

# The **Berean Searchlight**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

June 2008



Feature Articles

*The Mysteries of the Kingdom, Part 2*  
 Pastor Paul M. Sadler ..... 5

*Ambassadors for Christ*  
 Pastor Cornelius R. Stam ..... 13

*Standing and State*  
 Growing Up In Grace S.S. Curriculum ..... 21

Departments

Faithful Service Commended ..... 4

A Blessed Independence Day to All..... 11

Question Box ..... 12

BBS Letter Excerpts ..... 26

June Book Offers..... 28

News and Announcements ..... 30

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

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

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

Composition and Layout: Kevin J. Sadler

Printing: National Graphic Solutions, Appleton, WI

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

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

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

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

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

**The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), June 2008. Vol. 68, Number 4.**

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



# From the Editor to You:



Dearly Beloved,

We are pleased to announce the release of our *Books on CD* by Pastor Stam and your Editor. With the phasing out of cassette tape players everything has shifted to CD and MP3 formats. Since most vehicles only have CD players these days, this will make it possible for you listen to our commentaries while driving to work. Of course these readings will also keep you company during your leisure time in the evening or on a long trip. You may even want to consider them for your *morning devotions*.

Our good friend, Dave Allen, of Garland, Texas volunteered his time to do these readings for which we are most grateful. Dave was in radio years ago and is gifted with a voice that commands your attention. If you've never heard one of his readings you'll want to order one of the volumes below without delay.

## Books on CD Price List

<i>Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ</i> —Pastor Sadler (7 CDs).....	\$26.00
<i>Studies in James</i> —Pastor Sadler (5 CDs).....	\$20.00
<i>The Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter</i> —Pastor Sadler (9 CDs).....	\$32.00
<i>Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians</i> —Pastor Sadler (15 CDs).....	\$50.00
<i>The Triumph of His Grace</i> —Pastor Sadler (8 CDs).....	\$29.00
<i>The Twofold Purpose of God</i> —Pastor Stam (2 CDs).....	\$11.00
<i>Things That Differ</i> —Pastor Stam (9 CDs).....	\$32.00
<i>Moses and Paul</i> —Pastor Stam (2 CDs).....	\$11.00
<i>True Spirituality</i> —Pastor Stam (6 CDs).....	\$23.00
<i>No Other Doctrine</i> —Pastor Stam (5 CDs).....	\$20.00
<i>The Lord's Supper</i> —Pastor Stam (3 CDs).....	\$14.00

When you place an order for any of the above CDs, please be sure to **clearly** state **Books on CD**, with the title of the set you'd like to receive. Orders can also be placed online at [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org).

Orders up to **\$30.00**, please add **\$4.00** for postage and handling.

Orders over **\$30.00**, please add **15%** for postage and handling.

We are praying that Brother Allen's labor of love will bear much fruit to the honor and glory of God. Thanks again, Dave, for your helping hand!

In grateful appreciation,  
Paul M. Sadler, President

# Faithful Service Commended

By Steve Shober, *GUIG Director*

The *Berean Bible Society* is committed to the publication of sound, grace-based, Sunday School lessons. For the last several years dedicated believers have made personal sacrifices to assure this program started in the right manner and provided lessons that can be confidently used in Sunday Schools. The *Berean Bible Society's* Board of Directors is thankful for all those who have so unselfishly served our Lord in this ministry.

The *Growing Up In Grace* lessons have been a success due to the commitment of many faithful members of the Body of Christ. As we near completion of the Junior level lessons some participants, who have tirelessly worked for years, will take some time off. Through thick and thin, these folks labored for His honor; it is time to give them a token of thanks and recognition. We stand amazed at how the Lord provides the helpers needed to proclaim His Word according to the revelation of the Mystery.

We commend the following individuals for their faithful service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to the ministry of *Growing Up In Grace*. Through their efforts thousands of students around the world will be profoundly impacted. If you know any of the dear folks listed below you may want to give them a personal word of praise.

- Kathleen Baker: writer, Colorado
- LeAnn Beauchamp: graphic artist, Colorado
- Ann Dickey: formatter, Colorado
- Candace Lynn: take home sheets, Colorado
- Terri Fredericksen: writer, South Dakota
- Lori Gardner: writer, Texas
- Jenny Green: writer, Wisconsin
- Debra Keshan: formatter, Wisconsin
- Jennifer Keshan: writer, Wisconsin
- Mike Keshan: Director, Wisconsin
- Bonnie Lawson: review questions, Illinois

**“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father” (1 Thessalonians 1:3).**



©iStockphoto.com/asiseeit

An example of the clear presentation of God's Word in GUIG lessons can be seen in the sample lesson found on Page 21. This lesson was penned by one of our dedicated writers. Her love for the Lord and the Grace message, and her desire to communicate it to young people, are evident in every line.

# The Mysteries of the Kingdom (Part 2)



By Paul M. Sadler

**W**e are usually inclined to associate *parables* with the teachings of Christ during His earthly ministry. However, they were frequently used in the Old Testament as an effective teaching tool to expose sin. Take, for example, Nathan's parable of the *Two Men in One City*; it is a timeless masterpiece. One afternoon Nathan entered the court of King David to request a hearing with the king. Of course, David was more than willing to receive the prophet and listened intently to what he had to say. Nathan shared with David the following story:

**"There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it**

**grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.**

**"And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him" (II Sam. 12:1-4).**

Parables were designed to get the attention of the hearer, which certainly served its purpose in this case. Being a former shepherd, who loved his sheep, David could relate to the heartbreak of the poor man who lost a member of his family. The king's response to the injustice was swift and sure:

**"And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD**

**liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity” (II Sam. 12:5,6).**

Like the man who was hit by lightning, the king never saw what was about to happen. Nathan stuck his bony finger into the face of David and said, “Thou art the man!” David’s sin, long hidden in his heart of hearts, was suddenly exposed. He thought no one would ever discover his adulterous affair, but God knew, and revealed the matter to Nathan.

The interpretation is as follows: The “rich man” was King David, who as we know had riches untold. The “poor man” was Uriah the Hittite, who faithfully served the king on the field of battle. The “little ewe lamb,” a female among the sheep, was Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba. David wasn’t interested at the time in taking a wife from the daughters of Israel; rather, he took the poor man’s wife and sent Uriah to the frontlines where he was killed. David learned the hard way the warning of the Scriptures, “be sure your sin will find you out.” God will see to it!

With the above in mind, Israel was quite familiar with the usage of parables in the Old Testament; therefore when the Lord began to address her in this manner she did not find it unusual. With human nature such as it is, the Lord knew those who had not yet received Him as their Messiah would inquire as to the interpretation of the stories. This would give the disciples the opportunity to share with them the need to

believe on His *name* that they might have eternal life (John 20:31). Those who received Him would then be given the interpretation of the parables.

### **THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES**

**“Another parable put He forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.”**  
—Matt. 13:24,25



The term “another” used in this passage by our Lord is the Greek word *allos*, which denotes “another of the same kind.” Thus we are to understand the *mysteries of the kingdom of heaven* are still being addressed and that the parable of the *Wheat and Tares* is merely the next chapter of the revelation.<sup>1</sup> Once again, the story is true or could be true, and in all probability the Lord had a specific case in mind, since the sowing of tares wasn’t an uncommon occurrence in biblical times. After a farmer sowed his field with wheat an enemy would come along under the cloak of darkness and sow *tares* among the good seed to the consternation of the farmer.

According to Vine, *Tares* is “a kind of darnel, the commonest of the four species, being the bearded, growing in the grain fields, as tall as wheat and barley, and resembling wheat in appearance. It was credited among the Jews with being degenerate wheat... The seeds are poisonous to man and herbivorous animals, producing sleepiness, nausea, convulsions and even death (they are harmless to poultry). The plants can be separated out, but the custom, as in the parable, is to leave the cleaning out till the time of harvest (Matt. 13:25-30).”<sup>22</sup>

### The Interpretation

Like the parable of the Sower, the Lord has favored us with the interpretation of the parable of the *Wheat and Tares*, which leaves little doubt as to its meaning.

“The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field.” The *first sower*, who sowed the good seed, is identified as the “Son of Man” (Matt. 13:24 cf. 13:37). This particular title is never used by Paul in his Gentile epistles. As members of Christ’s Body we do not know Christ as the Son of Man. We know Him as the Lord of glory, the Head of the Body of Christ. The title “Son of Man” is not only a reference to the humanity of Christ (Matt. 8:20), it also speaks to the fact that He is the Judge of all the earth.

**“For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man” (John 5:26,27).**

Christ is the perfect Judge simply because He can identify with the human experience, having lived among us for over thirty-three years. He was born into poverty and had no permanent residence during the years He conducted His earthly ministry. He understood what it meant to be rejected and was no stranger to pain and suffering. As we know, He was “a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief” (Isa. 53:3).

With this in mind, the Son of Man will temper His judgment, having compassion and mercy on those who humble themselves before Him. But He will also peer into the hearts of men and expose their deceptive ways. Those represented here as “tares” in the parable are a good example. As the Son of Man then, Christ is both the sower of the good seed and the Lord of the harvest. He is the Alpha and the Omega.

According to the Lord, *the field is the world*. Many believe the parable of the Wheat and Tares is simply contrasting good and evil in the world, with special emphasis on the elimination of evil. But upon closer examination this seems highly improbable. The key to the context is found in the inquiry of the workers:

**“Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?” (Matt. 13:28).**

Surely it would be impossible to uproot all evil in the world prior to the Great White Throne Judgment. It is important to remember that the “kingdom of heaven is likened unto...a field.” In other words, the kingdom was being manifested in the world, but it was not of the world (John

18:36). Souls were being saved into the kingdom, which literally will be established upon the earth in the coming day of the Lord. The reference to the “field” then is to be understood in the context of the kingdom of heaven. The enemy purposely sowed “tares” (children of the evil one) alongside the kingdom saints in an attempt to hinder them and corrupt the gospel of the kingdom. As we tie these two thoughts together, the question of the workers as to whether they should uproot the tares is *limited* to the kingdom of heaven, not to all evil in the world.

**“The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also” (Matt. 13:24-26).**

In the kingdom of heaven the Son of Man had sown “wheat,” which represents the children of the kingdom who had received Him as their Messiah. Wheat speaks of *life*; therefore these children were born from above. These are the “righteous” spoken of in verse 43. Once again, the Body of Christ is not the subject of any of these passages.

The enemy is the devil who is identified as the *second sower* (Matt. 13:39). G. Campbell Morgan recalls the time when he heard an old Methodist preacher say, “The devil is a squatter...A squatter is a man who settles on land he has no right to, and works it for his own advantage.”<sup>3</sup> Essentially the devil is a trespasser

who is up to no good! Notice the time of day the enemy sowed tares among the wheat, it was “while men slept.” The devil never announces his intention but quietly slips in and out of the kingdom of heaven like a stealth bomber that goes completely undetected. His purpose is to sow discord among the brethren by sowing tares alongside the wheat.

The “tares” the Lord is referring to in this parable are “the children of the wicked one” (Matt. 13:38). This phraseology is never used of unbelievers in general, but is reserved for a specific group known as *religious* unbelievers. In His discourse on the light of the world our Lord identifies these workers of iniquity as being of their father, the devil:

**“I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto Him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father....**

**“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:38-44).**

These “tares” were the religious Pharisees, Scribes, and hypocrites who themselves will never enter the kingdom and barred



the way for others to enter due to their self-righteous requirements. They piously made long prayers in the houses of widows hoping to receive gifts to fill their coffers. These workers of the evil one would travel great distances to win one proselyte to their religious system and make him “two-fold more the child of hell” than themselves (Matt. 23:13-15).



Interestingly, when wheat and tares have been sown in the same field the tares are indistinguishable when they are growing alongside of the wheat. It isn't until the wheat and tares come to maturity that the head of the wheat appears in its golden splendor. On the other hand, the kernel of the tares is not what it appeared to be because it turns *black* just before the harvest. The same is true in the kingdom, the children of the evil one blend into the fabric of the kingdom so flawlessly that they are initially undetectable. Bear in mind that Israel was under the covenant of the law, which was a performance based system; therefore, it is easy to see how these workers of iniquity could integrate themselves among true kingdom believers and no one would be the wiser.

## The Purpose of God

**“The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest” (Matt. 13:28-30).**

Clearly the Master did not want His servants to gather the tares prematurely since they might also uproot the wheat. But what could possibly be the purpose of God in allowing good and evil to coexist in the kingdom? Some have concluded that the Lord permitted it to give the kingdom saints an opportunity to convert these evil workers to the Messiah. However, this seems highly unlikely, seeing that the Lord has set things in total contrast to one another. For example, He contrasted the two sowers—the Son of Man and the Devil. He then carefully distinguishes between the wheat and the tares.

We believe there are two reasons why the two are permitted to coexist. First, we have God's providential care of His people. While it may appear the purpose of God was being overthrown and evil would prevail, the truth of the matter is God is *sovereign* and will ultimately be glorified when the kingdom is set up upon the earth. What seems to be insurmountable odds against it, humanly speaking, the kingdom Church will be victorious in the end as Matthew 16:18 plainly declares: “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Second, the very presence of “tares” interjecting their unwarranted traditions and commandments required the kingdom saints to constantly be on their guard in defense of the kingdom gospel. When the devil’s emissaries sought to make “the Word of God of none effect” with their various unsound teachings, the kingdom believers had to methodically sift through the confusion to expose the error and make known the truth.

It has been correctly said that the household of God has never discovered “the truth of the Scriptures in the ivory towers of theological speculation....The truth has been hammered out on the battlefield of faith. It has been forged in the heat of battle. It is a truth that has become so rich and pure because of all of the attacks against it.”<sup>4</sup> The presence of “tares” drove the kingdom saints to the Scriptures in order to defend the faith. While controversies are unpleasant events, they do serve a purpose. They cause the believer to examine the Word of God more closely and study to see if those things are so. The end result is that the believer is drawn into a closer walk with the Lord and becomes more spiritually minded.

### **THE FINAL CURTAIN**

**“The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them**

**which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 13:39-42).**

**“Christ is the perfect Judge simply because He can identify with the human experience.”**

The prophetic timeline of events here takes place at the *end* of the Great Tribulation. In that day the Lord will return in a flaming fire of vengeance commonly known as the Second Coming of Christ. The great harvest will take place at the “end of the world,” that is, the end of the Jewish age when the angels who serve as God’s reapers are sent to the four corners of the earth (Matt. 24:27-31).

The angels begin by gathering out of the kingdom all those “which do iniquity.” After the tares are bundled they are cast into the furnace of fire. This is a two-step process. Since this judgment will take place at the beginning of the kingdom this means these bundles of tares will first be cast into the fires of *hades* to await the Great White Throne Judgment at the consummation of all things (Luke 16:19-31). Then they will be cast into the everlasting fire that was created for the devil and his angels.

**“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).**

Sadly the false teaching of universalism is once again rearing its ugly head in the Church today. Universalism teaches that God is a God of love; therefore He would never condemn anyone to everlasting fire. We wholeheartedly agree that God is love, but He is also a God of justice. Those who *reject* God's gracious provision of salvation will be found in their sins, leaving God no other recourse other than to sentence them to the lake of fire. His holiness demands it! In addition to numerous other passages, the parable of the Wheat and Tares clearly teaches the justice of God.

**“Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 13:43).**

This is the long-awaited millennial rest of Israel. While the unsaved are *removed* from the

earth and cast into the furnace of fire where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, those who received the Savior will *remain* on the earth to be ushered into the blessings of the kingdom. Just the opposite is true at the Rapture. When the trump sounds the members of the Body will be removed from the earth while the unbelievers will be left behind to go through the horrors of the coming Tribulation.

*To Be Continued!*



---

## Endnotes

1. ©iStockphoto.com/Sean Warren.
2. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, by W. E. Vine, QuickBooks Electronic Edition 2006.
3. *Studies in The Four Gospels*, by G. Campbell Morgan, page 152, Fleming H. Revell Company, Old Tappan, NJ.
4. *The Mysteries of the Kingdom*, by Herman Hanko, page 52, Reformed Free Publishing Association, Grandville, MI.



## A Blessed Independence Day to All

The words with which President Abraham Lincoln closed his Gettysburg address are known and loved by many:

“...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

However, it is perhaps not as well known that President Lincoln borrowed these noble words from renowned Bible translator John Wycliffe. Upon the completion of the first common English translation of the Bible, he is variously quoted as having said:

“This Bible is translated and shall make possible a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

## Question Box

*“How could John ‘send’ the letters to the seven churches (Rev. 1:11) if they were written to future Tribulation churches?”*

You’re right, these letters were not addressed to assemblies contemporary with John. Hence they couldn’t be delivered by courier, as Epaphroditus delivered *Philippians*. While John was told to “send” these letters, the full quotation reads: “What thou seest, write *in a book*, and send it unto the seven churches...” This book (*Revelation*) became part of the Scriptures, which will be preserved intact in the Tribulation.

We might compare this to a “time capsule,” which Wikipedia defines as “a historic cache of goods and/or information, usually intended as a method of communication with people in the future.” Time capsules are generally buried or preserved in some other way, with instructions that they be opened after a designated number of years. A letter placed in a time capsule could then be said to be “sent” to the people of a future day. Similarly, the letters to the seven churches are preserved for them in the eternal Word of God.

—Pastor Kurth

## Grace Believers’ Bible Conference

**Dates:** July 25-27, 2008

**Location:** *Bitely Community Church*  
10781 N. Bingham Avenue  
Bitely, Michigan

### Guest Speakers:

Paul M. Sadler, President of *Berean Bible Society*  
Ricky Kurth, Associate Editor, *Berean Bible Society*  
Edward Bedore, Director of *Berean Bible Institute*  
Lee Homoki, Evangelist, *Bible Doctrines to Live By*  
Casey Groeneveld, Bible Teacher, *Have Bible Will Travel*

Rooms are available at the beautiful *Legends Ranch*.

For those who are interested, please contact:

Pastor & Mrs. Ken Lyon at (231) 745-9595

# Ambassadors for Christ

By Cornelius R. Stam

## AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION

Those who seek to rightly divide the Word of Truth and test the things that differ soon discover that “*the kingdom of heaven*” must be distinguished from “*the body of Christ.*”

Concerning the former God had “*spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began,*” whereas the latter had been “*kept secret since the world began*” (Cf. Acts 3:21 with Rom. 16:25). Or, to put it in another way: The former was the subject of *Prophecy*, whereas the latter was a *Mystery*, hid in God, until He revealed it through the Apostle Paul (Cf. Dan. 2:44 with Col. 1:24-26). Or, to put it in still another way: The kingdom will be the fulfilment of *covenants* God made with Abraham, David and Israel, whereas the Body of Christ, the Church of this age, is

the product of “*the dispensation of the grace of God*” (Cf. Luke 1:68-75 with Eph. 3:1-11).

We are convinced that the most important division in the Bible is not that between “The Old Testament” and “The New Testament,” but that between “*prophecy*” and “*the mystery,*” between that which concerns the Kingdom of Heaven and that which concerns the Body of Christ.

Those who see this one distinction hold in their hands the key to an ever clearer understanding and an ever growing appreciation of the wonderful Word of God.

## A WORD OF CAUTION

In making this distinction, however, we must be careful not to make the mistake of supposing that members of the Body of Christ have no connection whatever with the kingdom, or with Christ as King.

A few simple questions and answers will prove that there is a very vital connection:

*Where is the King today?*

He is in heaven, a Royal Exile, unwanted by the world.

*And where is the kingdom today?*

That too, like many a government since, is in exile. It is vested in the King Himself. It remains in heaven while its earthly establishment is held in abeyance.

*And where is the believer's spiritual citizenship today?*

In heaven! Paul tells us distinctly that "*our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven*" and that God "hath delivered us from the power of darkness *and hath translated us into the kingdom*

## OUR POSITION ON EARTH

Twice in Paul's letters we find the word *ambassador*.

In II Corinthians 5:20 the apostle tells us *whom He represents*: "We are ambassadors for Christ," while in Ephesians 6:19,20 he gives us *the burden of his message*: "*the mystery of the gospel*, for which I am an ambassador in bonds."

Paul rejoiced in his position in the heavenlies, in Christ, but he realized that he also held an important position *on earth*.

As Christ had once suffered and died in Paul's stead, Paul now rejoiced in his commission to stand before the world in Christ's stead, pleading with men to be reconciled to God.<sup>1</sup>



*of his dear Son*" (Phil. 3:20; Col. 1:13).

*Why then are we left here in the flesh?*

For just one purpose: To represent *Christ*—and the very title *Christ* means "the Anointed One," *the King*.

**"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ" (II Cor. 5:20).**

The world would not have Christ, so Paul, who had once so bitterly persecuted Him, went forth in His stead, with an offer of grace and peace. If Christ was willing to delay the judgment of the nations and remain an exile from the world which was His by right, Paul was more than willing to represent Him here. He

counted it all joy to suffer in the flesh and fill up that which remained of the afflictions of Christ. He considered “the fellowship of His sufferings” a great privilege and a great honor (Col. 1:24; Phil. 3:10).

Yes, *Paul was in Christ*, but *Christ was in Paul too*, pleading with sinners to be reconciled to God through His merits.

And the position that was Paul’s as the ambassador of Christ is our position too.

In fathomless love and mercy our blessed Lord has delayed the judgment of His enemies for more than 1900 years while He still remains an exile. As the world’s rebellion continues He still leaves us, His ambassadors, here to offer terms of peace to all who will accept them. And what terms! “*The forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace!*” “*Peace through the blood of His Cross!*”

Still the world blasphemes and despises this wonderful Savior, but *He* no longer bears the suffering. The time of His sufferings is past. It is given to *us*, His ambassadors, to fill up that which still remains of His afflictions. Thus the apostle declares:

**“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Phil. 1:29).**

And notice what Paul adds to these words:

**“Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me” (Ver. 30).**

To better understand our position as ambassadors for Christ, let us consider the position of ambassadorship itself.

## **1. An ambassador is an official representative of a ruler or state.**

It would do us all good to realize anew that God has left us here for one great purpose: *to represent His Son*.

Our first responsibility is not to build the Church or even to get souls saved—it is to represent Christ and to bring His message to the world.

As God beholds us in Christ, so the world must behold Christ in us. As Christ represents us before the Father, so we must represent Christ before the world.

How far even the fundamental Church has departed from this! Imagine the Lord Jesus or John the Baptist or Peter or Paul using some of the methods our modern evangelists are using to attract crowds and get people saved!

Let us write it down as a principle and never depart from it: We are *ambassadors for Christ* in this world of sin—the official representatives of *God the Son*.

If we are true to our calling souls will be saved, to be sure, and not only saved but established and knit together in love. They will not be won to Christ merely through some emotional story or the thrill of a crowd or a prolonged invitation, but because the living Word of God has exercised its mighty power in their hearts.

We realize that this is contrary to popular opinion, but “*What saith the Scripture?*” Where in its pages do we find room for the shallow, frivolous entertainment which is being offered in many a fundamental church today?

All about us Christians are saying: “Our first business is to

get people saved.” The Church has been putting man first instead of putting God first. The result of this philosophy is that many of our leaders are stooping to the most unscriptural practices to get souls saved somehow. And as they forget the dignity of their position they lose their spiritual power as well as the respect of thinking people.

No wonder the apostle exhorts us to “*walk worthy of the Lord!*” (Col. 1:10).

Let us then remember it and never forget it: “*We represent God in this world of sin.*”

Let us join Charles Wesley and say with all our hearts:

*To serve the present age;*

*My calling to fulfill;*

*O, may it all my pow’rs engage*

*To do my Master’s will.*

*Arm me with jealous care*

*As in thy sight to live*

*And O, thy servant, Lord, prepare*

*A strict account to give.*

**2. An ambassador is always sent to another nation, never to his own.**

It may at first seem unnecessary to point this out but it is most important here, for the fact that our Lord is sending ambassadors to all the world implies that He has no nation on earth which He can call His own. All mankind has been alienated from God by sin.

We speak of Christian nations, but in reality there is not one single government on earth of which it can possibly be said, “This is the kingdom of God. Christ reigns here.” Indeed, our blessed Lord is quite left out of the best governments on earth.

Israel was once on the way to becoming the kingdom of God, but

she refused the King from heaven and the kingdom of heaven and has been cast out of God’s favor until “the day of His power” when He will *make* her “willing” (Psa. 110:3).

**3. An exchange of ambassadors denotes a state of peace.**

It must be remembered that until the kingdom was offered to Israel, her position before God was very different from that of the Gentiles. As we have said, all mankind had been alienated from God by sin, but whereas the Gentiles were *enemy aliens*, God still maintained diplomatic relations with Israel. There were covenants between God and Israel and they exchanged ambassadors. There were the *priests* to represent Israel before God and the *prophets* to represent God before Israel.

The Church of Rome has reversed this order, for her priests assume the position of prophets and presume to speak for God.

In the Scriptures, however, the priest is the pray-er while the prophet is the preacher. From the very beginning of Israel’s national existence it was so. Aaron the priest appeared before God on behalf of the people, while Moses, the prophet, brought God’s Word to the people.

Whatever may have been Israel’s unfaithfulness to God during the centuries after, there was still a state of peace, a covenant relationship, so long as God and Israel exchanged ambassadors.

**4. Ambassadors are withdrawn when war is declared.**

Just when it seemed that the relationship between God and Israel might become still closer; just when it seemed that Israel



might become the very kingdom of Messiah, she showed the extent of her natural alienation from God and violently refused the long-promised blessing.

We must never overlook God's gracious condescension in seeking a closer relationship with Israel.

Christ, indeed, was *Immanuel*—"God with us," but in what sense was He "*God with us?*" We must remember that the Son of God became *the Son of man*—indeed, *the Son of Abraham, the Son of David*. Paul speaks of Israel, "*of whom, as concerning the flesh, Christ came*" (Rom. 9:5).

“...God has left us here for one great purpose: to represent His Son.”

Our Lord had condescended to become one with man. He was actually Israel's flesh and bone, so that as King, He would not only be the Son of God, but one of themselves. But instead of the people of Israel being honored by this they scourged Him, beat Him, spit in His face, condemned Him to death as a criminal and nailed Him to the cross. And even this was not the end of their hatred toward Him, for after the resurrection and ascension they still continued to vent their wrath against Him. They threatened the apostles and beat them and cast them into prison. They stoned Stephen and finally waged "a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem." Saul of Tarsus was the leading persecutor. "As for

*Saul, he made havock of the church*" (Acts 8:3). He himself later confessed: "...*beyond measure I persecuted the church of God and wasted it*"<sup>2</sup> (Gal. 1:13).

Could Israel's acts be interpreted in any other way than as a declaration of war against God? They were joining hands with the Gentiles "*against the Lord and against His Anointed,*" and fast becoming, not merely aliens, but *enemy aliens*.

It is interesting to notice that at the trial of the Lord Jesus "*the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses?*" (Matt. 26:65).

We should compare this verse with Leviticus 10:6 where Moses gives instructions concerning the priesthood: "*And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his son, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes;* lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people."

This lends significance to Caiaphas' act in tearing his garments, for as Israel crucified Christ and stood by that awful deed, not merely the priest, but the priesthood died and wrath came upon all the people. Israel had recalled her ambassadors and joined the Gentiles in a declaration of war on God and His Anointed.

And God will recall us, His ambassadors, too, when He declares war on this Christ-rejecting world.

"*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

"*For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail*

upon a woman with child; and **they shall not escape**" (I Thes. 5:2-3).

But "God hath not appointed **us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him**" (I Thes. 5:9,10).

Before God pours out the vials of His wrath upon the nations, "**The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

**"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

**"Wherefore comfort one another with these words"** (I Thes. 4:16-18).

## **GOD TO DECLARE WAR**

Some 1900 years ago man declared war on God. Both the Jews and the Gentiles arrayed themselves "against the Lord, and against His Anointed."

A counter-declaration was, of course, inevitable and was the very next number on the prophetic program.

### **Psalm 2:1-5**

**"Why do the heathen [Gentiles] rage, and the people [of Israel, Acts 4:25-27] imagine a vain thing?**

**"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His Anointed, saying,**

**"Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.**

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

**"Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure."**

### **Psalm 110:1**

**"The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."**

God was to reply to man's declaration of war with a counter-declaration of war. This, we say, was the next number on the prophetic program, and Jew and Gentile might well have expected swift judgment to follow Israel's acts of hostility, for now all the world had turned against God.

## **NOT YET**

**"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound; that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign, through righteousness, unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Rom. 5:20,21).

And thus the judgment of the nations has been delayed.

Peter, who had had so much to say concerning the return of Christ to judge and reign, explains this delay in his second epistle:

**"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."**

**"And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; [and note what he adds:] even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you"** (II Pet. 3:9,15).

Yes, man has declared war upon God, but God has not yet made a counter-declaration, though that will surely come. They have recalled their ambassadors, but He has not yet recalled His. He has not yet completely broken off relations.

Revelation 19:11 portrays the return of our Lord in glory and power to “*judge and make war;*” but in matchless love He still delays the judgment and sends forth ambassadors with a message of “*grace and peace,*” based on the merits of His own finished work.

**“Jesus our Lord...was delivered for our offences and was raised again for our justification.**

**“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 4:24-5:1).**

### **AMBASSADORS IN ENEMY TERRITORY**

Ambassadorship! What a calling! The embassy! The secretaries, aides and attendants! The luxurious living quarters! The meetings with other great diplomats! But this all stands in strange contrast to the poverty, humiliation and persecution the ambassadors of Christ have been called upon to endure.

But what do you suppose an ambassador may expect when he is left in a nation which has declared war on his government? Surely he cannot expect very cordial treatment! He may rather look for suffering, imprisonment and even death. So it is with the ambassadors of Christ.

One of the clearest proofs that the dispensation of *grace* was

ushered in with Paul is the fact that he was for many years an “*ambassador in bonds.*” He suffered “*trouble as an evil doer, even unto bonds.*” And if we faithfully represent our rejected Lord we may expect similar treatment. But the suffering will be sweet, for it will be the filling up of that which still remains of His afflictions—“*the fellowship of His sufferings.*” And God will give grace and courage: “*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*” (II Tim. 1:7).

### **THE MESSENGERS AND THEIR MESSAGE (II Cor. 5:14-21)**

“*The love of Christ constraineth us*” (Ver. 14). If He is willing to delay the judgment and send forth a message of peace, we are more than willing to be the messengers, for we cannot forget that we ourselves were once enemies and were reconciled to God by grace, through the death of His Son.

“*Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh*” (Ver. 16). There is no difference, now, between Israel and the Gentiles, for “*God hath concluded them all in unbelief that He might have mercy upon all*” (Rom. 11:32).

“*Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more*” (Ver. 16). To be sure, He is “the Son of David, the Son of Abraham” (Matt. 1:1), and will some day reign as Israel’s King, but we have a bigger, more vital question to discuss now. *All* were dead in sins. He died for *all*—He the Son of God. “*He gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time*”

through Paul (See I Tim. 2:6,7). Now He is exalted far above all principality and power at the right hand of God, mighty to save. He took the sinner's place that the sinner might stand before God "Complete in Him," "Accepted in the Beloved."

**"Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creation" (Ver. 17).**

*"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ" (Ver. 18).* God Himself has made full provision, so that He may offer to His enemies the most generous terms of peace: reconciliation by grace. He does not impute their trespasses unto them, for His Son bore their sins at Calvary. *"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, [Him] who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (Ver. 21).*

*"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."* God **"hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."** This is our **"great commission"** (Ver. 19). We stand here in Christ's stead, as His ambassadors, pleading with men to accept His gracious terms of peace, to be reconciled to God through His merits. Imagine! God the Father and God the Son, praying sinners to accept forgiveness and be reconciled!

How far this message of grace abounding surpasses that of repentance and baptism which the twelve (temporarily eleven) were sent to proclaim under the so-called "great commission" (Luke 24:47; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38)!

## HOW LONG WILL IT LAST


Both before and after the present dispensation of grace we have declarations of war. Preceding it, we have man declaring war on God. Following it, we have God declaring war on man, as the Book of Revelation so clearly predicts. We are living in the parenthesis between. We are living in those tense moments between the declaration of war by one nation and the counter-declaration by the other.

It has been 1900 years now since the world was ripe for judgment; since God, in fulfillment of prophecy, was to declare war on His enemies. But still He lingers in mercy.

Certainly every moment of delay is a moment of grace. We may carelessly let the time fly by and take God's grace for granted, but He is keenly aware of the passing of every single moment. *"One day is with the Lord as a thousand years."*

Little wonder Paul closes his discourse on ambassadorship by saying,

*"We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain,"* adding: *"...behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:1,2).*

Little wonder, too, that he exhorts believers to be *"redeeming [buying up] the time, because the days are evil"* (Eph. 5:16). 

---

## Endnotes

1. ©iStockphoto.com/Jill Fromer.
2. i.e., laid it waste.

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15).

The Berean Bible Society’s directors believe one of the most critical needs for Grace believers today is biblically sound Sunday School lessons. That is why the Sunday School Ministry, *Growing Up In Grace*, was created several years ago. The goal of *Growing Up In Grace* (GUIG) is to provide lessons that can confidently be used to proclaim the Gospel of the Grace of God to students in grades K-12.

The GUIG lessons are Grace-based, biblically correct, and salvation oriented. In addition, personal spiritual growth is strongly emphasized. The lessons are intended to foster a deep love and respect for the Lord and the Grace message that will continue throughout a student’s life. The lessons are designed for church classes, home schools, youth groups, family devotions, and missionary ventures.

The *Berean Bible Society* is pleased to announce that year three for Junior-aged students (age 9-11) is nearing completion. In fact, the first quarter of year three is now available for purchase. In an effort to give our readers a clear understanding of the content of these lessons we are publishing part of a typical lesson in this edition of the *Berean Searchlight*. The part published is the Bible lesson portion of the overall lesson; the visual aids, games, take home sheets, and all the other material associated with the lesson are not presented here.

The Bible lesson presented here is entitled, **Standing and State** (Junior year three). This is a subject that is often confusing to many students (not to mention adults), but you will see how clearly and properly this topic is presented. This example lesson will clearly show the dispensational aspect of the lessons and show that law and grace are not confused.

The author of lesson 13 is Mrs. Kathleen Baker from Arvada, CO. Kathleen was raised on a cattle ranch in Wyoming and first heard the saving Gospel of Christ at Vacation Bible School when she was nine years old. She placed her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ shortly thereafter. She is married to John and they have three children and five grandchildren. Kathleen and her family attended Win Johnson’s *Berean Church* in Denver for many years. She has led ladies Bible study for years and has taught Juniors at *Rocky Mountain Grace Camp*. She and John attend *Grace Memorial Church* in the Denver area. It is clear that she has the life experiences, Bible knowledge, and passion for students to be an effective writer. It is her prayer, “that *Growing Up In Grace* will serve as a valuable resource to train children in the Grace Message at an early age.”

—Steve Shober, *GUIG Director*

## Salvation (Based on a true story)

Twelve-year-old Tom\* was excited about going to church camp. A week in the mountains was a boy's dream vacation! Tom had no idea his life was about to change, but God was at work, and wonderful things were about to happen!

In Bible class, the teacher explained how everyone born into this world is a sinner (Romans 3:23). We want our own way, and we lie, cheat, and steal to get it. Tom learned there were serious consequences for sinful behavior. The wages of sin is separation from God now and for all eternity (Romans 6:23). This got Tom's attention. He knew his rebellion had shut God out of his life, but worse than that, Tom was scared about dying. He did not want to spend an eternity in Hell!

The Bible teacher patiently taught that in spite of our disobedience, God loved us and sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to earth to die for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Three days later, the Lord Jesus arose from the dead, proving the penalty for sin was paid in full! God has forgiven us of every wrong thing we've done *and* freed us from sin's rule in our life. Now, when tempted to do wrong, we can glorify God by choosing to allow the Holy Spirit to live through us. We don't have to cave-in to sin (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Not only are we assured of God's presence now, we're promised eternity with him in Heaven (Philippians 3:20).

Tom didn't wait to trust the risen Christ. He expressed his faith by praying, "Lord Jesus, I believe you died for my sins. I trust you to be my Savior and to live in me today."

Tom was hungry for the Scriptures and soon learned that God sees every believer perfect, clothed in Christ's righteousness! God put all of our sin on Christ at Calvary, and when we believe, God puts Christ's righteousness on us.



**2 Corinthians 5:21** – “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

## Serving

Wow! Tom was excited about his new faith. He memorized verses and shared his faith with other campers. He kept his bunk neat and showed respect to campers and counselors alike. On the last night of camp, Tom testified that the Lord had saved him from sin, and he yielded his life to the Lord.

When Tom got home from camp, his parents were impressed. Tom was obedient, helpful, and even wanted to go to church on Sunday!

## Messing Up

When Tom went back to school, things gradually changed. With homework and basketball practice, he didn't make time to read the Scriptures, let

alone memorize them. He started hanging with his old friends and acting like them, too. He caught himself swearing and lying to his parents. He even went to a friend's house and drank beer and smoked marijuana. Afterwards, Tom was bummed about his life. He wondered if his messed-up life meant he'd never really trusted Christ.

Have you ever felt like Tom? Ever questioned your salvation? Ever messed up really badly? Can Christians commit terrible sins and still be saved? To answer these questions it's important to know the difference between our standing and our state.

## **Standing in Christ**

Our being set free from sin's rule, our forgiveness, righteousness, and future heavenly home are not gained or lost by anything we do or don't do. God gives us these things when we trust His Son. We call this our "standing." It's a perfect standing because God sees us in the resurrected, glorified Christ, seated at God's right hand (Ephesians 1:20)!

Why is it then, after all that Christ has done for us, we often find ourselves behaving badly like Tom? Instead of acting like we have been made free from sin, why do we put back on the shackles and chains of our former life and live like slaves of sin? Instead of wearing our new outfit of righteousness, why do we throw on the filthy, torn rags that we wore before we met Christ? Instead of rejoicing in our new heavenly home, why do we go right back to the dirty streets and alley-ways of this world? The Bible gives us the answer.

## **Our State**

Our "state" is not always a reflection of our "standing." Our state is the way God sees us in our daily walk, which is often sinful and needs to be corrected. Even though our standing in Christ never changes, our state in this world changes constantly. We do not always act like the spiritually wealthy people God has made us to be. We still have the cravings and desires of the sin nature, our old way of life, raging within us. We constantly face the attacks of Satan. Even though we hold the keys to our new heavenly home, the sinful world we live in pulls us down. Often, we act just like the old people we were before we met Christ (Romans 7:14-23).

Someday, when Christ catches us away to be with Him, we will clearly see and experience all that God has given us. The very hint of anything evil will forever be extinguished. We will enjoy the riches that are ours because of Christ. When we assume our heavenly position, we will fully realize the glory of our "standing."

## **Our State Should Reflect Our Standing**

God wants our lives to reflect all that He has given us in Christ. He wants our state to reflect our standing. He wants us to live freely, righteously, and victoriously! How can we do this when we face such powerful enemies?

The answer is found in:



**Colossians 2:6** – “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.”

We received the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, believing He has done everything necessary for us to be saved. Paul tells us that we are to walk in our present state in the exact same way. Dear child of God, trust the Living Christ to live His life through you. Your state will be more like your standing and you'll help others know how to live by faith!

We're to believe that Christ has set us free from the slavery to sin, and by faith show it in our daily life.



**Romans 6:22** – “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you'll become more like the Lord Jesus, as you read, memorize, and obey God's Word. You'll do what's right and your state will be more like your standing. You'll have the love, joy, and peace He alone can provide!

We're to believe God has forgiven our sins and by faith show it in our attitude towards others.



**Colossians 3:13** – “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

Dear saved one, as you forgive others quickly and completely as Christ forgave you, your state will be more like your standing. You'll be a living demonstration of God's attitude toward the sinner.

We're to believe that God has dressed us in the righteousness of Christ and by faith demonstrate it in our life.



**Titus 2:11-12** – “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

Precious believer, when you turn your back on sin and live a God-honoring life, your state will be more like your standing. Your life will be a testimony to God's amazing grace!

We are to believe God has given us a new home in the Heavens and by faith keep our minds focused on this hope.



**Colossians 3:1-2** – “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Servant of Christ, when you set your thoughts/minds on the Scriptures, prayer, and telling others about Christ, your state will become more like



your standing. God will bless your life in wonderful ways and promises to reward you in Heaven!

Tom's salvation was real. His standing in the Lord was perfect. When school activities and friends became the most important things in his life, his state or daily walk took a nosedive. Did he lose his salvation? No! Was he unhappy and defeated in his Christian life? Yes. Today, Tom is aware of his standing (how God sees him in Christ), and by faith tries to walk accordingly. What about you? Have you trusted Christ? Your standing is perfect! How is your state?


## Summary and Gospel Presentation

The moment we trust Christ as our Saviour, we have a new perfect standing before God. Standing has to do with our position in Heaven, which is perfect in Christ. Our state is the way God sees us in our daily walk, which is often sinful and needs to be corrected. In our state, we sometimes feel defeated and depressed with our circumstances. Our perfect standing in Christ is always victorious and complete. It's important to focus our minds on our spiritual victory in Christ, and not on our circumstances.

## Application

When we go to Grandma's house, we put on our good behavior, and she thinks we are perfect! She rewards us with lots of love, our favorite cookie, or maybe a special gift. She doesn't have a clue how we sometimes act at home! If we've trusted Christ, God also sees us as perfect, because He sees us in His perfect Son. However, God also sees us when we're behaving badly. His heart's desire is that we choose to turn our back on sin and choose to live a God-honoring life. Then our state will be more like our standing. God will spend an eternity rewarding us, and it will be far more than cookies or a small gift!

## Encouragement

Each day is a gift from God's hand. It's a brand new page in your life. Don't think about yesterday's failures or tomorrow's fears. Trust Christ to live His life through you today! By faith, claim the promise "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). Christ can do great things through a life yielded to Him. 

**You can contact GUIG** for a complete sample lesson (including visual aids, games, take home sheets, etc.), more information, or to place an order:

1. **Phone:** 262-255-4750
2. **Online:** [www.growingupinrace.com](http://www.growingupinrace.com)
3. **Email:** [info@growingupinrace.com](mailto:info@growingupinrace.com)
4. **Regular mail:** *Growing Up In Grace*, c/o Berean Bible Society, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022



## BBS Letter Excerpts

### **From Michigan:**

“You believe water baptism is no longer valid or in force for Christians? How can this be in light of Acts 8:26-40, 10:44-48? It would seem as though Christ’s example of water baptism was being followed perfectly, and that Christ’s disciples are to show their allegiance to Christ by the seal of water baptism. Please explain why you think I’ve come to a wrong conclusion.”

### **From the Internet:**

“Have just received the March *Searchlight*, excellent reading! For years I desired to understand the meaning of John 6:53, and there you have the full explanation—thank you!”

### **From Alabama:**

“I really enjoy your many ministries as I get the *Searchlight* and visit your web site. I have learned many things since being led to rightly dividing the Word, and I am still ‘unlearning’ things from 42 years of gospel mixing and matching.” (“Mix and match” works well with clothes, but not with gospels!—RK).

### **From the Internet:**

“Thank you so much for my copy of *Things That Differ*. I never knew the Bible to be so understandable.”

### **From Wyoming:**

“Our ladies Bible class is using your study on Philippians. It is a great study.”

### **From Florida:**

“Your teaching on rightly dividing the Word of God has opened up my understanding of God’s Word. I’m no longer confused about what’s for me and what’s not for me.”

### **From Washington:**

“I cannot help but to again express my deepest heartfelt thanks to you all for helping me to truly know that I am saved, to reach an understanding of the mystery, to come unto the knowledge of the truth, and ultimately, to begin to know the will of God.”

### **From Norway:**

“I was a Lutheran before. Norway is a slave of traditions. Today there are very few in Norway who actually read the Bible. I will try to show these books to others in Norway. And I hope some Americans will pray for me and Norway.” (Religious slavery has not been abolished here either.—RK).

### **From the Internet:**

“It was Berean influence that drew me to actually study the Scriptures—not just read them. As a result, I am very comfortable with my personal relationship that I have with Jesus Christ.”

### **From Oregon:**

“We so appreciate a friend giving us a *Searchlight* and the two years we have been receiving it. It has answered many questions in the Word. It truly does make a difference when we rightly divide it!”

**From the Internet:**

“I had people in my life telling me that sign gifts were for today, and I was studying and asking God to show me the truth. He led me to a co-worker, who gave me *Things That Differ*. My Pentecostal friends were not amused, but they had nothing to say either, and neither has anyone else I’ve met since!”

**From New York:**

“I would like a subscription to the monthly publication that teaches the Word, rightly divided. I’m eager and thirsty to learn more of what God has for me.”

**From the Philippines:**

“I’m using Pastor Sadler’s exposition on the book of Philipians. It has been my Sunday School lesson in our church.”

**From Wisconsin:**

“I enjoyed Steve Shober’s article on *Song of Solomon!* What a banquet of soul-nourishing morsels that was! It made the love story between God and Israel so much easier to appreciate and understand. I printed out a copy to send to my nephew.”

**From Alabama:**

“I made copies of the *Searchlight* article *Hope for the Bereaved* to give to friends in their sorrow. My family was comforted by these same verses Stam quotes when my husband died in 1995.” (*Hope for the Bereaved* will be back in print soon.—RK).

**From the Internet:**

“Thank you for your help in explaining Colossians 1:23, which has made it very clear to me why God had Paul use those words.”

**From Alabama:**

“My dad was receiving the *Searchlight* until he passed away, and his mail was directed to us. We learned to really appreciate the articles, so my husband then had you send it to our two sons-in-law.”

**From Georgia:**

“Thankful giving goes without saying. Thank you for your service to strengthen the inner man through the Spirit.” (Thank you for saying what goes without saying.—RK).

**From the Internet:**

“I love your ministry and getting into God’s Word, rightly divided, just as I learn in my own Grace believing church. Praise God! I pray as Paul did in Ephesians that the eyes of many fellow believers would come to know His truth for this dispensation of the grace of God. Bless your faithfulness in His Word.”

**From Florida:**

“I was so very confused when I first came to Him at the Cross, but now I can see! ‘Even the mystery, which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints.’”

**From the Internet:**

“Love your devotionals, they bless my heart...I love the Berean approach to spiritual things, also Pastor O’Hair’s presentations are wonderful.”

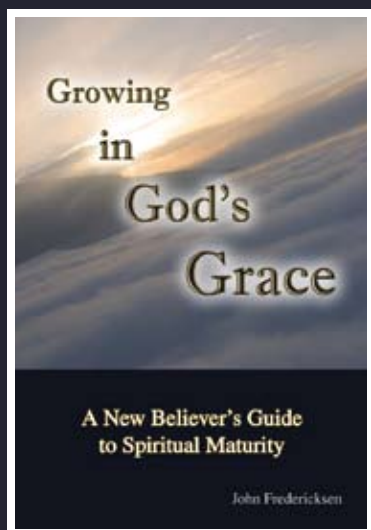
**From the Philippines:**

“For more than 45 years already I have been following the writings of Cornelius Stam, Charles Baker, and J. C. O’Hair, and the impact is immeasurable in my own life and those with whom I have been associated.”

“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

# Growing in God's Grace

By John Fredericksen



The studies found in this book are intended to help any believer grow in their knowledge of key subjects in the Scripture. More importantly, we desire that each reader be assisted in their spiritual growth, considering how the Saviour wants to transform their lives by their yielding to the will of God, as revealed in the Holy Bible. May we begin in earnest a life-long journey of growing in God's grace, and growing up unto Him in all things.

**PAPERBACK—96 PAGES**

*Special Price: \$6.00*

**THIS OFFER ENDS JUNE 30, 2008**

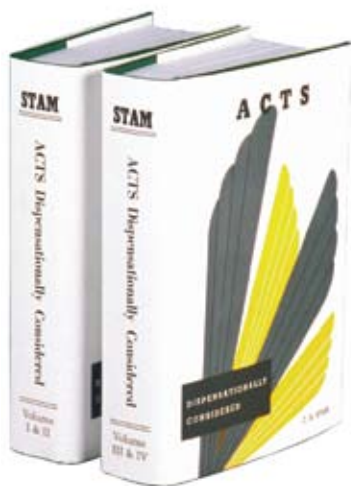
**(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)**

Orders up to \$30.00, please add \$4.00 for postage and handling.

Orders over \$30.00, please add 15% for postage and handling.

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





# ACTS

## Dispensationally Considered

By Cornelius R. Stam

Acts is the most fascinating story book of the Bible, and at the same time *the most important key to the understanding of God's dealings with man today.* It is impossible to rightly divide the Word of truth without an understanding of the Book of Acts, and the confusion in the Church today is matched exactly by her confusion over this book. Acts is most thrilling to study, when “dispensationally considered.” Think of the dramatic narratives in this great book—*all progressively unfolding the divine program so that we may understand God's present dealings with us!*

(With Scripture Index)

**TWO BOOK / FOUR VOLUME SET**

***Special Price: \$30.00***

**THIS OFFER ENDS JUNE 30, 2008**

*(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)*

Orders up to \$30.00, please add \$4.00 for postage and handling.  
Orders over \$30.00, please add 15% for postage and handling.

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



---

---

# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

---

**Monthly Online Contributors:** We thank God for *Searchlight* readers who have gone to our web site and arranged to have their credit card charged with an automatic monthly contribution to our ministry. Now, however, our credit card service is asking all who have done so to revisit [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org) and register the three-digit “card security code” (CSC) located on the back of your card. Your compliance will protect you against credit card fraud, and ensure that your support of God’s Word, rightly divided, will continue unabated.

**So You’ve Graduated High School?** If you are undecided about what you want to do next, why not invest the first year of the rest of your life at *Berean Bible Institute*? What better place to make life decisions than under the sound teaching of God’s Word, and in the company of other young people who know and love the Lord and the message of grace, and are busy formulating their own life plans. For further information, contact BBI Director Dr. Ed Bedore at (262) 644-5504, or email him at [bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org).

**Canadian Regional Meetings:** Our friends at *Beacon of Grace Church* in St. Catharines, Ontario, will host a weekend Bible conference, scheduled for September 20,21. They have invited BBS President Pastor Paul Sadler to open the Scriptures at these meetings, and minister to their hungry Canadian hearts. Find out how you can get in on the blessing by contacting Jim Bartkiw at (905) 562-7170 or at [naturesbest@sprint.ca](mailto:naturesbest@sprint.ca).

**Keystone State Meetings:** Pastor James Zaebst and the saints of *Grace Family Bible Church* of Duncansville, Pennsylvania, will welcome Pastor Ricky Kurth for a series of meetings on prophecy the weekend of September 27,28. Pastor Kurth teaches *Major Prophets*, *Minor Prophets* and *Daniel/Revelation* at *Berean Bible Institute*, and so this conference will be your opportunity to taste what it is like to study prophecy at BBI. For further information, contact Pastor Zaebst at (814) 696-4366 or at [Pastorjim@atlanticbb.net](mailto:Pastorjim@atlanticbb.net).

**This month’s back cover quote** was contributed by Mrs. Robert Nevenzal, and serves as a good reminder for us all.

---

Our cover lighthouse photo was taken by Pastor John and Terri Fredericksen. South Carolina’s *Harbour Town Lighthouse* was constructed in 1969 more as a tourist attraction than an aid to navigation. Set as the backdrop for the final hole of Hilton Head’s prestigious *Harbour Town Golf Links*, golf telecasts have made it a highly recognizable lighthouse.

---

# PRICE LIST

## BIBLE STUDY BOOKS BY CORNELIUS R. STAM—FOUNDER (Hardcover—Gold Stamped)

Acts, (Commentary) Volumes I & II .....	\$20.00
Acts, (Commentary) Volumes III & IV (w/Bible Index).....	20.00
Author's Choice, The .....	10.00
Colossians (Commentary, w/Bible Index) .....	13.00
I Corinthians (Commentary) .....	11.00
II Corinthians (Commentary).....	11.00
Divine Election and Human Responsibility .....	9.00
Galatians (Commentary, w/Bible Index).....	13.00
Hebrews, Who Wrote It and Why? .....	9.00
Holding Fast the Faithful Word (w/Bible Index) .....	13.00
Man, His Nature and Destiny .....	11.00
Memoirs of Pastor Cornelius R. Stam, The.....	12.00
Pastoral Epistles (Commentary) .....	11.00
Paul, His Apostleship and Message (w/Bible Index) .....	10.00
Romans (Commentary).....	11.00
Sermon on the Mount, The .....	9.00
Suggestions for Young Pastors .....	9.00
Thessalonians (Commentary).....	10.00
True Spirituality (w/Bible Index).....	10.00
50th Anniversary Memorial .....	Free

### Paperbacks

Baptism and the Bible .....	\$8.00
Lord's Supper and the Bible, The .....	6.00
Moses and Paul (w/Bible Index) .....	6.00
No Other Doctrine.....	8.00
Our Great Commission (w/Bible Index).....	8.00
Present Peril, The.....	8.00
Satan In Derision .....	8.00
Things That Differ (English or Spanish, w/Bible Index) .....	9.00
Two Minutes with the Bible .....	10.00
Twofold Purpose of God, The (w/Bible Index).....	6.00

### WRITINGS BY PAUL M. SADLER—PRESIDENT

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (HC, w/Bible Index).....	\$11.00
Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter, The (HC, w/Bible Index).....	12.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	15.00
Studies in James (Paperback, w/Bible Index).....	9.00
Triumph of His Grace, The (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	12.00
According to the Scriptures (Booklet) .....	2.00
Are You Secure? (Booklet).....	1.00
Institution of Marriage, The (Booklet).....	4.00
Key to Understanding the Scriptures, The (Chart).....	0.50
Supernatural Sign Gifts of the Acts Period, The (Booklet).....	4.00

Orders up to \$30.00, please add **\$4.00** for Postage and Handling

Orders over \$30.00, please add **15%** for Postage and Handling

*Foreign Orders must be remitted in U. S. Currency*

*“The heart of every problem is the problem of the heart.”*  
**“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately  
wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9).**

THE BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT  
1112 W17761 MEQUON ROAD  
PO Box 756  
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022-0756

PERIODICALS  
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI