

The BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

September 2012



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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 President's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is something to be said for having years of experience in the Lord's service. Experience is a great teacher! When Pastor Stam asked me to join him in the work at the *Berean Bible Society*, it was an honor to accept his invitation. When I came to BBS, I thought I knew something, having served in two local churches, but in working with Brother Stam, I quickly learned how much I didn't know and needed to learn, and still need to learn. It was a humbling experience, to say the least.

Upon arriving in Chicago, Pastor Stam and I sat down for a chat. I shared with him that I thought I would be comfortable with the conference ministry of BBS, since the pulpit ministry has always been my first love. I also felt I could handle the administrative side of the work, having just completed a major building program prior to my arrival.

The one area I felt uncomfortable with was writing for the *Searchlight*. I told him that it would be fine with me if he wanted to call on someone else to handle this responsibility. I will never forget Brother Stam's response. He said, "Dear Brother Paul, can you preach?" I replied, yes, seeing that I had preached for over ten years at the time, which he already knew. Then he said, "If you can preach, you can write. It will take you a little time to develop the skill, but before you know it, writing will become second nature to you." With Pastor Stam's assistance in the early days, I found that he was right. I now enjoy writing as much as preaching.

We at BBS have truly been touched by the level of interest in our commentary on *Revelation*. In addition to the historic response on the initial round of orders, your calls, cards, and letters have been greatly appreciated. One dear brother from the state of Washington recently wrote,

"I have many dispensational commentaries on the Book of Revelation in my large library of Christian books. All of them have played an important role in helping me better understand biblical prophecy. Nevertheless, having recently read Volume 1 of your eventual four-volume set on Revelation, I think my library now includes, by far, the best commentary of them all." Thanks, beloved, for your kind words. I am humbled merely to be an instrument in the Lord's hand!

Good news! I have nearly completed three of the six chapters for Volume 2. I value and appreciate any prayers you might offer for wisdom and strength as I undertake this next phase of the work.

Yours in His service,

Paul M. Sadler, President



The Crash of 2012

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that we are engaged in a spiritual war with the unseen workers of darkness. It is a very real conflict, with supernatural powers, and the leader of this evil host is none other than the devil himself.

There are some believers, however, who do not believe we are in a conflict, which is an indication to us that they're not in the battle. The Church today, for the most part, is in denial. They are either willingly ignorant of the war or indifferent to it. This is why many churches don't preach the Word and are unwilling to stand for the truth. There are plenty of devotional, feel-good messages, musical performances that rival those of the world, and a food-and-party atmosphere that is unprecedented.

But Paul says we're in a conflict. We are in the fight of our lives to make known the good news that God loves the world and Christ shed His precious blood for our sins. We're in a struggle to make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery.

You have probably heard of the crash of the Stock Market in 1929, but we experienced our own crash here at the *Berean Bible Society* last month. On a Friday afternoon, our computer network server gave up the ghost and essentially wiped out the drive where all our folders and files were stored. As if this crash wasn't bad enough, Satan had a surprise attack waiting for us. When we pulled our backup drives, of which there are three, we discovered that the most recent information stored on them was from June 7th of last year. Although the indicator lights signified that everything was operational, the backup drives were not running! Unbeknown to us, a controller had malfunctioned in the server, disrupting the storage of information for the past year.

We are thankful that all our data, books, *Searchlights*, messages, correspondence, and records from 1998 to 2011 were spared, but the folders and files from June 2011 to the present were lost. We have, by the grace of God, been able to recover some of the data, but most of the files are corrupt and won't open, including the messages I prepared for my next DVD series on *The Believer's Warfare* and Pastor Kurth's book on the epistles of John. So it's back to the drawing board on these projects. As the old adage goes, "Fool me once, shame on you [workers of darkness]; fool me twice, shame on me." A new system has already been put into place to protect against this ever happening again. Please pray with us to that end!

Paul's Ten

Commandments

(Cont'd)

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick [living] and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” —II Timothy 4:1,2

In our last segment, the Apostle Paul charged Timothy to “preach the Word,” “be instant in season, out of season,” and “reprove” those who were in danger of departing from the faith. This, of course, is a natural progression, in that, if Timothy was immersed in the Word as he would need to be in order to teach it, he would be prepared on a moment’s notice to address questions that arose among the brethren, and be equipped to confront those who were teaching unsound doctrine.

Fourth Commandment

The fourth commandment that Paul delivered to Timothy

was to “rebuke” those who were habitually living in sin (v. 2). Essentially, the apostle is telling his protégé in the faith that there will be times in the ministry when it would be needful for him to use his authority to warn of sinful behavior. *Rebuke* means “to admonish or charge sharply” those living outside the known will of God, of which King David would be a prime example.

David thought he had concealed the murder of Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, the woman with whom he had committed adultery. In his mind, he had pulled it off without a hitch—or so he thought! What he failed to remember was that God knows the motives and intent of the heart. That being the case, God sent the prophet Nathan to expose David’s terrible sin. Nathan wisely shared a story with David about a little “ewe lamb” that he knew David would easily relate to, having been a former shepherd of his father’s

flocks. These are the very words of Nathan to King David:

“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...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 way-faring [traveling] man that was come unto him; but took the poor man’s lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

“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. 12:1-6).

At that point, Nathan stuck his bony finger into the face of the king, and said, “Thou art the man.”



Wow! Talk about an eye-opening experience! David’s sin was *exposed* for all to see. The prophet used his God-given authority to sternly *rebuke* David. Nathan drew back the curtain on David’s ungodly behavior so the burden of his offense could be lifted and confession could be made for his wrongdoing (Psa. 51:1-4). While

believers tend to tolerate habitual sin today, in so doing they do a great disservice to those who are living in sin by allowing them to destroy their personal testimonies. Timothy was to rebuke those who are given to misconduct, whether it’s in the form of false teaching or immorality, that they might be restored to the faith as King David was.

Fifth Commandment

The fifth command Paul gave to Timothy was to “exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (II Tim. 4:2). *Exhortation* has to do with encouragement and providing sound counsel to those who are hurting. And interestingly, the apostle adds that it should be done with “all longsuffering and doctrine.”

When you are struggling with a problem that seems to be unresolvable, the first person you should contact is a godly pastor/Christian counselor. He will show you how there is no problem you will ever face in this life that is not common to man. In other words, someone before you has faced the same thing or something very similar to it. With these words of *encouragement*, you will find hope.

Those who are dealing with a serious issue usually dwell on their circumstances when they should be seeking a *solution* to the problem. This is where an objective Christian counselor is indispensable. He is equipped with the Word of God to help you navigate through the storm in which you have found yourself. The Word of God has the solution to every problem in this life, whether it is

in a specific passage of Scripture or in a general biblical principle.

Let's consider the hypothetical case of a wife who, after being saved, consequently finds herself in an unequally yoked marriage. She's torn as to whether she should abandon the marriage or remain in the relationship, seeing that she loves her husband and her children. The problem is further complicated when a well-meaning Christian friend shares with her, "for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14). During the years I was engaged in an active counseling ministry, I found this problem to be all too common.

Solution to the Problem

"The woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him" (I Cor. 7:13).

Some couples are unequally yoked because either the husband or the wife got saved after they got married. Others are unequally yoked because a believer knowingly entered into marriage with an unbeliever contrary to the will of God. Either way, Paul's counsel here is the same: the believer should not depart from the unbeliever. Some might conclude that, since the husband and wife are unequally yoked, the believing partner should leave the marriage. However, just the *opposite* is true. If the unbeliever is willing to continue the relationship, the believer is **not** to divorce her unsaved partner.

The apostle goes on to write, "For the unbelieving husband is

sanctified [i.e., set apart to the marriage, **not** salvation] by the wife...else were your children unclean; but now are they holy." In short, God *honors* the marriage for the sake of the believer. Moreover, He classifies any children born of the relationship to be legitimate. Thus, every attempt should be made, by God's grace, to remain together and make the marriage work.

This arrangement serves a twofold purpose. In addition to the children having the opportunity to be raised by their *natural* parents, the unbelieving husband may be *won* to Christ. In this regard, Paul poses the question: "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband?" (I Cor. 7:16). Of course, a believing wife is powerless to save her husband, but she may deliver him from the judgment to come through her faithful *testimony*. The likelihood of her husband being converted to Christ is much greater since he's repeatedly exposed to his wife's godly behavior and the gospel.

Sixth Commandment

The sixth commandment that Paul delivers to Timothy is to be aware of the coming *apostasy*.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Tim. 4:3,4).

There is a time coming when believers will not want to hear the sound teaching of the Word. Personally, I think that day has

arrived. The Church today, for the most part, has been given over to liberalism, entertainment, and extremism in one form or another. Those sitting in the pews want to replace the spiritual leaders that teach the truth with those who are all too willing to compromise it for acceptance and gain. The “itching ears” of the last days of grace have surely arrived.

Before I was saved, I had a good friend who had a huge dog. I think it was a cross between a Doberman Pinscher and a junk yard dog. He looked mean and, if you knew what was good for you, you didn’t dare provoke him! When I visited my friend’s house, the dog would always come over and sit down right in front of me. This was one of those dogs that, when you looked into his eyes, he made you want to confess everything you ever did wrong. Unfortunately for me, he loved to be scratched behind the ear. Everything was fine as long as you were doing his bidding. But if you stopped scratching him on the ear, he immediately began to growl and would give you a look that, if looks could kill, you’d be dead.

The same will be true of many believers in the last days. As long as you are teaching what they want to hear, they are more than content, but if pastors and teachers refuse to conform to their way of thinking, they will turn vicious in order to have their way. Those who convey the message of redemption will become their enemies because they tell them the truth.

What the Lord’s people want to hear and what they need to hear are usually two different

things. According to the apostle, they will not want to hear the sound preaching of the Word in that day; instead they will turn to fables—stories. As long as the pastor is telling story after story in a devotional format, all is well. All we can say to this is, “Lord, keep us from this.”

Please don’t misunderstand me; a well-placed illustration or story in a message can be very helpful to shed light on the truth, but when illustrations begin to crowd out the Word of God, the Lord’s people will eventually become shallow in their understanding of spiritual things. This often deteriorates into carnality, putting both families and local assemblies in the cross hairs of Satan. The result is division after division.

Seventh Commandment

Under this commandment Paul instructs his son in the faith to “watch thou in all things” (v. 5). Although these words were primarily intended for pastors and elders, every believer in Christ bears a responsibility to be a *watchman*. The watchman is always the initial line of defense, whether in the tower of a castle in time past or, in this case, in spiritual things. He is the first one to sound the alarm in advance of an attack by an enemy.

The Apostle Paul serves as a pattern even in this area of the Christian life. When the apostle visited Ephesus for the last time, he shared with the Ephesian elders these touching words:

“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own

selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears” (Acts 20:29-31).

Notice in what areas we are to watch: we are to keep an eagle-eye out for attacks from *without* the assembly, and also from *within*. In many years of ministry, I’m sorry to have observed both firsthand.



The attack from *without* has to do with those who come in among us and introduce false teaching that is contrary to the Word of God. Paul identifies these deceivers as “grievous wolves.” They have not come to build up the assembly, but, like the wolf, to *destroy* it with their extreme views. These wolves in sheep’s clothing are usually easy to identify, but it is essential that they be exposed by the leadership of the church sooner than later. This is because, once they get a foothold in the assembly, they will undermine the work and corrupt the doctrine of many, especially those who are newcomers to the faith.

We have always felt, though, that the most dangerous attacks are those that arise from *within* the church. Paul calls the teachings of these brethren “perverse,”

which means “turned aside from the right path.” This type of attack is so deceptive because these brethren are well known in the assembly; therefore, everyone trusts them.

This individual and his followers will usually attempt to introduce something *new* to the assembly such as the Emergent Church’s form of worship, or will downplay the grace message so as to be more inclusive. Normally they have an ulterior motive to acquire a following to make a name for themselves and to acquire whatever gain they feel goes along with it. They want what they perceive to be the glory of leadership, but they don’t want to do the work that’s required to build a local church from the grassroots. Consequently, the easiest way for them to accomplish their objective is to divide the assembly, taking with them those who are captivated with their innovative views, or others who feel that they were mistreated. Believe me when I say that God will not hold them blameless.

Eighth Commandment

Under this commandment, the apostle encourages Timothy to “endure afflictions” (v. 5). In this particular challenge, Paul isn’t necessarily speaking about physical infirmities, although they would be included; rather, he is expressing the need to endure afflictions in relation to the gospel. Once again, the Apostle Paul serves as our example in regard to what he personally *endured* to make known Christ, and Him crucified. He wrote to the Corinthians,

“In stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck...In journeyings often, in perils of waters...of robbers...by mine own countrymen...by the heathen...in the city...in the wilderness...in the sea...among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness” (II Cor. 11:23-27).

And you thought you had a bad day last Sunday because someone didn't speak to you. Every time I read this list, it breaks my heart to think how Paul and his companions suffered many of these afflictions at the hands of evil men. Believers today suffer so little by comparison, preferring rather to take the course of least resistance. Worse yet, the Lord's people can be unmerciful at times. We know, for example, that most pastors often receive more respect from unbelievers than believers, which is a hard pill to swallow.

Those members of the Body who are easily offended need to be strong in the Lord for the sake of the furtherance of the gospel. Time is short! In whatever area God has called you to serve, it is important to heed the wise counsel of Pastor J. C. O'Hair, who said, “We need to have the hide of a rhinoceros and the heart of a dove.” In other words, we are to *endure* hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, but we are not to be hardhearted.

We need more believers engaged in the good fight of the

faith to advance the gospel of the grace of God. But this will require a willingness on your part to endure affliction, otherwise you will be lost to the cause almost as soon as the fight begins.

The Ninth Commandment

The charge of the ninth commandment is to “do the work of an evangelist.” Those who are called to be evangelists are usually very effective in the way they present Christ to others. God blesses their efforts with results!

During the Reformation, John Knox warned men vividly of the judgment to come in Scotland. Those who attended his services are said to have clung to the pews, fearing they were slipping into Hell. When the hard-hitting Billy Sunday preached hellfire and brimstone during Prohibition, thousands were saved by the grace of God. Paul knew, however, that these types of evangelists would be the exception, not the rule. Therefore, he instructs every member of the Body of Christ, including Timothy, to “do the work of an evangelist.” The key thought in this statement is *access*. This is supported by the fact that the Lord has His own in every walk of life; as a result, we have an open door of access to present the gospel to our family, friends, neighbors, and even at the workplace. The true Church is made up of “millions of flickering lights” that shine in the darkness.¹

The local assembly, as a group of believers, should be evangelistic as well. How? By remaining behind after the message on Sunday mornings to welcome the visitors who are in attendance, or to take

a moment to speak to those whom you perceive to be unsaved among you. It's a great opportunity to share your testimony and the gospel with them. Instead, I've found over the years that it is usually a race to see who can get to the door first. In fact, it can be a very dangerous place for the pastor to stand!

Tenth Commandment

Finally, the apostle instructs Timothy to “make full proof of thy ministry.” Timothy, don't be halfhearted in the work; devote time to it. Paul is encouraging his companion in the faith to give his undivided attention to the Lord's service. He was to be enthusiastic about the message of grace that he was called to preach. The thing about enthusiasm is that it's contagious. Allow me to illustrate:



Picture in your mind's eye for a moment the last game of the World Series. Baseball fans, many of whom are believers, have come from near and far to root for their favorite team. The Fall Classic is played in late October, which normally means the steel seats are cold as ice and the fans are bundled up. For three hours or more they are yelling, cheering, and screaming at the top of their lungs. They devote every fiber of

their beings to cheer their team on to victory. To say they are enthusiastic would be an understatement—it's obvious! Before long the entire stadium is doing the wave. They are *committed* to the cause!

The following Sunday, many of these same believers who attended the game often complain to the pastor after the worship service. Essentially it goes something like this: “Pastor, do you realize your message was 15 minutes longer than your normal 45 minutes?” Why, it's a travesty that they had to sit 15 minutes longer on a warm, padded pew, listening to a stirring message from the Word of God. I'm tempted to ask, are their priorities mixed up or what? If believers would put as much energy into the Lord's work as they pour into a sporting event, the Church would turn the world upside down, or should I say right side up!

A Final Thought

Paul's ten commandments! We would venture to say that if these ten instructions were consistently applied in our local grace assemblies, our assemblies would be more effective in the Lord's work and would function harmoniously. If individual believers apply these ten commandments to their daily lives, they will find their spiritual roots going more deeply into the fertile soil of God's Word. Timothy was to make full proof of his personal ministry and the same should be true of us. Look alive!

The End!



Endnote

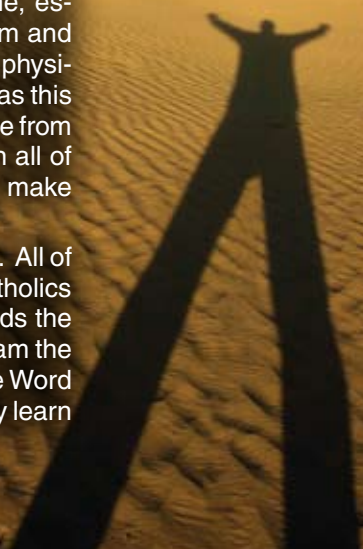
1. Janie B. Cheaney, “Heaven and Earth,” *World Magazine*, XXVII (2012), p. 20.

Walking Tall

The short article “Retarded Growth” [see below] in *Two Minutes with the Bible* interested me, especially. I have a form of unknown dwarfism and stand 3’9” tall (and am 55 years old). So, physically, I am very small. No one in my family has this dwarfism. Doctors do not know where it came from and do not find another of the same type in all of recorded medical history. So God chose to make me very unique!

In spiritual growth, however, I stand TALL. All of my family members are either lukewarm Catholics or total atheists. I am the only one that reads the Bible or has an interest in spiritual things. I am the only one that knows how to rightly divide the Word of Truth. I pray for them, that they will one day learn the same precious truth that I hold onto.

Karen Taylor



Retarded Growth

By Pastor C. R. Stam


What joy and fellowship there is in gatherings where the newly-saved are present! In the spiritual realm, as well as in the physical, everyone loves a baby! But the joy that fills the hearts of loving parents is turned to bitter sorrow and disappointment if their babe fails to grow. The latter condition is as unspeakably sad and embarrassing as the former is joyous. Just so it is in the realm of the spirit. The “carnal” Christian has failed to grow. He continues in a state of protracted infancy. He must be kept exclusively on a milk diet because, though saved for years, he is still unable to “bear,” or digest, solid food, still “unskilful in the Word” (Heb. 5:13) and needing to be taught the elementary things.

Retarded spiritual growth is evidenced in many ways, all of which come under the heading of carnality or fleshliness. The Corinthians, so sternly rebuked for their carnality by the Apostle Paul, are said to have been careless about morals (I Cor. 5:1), puffed up (I Cor. 4:18; 5:2), inconsiderate of each other (I Cor. 6:1-7; 8:9,12), stingy (II Cor. 8:6-11; 11:7-9). While possessing the Spirit, they walked after the flesh.

One of the most marked indications of retarded spiritual growth is self-interest and party strife, as seen in the case of the Corinthian believers. They were spiritually small and petty, so that the apostle had to write to them:

“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

“For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?” (I Cor. 3:3,4).

Thus Peter’s exhortation to “newborn babes” to “desire the sincere milk of the Word” that they may “grow thereby,” is prefaced by the words, “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings” (I Pet 2:1). The carnal nature is not appropriate soil for spiritual growth. 

A Tribute

Our dear friend, Don Potter, was called home to be with the Lord this past June. He was about three weeks shy of his 93rd birthday. Don was a faithful co-laborer in the gospel and was well known in grace circles. I first met Brother Potter back in 1973 when he served on the board of directors at the *Berean School of Bible and Theology*, where my wife and I attended Bible school. When I graduated, he was kind enough to give me an inscribed copy of *Major Bible Themes* as a gift, which I cherish to this very day.

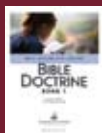
Those who knew Don will remember that he was a fixture at the annual *Berean Bible Fellowship Conference*, where he always had a word of encouragement for everyone.

When the BBS Board of Directors decided to set up a satellite organization in Canada, we contacted Brother Don, who served as the first president. He was instrumental in taking care of all the legalities so our Canadian friends could receive receipts approved by the Canadian government for their donations. When Don’s health began to decline, he handed over the reins of the presidency to the Canadian board of directors, who in turn appointed our dear Brother John Peters as their new president.

Don fought a good fight and finished the course to the praise of His glory. Please remember his wife, Alice, in prayer, that the Lord will comfort her with the full assurance of His grace.

—Pastor Sadler





The following Sunday school lesson is from Bible Doctrine Book 1, Junior Lessons. To order, call 262-255-4750 or visit www.growingupingrace.com.

LAW VS. GRACE

By Lori Gardner

Giving the Law

We all have certain rules that we have to obey, don't we? We have to obey the rules in our home and school. Our city, state, and country have many laws that we have to abide by as well. For example, it is against the law to run a red light, shoplift, or rob a bank. Laws protect the citizens and help to make them aware of what is acceptable behavior in our society.

Thousands of years ago, God called Moses to Mt. Sinai and gave him the Law that the nation of Israel was to obey. Most people are familiar with the Ten Commandments, but there was much more to it. The Law gave instructions on how the Jews were to live their daily lives. It told them how

they were to do business, what they could or could not eat, and how they were to deal with one another. It also specifically laid out how they were to worship the Lord. It was not only a complete list of dos and don'ts for the Jewish people to live by, but it was a covenant given by God to Israel for a specific time period.

Because the Law came from God, it was holy, just, and good (Romans 7:12). It demanded holiness and obedience.

Deuteronomy 27:26—“Cursed be he who confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.”

The people may have said, “Amen,” but they soon found out just how difficult it was to do all that the Law commanded.

Knowing the Law

How does a person know when he or she is breaking the law? Just as the laws of our country are written down and everyone is expected to know and obey them, the Lord made sure that Israel knew His Law for them, too. It was written by God Himself. That meant it was recorded perfectly. There were absolutely no errors!

Exodus 31:18—“**And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.**”

God also instructed Israel to make the Law a part of their children’s daily lives as well.

Deuteronomy 6:7—“**And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.**”

Why the Law?

The Scriptures tell us,

James 2:10—“**For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**”

So if someone broke just one part of the Law, it was as if he or she had broken every part. Why would God give the nation of Israel laws that were impossible to obey? He had very good reasons.

God’s desire was for Israel to be a holy, separate nation and a kingdom of priests for His glory (Exodus 19:6). The Law gave the people the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20). It simply made them realize they could not be

holy on their own. It was like a tough schoolmaster that taught them they needed Christ (Galatians 3:24).



“The Law was like a thermometer...”

Have you ever been sick with a fever? You probably used a thermometer to tell you just how high your temperature was, but it could not take away your fever, could it? The Law was like a thermometer to the Jews. It showed them just how sinful they were, but it was powerless to take away that sin. There was only one way for the sins of the world to be taken care of and that was through the shedding of the Lord Jesus Christ’s blood (Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:7, 3:5). This was what the Law was pointing to all along.

Breaking the Law

What happens if a man breaks a law in our country today? There is a penalty. He has to pay for his crime. Under the Law of Moses, the penalties for breaking the Law were very harsh. After all, these were holy laws of God they were breaking.

Many times the punishment for disobeying the Law was death. The book of Deuteronomy tells us of a man who was gathering sticks

for a fire on the Sabbath day. The Law stated that they were to keep the Sabbath day holy and do no work (Exodus 20:8-10). So, the man was brought before Moses and the rest of the congregation. What was his punishment? He was taken out and stoned to death (Numbers 15:32-36). That is harsh, isn't it?

That is also what would happen to a stubborn and rebellious son.

Deuteronomy 21:21—“And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.”

The Law was God's perfect standard of righteousness. Because it was holy, it was impossible for Israel to keep all that was in the Law. Galatians 5:1 tells us that the Law was a yoke of bondage to the Jews. They felt as if they were slaves again. It was as if they had been harnessed or chained to something that they weren't able to bear (Acts 15:10).

That's why God included instructions for offering sacrifices. He provided a way for the people to have their sins covered when they fell short of God's standards. When someone sinned, they would confess it to God and bring a perfect, spotless animal to the priest. The animal was sacrificed upon an altar. It took the punishment for the one who sinned.

This is a beautiful picture of what the Lord Jesus Christ was to do. He was the “Lamb of God” who knew no sin and was made sin for us so that we might be made righteous (John 1:29, 36; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Free from the Law

Today, we have additional truth that God wants us to know. We have His complete Word, the Holy Bible. It was written by forty different men over a period of many years. He inspired or breathed each word to His chosen writers. Therefore, we can be assured it is what God wants us to know. By studying His Word and rightly dividing the truth for us today, we can become thoroughly equipped to do God's will (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Today things are very different. We are no longer under the Law but under God's grace (Romans 6:14). We don't have to worry about sacrifices for every sin we commit. We do not have to depend upon a human priest and worship in a temple. Christ's death, burial, and resurrection changed all that.

John 1:17—“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

When the Savior was hanging on the Cross, His last words were, “It is finished.” It was a wonderful victory cry. The words that He used meant, “It is finished and forever done.” The battle over sin, death, and Hell was over.

At that time, it was the custom that whenever a Roman general returned from a victorious battle, he would ride through the streets shouting the same thing: “It is finished, forever done!” The crowds of people along the way would shout back to him as he passed, “It is finished, forever done!” What a joy it must have been to know that the battle was fought and won for you!

It is a joyous thing for us today as well. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law (Matthew 5:17; Romans 10:4). No more sacrifices are needed to cover every sin. Christ was our sacrifice, once and for all (Hebrews 7:27, 9:28, 10:12; Romans 6:10). He finished the work that needed to be done for us and now sits at the right hand of the Father where He remains even today (Hebrews 1:3, 10:12).



Today we live during the Dispensation of Grace. This age had been kept secret in God until it was revealed to the Apostle Paul (Ephesians 3:2). Today, God is dealing with individual people instead of one nation. He gives us the gift of eternal life by His grace. We don't deserve it, and we can never do enough good works to get it. All we have to do to receive it is believe what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us.

Isn't it wonderful that we do not have to depend on what we **do**? It has been **done** for us, finished and forever done.

Summary

So, who are you? Do you have any value? The Bible is the only place to find the answers to these questions. It says that you are loved and very special to God. If

you have placed your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, you are a new creation, taken out of Adam and placed in Christ, where you are no longer seen as a sinful, fleshly human, but as a new, spiritual creature. You also are a member of a new creation, a living organism called the Church, the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head. You are loved! You are special and very valuable to the Lord. That's who you are!

Gospel Presentation

You are a very special and valuable person to God. He loved you so much that He sent the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth to die on the cross for your sins. He has made a way for you to live eternally with Him. Once you trust Christ as your Savior, He makes you a new creature. You no longer have to serve your sinful desires, but you can be a servant of righteousness instead. He has also made a special place for you in a new creation called the Church, the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head. That's how special you are to Him!

Application

Once we trust the Lord Jesus Christ, we become a new creature and the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us. He teaches and guides us throughout our life. As we obey Him and study the Word, we become more and more like Him. We call this being more "Christ-like." He helps us to understand what is truly important. Things of the "flesh," such as wearing the best clothes, having the newest electronics, and being popular at

school become less important to us. As He works in our life, the Spirit makes us see that things like being kind, helping and comforting others, and telling the truth are much more important. With His help we can set our affection on the things above, not on the things of this earth (Colossians 3:2).

Encouragement

Anyone at anytime in his or her life can put faith in the Lord

Jesus Christ and become a new creature. There is nothing that has to be done first to make you acceptable to God. God loves you just as you are. The Lord is pleased when young people take their faith in Him seriously. Sometimes doing what is right may be unpopular. When you obey God's Word in conduct, love, and purity, you are an example to all (1 Timothy 4:12). Thank you for being an example!



Question Box

"Pastor Kurth, you hold that the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 can't be the fulfillment of prophecy since that would mix prophecy into this dispensation of the Mystery. But didn't prophecy and mystery overlap in Acts as this dispensation began?"



I believe that there is a difference in how this dispensation began and how it will end, a difference that is illustrated in the example Paul used of the olive tree. The apostle says that the Jews were "broken off" (Rom. 11:17-20), but when he describes the end of the present dispensation, he warns the Gentiles to continue in God's goodness or else be "cut off" (v. 22). When you *break* a branch off of a tree, the separation is always elongated, with a diminishing edge on both sides of the break, which well illustrates how God's program for Israel was "diminishing" during the Acts period as the mystery was increasing (Rom. 11:12). When you *cut* a branch off a tree, however, it is a *clean* separation that well illustrates how the Rapture will bring an end to this dispensation before *any* of God's prophetic program continues.

—Pastor Kurth



Holy Ghost Power!

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

C'mon, admit it. You never thought you'd see a title like that in the *Berean Searchlight*, a magazine dedicated to the propagation of the distinctive ministry and message of the Apostle Paul. Yet what would you have entitled an article based on the following verse, penned by that very same apostle:

“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, *but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost*, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake” (I Thes. 1:5).

When Paul speaks here of how his gospel came to the Thessalonians “in power, and in the Holy Ghost,” our Pentecostal friends might suggest that he was speaking about *miraculous* power, like the power to speak in tongues and heal the sick, etc., for that is the kind of power they normally associate with the term “Holy Ghost power.” If this is what Paul had in mind, this would then be a reference to how his arrival in Thessalonica was accompanied by miraculous displays of power which prompted the Thessalonians to believe the gospel that Paul preached.

This explanation certainly seems plausible, especially since this is how God used to work under the kingdom program. At Pentecost, “they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues” (Acts 2:4), “God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost” (Heb. 2:4). In the wake of this supernatural display of Holy Ghost power, we read that several thousand people believed the gospel (Acts 2:41; 4:4). So there is no question that this is how God *used to work* under the kingdom program. God’s men would preach the gospel, He would work miracles through them, and people would believe on the Lord.

This cannot be what Paul is talking about here in our text, however, when he reminded the Thessalonians of how his gospel had come unto them “in power; and in the Holy Ghost.” As we examine the inspired record of how Paul’s gospel came to Thessalonica, we find no reference whatsoever to any demonstration of miraculous power (Acts 17:1-11). In fact, it seems that the gospel came to Thessalonica in *weakness*, not in power! The unbelieving Jews who opposed Paul’s gospel seemed to be wielding all the power in Thessalonica, in response to which “the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea” (v. 10). This ignominious expulsion of the apostle from their midst seemed to be anything but a display of Holy Ghost power.

Why then does Paul say the gospel came to them “in power; and in the Holy Ghost”? We believe these words indicate that a dispensational change had taken place, and that the power of the Holy Ghost was being displayed differently in Thessalonica than in the manner in which it was exhibited at Pentecost. We further believe that this dispensational change became the pattern for how the power of the Holy Ghost would be demonstrated throughout the dispensation of grace.

You see, the power of God is not being expressed today as it was at Pentecost, when even the Lord’s enemies had to admit that “a notable miracle” had been performed by His Holy Ghost-filled apostles (Acts 4:16). Notable miracles like this are conspicuous by their absence in the present age, an age which began with the Lord responding to Paul’s prayer for healing with these words:

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for My *strength* is made perfect in *weakness*” (II Cor. 12:7-9).

Quite obviously, a dispensational change had taken place since Pentecost, where the power of the Holy Ghost was seen when we read of the sick that “they were healed every one” (Acts 5:16). Paul showed that he recognized this dispensational change when he responded to the Lord’s promise of sufficient grace with these words:

“Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, *that the power of Christ may rest upon me*” (II Cor. 12:9).

Paul concluded from our Lord’s words that in the dispensation of grace the power of Christ would no longer be demonstrated in the miraculous healing of weaknesses. It would now rather be displayed when believers show God’s strength *in the midst of their weaknesses*, as the Apostle Paul did in the midst of his struggle with his thorn in the flesh (vv. 7-9).

On the basis of our text, we believe that God’s power is not just displayed today in the weakness of physical infirmity, but also in the kind of weakness Paul experienced in Thessalonica, the weakness caused by the persecution and opposition of the unbelieving Jews of that city. If we had to sum it all up, we would extrapolate from these examples and say that God’s power is not seen today in the removing of *any* of our

adversities, but rather in the sustaining grace that He so abundantly supplies us *in the midst of them*. What a revolutionary change!

As we return to our text, we see that the exhibition of Holy Ghost power in the midst of our weaknesses has a pleasant side effect in the hearts and lives of men. As the apostle states here, the Holy Ghost power that he evidenced in Thessalonica gave the Thessalonians “much assurance” that his words were God’s words (I Thes. 1:5). This too represented a dispensational change. Under the kingdom program, *miraculous signs* were used of God to assure men that the words of His apostles were His words, for when the Lord commissioned the twelve, we read that “they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, *and confirming the word with signs following*” (Mark 16:20). Clearly, under the kingdom program, miraculous signs confirmed the words of the apostles, and gave people “much assurance” that their words were God’s words. In Thessalonica, however, it was the God-given strength that Paul showed in the midst of his weakness that confirmed his words among the Thessalonians, and gave them “much assurance” that his words were God’s words. And in the absence of miraculous Holy Ghost power today in the dispensation of grace, showing God’s strength in the midst of our weaknesses remains the *only* way to give others “much assurance” that our words are God’s words.



While some might scoff at the idea that divine strength displayed in the midst of weakness could ever convey the same amount of confirmation and assurance as was communicated by miracles, we would submit that *more* of God’s power is seen today than was seen at Pentecost. After all, what displays the power of God more, the healing of a sickness or the strength that He supplies to *endure* that same sickness for years, decades, or even for an entire lifetime? If you know anything about the frailty of human nature, you know that God’s strength is seen more in sustaining grace than in the removal of thorns from our flesh. If you are not convinced of this, however, consider that while it is an impressive display of power when a surgeon is able to excise a man’s pain, it is an even more impressive display of power when

the strength of God enables a believer to cheerfully *endure* chronic pain for forty, fifty, even sixty years or more.

This is important to remember, especially if, like many believers, you think that your words to the lost would be so much more powerful if only you could work a miracle to confirm your words. Based on what we have seen, we would suggest that the strength you show in the midst of all the adversities of life demonstrates Holy Ghost power in a way that far surpasses the confirming signs of Pentecost.

It should be noted here that Paul always pointed to his *weaknesses* when he wanted to verify his ministry. He told the Ephesian elders,

“Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the Lord...*with many tears, and temptations...*” (Acts 20:18,19).

Here we see that, rather than pointing to the miracles he performed in Ephesus, he authenticated his ministry among them by reminding them of his *weaknesses*. In the same vein, he said to the Corinthians,


“I was with you *in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.*

“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, *but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power*” (I Cor. 2:3,4).

Here again, the “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (Holy Ghost power) is not a reference to any miracles that Paul performed in Corinth, for the record of the establishment of this church will also be searched in vain for any examples of Pentecostal-type Holy Ghost power (Acts 18:1-18). Instead, the power that Paul showed amidst his “weakness,” his “fear,” and his “much trembling” in Corinth reminds us of the Holy Ghost power he demonstrated in Thessalonica.

This is why, when Paul directed the attention of the Corinthians to the kinds of things that approved his ministry, he pointed to how he was approved “in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults...” (II Cor. 6:4,5). That’s quite different than when Peter told the Jews that “Jesus of Nazareth” was “a man approved of God among you *by miracles and wonders and signs*” (Acts 2:22). Since we are to follow Paul as he followed Christ (I Cor. 11:1), we submit that if you are looking for the power of the Holy Ghost to approve your ministry, you should seek to show it as Paul showed it, in the patient endurance of all of the difficulties of life.

If you remain convinced that the Holy Ghost power of which Paul speaks in our text is miraculous in nature, consider the words Paul used to close our text. After speaking of how his gospel had come to them in power and in the Holy Ghost, Paul didn’t conclude, “as ye know the manner of miracles I performed among you.” He rather spoke of power and of the Holy Ghost, adding, “as ye know *what manner of men we were* among you.” It was the divine strength that he showed in weakness that brought the gospel home to the hearts of the Thessalonians.

Now how about you? Does the power of the Holy Ghost appear in *your* manner of life, as others observe what manner of person you are among them? You will seek in vain for the kind of Holy Ghost power that confirmed the words of the apostles at Pentecost, for God has withdrawn these supernatural manifestations of the Spirit. Why not rather focus your efforts on the only Holy Ghost power that is available to us in the dispensation of grace, the powerful testimony of God’s sustaining grace in the midst of all of our adversities. 

A close-up photograph of a hand tearing a white document. The document has the words 'CONTRACT' and 'AGREEMENT' printed on it in a bold, sans-serif font. The hand is positioned at the top left, and the tear is running diagonally across the middle of the frame. The background is a plain, light color.

Does God Break His Promises?

By Dave Stewart

“After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise” (Num. 14:34).

Wow! Did God really just say that? Did the eternally faithful God actually say, “ye shall know my breach of promise”? God doesn’t break His promises, does He?

If there is one thing we know to be true:

“all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God” (II Cor. 1:20).

We know and hold dear the fact that every jot and tittle of God’s faithful Word will be fulfilled (Matt. 5:18), with every utterance signed, sealed and gloriously delivered. God surely keeps His promises. Then what does the Lord mean when He says, “ye shall know my breach of promise”? The answer is found just a few verses before, and demonstrates a critical rule in understanding the Bible overall.

Before telling the nation Israel that they would wander forty years for their unbelief, and would not see the promise fulfilled, God assures them:

“But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, THEM WILL I BRING IN, and they shall know the land which ye have despised” (Num. 14:31).

God promised the nation that He would deliver them from Egypt into a land flowing with milk and honey (Ex. 3:8), and that is exactly what He did. However, because of their unbelief, God’s promise was

“breached,” that is, it was DIVIDED. The promise which began in the former generation, would now be fulfilled in the latter, and fulfilled it was!

“And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers...And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers...THERE FAILED NOT OUGHT of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; ALL CAME TO PASS” (Josh. 21:43-45).

So God kept His promise, every whit, despite the nation’s unbelief. God accomplished the fulfillment of His word by breaching it, dividing it in two.

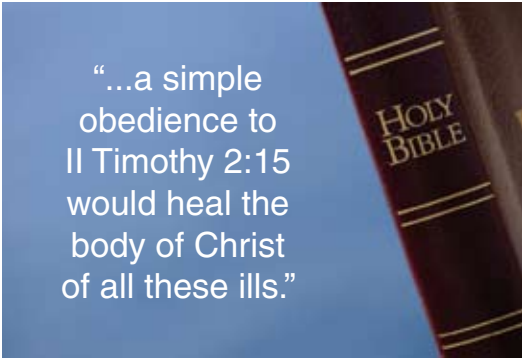
As we study the Scriptures, we find that this division of fulfillment is no strange or unusual thing, but is in fact a fundamental facet of rightly dividing the Word of truth (II Tim. 2:15), demonstrated repeatedly through the

Bible. The fulfillment of God’s promises are often breached across “sundry (divided) times” (Heb. 1:1). A single promise begins in one generation, then is interrupted, only to find its completion in another.

While the failure to recognize this truth has led many, both inside the church and out, into Replacement Theology, Covenant Theology, Amillennialism, Preterism and Spiritualization, not to mention anti-Semitism and gross error of every kind, a simple obedience to II Timothy 2:15 would heal the body of Christ of all these ills. The key to understanding so much of the word of prophecy comes by recognizing what God calls His “breach of promise.”

So did Israel then understand? Did they finally, as God instructed, come to “know [His] breach of promise”? Sadly not. For when their Messiah first appeared, they believed He would bring the day of vengeance against their enemies, as the prophets declared. Once again however, as God had done with their fathers before, the Lord Jesus laid out this critical rule before them.

“And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down...And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (Luke 4:17-21).




“...a simple
obedience to
II Timothy 2:15
would heal the
body of Christ
of all these ills.”

“Fulfilled?” they thought to themselves. “What does he mean, fulfilled? This is only part of the promise, for the prophet goes on to say that the day of vengeance will also come to comfort us (Isa. 61:1-2). This man hasn’t come to keep the promises of God, but to break them.”

Of course the Lord did not break God’s promise, but He did breach it, exactly where it was meant to be breached, rightly dividing the Word of truth. It was only later, when speaking of the last days, that the Lord finally said,

“For THESE be the days of vengeance, that ALL THINGS which are written may be fulfilled” (Luke 21:22).

In a single promise, the prophet foretold the coming of “the acceptable year of the Lord” and of “the days of vengeance of our God” (Isa. 61:1-2). The acceptable year of the Lord had come. The days of vengeance would await their appointed time. As God had shown His people before, what began in one generation would be fulfilled in another. Still, they would not accept this “breach of promise”, and once again the nation was condemned to wander blindly until the breach ends (Rom. 11:25).

As often as God has shown His people that they MUST rightly divide the Word of truth, just so often they refuse, and always with the same result. For the people of God in any age, wandering blindly is the condition for which right division is the cure. 

Fall Bible Conference

Location: *Grace Family Bible Church*
2243 Mill Road, Duncansville, Pennsylvania

Dates: October 13-14, 2012

Guest Speaker:
Pastor John Fredericksen, *Berean Bible Society*

For additional information, please contact:

Pastor Jim Zaebst at (814) 696-4366
or email: pastorjim@atlanticbb.net



BBS Letter Excerpts

From Indiana:

"Wow! I get blown away reading these messages! I just want to jump up and cheer! Really, isn't this what life is about? These things have brought me so much peace these last few days. The storms barely bothered me when I was able to see these things and know that this is really what the focus should be. Just can't thank you enough!"

From Pennsylvania:

"I cannot stress enough how you have opened the Bible up to me by rightly dividing the Scriptures properly. Everything makes sense, everything fits perfectly and everything is clear. Where there was confusion and unanswered questions, they are gone, bringing clarity and harmony (praise God!). It's much more enjoyable to read my Bible now, and my relationship has developed and grown more in Christ."

From Kenya:

"I am so grateful to you for the spiritual blessings you have imparted to us. Truly the *Searchlight* brings our congregation strong, biblically-based teaching. As a theologian, I recommend the *Searchlight* for theology and seminary students. Thank you, Bereans; keep equipping Christians."

From Pennsylvania:

"I thank you for caring about me. I am crying in my heart that someone cares." (When you care, you teach the Word [Mark 6:34].—Ed).

From New Mexico:

"For forty years I felt something was wrong; the religious system was trying to put me back into the law. How could I follow in the footsteps of Jesus? And why was everything that I needed found in Paul's letters and not in the Old Testament? Then a dear old saint took a few moments to explain, and then I could see the real light; the division was clear (Israel versus Gentiles). Now I enjoy reading and studying the Bible!"

From California:

"I prayed to the Lord to present me with another brother with the gift of teaching. Ohhh, how He answered that in God-like speed. That teacher introduced me to *the Mystery*. It's been so much insight, clarity, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that a weight has been lifted off my spirit. I'm able to walk in victory, truly grasping the administration of grace and the ministry of reconciliation."

From Florida:

"You make the message of grace so-o-o easy...I have been sharing 'Faith+Works=Justification' and 'Which Works To Walk In'...I was scoffed at by some, but the light turned on for someone new, understanding the Word rightly divided. He is now begging me for his own copy of the *Berean Searchlight*....I personally enjoyed Paul Sadler's study of 'Heaven'...The Importance of the Local Church' by John Fredericksen...also 'A' material!"

From Ohio:

"I found out about your ministries from...the East Liverpool Grace Church. I was...studying...for ordination as a pastor. The grace message totally flipped nearly everything I knew of God's salvation and the way He has dealt with mankind upside down for the better. I really don't know how I had missed it for so long. I tried telling the message to several professors and my pastor and church members, but...it wasn't well received, and came to the point of my separation with the Nazarene church. I have lost many friends and even relatives, but it is well worth any loss to know the truth."

From our Inbox:

"Thanks for your awesome website. I just finished reading your article on God's wrath and grace and was most impressed for the exceptional explanation, not only of those topics, but the definition of the gospel....I was a little surprised to find that the Bereans do not hold to present day gifts of the Spirit or to water baptism....I am sure I will be going to your site often in preparation for Sunday school lessons and personal devotions."

From Florida:

"Grace and peace to you, Pastor Sadler. I was led to write to tell you how much I enjoy your audio teachings found on the *Berean Bible Society* website. They have been a rich blessing to me. Praise God!" (May I add, "from Whom all blessings flow!"—PS).

From our Inbox:

"I received your email with joy. It opened my eyes to some things I must study for myself. Thank you so much. I shall be looking into this."

From Kansas:

"Your latest *Two Minutes* devotional, 'The Pauline Authority of the Local Church,' arrived this morning. It is such a unique revelation to me that I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing it."

From Ohio:

"I just finished reading 'Revelation Volume 1.' I thank God daily for giving you the understanding, ability, and willingness to teach His Word, rightly divided. Thank you for standing firm in preaching the Word."

From Kenya:

"I'm a lay leader at our grace church. The *Searchlight* will help me grow in grace."

From Oregon:

"How great that you send the *Searchlight* free to *all* no matter what country...for a rather small magazine it has a very big message that has certainly helped us rightly divide God's Word to us and make the Scriptures come alive." (The Word is "quick" or *alive* when it's rightly divided!—Ed).

From New Jersey:

"Over the past several years I have been strengthened and encouraged by BBS books, tapes, and the *Searchlight*. Enclosed is a gift to help."

From Washington:

"I'm so sorry, but due to age and finances, I am unable to carry the torch any more." (We understand, and thank you for your faithfulness.—Ed).

From Ghana:

"I may soon leave the world...I will never forget to pray on your behalf until my death."



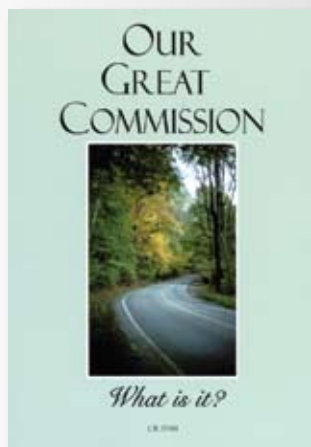
"These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."
—Acts 17:11

A Book about Holy Ghost Power!

If you were disappointed that our article on “Holy Ghost Power” on page 19 did not deal more with the errors of Pentecostalism, this month’s specials will tell you everything you always wanted to know about this emotional delusion! You’ll want to start with the book that covers the so-called Great Commission, the source of the sign gifts...

Our Great Commission

By Cornelius R. Stam



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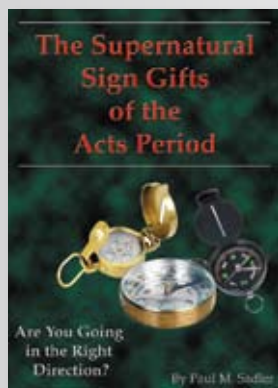


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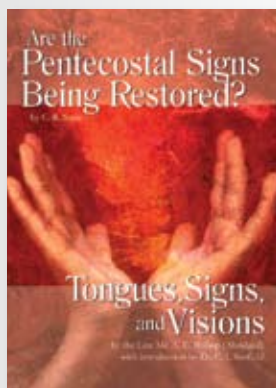
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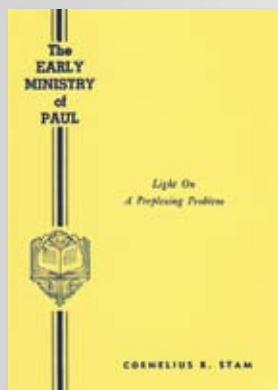
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News and Announcements

The Fall Bible Conference of the *Berean Bible Fellowship* will find a home this year at the *Holiday Inn* in Martinsburg, West Virginia, on October 6-7. Seven grace pastors and teachers will address this year's theme of *The Last Days of Grace*, while teens through college age will enjoy the ministry of the BBF Youth Conference. Jim Miller can hardly wait to hear from you, so be sure to tell him you're coming: (304) 671-1458, Jmiller4181@gmail.com.

The North Central Indiana Bible Conference will be held again this year at the lovely *Das Dutchman Essenhaus Conference Center* in Middlebury. The tag team of Joel McGarvey and John Fredericksen are sure to bless and refresh all who are able to join them for this November 3rd meeting. Mike and Roberta Karnes will be happy to fill you in on all you need to know: (317) 984-4799.

Chicagoland Special Meeting: The saints of *Faith Bible Church* in Steger, your editor's home church, have invited John Fredericksen to preach the Word at our morning service on November 4th. If you've never been blessed by John's ministry, just get in touch with me and I'll be happy to tell you what you're missing: Pastorkurth@bereanbiblesociety.org, (262) 255-4750.

The Best of Israel Tour: *Berean Bible Institute* would like to invite you to join them on May 21st as they leave from Chicago for a tour of all the popular biblical sights. BBI Director Robert Nix says you'll never read the Bible the same way again after your May 30th return. You can read all about it at www.bereanbibleinstitute.org, or call Dr. Nix at (262) 644-5504.

Ministry Opportunity: For nearly 50 years now, our good friend John Willson has conducted a grace correspondence course ministry for prisoners, but is not sure how much longer he will be able to continue this important work. If you are interested in assuming this ministry, which can be conducted from literally anywhere in the country, please write him at 407 W. Hickory Street, Neosho, MO 64850.



The *Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse* is located in Rochester, NY. The 40-foot tower is located on Lake Ontario, at the mouth of the Genesee River. In 1965, amid rumors that the lighthouse would be torn down, a letter campaign by students of Charlotte High School saved the light.

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