesting to note that while Jeremiah was separated from his mother's womb to prophesy *judgment* to the nations (Jer. 1:4,5), Paul was separated from his mother's womb to prophesy *grace* to all nations (Gal. 1:15,16). What a grand message we have for the world! —Pastor Kurth

How to Stay Safe in the World Today

By Johnny Angel

The following is a tongue-in-cheek article e-mailed to our good friend Johnny Angel, and the article that follows was his reply.

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So...above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT...You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

...And...Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So...for SAFETY'S sake—Attend church, and read your Bible.

IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Okay, like most of the things we accept, this is seemingly innocent enough. But let's take a closer look, shall we?

While it may be true that church is the safest place for our *physical* bodies, we know that it is our *spiritual being* with which we should be concerned. Our bodies are degenerating while we still inhabit them (II Corinthians 4:16) and are going to die, sooner or later.

The part that will survive is our soul. The *soul* is the part we need to worry about keeping *safe!* To do this we need to be assured that we *believe* the correct doctrine that was expressed to us by our Creator. It

is this belief that makes us safe and keeps us safe *spiritually* throughout this life, and also throughout the life to come.

Okay, so where do we get this *correct doctrine*? At church? Which church? Some Baptists teach that you are saved and sealed by water baptism. Our Church of Christ friends teach you can lose your salvation if you don't ask for forgiveness for each sin. Meanwhile Roman Catholics say you need to be faithful to the Church and can be absolved of sin by the priest. Finally, Universalists insist that God is a loving God and that nobody needs to worry about going to Hell because Hell really doesn't exist.

These are only four "Christian" churches. Do they all teach *sound doctrine*? Are you going to commit your eternal being to one of these, based upon the preaching of one of their teachers? (Most people do exactly this!) There are hundreds of "Christian" churches and denominations, not to mention all the ones of other faiths and orders that all teach variations of opposing doctrine.

Let me ask you once again...to which church are you going to go to in order to learn how to be safe (saved)? My former electronics teacher (who is also the pastor of a small Methodist church) told me, "It really doesn't matter that much, which church you attend." On this point, I have to agree with him. There are 131 churches here in Cumberland County, Tennessee and many of them cannot teach you anything that will lead you to being eternally safe!

Most people are going to remain spiritually *dead* throughout their entire church experience because they have believed in a false doctrine that has been taught to them on a weekly basis by their church teachers. So let me ask you, is your *Bible study class* a "safe" place to be?

Question: How can you know you are a saved believer in *the* faith? (As opposed to being a believer in one of the other faiths?) You have to take this responsibility upon yourself and find out. (It isn't easy and most would rather not even try!)

Answer: You have to take each aspect of what you believe to be the gospel and compare it to Scripture to see if it is true or if it is *missing* from Scripture or if it is *opposed* to Scripture, or if it *agrees* with Scripture. (Have you turned from sin and made Jesus the Lord of your life? Sounds real lofty, but try to find that one in your Bible!)

Warning: Practically no preachers and teachers of false doctrine will "rightly divide" the Scriptures as we are told to do in II Timothy 2:15, thereby giving the illusion that the various doctrines they teach can be rationalized by allegorizing various Scripture passages. (You'd better be a really sharp cookie to be able to separate the sheep from the goats on this!) The detractors of *the faith* are adept professionals of deception.

Consider: While most preachers are teaching that the devil is trying to persuade you to do dastardly deeds (lie, cheat, murder, steal, cuss, drink, etc.), you need to compare this to Scripture to see if this is true.

Actually, we are told that Satan wants to be “*like the most High*” (Isaiah 14:14). He is teaching *against* dastardly deeds and presenting himself as God. Satan’s followers (the Devil’s Advocates) can be seen wearing purple robes in pulpits teaching *false doctrine* that will assure that none are saved according to *the faith!*

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ

“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

“Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

Do you still contend that the safest place to be is *in church*?

I will do you a bit of a service here by giving you some foundation that you can use if you decide to examine your belief system:

1. God created the heavens and the earth. He has a plan for the heavens. He has a plan for the earth.

2. The Old Testament does not begin in Genesis. The Old Testament (Covenant) was made with the seed of Abraham (Israel). The terms of the covenant were given in Leviticus 26.

3. Israel was promised the earth (real estate), an everlasting kingdom.

4. The covenant was irreparably broken by Israel and the five courses of curses (as described in Leviticus 26) are in order. Four of them have already taken place. The ultimate fulfillment of one still remains, the great tribulation, the likes of which the world has never seen (Matthew 24:21).

“Israel of prophecy will not have to deal with terrorist’s bombings and trading land for peace with her neighbors.”

5. God told Satan that the seed of the woman would be his destruction (Genesis 3:15). Satan then instrumented the destruction of the woman’s seed (Abel) and the contamination of the race with fallen angels who married women and produced a race of giants (Genesis 6:1-4) that were destroyed by God in Noah’s flood. After God made it clear that Satan’s fall would come specifically at the hands of the seed of *Abraham*, Satan continued this endeavor with the slaying of the children of Israel upon successive occasions.

6. God persevered with Israel to offer them the chance to accept their Messiah up through the mid-part of the Book of Acts. Acts is actually the story of the fall of Israel.

7. The Old Testament (Covenant) does not end at Malachi. The kingdom was presented “at hand” by Jesus and His disciples throughout Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and actually offered by Peter shortly after Pentecost (Acts 3:19). (The division placed in your Bible between the Old Testament and the New Testament was put there by men who did what seemed best to them at the time of their publication.)

8. The nation Israel that we see today is not the nation Israel that we see in Bible prophecy, where God brings the people together by His divine power. Israel of prophecy will not have to deal with terrorist’s bombings and trading land for peace with her neighbors. God will deal with Israel’s “neighbors” at that time.


9. Israel has always been described in Scripture as the “sign” nation (Psalm 74:9; I Corinthians 1:22). She always looked for a sign, and God obliged. The signs and wonders (miracles) in Acts were leading up to the beginning of the final course of curses (the great tribulation). The miracles of drinking poisonous water, surviving bites by poisonous serpents and physical survival in those tribulation times will require supernatural attributes (Mark 16:17,18; Revelation 8:11). The books of Romans through Philemon in your Bible are an intermission from God’s plan with Israel. He again picks up with that plan in Hebrews and continues on through the Book of Revelation.

10. We are *not* spiritual Israel. (This is one of the biggest lies we have learned in these “safe” churches!) God made promises to Abraham that he and his descendants would possess their lands forever. Since Israel (as a nation) didn’t exist for hundreds of years, the “early Church Fathers” took it upon themselves to “help God to save face” and allegorize Scripture. They said, since God cannot lie, then we (the Body of Christ) must be Israel (spiritually speaking) and as such we are also the Bride of Christ (*not!*) and we are due all the promises that God made to Abraham and to Israel (*not!*).

This is only the tip of the iceberg of misinformation that your “safe” church has been feeding you over the years! It will be your destruction. But it doesn’t have to be, if you are willing to examine your beliefs in light of Scripture. The most difficult part is to accept the fact that you have been duped all these years and be willing to swallow your pride and say, “I’m willing to open this case and compare it with Scripture.”

Why am I knocking the churches? Because Paul said that if any man teach any other gospel than what he preached, “*let him be accursed*” (Galatians 1:8,9). In most cases, he is talking about your pastor, your Sunday school teacher and your VBS staff! Some day I will be in heaven with Jesus and a lot of friends and family will not be. I don’t want them, or you, to be saying, “You knew the truth and you didn’t tell me!” It has been my experience that very few people are interested in the truth. They are comfortable with all they have learned (in “safe”

churches) and they fit very nicely into society with all the other folks who have learned similar (false) doctrine.

Indeed, if you learn the truth, you will *not* fit into that comfortable place you now enjoy. I have accepted this and believe it is worth the sacrifice to defend *the* faith from all the others because the real reward is far greater than these earthly things to which we commonly adhere. 

Questions or comments about this article may be sent to:

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BBS Letter Excerpts

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“Thank you so much for the information. I am a happy camper since I found the truth, rightly divided!!!”

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“I considered myself a Baptist for 25 years, and then read *Things That Differ* and became a Grace believer in 1984, thanks to my son. Please pray for my Baptist pastor. He now has in his hands *Things That Differ* and some *Searchlights* that I gave him.”

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“My friend and I are Independent Baptist pastors. We both appreciate your ministry. This last year I read *Things That Differ* and *Acts, Dispensationally Considered* and now I've ordered several of Brother Stam's commentaries. I guess my first connection with BBS was from a preacher friend of my father's, who had Brother Stam's Acts commentary on his recommended reading list. The Lord, by His grace, has brought me a long way the last year or so.”

From Florida:

“So many times the unsaved will ask questions, so I need to understand the Word with your help. I prayed to God for a free Bible study, and another Christian came and gave me your name...You know what's cool? Going to heaven! You know what's really cooler than cool? Taking someone with you!” (How good to hear from a young man who knows what is *really* cool in life!—RK).

From Wisconsin:

“What a joy it was to read the book *Triumph of His Grace* by Pastor Sadler. It has put a hunger in my soul for more. Please send your catalog of literature and tapes so I can order more.”

From Cameroon:

“Your daily Bible study has been of help to my spiritual life and growth. It has answered many of the questions that have been troubling my mind, and as time goes on I believe God will keep on opening my eyes as the truth is revealed to me by you people. I so much thank God who is using you people to transform my entire life with Bible doctrine based on the truth. Sound doctrine in Cameroon is a problem; all around is heresy like speaking in tongues, prophecy and so on.” (From a Cameroon pastor.—RK).

From South Dakota:

“I just finished reading this fantastic piece of literature, *Growing in God's Grace*, by John Frederickson. I was just taken aback by each page I turned. This should be a handbook for all believers in their walk of ministry.”

From Michigan:

“Thank you for promptly sending the article by J. C. O'Hair. It was exactly what Pastor Lyon wanted to use in the jail ministry he labors in each week. I made copies and they are on their way to Texas to our friend there to use in the prison.”

From Florida:

“I just want to thank you for spreading the truth of right division. It has really cleared up so much confusion for me.”

From the Internet:

“Thank you for your very quick response to this question that came up in my ladies’ Bible study. I found your answer extremely helpful, and I have forwarded it to some of the ladies and others in my church. I am a member of a Pentecostal church and our Bible studies are very important to us. I learned more from your answer than I thought I would, as I do from my daily *Two Minutes*.”

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“I have recently received *Things That Differ*, the classic work of C. R. Stam. It really helps me to unravel a good many of my Biblical doubts. I express my sincere gratitude.”

From Florida:

“I have decided that I want God’s plan and purpose in every situation, large or small. Faith is flowing like a river, along with a fresh new atmosphere of God’s love and power. The reason I’m telling you all this is because you are very much a part of it. If it hadn’t been for your prayers and the materials you sent, none of this would have occurred.” (We couldn’t have helped without the aid of our faithful supporters.—RK).

From Missouri:

“I have a copy of *The Key to Understanding the Scriptures*, by Paul Sadler. This copy has been re-copied so many times that some of the words are not readable. How may I obtain some ‘originals?’”

From the Internet:

“These truths that I learned in your tapes are the most exciting things that I have ever heard. I suspected all along that something didn’t match up in the traditional things I was taught. When I studied Matthew, I started looking at it as primarily something that was to the Jewish people, and then it seemed to make sense. Thanks again for not shrinking back from preaching Paul’s truths.”

From Minnesota:

“I am in a Bible study that uses, in addition to Scripture, a commentary written by C. R. Stam, and I would like very much to receive your monthly publication.”

From Michigan:

“Now that I have come to understand the Mystery, I am truly complete in Him. As the saints of old supported the Apostle Paul, I am honored to support the ministry of BBS.” (We are honored to preach Paul’s message.—RK).

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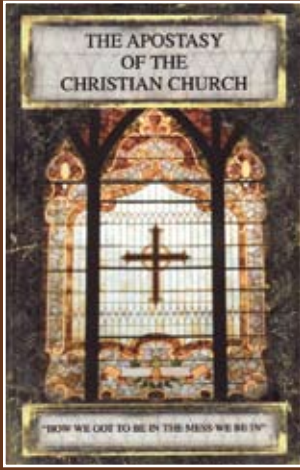
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“These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

BOOK SALE



The Apostasy of the Christian Church

By R. Dawson Barlow

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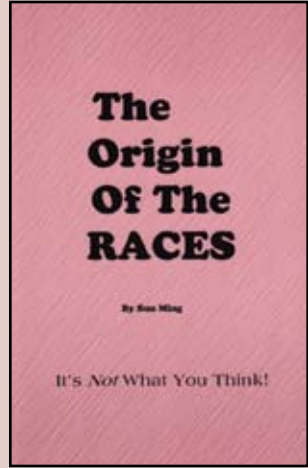
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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Best Web Site Month Ever! This past January, 31,435 people visited www.bereanbiblesociety.org, or just over *a thousand people a day!* Be sure to tell your family and friends about this valuable resource.

Rocky Mountain Grace Camp has a new location for 2007. The *Hermit Basin Christian Conference Center* (www.hermitbasin.com) is located in scenic Westcliffe, Colorado, and is sure to make happy campers of Grace believers of all ages. Mark your calendar for August 13-18, and contact Julie Cotner (262) 689-6890 for more information. Pastor Joe Watkins will be the Family Hour speaker. One week with “hermits” of like-precious faith will send you back to the world with your spiritual batteries fully charged!

New Grace Group Forming: Our friend Bill Robinson is the pastor of *Body of Christ North Texas Assembly*, a church that is currently meeting at different times and places, with each meeting tailored to the level of understanding of the participants. For more information about this unique ministry, contact Pastor Robinson: 109 Donaghey St., Trenton, TX 75490; phone: 903-989-5094; e-mail: billrobinson@skytex.net.

BBI Abroad: Fresh on the heels of the inspiring missions conference conducted at *Berean Bible Institute* in January, several BBI students have set their sights on some first-hand missionary experience. Jim Tollar and his family are heading for Kenya with *Things To Come Mission*, while Randy Brown (with his daughter Rachel), Jim Francisco, Justin Becker and Sandy Wruk will travel with *Rise Up Global Ministries* (a Grace ministry that exists to assist missionaries) to Brazil. If you would like to write to encourage these students and perhaps help defray their expenses, you can assist Jim Tollar by writing Ben Anderson at TCM, P.O. Box 127, Beech Grove, IN 46107, and you can help the other students by writing Pastor Robert Nix, 14040 S. Long Ave., Crestwood, IL 60445.

Our cover this month features a photo taken by Ken and Barb Wardius, a couple who travel extensively throughout the state of Wisconsin in search of unique photo opportunities. You can view some of their impressive gallery of photographs on various themes and you can e-mail them with any questions at their website: www.crestwoodcreek.com.

*Our cover lighthouse photo was taken by Ken and Barb Wardius. The *Kenosha Southport Lighthouse* is located in Kenosha, WI. Built in 1866 the light was functional until 1906 when it was replaced by taller light stations. When in operation, it was the first navigational light a mariner would see upon entering Wisconsin from Chicago.

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*“Death used to be an executioner, but the gospel
has made him just a gardener.”* —George Herbert

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