

# *The* BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

February 2013



Feature Article

Love That Knows No Bounds, by Paul M. Sadler .....5

Articles

The Lady and the Elder, by Ricky Kurth .....13  
Now Is the Time, by Patrick D. Kilgo .....19  
What Do You Know?, by Ricky Kurth .....23

Departments

In Loving Memory .....4  
Question Box .....12  
The Value of Afflictions .....25  
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: Ricky L. Kurth — Graphic Design: Kevin J. Sadler

**Reader’s Rights & Responsibilities:** BBS respects a reader’s right to hold views that differ from those of our writers. If a reader has a serious concern with a specific article, it is his or her responsibility to act in a manner that endeavors to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. This can best be accomplished by contacting the editor, who will then forward your concerns to the author of the article in question. We promise to address all concerns in a timely manner.



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@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:berean@bereanbiblesociety.org)

**The Berean Searchlight** (ISSN 0005-8890), February 2013. Vol. 73, Number 11.  
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. Periodical postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756 and additional mailing offices.



# From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every year, at the end of October, *Berean Bible Society* sponsors a Bible conference in Middlebury, Indiana, a two hour drive from the church I pastor in the south suburbs of Chicago. Every year, I would announce this conference at our church, but not until this past year was I able to interest any of our folks in making the two hour drive. What finally made the difference? This time I announced that our church would rent a van to transport all who might be interested in attending the conference and, to my surprise, fifteen people signed up!

I guess I shouldn't have been surprised. In these tough economic times, people are always looking for ways to save money, and pooling resources in a carpool is a fun way to stretch your traveling dollar. With that in mind, if you have always wanted to attend one of our grace conferences but were intimidated by the costs, why not ask the pastor of your church to announce that you are looking for some traveling companions who could help shoulder the expense of the journey to our next conference? There may be others who are thinking like you, that they would like to go, but would prefer to share the expense.

That wasn't the only surprise I received in connection with that conference, however. At every BBS conference, our book display features a signup sheet for the *Searchlight*. Imagine my surprise when several people from my own church subscribed! I guess I always thought that all of the people in my church received the magazine of which I myself am the editor!

But even this was not the end of my surprises. Wondering if there might be others in my church who didn't receive the *Searchlight*, I brought the signup book to church and *several more families signed up*, making a total of *nine families in the editor's own church* that didn't receive our magazine. It turns out that they were satisfied with just picking up one of the copies that I bring to church every month as part of our package arrangement with BBS. Now these copies will be more available for visitors, and for folks to give to their friends.

Like my church, yours probably has many new members. Why not ask your grace pastor to have a *Searchlight Subscription Drive* for a month (knowing that not every person is in church every Sunday), and in this way ensure that the person sitting next to you in church is enjoying the *Searchlight* right along with you!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Ricky Kurth



# IN LOVING MEMORY



On December 17th, 2012, our dear Brother Dick Hunt was called home to be with the Lord. If there was ever anyone who displayed the fruits of the Spirit, it was Dick. He always had an warm, encouraging smile and a kind word for everyone he greeted. And you weren't around Dick for very long before you realized he was a man of prayer. I vividly recall that, when his daughter's triplets were born premature and teetered between life and death, he prayed without ceasing for them. He was so relieved when they pulled through that we all gave thanks on numerous occasions at morning devotions.

When I came to the *Berean Bible Society* in 1987, the staff was doing everything the old-fashioned way, that is, either by hand or using an IBM Selectric typewriter! One of the first things I did upon my arrival was to introduce computers to the staff. At the time, Dick was our typesetter. In those days, when Pastor Stam and I had corrections to the finished copy of the *Searchlight*, Dick would have to retype the sentence or paragraph, develop it photographically, and physically paste it onto the page.

Change usually doesn't come easy! I remember that Dick said to me one day, "Pastor Sadler, they say you can't teach an old dog new tricks." I responded that that was probably true, but it was important for him to bear in mind that he wasn't a dog, but a man who was created in the image of God, with the ability to learn something new. He mastered the computer in no time and never looked back. In fact, when he retired from BBS a few years later, the first thing he did was purchase a computer to use at home.

During the transition from Chicago to Milwaukee in the early nineties, Dick was kind enough to travel to Wisconsin to train Kevin. Kevin already knew his way around computers, but he needed to be trained on how to navigate *QuarkXpress*, a complex, professional typesetting/publishing program. Dick shared with Kevin that, when he was learning the computer, he had no problem with "Control C" to copy, but he had difficulty remembering the paste command. The key command for paste is "Control V," so Dick coined that command "Victory!" to remember it. He always had a lighthearted spirit, but had a humble reverence for the things of the Lord.

We extend our love and condolences to Dick's wife, Dee, and the entire Hunt family. May God give you the full assurance of our blessed hope in Christ Jesus.

In His matchless grace,  
Paul M. Sadler, President





# Love That Knows No Bounds

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

The following article is a revised and *expanded* version of Chapter 4 in my booklet *The Institution of Marriage*. This updated version will appear in the next printing.  
—Pastor Sadler

My wife and I are celebrating our 45th wedding anniversary this year. Of course, we are often asked how we made it through that many years. The answer is really quite simple. Early in our marriage, after we came to know the Lord, we made it a point to apply the roles that God has set down for each of us in His Word. Do we have a perfect marriage? Let me just say that there is no such thing!

When you have two sin natures living under the same roof, there are going to be conflicts and disagreements from time to time; you can count on it. The game-changer for believers, however, is that we have been given a *new nature* that “is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24).

As a result, we have the spiritual capacity to understand and apply the instructions of God’s Word to our marriage relationship.

There are three keys to a fulfilling marriage:

First, *Christ* must always be the center of the marriage relationship. Every decision and action must always take into consideration the Lord’s will—and more importantly, applying it to our respective roles as husbands and wives.

Second, *communication* is paramount in every facet of married life! When my wife and I face a problem, we learned early on that, instead of attacking one another, we direct our energy to resolving the problem. Doing otherwise only serves to complicate the

matter because, then after you resolve the original problem, you are then faced with another set of circumstances. Now you have to apologize for saying things you shouldn't have said, and probably didn't mean to say, in the heat of the moment. Even though you've been forgiven, the scars from your unkind, spiteful words live in infamy. If you don't think so, simply ask your spouse if she remembers the time you said something vindictive to drive home a point—upon further thought, perhaps you'd better not for fear of opening up an old wound!

Third, it is important to do things *together*. One of the reasons there are so many marital problems today, even among Christians, is that husbands and wives are living separate lives. Husbands and wives spend more time with their friends than they do with one another, which often leads to infidelity. To cultivate a strong marriage relationship that will stand the test of time, husbands and wives need to be together as much as it is feasibly possible.

My wife and I go to conferences together, we shop together (even grocery shopping at times), we go fishing together; in short, we enjoy each other's company, which didn't happen by accident. We've gotten to know each other so well that my wife often knows what I'm going to say before I say it. Scary!

### **WHAT EVERY HUSBAND NEEDS TO KNOW**

The role the Lord has given to the man in the marriage relationship is that of *headship*. Sadly, many men have confused headship

with dictatorship. A dictator selfishly demands the servitude of his subjects without regard to their will. He often rules oppressively through fear and unreasonable demands. Such behavior has no place in the Christian home. The husband who tramples his wife's emotions underfoot like a doormat should remember that she, too, is created in the image of God. Husbands are responsible to provide *loving* leadership for their wives to follow. In so doing, they are emulating Christ's headship. Notice that the Lord's headship over the Body is bound inseparably to *love*.

**“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the Head of the Church: and He is the Savior of the Body....Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it” (Eph. 5:23,25).**

What is *love*? We always hear the world speak about falling in and out of love. Unfortunately, the world has confused love with *lust*. Men and women do indeed fall into lustful situations. Love, however, does not come naturally in this sin-cursed world; it must be *learned* (Titus 2:3-5). Thus, through the pen of the apostle, the Lord *commands* husbands to love their wives. This strongly implies that men tend to be preoccupied with themselves. When the Lord confronted Adam about his disobedience, he sought to defend *himself* without any regard for the welfare of his wife. He essentially said, “It’s that woman you gave me. She’s to blame.” *Love* would have said, “Lord, I am the guilty party who failed to shield my wife from the words of the tempter.”

The love (Gr. *agape*) with which the Lord instructs husbands to love their wives is defined for us in I Corinthians Chapter 13:

*Love is longsuffering:* Love is patient. Jacob labored seven years for the right to marry Rachel, only to learn that her father had deceived him. Consequently, “Jacob served [an additional] seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the *love* he had to her” (Gen. 29:20).

*Love is kind:* Love does something special for her, even when there isn’t a special occasion to remember. Furthermore, a godly husband will always take into consideration his wife’s feelings.

*Love is never envious:* Love isn’t jealous. It delights to see her honored or recognized for something she has accomplished. A husband should always speak highly of her in the company of others, never putting her down because of envy.

*Love does not brag; it is not puffed up:* A husband may have a higher education, but he must never flaunt it before his wife. Love never boasts; it always finds ways to build her up and encourage her.

*Love is never improper:* It isn’t discourteous. It has manners! A husband who loves his wife will take great care to introduce her to those whom she may not know, and he will never neglect or ignore her while in the company of others.

*Love seeks not its own:* Love is putting your wife first, sometimes even over and above your own plans. It’s unselfish.

*Love is not easily provoked:* Love is always in control. It

doesn’t easily lose its temper and never uses unkind words. If a wife wrecks the family car, how should love respond? Probably most husbands would say, “You did what?!” Needless to say, this isn’t the correct response. She’s already devastated by the accident and therefore needs a large dose of compassion.



*Love thinks no evil:* Love doesn’t keep a record of offenses. In counseling couples with marital problems over the years, I’ve discovered that they like to keep a list of grievances that they want me to address. Each one is defending his or her pride and not looking at the matter with a spiritual eye. Husbands and wives must guard against this pitfall.

*Love never rejoices in iniquity:* It never celebrates when a brother or sister in Christ falls into sin. Love doesn’t say, they got their just deserts! It rather forgives the erring party and attempts to restore the one who has fallen. A good marriage is made up of two good forgivers (Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:32).

*Love rejoices in the truth:* For a marriage to weather the storms of life, it must be based upon speaking the truth in love. Trust and respect are the fruits of a relationship built upon truth.

*Love bears all things:* It bears up under difficult circumstances. Love stays by each other's side, bearing the burden together. The motto over the arch of marital love is "Till death do us part."

*Love believes all things:* It always accepts things at face value. Since marriage is built upon a mutual trust, love should cause a couple to take each other at their word.

*Love is hopeful in all things:* Although every marriage experiences bumpy roads along the way, love has high expectations that things will improve as problems are resolved. It's optimistic!

*Love endures all things:* Through times of tragedy or an unexpected death, the head of the family should be like a mighty fortress. He understands that God is sovereign; therefore, "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7).

While most marriages begin smoothly, they have a tendency to lose some of their splendor after the first year or two. As the old saying goes, "the honeymoon is over," and now it's down to the nuts and bolts of everyday married life. Acts of thoughtfulness, affection, concern, and gifts begin to wane under the load of responsibility. Usually this trend begins with the husband, who fails to apply the love chapter consistently. Some years ago, we came across a story in the *Washington Post* entitled, "The Seven Ages of the Married Cold," which drives home the point perfectly.

*"The first year:* 'Sugar dumping, I'm really worried about my

baby girl. You've got a bad sniffle and there's no telling about these things with all this strep going around. I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general checkup and a good rest. I know the food's lousy, but I'll be bringing your meals in from Rossini's. I've already got it arranged with the floor superintendent.'



*"The second year:* 'Listen, darling, I don't like the sound of that cough. I've called Doc Miller and asked him to rush over here. Now you go to bed like a good girl, please, just for papa.'

*"The third year:* 'Maybe you'd better lie down, honey; nothing like a little rest when you feel lousy. I'll bring you something. Have you got any canned soup?'

*"The fourth year:* 'Now look, dear, be sensible. After you've fed the kids, washed the dishes, and finished the floors, you'd better lie down.'

*"The fifth year:* 'Why don't you take a couple of aspirin?'

*"The sixth year:* 'I wish you would just gargle or something instead of sitting around all evening barking like a seal.'

*"The seventh year:* 'For Pete's sake, stop sneezing! Are you trying to give me pneumonia?'" Sound familiar??

According to the eternal purpose of God, Christ "loved the



Church and gave Himself for it,” to which the apostle adds, “That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:25,26). When we are caught up, the members of the Body of Christ will have the unique honor of being *presented* to the Lord. Think of it, sinners saved by grace, set apart by grace, and delivered to glory by grace. We will be displayed before the host of heaven as the trophies of His grace! This will one day be a reality because Christ stepped across the stars into this world of sin and woe to redeem us back to God. He loved us with a sacrificial love. In this same context the apostle states:

**“So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the Church” (Eph. 5:28-29).**

Husbands are to love their wives with a *sacrificial love*. The husband is to care for his wife and protect her, even as Christ does the Church. He is to cherish her as he does his own body. It is common knowledge that men normally pamper themselves if they have been injured in some way. If a woman cuts her finger in the kitchen, she’ll put a Band-Aid on it and never break stride. When a man has a cut, he’ll probably require stitches, faithfully change the dressing, take regular doses of aspirin to curb the pain, and more than likely miss

a day’s work for fear of bumping the injured finger!

Paul is teaching here that if a husband would pay that much *attention* to his wife she will naturally reciprocate by following his leadership. A wife should be treated like a fine piece of china—precious and easily broken!

## HEADSHIP

As we have noted, according to Ephesians 5:23, “the husband is the head of the wife.” Headship means leadership, that is, leadership governed by *love*. Sad to say, we have all witnessed families where the husband has assertively declared, “I am the head of this house”; in other words, all must bow in fear and trembling or suffer the consequences. As a result, the household is run like a military camp where there’s a strict code of discipline for every infraction. This isn’t biblical headship. True leadership involves responsibility, *management*, love, and compassion.

It is interesting that, when Paul wrote to Timothy concerning the qualifications for those who desired to be an elder, he stated, “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)” (I Tim. 3:4,5). The term “ruleth” used here means to care for, pre-side over, or to manage. He is to *manage* his home effectively for the glory of God.

The man is ultimately responsible to provide the essentials for his family: food, clothing, and shelter. While a wife may volunteer

to help bear the financial burden of the household, the ultimate responsibility rests with the husband: “But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (I Tim. 5:8).



Although most men fare pretty well at providing the physical needs of their home, far too many fail to set a good example in *spiritual things*. Godly leadership includes studying the Scriptures, devotions, prayer, and making sure the family has a regular place to worship. It provides an atmosphere wherein each member of the family can grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Children that see *both* parents seeking God’s guidance will be far less likely to become juvenile delinquents.

There is an old axiom that still rings true: “Two heads are better than one.” Seeing that the woman is also created in the image of God, she adds many things to the marriage relationship—grace, intelligence, creativity, etc. So a husband is well served if he and his wife make decisions *together*. A wife’s counsel, suggestions, and warnings should be weighed very carefully in the decision-making

process in the home. Moreover, they should be implemented if they have merit.

As a rule, a husband and wife will ordinarily agree upon what course of action should be taken to resolve a problem. But there may be times when they will not see eye to eye on a particular matter. In such cases the husband should make the final decision, since he will be held *accountable* at the Judgment Seat of Christ for everything that transpired in the home (II Cor. 5:10 cf. Eph. 5:23).

Those who work at the corporate level understand the importance of matching an employee’s skills with the demands of the work that needs to be done. That’s called good management. Along these same lines, it is the better part of wisdom if a husband makes wise use of his wife’s God-given *abilities*. She can be a real asset in the affairs of the home. For example, my wife is a whiz at working with numbers. Our checkbook register looks like the ones you see in textbooks. In fact, we were at the bank one day to point out a mistake the bank had made that my wife discovered on our checking account statement. Of course, the bank never makes mistakes, according to them, but my wife stuck to her guns. When the problem was brought to the attention of the vice president, he came over to reluctantly admit that she was correct. He then asked my wife if she wanted a job! He was looking for someone who could *teach* customers how to balance a checkbook.

Of course, you already know what I’m about to say. Since my wife could be employed at the

First National Bank, I've turned all of our finances over to her. She writes all the checks, reconciles the accounts, pays the bills, and believe it or not, *enjoys it*. As the head of the family, could I keep the books? Yes! But I have chosen to *delegate* the responsibility to her. Sometimes, though, when she's unsure of what to do, we sit down *together* to work it out.

Headship also includes planning, goals, decisions, sensitivity, and accountability. As we saw earlier, the Scriptures declare that husbands should dwell with their wives "according to knowledge" (I Pet. 3:7). But it is also prudent for wives to do the same. Men and women function with different operating systems. That's how God created us. Men are *goal-oriented*; whether it's a project around the house or a trip across the country, they have to *conquer*!

"A wife should be treated like  
a fine piece  
of china—  
precious  
and easily  
broken!"



Ladies, the next time you attend a family reunion, merely wander over to where the men have gathered and you'll see what I mean. The conversation will probably go something like this: "Well, Bob, I made it in 7 hours and 22 minutes this trip." "Why that's 20 minutes faster than last time!" To which Grandpa adds, "I remember the time when it took two days to travel that many miles." So then, when your

husband is striving toward a goal, it doesn't necessarily mean that he's neglecting you; he's merely meeting his objective!


The Holy Spirit deemed it necessary to instruct husbands to dwell with their wives "according to knowledge," probably because men have a tendency to be *insensitive*. This is further confirmed by Paul's admonition to the Colossians: "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them" (Col. 3:19). Since women often-times "think" with their emotions, they have to *feel* at ease within themselves before entering into important decisions. This is why many husbands experience a high level of *frustration* when they go shopping with their wives.

A short time ago, upon returning home from a particularly lengthy trip, I said to my wife that I was dedicating an entire day to her—sightseeing, lunch, shopping, or any other thing she would like to spend the day doing! She had wanted to pick up a new blouse for some time, so after lunch we made our way to a department store to look around. After searching through a couple of racks she finally found something that caught her eye. She tried it on, but decided she didn't really care for it.

Twenty minutes later she held something up and asked me what I thought. Fabulous! Trying to be helpful, I said, "There's a checkout counter right over here, dear." However, she was still a little unsure about the selection, so she carried it around with her as we browsed a while longer. When I go shopping for a tool, I head directly to the aisle where

the tools are located, then straight to the checkout—8 minutes flat! But shopping with my wife, who is guided by another principle, I knew I needed to be *patient*. By the way, we left the store that day without making a purchase!

Bob Jones, Sr. once said, “You can’t move without creating fric-

tion.” If you move forward with a particular conviction, you’re going to create friction. With regard to the marriage relationship, there would be a great deal less friction if husbands and wives lived within the guidelines of their roles and sought to *understand* more about each other. Amen! 

## Question Box

*“Pastor, how do you reconcile the following two passages?*

**‘Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross’ (Colossians 2:14).**

**‘Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you’ (I Corinthians 11:2).**

*“These passages appear to be in direct contradiction to one another. Of course, God could never contradict Himself, so there must be some reasonable explanation. Any suggestions?”*

It is not necessary to reconcile the two passages above, seeing that they are addressing two entirely different subjects. The solution lies with the original Greek words translated as our English term “ordinance.” The ordinances in Colossians 2:14 is the Greek word *dogmas*. *Dogma* is a “decree of God.” Clearly, in this context, the term pertains to the *moral, civil, and ceremonial* portions of the Law of Moses. The moral law of God (Ten Commandments) pointed its finger in our face, as it were, and declared, “Thou hast sinned and shall die.” But Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by nailing it to His cross (Gal. 3:13; Col. 2:14).

When the apostle instructed the Corinthian believers to keep the ordinances that he had delivered to them he used the Greek word *paradosis*. *Paradosis* denotes a handing down or a giving over. Thus Paul is praising his readers for keeping in remembrance the *teachings of grace* that he had handed down to them from the Lord of glory. In other words, they were to guard that precious deposit from those who would rob them of it. These words still ring true today. —Pastor Sadler



# The Lady and the Elder

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

**“The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth” (II John 1:1).**

Since there is very little reason to doubt that the Apostle John wrote this second epistle that bears his name, we have to wonder why he would introduce himself as an *elder* and not as an apostle. The plot thickens as we discover that the Apostle Peter does the same thing in his first epistle (I Pet. 5:1). So what’s up? Why would men who were *apostles* introduce themselves as *elders*?

We feel it is because Israel’s *elders* were traditionally a part of the nation’s God-ordained *leadership* (Deut. 29:10; Luke 22:52, etc.). Because of this, God taught His people to *respect* their elders, and became angry when they didn’t (Lam. 4:16). Of course, in John’s day, Israel’s elders were

among the leaders who rejected the Lord Jesus (Mark 8:31). When that happened, God decided to raise up *new* elders in Israel, men like Peter and John.

New elders were needed because it was the job of Israel’s elders *to build the kingdom church*. Notice that Peter addresses Israel’s elders and her other leaders at Pentecost (Acts 4:8), then spoke to them about “the stone which was set at nought *of you builders*” (v. 11). Clearly, Israel’s elders were to be among the builders of the kingdom church. But, as Peter points out, Israel’s builders rejected the corner stone that God laid for the kingdom church when they rejected the Lord Jesus (cf. Matt. 21:42). When that happened, the Lord vowed to take the kingdom *away* from Israel’s builders and give it to “a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matt. 21:42,43).



Most Bible commentaries teach that He gave Israel's kingdom to the Gentiles, but this cannot be. The word *Gentiles* means *nations*, plural, and the Lord had vowed to give the kingdom to "a nation," singular. To which nation then did the Lord give the kingdom?

As we compare Scripture with Scripture, we learn that He took the kingdom away from the apostate elders who had rejected Him and gave it to the nation that consisted of the "little flock" of His followers (Luke 12:32), the true, *believing* nation within the apostate nation of Israel. Peter and John, of course, were members of that little flock, and so when they referred to themselves as *elders*, they were serving notice that they were the *new* builders of Israel's kingdom church, builders who were more than willing to build the church on the foundation that God had laid.

But who is this "elect lady" to whom John is writing this epistle? Was she a real individual, or was she merely symbolic of the nation of Israel in general, or perhaps of the little flock in particular? We feel that she was a real historical personage, since John later speaks to her about who she should and shouldn't receive into her "house" (v. 10). But as we'll see later, in our comments on verse 13, we believe that this lady was also representative of one of the two divisions of the house of Israel.

When John expresses his love for this lady, he is careful to add that he loved her "in the truth." As an elder in Israel, John loved all the saints, men and women, equally. However, he had to be careful when *expressing* his love to

the ladies. This writer sometimes hears from sisters in Christ who say, "I love you, Pastor." While we know that they are not saying that they are *in love* with their pastor, we are always careful to reply, "I love you too *in the Lord*." We feel this is what John was doing when he told this elect lady that he loved her "in the truth."

By this time you are probably wondering why John calls this sister "the *elect* lady." Well, the word *elect* simply means *chosen*. When we hold an election, we do so to choose a leader. Don't get the idea, however, that God chose this lady *to be saved*, to the exclusion of others. The law of first mention, which says that the first time a word is used sets the tone for its use throughout Scripture, identifies *Christ* as God's elect (Isa. 42:1 cf. I Pet. 2:6), and individuals get to be part of God's elect by believing in Him. You'll notice that Ephesians 1:4 does not say that we are chosen *to be* in Christ, it says that God "hath chosen us *in Him*." Christ is God's elect, and when we *believe* in Him, we are *chosen* in Him. If this is hard to understand, perhaps an illustration would help.

This writer grew up in the 1960s in the south suburbs of Chicago, during the heyday of Chicago's infamous "Democratic Machine." The Democratic Party held such sway in "the city of broad shoulders" that many voters voted what was called "a straight ticket." That meant that they didn't have to cast their ballot for each individual candidate; they could simply pull one lever that caused their vote to go to every Democrat running for office. In

those days, a man could be inept or even a complete crook, but if he ran on the Democratic ticket, he would be chosen—in the *Democratic Party*. In the same way, you and I were as crooked as they come, spiritually speaking, but we were chosen by God in Christ when we believed on Him.



John was not the only one who loved this elect lady in the truth, for as he says here, “all they that have known the truth” felt the same way. You’re probably thinking that if all the saints loved this lady, she must have been one lovable lady! We’re not so sure, however, for John goes on to explain that everyone loved this lady...

**“For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever” (II John 1:2).**

This suggests that there were probably things about this lady that the saints found unlovable, but they chose to love her “for the truth’s sake.” This is something to keep in mind when you find

yourself thinking, “Why should I love an unlovable believer like Jim?” If you can’t think of a reason to love a member of the Body of Christ for his own sake, *love him for the truth’s sake!* It hurts the truth when we don’t love one another, and it *helps* the truth when we do. That is, it is a poor testimony when the lost see us squabbling amongst ourselves, but it is a strong, inviting testimony when they see us walking in love. Even the world knows that the people claiming to be of God should not always be at one another’s throats. Unbelievers are repelled from the faith when they witness such animosity, but they are attracted to the faith when they see us expressing genuine love and concern for one another.

By the way, the truth is also the criterion by which you should choose where you go to church. Many believers choose a church for the music program, the children’s clubs, or because the pastor is such a good speaker. We believe God would have you choose a church *for the truth’s sake*, since God is all about the truth, and He wants us to be like Him.

Speaking of the truth, John tells this elect lady, and the Hebrew kingdom saints who read this epistle after it became part of God’s Word, that the truth “dwelleth in us.” Like John’s first epistle, II John is written to New Covenant believers, and under the terms of the New Covenant, God vowed to write the truth of His law in their hearts (Jer. 31:33). This vow came to fruition at Pentecost, and these are the saints to whom John is writing about the truth “which dwelleth in us.”

Because of the “unction” they had from the Holy One (I John 2:20), however, the truth was in them in such a way that it is not in us today. The word *unction* is translated *anointing* later in John’s first epistle (2:27), where we learn that the truth was in them in such a way that they didn’t need anyone to teach them further truth, something that cannot be said of any believer today.

But John knew that the truth would not be in them in this way forever. After Israel stoned Stephen, John knew his readers would eventually lose the anointing they had received and the truth would no longer dwell in them in this supernatural way. That’s why he speaks here of the truth “which dwelleth *in* us, and shall be *with* us for ever.” This statement suggests that John knew that the truth would not continue to indwell them in this miraculous way, so he comforts them with the knowledge that they would never lose the truth altogether. We might compare this to how the Lord predicted that the Spirit that was *with* the little flock would one day be *in* them (John 14:17). Similarly, he here says to these Spirit-filled believers that the truth that was *in* them wouldn’t always be in them in this supernatural way, but it would always be *with* them.

We feel that one of the reasons John mentions that the Word would be with them forever is to draw a contrast to some *people* who had chosen *not* to be with them. You may remember from our study of John’s first epistle that there were those who had not continued with the little flock

(I John 2:19), prompting John to assure his readers here that while *people* might not always be with them, *the truth of God’s Word* would always be with them.

Have you ever been deserted by friends or family members that you never dreamed would bid you good-bye? If so, we trust John’s words here are especially encouraging to you. If you’ve not yet experienced this kind of heartache, we urge you to saturate your life with the truth of God’s Word *now*, so that if loved ones *do* forsake you, and the bottom drops out of your world, you’ll be found standing firmly on the solid foundation of the eternal Word of God.

**“Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love” (II John 1:3).**

Believers who know that we are living in “the dispensation of the grace of God” that was given to Paul (Eph. 3:2) are often confused when they read other Bible writers offering grace to their readers. But as grace pioneer Pastor J. C. O’Hair used to say, there’s a big difference between grace in a dispensation and the dispensation of grace! After all, even Noah “found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen. 6:8) long before the dispensation of grace began with Paul. There is no salvation outside of God’s grace in *any* dispensation, so don’t be confused by references to the word *grace* in the non-Pauline books of the Bible.

When John and others of the twelve apostles wrote about grace, they spoke about prophesied grace (I Pet. 1:10), i.e., grace that was predicted by the Old Testament

prophets (Zech. 12:10). This kind of grace began to be poured out on John's readers at Pentecost, and is the grace of which John speaks of here. Paul, on the other hand, spoke about *unpromised* grace (Eph. 3:2-5,8), grace about which the prophets knew nothing whatsoever, for the dispensation of this grace was a mystery that was "hid from ages and from generations" (Col. 1:25,26).


*"Why would men who  
were apostles introduce  
themselves as elders?"*

John offered grace to these Hebrew kingdom saints who *stood* in grace (I Pet. 5:12) because they needed to be *established* in grace (Heb. 13:9) and to *grow* in grace (II Pet. 3:18). He likewise extends *mercy* to these ones who had already "obtained mercy" (I Pet. 2:10), knowing that they stood in need to obtain even more mercy (Heb. 4:16), the kind that would enable them to patiently endure the Job-like trials of the Tribulation (James 5:10,11) that was scheduled to come in John's day. In the same vein, John here tenders *peace* to these ones who had already received peace from the Lord (John 14:27), but who "might have peace" *in their hearts*, amid a world of tribulation, if they would just remember the words that He had spoken (16:33).

The "peace" that John offers here is something that you cannot fully appreciate unless you have known war or unrest. We know

that John's 1st Century readers were already experiencing persecution (cf. I John 3:13), persecution that would have led into the Tribulation had the dispensation of grace not put God's prophetic program "on hold," as it were.

When the Tribulation finally does come, Antichrist "shall come in peaceably" (Dan. 11:21), accompanied by false prophets that will be proclaiming "Peace, peace," as they did in Jeremiah's day (Jer. 6:14; 14:13,14) when true prophets like Jeremiah were warning Israel about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar, a type of the antichrist. Tribulation believers who know their Bible will know better than to believe antichrist's promise of peace. They will instead look for the peace that comes, as John says here in II John 1:3, "from God the Father," the *multiplied* peace (I Pet. 1:2; II Pet. 1:2; Jude 1:2) that the Lord exemplified when He slept peacefully amidst a violent storm (Matt. 8:24), in full trust of His Father's love and care, to teach them that they too could know His peace during the coming storm of Tribulation (John 16:33).

While the Pre-Trib Rapture ensures that members of the Body of Christ will not enter the war zone of the Tribulation, perhaps you are engulfed in a war zone all your own. If you are engaged in a battle with your boss, your spouse, a difficult neighbor, or any other kind of struggle, aren't you glad that our apostle Paul opens every one of his epistles with an offer of peace, the "peace of God" that comes when we learn to make our requests known unto God, and then leave all of our troubles with Him (Phil. 4:6,7). 



# God's Delight

By Pastor John Frederickson

We delight in the embrace of a child, the gathering of family, even in things and hobbies. But what delights the heart of God? In Proverbs 15:8 we learn, "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but **the prayer of the upright is His delight.**" When the lost seek to worship or give to the Lord apart from saving faith in Christ, in effect, on their own terms, it cannot please the Lord. Oh, but when God's redeemed children come to Him in the praise and dependence of prayer, it is His delight. He created us for fellowship with Him. He longs for your relationship with Him to be vibrant and consistent. Each of us can delight the heart of God by daily making time to be with Him in prayer and in the study of God's Word.

## Grace Bible Fellowship Conference

**Location:** *Grace Bible Fellowship*  
4979 E. Arbor Street, Inverness, Florida

**Dates:** March 2-3, 2013

**Guest Speaker:**

Pastor Kevin Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*

For additional information, please contact:  
Pastor John Frederickson at (407) 952-0510  
or email: [jrfgrace@gmail.com](mailto:jrfgrace@gmail.com)

***Come for a great time of fellowship  
around God's Word, rightly divided!***



# NOW IS THE TIME

## *Our Narrowing Window of Opportunity in Global Missions*

By Patrick D. Kilgo



Patrick and Michelle Kilgo have been accepted by *Things to Come Mission* as missionary candidates. They live in Slinger, WI with their four children, as Pat is training at *Berean Bible Institute*.

Hudson Taylor, the famous 19th Century missionary to China, once shared his mission's progress in a British church while home on furlough. Taylor had specified in advance that he would accept no money from the church during the visit. However, after stirring the hearts of the congregation with his message, the church leadership decided they could not in good conscience allow Taylor to leave without an offering. Hudson Taylor quickly regained the podium and clarified his position concerning offerings:

“My wish is not that members of the audience should be relieved of making such contribution as might now be convenient, under the influence of emotion, but that each one should go home burdened with the deep need of China, and ask God what He would have them to do. If after thought and prayer, they are satisfied that a gift of money is what He wants of them, it can be given to any missionary society.... But in many cases what God wants is not a money contribution but *personal consecration* to His service abroad; or the giving up of a son or daughter—more precious than silver or gold—to His service. I think a collection tends to leave the impression that the all-important thing is money, whereas no amount of money can convert a single soul. What is needed is that men and women filled with the Holy Ghost should give *themselves* to the work. There will never be a shortage of funds for the support of such people.”<sup>1</sup>

Taylor had the attention of England when its passion for world missions was at its peak. God used him powerfully as an instrument for action, inspiring hundreds of people to become missionaries. These men and women left the comfort and conveniences of England to follow Taylor to China. The Christians who supported them recognized that England, because of its wealth and prominence, was uniquely equipped to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to the rest of the globe.

Today, over 100 years after Taylor's death, England finds itself in a deep spiritual vacuum. Evangelical Christians now represent only a tiny percentage of the population. According to surveys, more than half of British citizens identify themselves as having "No Religion." Christianity is all but vanquished in Britain, only a few generations after the country's evangelistic zeal took the gospel to the farthest corners of the world.

Be honest with yourself. Is America taking a different spiritual path than England did? Surely we are not. Evidence suggests that Christianity has already climaxed in America. Some believe we are living in the "post-Christian" era with a high likelihood that Christianity in America will similarly fade into obscurity in the coming generations.

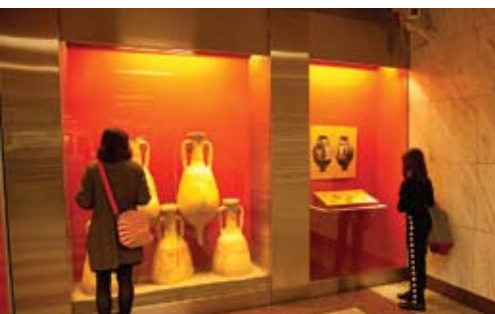
### **Now Is the Time for Personal Action**

What this means for world outreach is that we have a narrow window of opportunity to be the best ambassadors for Christ that we can possibly be. With our material wealth and influence in the world, American believers have the means to make a lasting impact for Christ elsewhere in the world. The nations are still ripe for harvesting, and American believers have the resources to act, but it will take an investment of *ourselves* to make it happen (2 Cor. 8:5). A wise investor once said, "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." Our "tree" is the gospel of the grace of God, which says that all people everywhere can be saved by placing their faith in the finished cross-work of Jesus Christ. This message has been "planted" in countries all over the world—Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines, Kenya, Brazil, Tanzania, Costa Rica, and dozens of other places. Indeed, there is tremendous excitement about the grace message in other countries and they are now working hard to spread the gospel. Because of the *personal investment* of grace missionaries and their supporters, many millions of people now rest in the security of Christ and will spend eternity with Him.

These circumstances demand that we **act** with a sense of urgency (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5). When studying the book of Acts, the reader gets the impression that Paul never rested, that he never wasted a minute of time in carrying the gospel to others (the fact that the book is called "Acts" speaks to this). His burden for the lost propelled him forward. With drive and efficiency, Paul was able to take Christ's message to

dozens of cultures spread across thousands of miles. Paul left behind the motives and the methods to do cross-cultural evangelism; all we lack today are the ministers!

Mission work is a message plus a movement; the message without the movement will result in the death of the message. If we are to maximize our opportunity to reach the world with the gospel, we must *personally* respond to grace with action. Too often we study God's grace and are thankful for it but we don't share it with others.



We must stop approaching grace like it's an artifact in a glass case at a museum—something to be observed, protected, cherished, and admired but never moved! The out-working of the knowledge of grace is supposed to be action. God acted on our behalf by sending His Son to die for us. As ambassadors, we return His favor by *acting* on His behalf (2 Cor. 5:18-20; 1 John 4:9-11).

Acting according to God's perfect will returns dividends both on earth and in eternity. It strengthens families and communities. It brings people out of the bondage of religion, tradition, and secularism into fellowship with the Creator of the universe. In many societies where there was war and unrest, the gospel has ministered peace and lasting order. But the gospel won't spread itself as the Apostle Paul reminds us: *"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"* (Rom. 10:14).

### The New Missionary

Sometimes when Christians think of mission work, they imagine cutting through dense jungles, living in huts, learning tribal languages, battling disease and sacrificing without the comforts of home. While certainly these elements can exist, technological advancement has changed mission work. The changing world has changed the demands historically placed on missionaries. The majority of missionaries today have easy access to food, health care, communication, and other conveniences. One missionary related how he recently checked his email in the middle of the rice paddy in Cambodia!

This ever-changing environment now allows for different skill-sets among missionaries. Instead of scouting skills, modern missionaries often need media training, computer skills, networking abilities, and even professional degrees to carry out their ministry. Some mission fields are "closed," meaning that missionaries are not allowed to operate officially in that country. Thus, "tent-making" missionaries enter closed countries as business professionals with valid work visas and minister


in this manner. This still requires 100% dedication to the goals of the mission, but the role and ministry methods are more diverse. Some missionary characteristics will always be needed—trustworthiness, openness, flexibility, patience, and the ability to teach sound doctrine. However, other needed skills are ones that you might already possess but hadn't thought of as "mission skills." With proper preparation, there is a place for almost any believer on the mission field!

## Will You Consider Mission Work?

Perhaps you have never considered yourself "mission material." There might even be legitimate barriers in your life that are stopping you from considering mission work. Few missionaries would tell you that the road is easy! You may have an unsupportive family, no training, health issues, or financial debt. However, if you will *personally consecrate* yourself to His service abroad, God will work in your situation and use you powerfully. If you want to do something with eternal value for people, many of whom have never even heard of Jesus Christ, mission work allows you to leave behind a spiritual legacy that will last for generations. All of our material possessions will someday be dust; only those things done for Christ will last.

To be sure, we also need people praying and supporting missionaries just as badly as we need missionaries. The Apostle Paul taught the team method for all ministry. But the amenable climate that currently exists to send missionaries to other parts of the world is waning fast. You might object that our declining domestic spirituality means we should focus our efforts here and not abroad. Certainly America needs ministers too. But next time you drive to the grocery store, count how many Christian churches you pass. That number for a large proportion of the world's population is zero. Praise God that we Americans have some choices! May God stir the hearts of His people to ensure that other countries have this opportunity.

Once, while discussing the future of Christianity in America, Joe Watkins, a pioneering grace missionary, said to me, "You're a fisherman. What do you do when you're fishing a spot and the fish stop biting?" "I change spots," I replied. He looked at me, smiled and simply said, "Exactly."

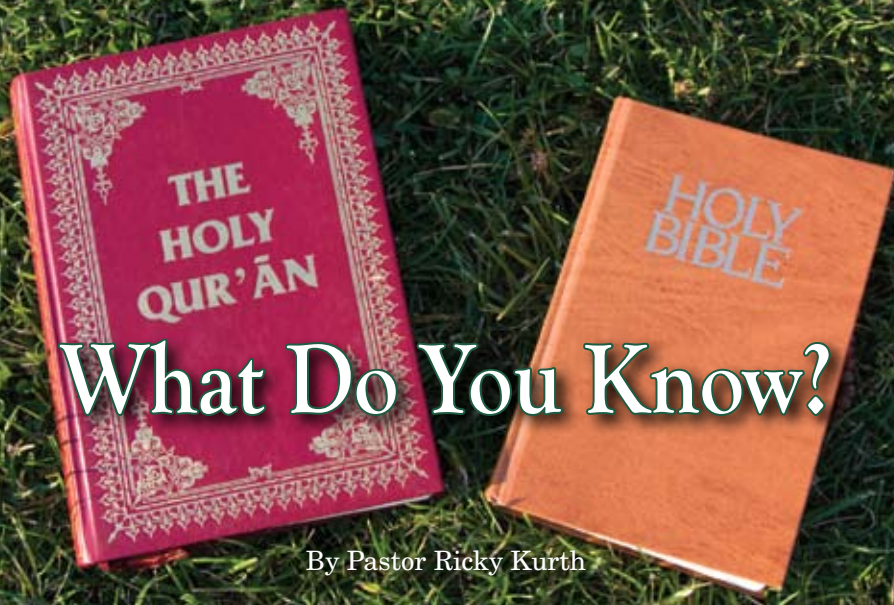


"...the message without the movement will result in the death of the message."

## Endnote

1. *J. Hudson Taylor, A Man in Christ*, by Roger Steer, published by Overseas Missionary Fellowship, pgs. 176,177.





# What Do You Know?

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

**W**hat do you know about the Muslim faith? How about Hinduism? Are you familiar with the teachings of Buddha or Confucius?

If you have to confess that you know nothing about these faiths, you might be feeling a little guilty that you haven't taken the time to become at least nominally familiar with the teachings of these major world religions, especially since it is often being taught these days that in order to witness effectively to a Muslim that it is important to know something about what he believes.

We personally believe that this is not sound thinking. We can't think of anyplace where God told the people of Israel to familiarize themselves with the false religions of the nations around them. We believe we see quite the opposite, as a matter of fact. Consider what Jeremiah commanded God's people in His day:

***"Learn not the way of the heathen..." (Jer. 10:2).***

If you are wondering *why* he would give this sound advice, we believe the answer is found in the warning that Moses gave Israel concerning the heathen nations all about them:

***"Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them... and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise" (Deut. 12:30).***


God knew that *studying* false religions often leads to *converting* to false religions, which is exactly what happened. We read that God's favored nation "were mingled among the heathen, *and learned their works*," and so ended up serving their idols (Psa. 106:35,36), despite the warning of God to Moses to "make no mention of the name of other gods" (Ex. 23:13 cf. Josh. 23:7; Psa. 16:4). In the coming kingdom of



heaven on earth, God said of Israel that “I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, *and they shall no more be remembered by their name*” (Hos. 2:17). The complete absence of even the *mention* of false religions is part of what will make it heaven on earth!

When this writer first became a pastor 34 years ago, we didn’t know much about the cults and world religions, and so we studied them and taught our people all about them. Eventually, however, we began to see the wisdom of grace pioneer Pastor Win Johnson, who never taught these things in his church, saying, “If you know the truth, you won’t be fooled by error.” The Lord never taught the twelve about false religions, and Paul never instructs us to follow this path either, so we determined a long time ago to *just teach the Bible*. Paul says that if we know the Scriptures we are “thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Tim. 3:16,17). That is, with God’s Word we are thoroughly equipped to serve Him in all good works, and that would include the good work of sharing the gospel with those of other faiths. No wonder Paul cautioned the Romans, “I would have you wise unto that which is good, *and simple concerning evil*” (Rom. 16:19). It should not be overlooked that he said this in the context of men who were teaching things “contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned” (v. 17), as men of other religions do.

Studies of cults and other religions are often presented under the premise of examining these faiths to compare what they teach to what the Bible teaches so as to equip the believer to be able to show the adherents of these religions where they are wrong according to the Scriptures. We personally have found that attacking someone’s beliefs only serves to make them defensive at best, and at worst has the effect of waving a red flag in front of a bull! By comparison, we often counsel grace believers that the way to approach a Baptist with the grace message is not to touch the “sacred cow” of his faith by attacking water baptism, and the way to share our message with a charismatic believer is not to begin by attacking tongues or healing or the other gifts that make up the apple of his eye. The best results are achieved by showing them how to rightly divide the Word of truth, a principle which, once learned, will always lead these brethren to see the errors of their convictions. In the same way, if the gospel is “the power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16), let’s use it to win the lost no matter what background from which they hail.

These words are not penned as a criticism of those who hold that we must know something about the religions of unbelievers in order to be able to win them. We certainly respect their conviction. These words are rather written to express this pastor’s heart’s desire to see God’s people take the time that they would otherwise spend studying false religions and use it to *just study the Book* that God has magnified above even His own name (Psa. 138:2), the eternal Word of God. 



# The Value of Afflictions

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

When I was a boy, a popular way to insult a classmate was to say, “When God was handing out brains, that kid thought He said ‘pains,’ and hid behind the door.” Let’s face it, none of us likes to suffer pain, afflictions, or tribulations! Because of this, God’s people can often be found on their knees behind the door, asking God to shield them from these unpleasant things, or remove them once they become part of their lives.

And yet the overwhelming testimony of Scripture is that afflictions are *good for us!* Consider just this small smattering of verses that describe the spiritual value of afflictions:

**“And when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers” (II Chron. 33:12).**

**“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Thy Word....It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes” (Psa. 119:67,71).**

When God’s people are *not* afflicted, they tend to forget Him. Speaking of the people of Israel, God said,

**“...when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery” (Jer. 5:7).**

**“According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten Me” (Hos. 13:6).**

Speaking of God and Jeshurun (Israel), Moses said,

**“He made him...eat the increase of the fields...suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs.... But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked...then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation” (Deut. 32:13-15).**

When God speaks to us in the *absence* of afflictions, we tend not to listen:

**“I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but thou saidst, I will not hear” (Jer. 22:21).**

There’s just something about afflictions that draw us closer to God! No wonder Paul said, “we glory in tribulations” (Rom. 5:3), “knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope” (v. 4). Once we learn God’s grace is sufficient for all our needs, we can say with Paul:

**“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities...for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (II Cor. 12:9,10).**



## BBS Letter Excerpts

### From our Inbox:

"Some good answers here; I appreciate them. You know, I never saw that until you showed it to me this moment. Wow!"

### From Florida:

"I got my first copy of the *Berean Searchlight*. Wow! I finally found a source of theology with which I can agree. I am sure you are aware that the gospel of grace is not shared by most of the mainline denominations. Paul Sadler's *Key to Understanding the Scriptures* is right in line with my thesis that there are two gospels: the gospel of the kingdom and the gospel of grace, also referred to as Paul's gospel."

### From Illinois:

"Shortly after I started to consider this career move, your articles in the *Searchlight* about entering the ministry came out. They were part of the 'tipping point.'" (From a recently retired man wanting to train to become a grace pastor.—Ed).

### From North Carolina:

"I have been adding *Two Minutes* to my daily devotions for some time now. I have also read your website, including the testimony of Pastor Sadler. I would appreciate further comment on what is meant by 'the Word, rightly divided.' My son is a Berean, and has provided me with some of Stam's work....I will say you have given me an appreciation for Paul that I seldom find in my denomination."

### From Michigan:

"Thank you for your encouraging *Two Minute* messages. I enjoy them. May the Lord richly bless you even if and when they do step on my toes."

### From India:

"I am the pastor of a local church here in New Nashik. We have about 200 people in the church....Years ago I happened to see an article which you had written on the subject 'Now That I Believe,' and...in the second part there is something on baptism, and I have a question on that, and I will like you if possible to answer a few points on that subject. I have many new believers in the church and I want to help them grow in the Lord."

### From Virginia:

"Thank you very much for your insight! I will research some more on the topics. However, my main concern will be getting deeper into my Bible study and focusing more on rightly dividing the Word of truth."

### From Missouri:

"I sure like your gracious tone and helpful attitude. That's rare today...even in the Body of Christ." ("Gracious words" have always been rare and wondered at, but they are the Lord's way [Luke 4:22].—Ed).

### From Kenya:

"I love reading the *Searchlight*. My pastor has been giving me his copy after he has read it. I would appreciate getting my own copy."

### From Indiana:

"Even I could follow, see the logic of, and agree with the illumination you provided. I will not wander into such a subject again with such an 'I'm right' attitude. This walking in the Spirit drives one to pursue the truth in every verse, and when I see a seeming conflict, I just have to know the truth of the matter."

### From Texas:

"My wife and I loved Pastor Caslander. He was so 'mighty in the Scriptures,' but humble. As newlyweds, we were fortunate to hear him at various conferences we attended. As such, Pastor Caslander laid a foundation on the importance of the Word in our marriage and family." (A foundation we are still endeavoring to lay in marriages [see Page 5].—Ed).

### From Michigan:

"I thought about your testimony in the *Searchlight*, Pastor Sadler, when God first called you to the office of grace. I was so touched by your testimony, even when the devil tried to throw everything at you on that road, you did not give up. When Mr. Stam called you to the BBS, with all the experience that you had, in your own words, 'I quickly learned how much I didn't know and needed to learn.' I too need to learn more...."

### From Indiana:

"I ordered all the booklets from the *Berean Bible Society* back in 1997. I have read and reread all of them about 10 times, and every time I do, I discover something that in previous readings I skipped over lightly. And now that I am more mature, I begin to see these items as critical to putting the pieces of the puzzle together."

### From our Inbox:

"My dad was given a BBS tract entitled *The Ant and the Raven* probably 55 to 60 years ago. It made him begin to understand the grace message. We grew up in an area with no grace churches anywhere around, so the BBS literature and books were much appreciated." (*The Ant and the Raven* can still be read on our website.—Ed).

### From Indiana:

"Your articles helped to begin to answer, or shed light on, some lingering questions....Both articles, especially the one on 'the hardening of the heart,' made so much sense...."

### From the Philippines:

"I am now a third year student of IGBI Misamis Campus. I came from the dirty world, being a gangster leader and friend, but God called me. I love to study more with your books. I want to share and be effective more in God's ministry, thanks to your references and readings."

### From our Inbox:

"I just read this article by Pastor Stam...and it just amazes me how the Holy Spirit can inspire a person to give to a cause...I think we can give to people who are rightly dividing the Word of Truth."

### From Tennessee:

"A friend of mine asked me to put her name on the list to receive the *Berean Searchlight*....She is the first person I have talked to in a long time who has actually shown interest in learning how to 'rightly divide' the Bible. Thank you for all the literature you provide to help in this endeavor."



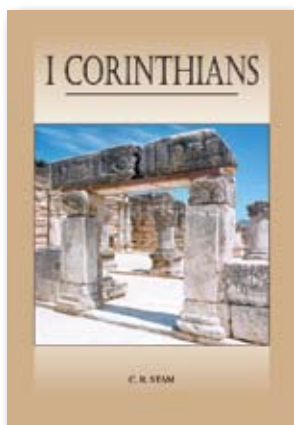
"These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."  
—Acts 17:11



# February Specials...

A month that is  
special for Valentines

The books of *I Corinthians*  
and *Ephesians* teach us to  
love one another, and more!



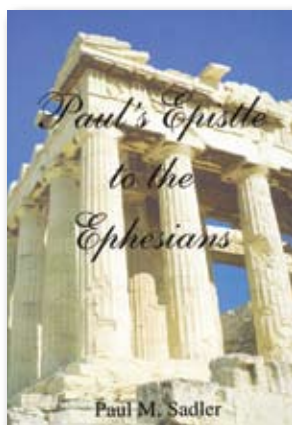
## **I Corinthians**

By Cornelius R. Stam

Like the Church today, the Corinthian believers were superficial in their perception of the truth, and unbelievably permissive in their moral conduct. Also, as a congregation they despised Paul's apostolic authority.

**HARDCOVER 336 PAGES**

***Special Price: \$11.00***



## **Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians**

By Paul M. Sadler

This volume is an expositional commentary that extensively explores both the riches of God's grace and the riches of His glory.

**HARDCOVER 400 PAGES**

***Special Price: \$15.00***

**THESE OFFERS END FEBRUARY 28, 2013**

*(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!*

**To order:** Call 262-255-4750 or visit [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org)



# FEBRUARY SPECIALS...

A month that is special for presidents

The books of *Romans* and *I Peter* teach us to honor our presidents, and more!

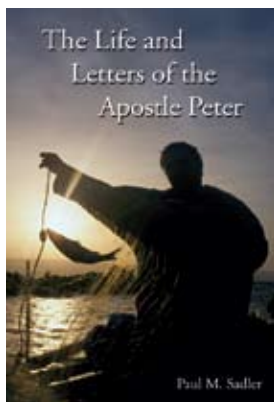
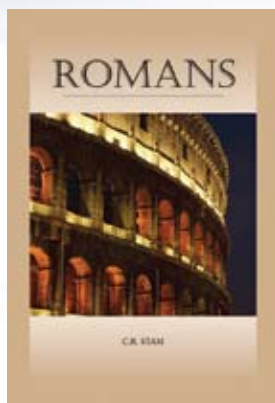
## Romans

By Cornelius R. Stam

Romans is one of the most profound, yet one of the most enlightening books of the Bible. Nowhere else in the Bible do we find the great doctrines of the Christian faith set forth so completely or systematically.

**HARDCOVER      452 PAGES**

***Special Price: \$15.00***



## The Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter

By Paul M. Sadler

This expositional commentary explores Biblical relationships, examines the old world that perished, and answers the question, "Did Peter and Paul preach the same gospel?"

**HARDCOVER      250 PAGES**

***Special Price: \$12.00***

**THESE OFFERS END FEBRUARY 28, 2013**

*(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!*



[www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org)





# News and Announcements

**Central Tennessee Bible Conference:** Pastor Vitis Bailey, and the warm and friendly saints to whom he ministers so faithfully, have invited your editor to speak at their annual spring Bible conference, April 12-14. Friday and Saturday's meetings will be held at the *Goodlettsville Church of the Nazarene*, with the brethren gathering for Sunday's meeting at their usual meeting place in the building located at 700 Old Hickory Boulevard in Madison, TN. To receive a free brochure and additional information, just call Pastor Bailey (270) 384-2731, or Patsy Davenport (615) 851-7490.

**Pennsylvania Powwow:** The annual spring Bible conference of the *Berean Grace Fellowship* of Lebanon will be held April 26-28, once again at Lebanon's *Kenbrook Retreat Center*. Speakers Joel McGarvey and Joe Torres will be rightly dividing the Word of truth, much to the delight of all who are able to set aside the cares of life just long enough to spend a weekend focusing on eternal things. Just direct the questions you are sure to have about this conference to Bill Schaeffer at [hitnmis@verizon.net](mailto:hitnmis@verizon.net), or call him at 717-949-3020.

**Pennsylvania Potential:** Our good friend Mark H. Sanford is interested in starting a home Bible study in Shiremanstown, and is hoping that all *Searchlight* readers in his vicinity will be interested in this as well. If you have been looking for a ministry that will emphasize the rightly dividing of God's Word, why not call him at 717-972-0064, and help him establish the next beachhead for the truth in the Keystone State. If you've been attending a church that doesn't rightly divide the Word because you have no options, this might be the opportunity you've been praying for.

**We can't provide Canadian donors with a receipt for tax purposes,** but *BBS Canada* can! That's what we recently had to tell a Canadian who sent us a contribution. We then went on to explain that, while literature orders should still be sent here, Canadian contributions must be sent to our good friends John & Debbie Peters, at 54940 Light Lane, R.R. #1, Vienna, Ontario N0J 1Z0.



Our cover photo was taken by John Ibbotson and sent to us by Earl Cameron. The *Ballina Head Light* is one of five, small, similarly designed towers constructed along the northern New South Wales coast in Australia. Built in 1866, the 25 foot tower is still an active light.

# PRICE LIST

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

### (Hardcover—Gold Stamped)

Acts, Dispensationally Considered, Vol. 1 (originally Vol. I & II) .....	\$21.50
Acts, Dispensationally Considered, Vol. 2 (originally Vol. III & IV) .....	\$21.50
Colossians (Commentary) .....	14.50
I Corinthians (Commentary) .....	12.50
II Corinthians (Commentary) .....	12.50
Divine Election and Human Responsibility .....	10.50
Galatians (Commentary) .....	14.50
Hebrews, Who Wrote It and Why? .....	10.50
Holding Fast the Faithful Word (w/Bible Index) .....	14.50
Man, His Nature and Destiny .....	12.50
Memoirs of Pastor Cornelius R. Stam, The .....	13.50
Pastoral Epistles (Commentary) .....	12.50
Paul, His Apostleship and Message (w/Bible Index) .....	11.50
Romans (Commentary) .....	16.50
Sermon on the Mount, The .....	10.50
Suggestions for Young Pastors .....	10.50
Thessalonians (Commentary) .....	11.50
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index) .....	13.50
True Spirituality (w/Bible Index) .....	11.50

### Paperbacks

Baptism and the Bible .....	\$9.00
Lord's Supper and the Bible, The .....	7.00
Moses and Paul (w/Bible Index) .....	7.00
No Other Doctrine .....	9.00
Our Great Commission (w/Bible Index) .....	9.00
Satan in Derision .....	9.00
Things That Differ, English or Spanish (w/Bible Index) .....	10.00
Two Minutes with the Bible .....	11.00
Twofold Purpose of God, The (w/Bible Index) .....	7.00

## WRITINGS BY PAUL M. SADLER—PRESIDENT

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	\$12.50
Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter, The (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	13.50
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	16.50
Paul's Epistle to the Philippians (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	12.00
Revelation, Volume 1 (Hardcover) .....	12.50
Studies in James (Paperback, w/Bible Index) .....	10.00
Triumph of His Grace, The (HC, w/Bible Index) .....	13.50
According to the Scriptures (Booklet) .....	2.00
Are You Secure? (Booklet) .....	2.00
Historical Beginning of the Church, The (Booklet) .....	3.00
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
Trials and Temptations (Booklet) .....	2.00
Uncertain Trumpet of Water Baptism, The (Booklet) .....	2.00

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

PERIODICALS  
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI  
AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES

**In light of Washington's birthday...**

**"It is impossible to rightly govern a  
nation without God and the Bible."**

**—George Washington**