

# *The* BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

February 2014



Feature Article

The Winds of Change, *by Paul M. Sadler* .....5

Articles

Are We in the Last Days?, *by Ricky Kurth* .....13

The Scriptures of the Prophets, *by Dave Stewart* .....19

Does Christ Dwell in Your Heart?, *by Ken Lawson*.....23

Departments

A New Birth .....4

What We Need.....18

Question Box.....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* the Christian life, and to *encourage* the local church.

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Editor: Ricky L. Kurth — Graphic Design: Kevin J. Sadler

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**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)

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# From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

The other day I received an email from our good friend Antonio Kesler, who lives in the Netherlands.

He very graciously pointed out that a link to the simple plan of salvation wasn't displayed on our BBS website nearly as prominently as it used to be. After a quick check confirmed that he was right, we notified BBS webmaster Richard Church, who promptly took steps to ensure that anyone visiting [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org) wouldn't have to look very hard to learn how easy God has made it to be saved from their sins.

This got me to thinking about how much we depend on our readers to help us in all areas of the ministry, and not just as we work out the bugs in our newly designed website. Why, just last night, BBS proofreader Charlie Fouché emailed me to point out a grammatical error in Pastor Stam's book *Things That Differ*, our best-selling title, something he found just in his own personal reading. If your personal reading of our literature leads you to similar errors, why not help us "adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things" by letting us know about it.

We also like to hear from you about new ideas for the ministry. Not long ago we began to hear from our readers about the possibility of making our books available as ebooks, and our board of directors was quick to recognize this wave of the future, and we didn't want to be left behind on the shore in this fresh area of ministry. We went right to work on this suggestion and now have a number of our titles available as ebooks, with more on the way.

You should know that our board of directors has occasional brainstorming sessions dedicated solely to coming up with new ideas for the ministry. They also look to the staff here at BBS for additional ideas, and we in turn try to be responsive to the good-spirited suggestions that we receive from you, our readers.

So, if you ever find yourself thinking, "Why doesn't *Berean Bible Society* do this..." or "BBS's website would be so much better if..." don't be shy about getting in touch with us. No one can catch all the mistakes in any book or internet article, and no one can think of all the avenues through which we can continue to reach out to the lost and confused multitudes all about us with what Pastor Stam used to call *the wonderful gospel of the wonderful grace of God!*

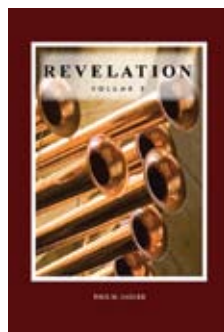


Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Ricky Kurth

# A New Birth

A newborn is always welcome news, accompanied by overjoyed parents, family, and friends eager to hold the precious little bundle. My wife and I have had the blessing of welcoming three children and six grandchildren into the world, each one as different as a snowflake.

The same can be said of an author. He labors over the work painstakingly, writing and rewriting, tossing and turning until the projected due date. The labor pains finally give way to the birth of a new commentary. Authors usually respond to that day like new parents. In my case, *Revelation Volume 2* is the ninth book I've had the privilege of authoring, each one covering a different subject. But they all have one thing in common: they are all written from the standpoint of the Word rightly divided.



While the world can hardly contain the volumes that have been written on the Book of Revelation, very few have been written in light of Paul's apostleship and message. But an understanding of Paul's gospel is absolutely imperative to the proper interpretation of the Apocalypse.

I state in the Introduction of *Revelation Volume 2*: "We are going to pick up where we left off in Volume 1 by answering the question asked by the kings of the earth at the end of Revelation Chapter 6: 'For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?' The answer to this earnest inquiry will mark a major turning point in God's dealings with mankind. We are about to enter into an analysis of the mid-part of the Tribulation, called the Great Tribulation.

"My research and subsequent commentary on Chapters 7 through 13 of the Book of Revelation have left me with a heavy heart for those who will be left behind after the Rapture of the Church. If we could only get the world to understand that a whirlwind of judgment awaits them unless they flee without delay to the foot of the Cross to escape the wrath to come. But due to their hard and impenitent hearts, they are going to behold terrifying sights and deafening sounds that will make even the strongest of men tremble."

It is with joy, as a new father, that I officially announce the arrival of *Revelation Volume 2* to our collection of works (See page 28). May this volume help you grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ to the praise of His glory!

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



# *The Winds of Change*

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

Let's be honest, we don't like change. It leaves us with an unsettling feeling when we have to learn a new, unfamiliar way of doing things. This is especially true as we grow older. We would rather go down kicking and screaming than change.

When I came to the *Berean Bible Society*, I was the first to introduce computers to the staff. The secretaries were all using IBM Selectric typewriters, which back in their day were cutting edge technology. But I could clearly see that the wave of the future was the computer. In fact, it had already gained a prominent corner in the marketplace. A very wise professor in Bible school once told me, "Never be the first to put on the new, nor the last to put away the old." The same is true of the business side of the Lord's work.

Everything at the office was labor intensive at that time, down to the names and addresses of those on the *Searchlight* mailing

list having to be stamped on individual metal plates. They were then placed in a stamping machine to print the addresses on the *Searchlight*, which took two employees to operate. I could foresee that a computerized digital database would cut the time of this process dramatically, plus free up one of the two operators for another area of ministry.

Our dear Brother, Dick Hunt, who's now with the Lord, was our typesetter in those days. Dick had taken an early retirement from *Donnelly* where he typeset telephone books through a process that was known as hot lead. It was extremely labor intensive and very tedious. So when Dick came to BBS and began working with our Linocomp machine, where he merely had to develop film to produce a master of the *Searchlight* for the printer, he thought he had died and gone to Heaven. But the Linocomp was already a white elephant when I arrived on

the scene. One of the problems it posed was that when Pastor Stam and I had to make a change to the text of the *Searchlight*, Dick would have to develop new film for that line and *literally* “cut” and “paste” the text into the original format.

I remember the day, as if it were yesterday, when I sat down with Dick to let him know that we were going to computerize his workstation. I shared with him that he not only would have to learn how to operate a computer, but also master a complicated electronic typesetting program called *QuarkXPress*.

Dick turned pale when I told him, having heard rumors of the coming changes on the horizon; what he didn't realize was that it was going to be so soon. He had already convinced himself he would never be able to master such a bold initiative. Dick always had a great attitude and once he recovered from the initial shock, he laughed and said, “You know, Pastor Sadler, you can't teach an old dog new tricks.” I responded, “For the most part, that's true, Dick, but you're not a dog, you're a man who's created in the image of God; therefore, unlike the dog, you have the capacity to reason and learn new things.”

Within two months he had both the computer and the program mastered. He thanked me numerous times for introducing him to the computer, and on one occasion added, “It has changed my way of looking at things.” In fact, he was so excited about his newfound knowledge that he purchased a personal computer for him and his wife, Dee, to use at home. You see, when someone says, they can't

learn something new, what they really mean is they fear change. But change is inevitable! In the Acts record, God implemented an unexpected change that many believers to this very day either fail to see or refuse to accept. Nevertheless, this in no way alters God's purpose to make known the riches of His grace among the Gentiles.

### THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

**“And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the Word of God.”**  
—Acts 13:6,7

When the church at Antioch sent the Apostle Paul out on his first apostolic journey, we are introduced to a major turning point in the transition period that began with Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus and continued through Acts 28. The thirty years that the transition covered was confusing for many living at that time, and, sadly, it is still confusing for many today. However, it was necessary so that all could see, especially Israel, that God was gradually turning away from her in favor of a ministry among the Gentiles.

This means that God's prophetic program and the Mystery ran side by side during this thirty-year period after the conversion of Paul. Those saved under the gospel of the Kingdom would have been saved into the Kingdom, which explains why Peter confined



his ministry to Israel after the Jerusalem Council (Gal. 2:7-9). Paul, on the other hand, went to the Gentiles with the gospel of the grace of God. Thus those saved under Paul's terms of salvation whether Jew or Gentile, were saved into the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 2:7-9). During this time the light of Israel began to grow dimmer as the Spirit of God removed His blessing from the Kingdom program. Before long their number became fixed; consequently, those Kingdom saints died with the hope of receiving the prophetic promises in the first resurrection at the Second Coming of Christ. This is the theme of the Apostle Peter's epistles when he wrote to his countrymen to explain the delay of the promise of His coming (II Pet. 3:3-13,15,16).



While Israel's influence was diminishing in those days, the light of Paul's gospel grew brighter and brighter as he preached the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles, which is also our responsibility. As Paul conducted his apostolic journeys, we learn from the Acts record that there was a twofold purpose for his ministry. First, after 2,000 years of the longsuffering of God with the chosen nation, the apostle revealed to Israel that God was turning

aside from using her any longer nationally. The account here in Acts 13 regarding Barjesus, a Jew, also known as Elymas, is representative of this very thing. Second, Paul was faithfully taking the gospel of grace to the Gentiles, which is represented in the narrative by the Roman Proconsul, Sergius Paulus.

The Book of Acts is the last book of types in the New Testament. A type is merely the Spirit of God speaking to us in the format of an image to help us see the whole picture of what was transpiring at the time. We are to understand, as noted, that Barjesus, who was a Jew, represents Israel nationally. He is also said to be a sorcerer and a false prophet; this gives us some idea as to the spiritual state of the chosen nation in those days. The fact that he is a sorcerer is very telling in that the original language identifies him as a *magi*, meaning that he held one or more of three official positions: a wise man, a scientist, or a magician. It was quite common in biblical times for a ruler like Sergius Paulus to surround himself with wise men (Dan. 2:2,12). But this particular wise man was a tool of Satan to oppose the spread of the revelation of the Mystery, and keep the deputy from coming to Christ. Apparently, Paul's reputation and ministry among the Gentiles had preceded him to Paphos where Sergius Paulus, a Gentile, called Barnabas and Saul to himself to hear the Word of God.

**“But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith” (Acts 13:8).**

This is one of many examples of how the Jewish religious leaders opposed the spread of Paul's gospel. They went from town to town, and city to city to cause confusion in the ranks of the Gentiles that they might not be saved. In their mind, the Gentiles were unworthy of salvation apart from Israel. Rather than rejoicing that the Gentiles were being saved, they were *jealous*.

### THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF JEALOUSY

It has been said, "In jealousy there is more of self-love than love." Jealousy is an age-old sin that dates back to Cain and Abel, and occurs when someone loves something more than life itself, only to realize that they may be in danger of losing control of it. This something may be a position, relationship, or possessions. Jealousy is the selfish pursuit to embrace what they deem to be rightfully theirs when they feel it is slipping away from their grasp into the hands of another. It reasons, if



I'm not the center of attention or sole beneficiary, I'll see to it that no one else is, no matter what the cost to those involved.

Jealousy is like a burning fire in the soul, leaving its victims consumed with suspicion, resentment, and hatred. It deplores the

success or acknowledgment of others and will ruthlessly destroy the fellowship among believers in the local assembly. Solomon clearly states, "For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance" (Prov. 6:34). In other words, he will retaliate unmercifully if given the opportunity.

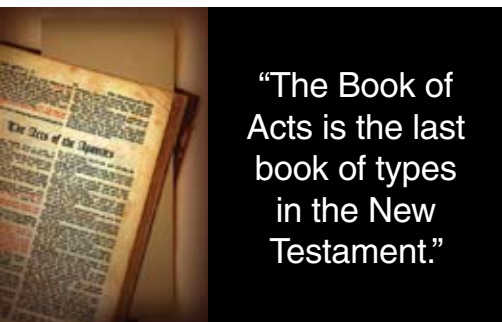
Elymas is a classic case in point. He had been a trusted advisor of the Roman Proconsul, Sergius Paulus for many years. But when the Apostle Paul opened the Scriptures to this Gentile, Elymas became *jealous*, fearing he might lose his position in the governor's court. Consequently, with evil intent, the sorcerer withstood the message Paul was proclaiming hoping to turn Sergius Paulus from the gospel. The dark side of jealousy would rather send a lost soul into eternal condemnation than relinquish its authority. But a broader meaning comes into the account here. Barjesus/Elymas as a representative of the chosen people should have been a shining light to Sergius Paulus pointing him to the Light of the world. Instead his heart was full of darkness, having wandered far from the presence of God.

**"Then Saul, (who also is called Paul), filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him" (Acts 13:9).**

Paul staring down Elymas is another way of saying he looked right through him, as it were, and knew exactly the ill-intent of his motives. Notice that this passage does not say that Saul's name was changed to Paul; it clearly says, "who *also* is called Paul." Those who lived outside the land of Palestine always gave their children



two names when they circumcised them on the eighth day. Seeing that Saul's father was a Pharisee, the family would have had a fervent spirit of Jewish nationalism, thus they named their son, Saul. This was his Hebrew name, probably given to him in honor of King Saul who was also a Benjaminite (I Sam. 9:21 cf. Phil. 3:5). But remember that prior to Paul's birth, his family had settled in Tarsus, a Gentile province of the Roman Empire. This meant that Paul was born and reared in a Gentile culture, which helps us to understand why his parents gave him the Greek name, Paul.



**"The Book of Acts is the last book of types in the New Testament."**

Those who believe Saul's name in this passage was changed to Paul teach that this marked the beginning of the Church, the Body of Christ, to which we respectfully disagree. *Paul* was his given name at birth, as we have noted. We believe Paul's ministry to the Gentiles began at his conversion on the road to Damascus (Acts 26:16,17; I Tim. 1:16). This is substantiated by the fact that he had Gentile converts long before his first apostolic journey here in Acts 13 (Acts 15:23). We do agree though that Acts 13 is a major turning point in Paul's ministry when he was sent out by the Gentile

assembly at Antioch (Syria) on his first apostolic journey. Since the scope of Paul's ministry was now to be worldwide (i.e. known world of that day) the Holy Spirit places a special emphasis on his Gentile name, Paul, as he ministers the Word of God to Sergius Paulus, and confronts his Hebrew archenemy who tries to hinder his ministry that is being expanded to the regions beyond. This shift in emphasis is seen in this very narrative. Take note that when they arrived at Paphos that Barnabas is mentioned first in Acts 13:7, followed by the name Saul/Paul. However, when they leave the city Luke reverses the order, "Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos" (Acts 13:13).

### **THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY**

**"And said [i.e., Paul], O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" (Acts 13:10).**

Being under the control of the Holy Spirit, Paul had the gift of discerning spirits. This gave him the ability to peer into the heart of Elymas and expose him to be a child of the devil, who would like nothing more than to put an end to Paul's ministry. Everywhere the Apostle Paul traveled he was met with similar opposition of his own countrymen, especially among the leaders of the chosen nation who were green with envy. We see exactly how *envious* they were in Paul's letter to those at Thessalonica. The apostle writes, "forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins away: for the

wrath is come upon them to the uttermost” (I Thes. 2:16).

In addition to rejecting their Messiah, the Jewish leaders heaped further wrath upon themselves by hindering the gospel of salvation from going to the Gentiles. Because of the darkness of Israel’s heart, she had become an instrument in Satan’s hand. Elymas is a prime example of the unrighteous ways of the nation.

Today God has turned His attention to the Gentiles through whom He is making known the riches of His grace to a world of lost sinners. We must, therefore, guard against having an attitude of indifference toward those who are yet outside of Christ. We are now the shining light to the unsaved, guiding sinners to the Light of the world, or at least we should be. We need to pray that God will grant us a special measure of grace to never follow in the unrighteous footsteps of Israel, lest we too be cut off.

**“And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand” (Acts 13:11).**

During the transition period miraculous manifestations were commonplace among all the apostles. One of the evidences that Paul was called to be an apostle was his ability to perform all the sign gifts of the Acts period, two of which are noted here in the narrative. After Paul exposed Elymas as a child of the devil by the gift of discerning spirits, he then pronounced judgment on

this deceiver causing the shadow of blindness to descend upon him like a mist. When Peter discerned that Ananias had lied to the Holy Spirit, the judgment was physical death (Acts 5). In the case of Elymas, the judgment of blindness was literal, but it is very important not to miss the spiritual significance of what transpired.

As noted, the judgment of the Lord on this Jewish worker of evil was blindness. But it is interesting that this blindness was only for a season. In other words, it was *temporary*—he would see again. Elymas floundered for the time being, looking for someone to guide him through the darkness.

“...this  
blindness  
was only for  
a season...  
he would  
see again.”

This is a perfect description of the state of Israel nationally for the past two thousand years. Because of her rejection of the Messiah and opposition of Paul’s ministry to the Gentiles, God blinded her for a season (Rom. 11:25). To this very hour Israel is living in the Old Testament and still refuses to believe that Christ died for the sins of the nation at Calvary. They only acknowledge Christ to have been a misguided prophet.

This, of course, doesn’t mean that *individual* Jews aren’t being saved today. Anyone who believes the gospel, whether Jew or

Gentile, that Christ died for their sins, was buried, and rose again is given the free gift of eternal life (I Cor. 15:3,4; I Thes. 4:14). But it should be remembered that this is *primarily* a Gentile dispensa-



tion. What this means is that a far greater percentage of Gentiles are being saved today and placed into

the Body of Christ, than Jews. The opposite was true under the former dispensation of the Law. This is another important distinction between Prophecy and the Mystery.

Although the light of Israel has gone out during this age of Grace, God has not abandoned His people. To say otherwise is a failure to rightly divide the Word of truth. Paul wrote to the Romans, "Let their [Israel] eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back away. I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid" (Rom. 11:10,11a).

We know, of course, that Israel has fallen; and as a result of her fall, salvation has been sent to the Gentiles (v. 11b). When the apostle asks the question, "Have they stumbled that they should fall?" that is, beyond recovery, notice he responds without a moment's hesitation, "God forbid." You see, she will be restored as God's channel of blessing after the Rapture of the Church. In that day, every remaining prophecy and promise that was ever given to Israel will be fulfilled to the letter.

The duration of Israel's national blindness will continue

until the *fullness* of the Gentiles is completed (Rom. 11:12). In God's determinate counsel, when the last soul is saved and placed into the Body of Christ three things will take place simultaneously: the Body of Christ will be complete and raptured, this Gentile dispensation will end abruptly, and Israel will be front and center again as the apple of God's eye in the Tribulation.

**"Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord" (Acts 13:12).**

When Paul opened the Scriptures to Sergius Paulus, the governor was moved that Christ had died for his sins; but as he pondered the matter, Elymas attempted to pervert the gospel and undoubtedly discredit Paul's ministry. The apostle immediately confronted the lies of Elymas and miraculously brought the judgment of God upon him by blinding him. One purpose of the sign gifts of the Acts period was to validate Paul's ministry among the Gentiles, and this particular miracle did just that in the eyes of Proconsul. Sergius Paulus believed the good news on the spot.

So then, during Paul's visit at Paphos, a Jew was temporarily *blinded* for a season and a Gentile was *saved* as a result. This word picture is to be viewed as a snapshot of what has been true throughout the age of Grace. We can most assuredly say along with the apostle, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!"



# Nokomis Bible Conference

**Dates:** February 21-23, 2014

**Location:** *Grace Bible Fellowship*  
2600 N. Tamiami Trail, Nokomis, Florida

**Guest Speaker:**

Dr. Robert Nix, *Berean Bible Institute*

For questions or more information, please contact:

Pastor Ed Bedore at (414) 313-0928  
or eandlbedore@gmail.com



## Florida Meetings

# Inverness Bible Conference

**Dates:** March 1-2, 2014

**Location:**

*Grace Bible Fellowship*  
4979 E. Arbor St., Inverness, Florida

**Guest Speaker:**

Pastor Kevin Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*

For additional information, please contact: Pastor John Fredericksen  
(407) 952-0510 or email: jrfgrace@gmail.com





# Are We in the Last Days?

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

From a series of messages delivered  
January 10-12 at the *Juana Diaz Bible  
Church* in Puerto Rico.

**W**e'd all like to think that we're in the last days of the dispensation of grace, but "what saith the Scripture?" The Apostle Paul gives us a very vivid picture of the last days in a very telling passage in II Timothy 3.

He begins by telling us that the last days will be *perilous* (v. 1). While that certainly sounds frightening, it should put your mind at ease to know that "peril" cannot separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39), no matter how perilous the times might get! If you are wondering what *kind* of peril Paul has in mind, he goes on to explain himself in the verses that follow (vv. 2-4). As you read these verses through, I'm sure you'd agree that this description of the last days sounds a lot like the days in which we live!

## Some Questions

But before you get too excited about the nearness of the Lord's

coming that these verses seem to suggest, ask yourself this question: When have men *not* been "lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud," and all of the rest of the things that Paul mentions here? If you are thinking that these things are more prevalent and more pronounced now than they have ever been before, we submit that history suggests otherwise. A study of the fall of the Roman Empire, and other eras of human debauchery, would challenge the notion that we are living in the worst of times.

But if these things have always been true of men, this raises yet *another* question. If men have always been characterized by these sins, what is the point of this passage? That is, if Paul's intent is to help us identify the last days, and he then describes conditions that are always true in the world, how are we supposed to know if we are in the last days?

## Some Specifics

Well, we believe Paul gets a little more specific when he goes on to say that in the last days men will have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (v. 5). Here we see that Paul cannot be describing men *in general* in this depiction of the last days, for men out in the world have never had a form of godliness. The word *godliness* is based on the word *godly*, of course, and *godly* is a contraction for “God-like.” Unsaved men in general have never claimed to be like God. It is only unsaved men *in the professing church* who claim to be like the God of the Bible. That’s where we find men with a form of godliness who deny its power.

What’s the power of godliness? The only power that can make men like God is “the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16). All churches teach that men should be like God, but most deny the gospel of Christ, the gospel of salvation by grace through faith alone (Eph. 2:8,9).

So we see that when it comes to identifying the last days, the key to this passage is not just knowing *what* to look for, but knowing *where* to look for it! And a quick check seems to indicate that this sign of the last days is *also* very prevalent in our day, for churches that deny the power of godliness are legion, for they are many.

## Some Clues

But there is something besides salvation that men need to be truly godly. Paul warned Timothy to “shun profane and vain babblings, for they will increase unto *more*

*ungodliness*” (II Tim. 2:16). Here he was speaking about the vain babblings that come from ignoring the previous verse, where he instructed Timothy to be “rightly dividing the Word of truth” (v. 15). The babbling doctrines that come from preachers that ignore this crucial Bible study principle are ungodly in and of themselves; but if allowed to go unchecked, “they will increase unto *more* ungodliness.”

“By the way, what kind of animal *creeps* (See Gen. 3:14)?”



If a preacher babbles on without rightly dividing the Word, people are going to get baptized. In this dispensation, water baptism has a form of godliness, for it can easily be found in the pages of God’s Word. But it cannot be found in the pages of God’s *rightly divided* Word, and so the power it once had to save men’s souls as an expression of their faith is gone (cf. I Pet. 3:21). If a preacher babbles on without rightly dividing the Word, people are going to think that they have the power to speak in tongues. This too has a form of godliness, for this too can be found in God’s Word. But it cannot be found in God’s *rightly divided* Word, and so there is no power in it to communicate “the wonderful works of God” (Acts 2:11). You see, God is no longer giving men the power to speak in languages they



never studied. When a preacher babbles on without rightly dividing the Word, people are going to hear him say that if they are good, then God will bless them. This has a form of godliness as well, for it can be found in the pages of God's Word, but not in God's *rightly divided* Word; and all believers who are honest with themselves know by experience that there is no power in this form of godliness either. These things, and all other things that come from a failure to rightly divide the Word, have a form of godliness; but they do not make men godly in the dispensation of grace because they deny Paul's gospel, the only gospel that has the power to make men truly godly in the present age.

### Some Silly Men

Are we then in the last days, since the ungodliness that comes from not rightly dividing the Word is also prevalent in our own generation? Before you answer, Paul gives us yet another indicator of the last days with the introduction of an analogy that many believers find puzzling (v. 6). Here it is important to recognize that Paul is not saying that all women are silly, only those who are silly enough to be laden with sins. It also helps to learn that the word "silly" used to mean *simple*, which is defined as "void of understanding" (Prov. 7:7 cf. 8:5; 9:4,16). Only women who are void of understanding about what God has said about lustful sins are silly enough to allow themselves to be "led away with divers lusts."

But this verse isn't about women at all; it is about the "sort" of men that Paul was talking

about in the previous verse, the men who have a form of godliness but deny its power. The point of Paul's analogy is to show that just as there have always been men who are willing to creep into the houses of lustful women to satisfy their lusts, so there will always be religious leaders who are willing to creep into the lives of religious people to satisfy them with a false gospel. By the way, what kind of animal *creeps* (See Gen. 3:14)? Just as Satan seduced Eve to believe something other than the truth, the serpent has always had "a generation of vipers" (Matt. 3:7) willing to seduce men with a false gospel. And with the advent of Christian radio and TV and the internet, these men have the ability to creep into houses as never before!



But do you see how all this gives us yet another clue about the identity of the last days? Paul is not just saying that these signs will be found in the professing church, he is saying that they will be found in *the leaders* of the professing church. After all, it is pastors and teachers who, more so than your average professing church members, are "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (II Tim.

3:7). This writer has around 1500 books in his modest library, and most pastors have that many or more. A popular Christian book distributor lists 123,000 titles, and you can learn what nearly all of them have to say without coming to a knowledge of the truth.



### Some Religious Magicians

So are we in the last days or not? Well, Paul gives us yet *another* clue when he goes on to compare these religious leaders to *Pharaoh's* religious leaders, Jannes and Jambres (v. 8). Here it is important to remember *how* Pharaoh's magicians resisted the truth. When Moses and Aaron worked a miracle, they didn't jump up and say, "That wasn't a real miracle of God!" Rather they withstood Moses by *counterfeiting* his mighty works (Ex. 7:10,11), and religious leaders in our own day resist the truth of Paul's gospel in the same way.

In the dispensation of grace, of course, men of God aren't working miracles, they are preaching the gospel of Christ and teaching the doctrines of Paul. In response, Satan's "ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:15) are preaching "another Jesus" (II Cor. 11:4) and teaching "doctrines of devils" (I Tim. 4:1). It is significant to notice that Paul says that men

willing to teach these doctrines of devils are called "seducing spirits" (I Tim. 4:1). It is also significant that he says these seducing spirits will be teaching these doctrines of devils "in the latter times" (4:1).

These ministers of righteousness are plentiful in our day, but "their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was" (II Tim. 3:9). The folly of Jannes and Jambres was made known when "Aaron...smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice...*and the magicians...could not*" duplicate this miracle (Ex. 8:17,18). When these false religious leaders could not create life out "of the dust of the earth" (v. 17) like God could (cf. Gen. 2:7), they said to Pharaoh, "*This is the finger of God*" (Ex. 8:19). The folly of the false teachers, to whom Paul is comparing the magicians, is that the gospel they are preaching cannot produce *eternal* life, as Paul's gospel can.

Of course, it isn't "manifest" *now* that these preachers cannot produce eternal life, since eternal life cannot be seen. But the folly of the doctrine of Pharaoh's magicians was also manifested when "Aaron's rod *swallowed up* their rods" (Ex. 7:12), and it was more fully manifested when Pharaoh's army assayed to cross the Red Sea and "the earth *swallowed them*" (Ex. 15:12). This great victory left no doubt that their religious doctrine was folly, while the doctrine that Moses taught was true! Similarly, in our own dispensation, there is coming an event in which death will be "*swallowed up in victory*" (I Cor. 15:54). When those who believe Paul's gospel are raptured, and those who believe the gospel of these false teachers

are left behind to be swallowed up by the spiritual death of the Tribulation, it will leave no doubt that their doctrine was folly, while the message taught by Paul was true. Thus the folly of these false teachers will “proceed no further” than the Rapture.

### Some Conclusions


So are we in the last days or not? Only the Lord knows for sure. This writer believes that God has worded this passage in such a way that *every* generation will believe they are in the last days. Remember, Paul must have thought that he himself was in the last days, or else he wouldn't have used the pronoun “we” in speaking of “we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord” (I Thes. 4:15). After his imprisonment, however, with Nero's sword looming over his head, he knew that he would not live to see the Rapture. But he must have expected Timothy to live to see it, for as he passed him the torch of his gospel, he charged him “that *thou* keep this commandment...until the appearing of our Lord” (I Tim. 6:14). Evidently the signs of the last days must have still been present if he thought Timothy would live to welcome the Lord's coming.

If you think about it, Paul's description of the last days before the Rapture are somewhat reminiscent of the Lord's description of the last days before His Second Coming to earth to defeat the Antichrist and establish the kingdom of heaven on earth (Matt. 24:37-39). Now *there are* some real definitive clues! “Look, people are eating and drinking and getting married, it must be time for the

Lord to return!” When have men *not* been eating and drinking and getting married?

But that's the very point that the Lord was trying to make. Remember, He prefaced these words by saying of His coming, “of that day and hour knoweth no man” (Matt. 24:36). Obviously, when they reach that point in the prophetic program, the Lord wants them to be living their lives in the firm belief that He could come at any moment. And we believe that this is Paul's intent for us as well; it is the reason he used similarly ambiguous terms to describe the last days.

Did you ever notice that while Paul was careful to post this description of the signs of the last days, he never tells us to be *looking* for these signs? He rather tells us to be “looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13). We are not told to be looking for *signs* of the Lord's coming, we are told to be looking *for the Lord!*

If you stop and think about it, what would you do differently if you knew we were in the last days? Would you study your Bible? Would you pray, go to church, witness, and live a godly life? Aren't we called to do those things whether it is the last days or not? You say, “Well, yeah, but if I knew the Rapture were near, I'd do them more!” If that's what you're thinking, remember that you could die at any moment, at any age. Why not determine *right now* that you will begin living every moment of every day with the coming of the Lord in mind. You'll be eternally glad you did. 



# What We Need

The nation of Israel demanded of Samuel that he make them a king to reign over them so they “could be like all the nations.” Agreeing to serve a king was a grievous mistake of worldliness, and a rejection of the Lord, who had been their King since He delivered them out of Egypt. Even when rebuked by the Lord for this desire and reprimanded by Samuel, Israel persisted in this unwise request, which God granted. We learn something meaningful from Samuel’s response as they went forward. He told them: “*God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you*” (I Sam. 12:23). Samuel could have cut off contact with them out of disgust, or continued to criticize them, pointing out every negative consequence. Instead, he continued to pray for them because an erring saint does not need continual condemnation, he needs prayer support!

—Pastor John Fredericksen

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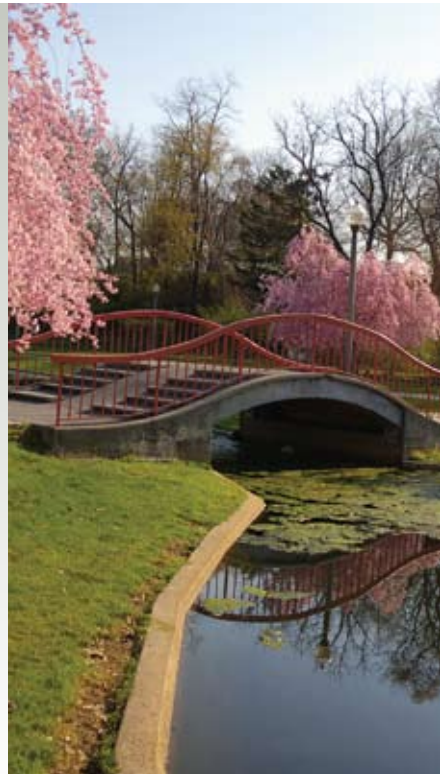
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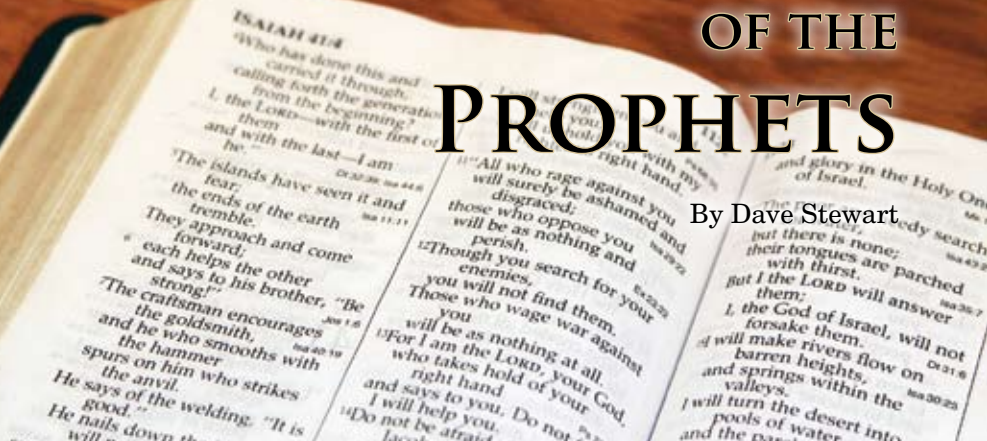
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# THE SCRIPTURES OF THE PROPHETS

By Dave Stewart



**“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen” (Rom. 16:25-27).**

Here at the close of the book of Romans we find one of the most instructive doxologies in all the Word of God. If a formula could be given for the establishment of believers in this age of grace, we wouldn't need to look further than the words of our apostle in these few verses.

In this passage, the Body of Christ is stablished (stabilized and strengthened) first, according to Paul's gospel, and second, by the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery. The third essential and stabilizing pillar, Paul says, is the Scriptures of the prophets. But if we stop there in the passage, we have missed a crucial element of the formula regarding this third leg of our stability.

## **According To...**

Notice in our passage that each component of the three-fold stablishment of the believer is accompanied by the phrase “according to.” We are established, not merely by any Bible gospel, but “according to” Paul's gospel. In addition, it is not simply the preaching of Jesus Christ which strengthens and settles us, but the preaching of Jesus Christ “according to” the revelation of the mystery. Even so, the Scriptures of the prophets, if they are to have their stabilizing effect today, must be used “according to” the commandment of the everlasting God made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.

The phrase “according to” means *in accord with*, or *in line with*. Those who recognize Paul’s distinctive ministry understand that the Bible contains many gospels, not all of which are “according to” Paul’s gospel of faith alone. We also acknowledge that the preaching of Jesus Christ outside of Paul’s epistles is not “according to” the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began. But this does not mean that the Scriptures of the prophets are unnecessary for our steadfastness. On the contrary, they are essential to it.

Paul is clear that all Scripture is profitable to us, for instruction, reproof, correction, and yes, even for doctrine (II Tim. 3:16,17). “The Scriptures of the prophets,” which Peter calls “the other Scriptures” (II Pet. 3:16), including the Old and New Testaments, are not merely for our learning, but also for our patience, comfort, and hope (Rom. 15:4). In this dispensation of grace, God’s people are “thoroughly furnished unto all good works” by “all Scripture,” as long as all Scripture is understood “according to...”

## The Commandment of God to All Nations

Moses received the commandments of God to *one* nation for the obedience of *works*. It is Paul who received the commandment of God to *all* nations for the obedience of *faith*.

**“...for the law is not of faith: but the man that doeth them shall live in them” (Gal. 3:12).**

The truth of God for this age was made manifest exclusively through preaching which was committed to Paul “*according to* the commandment of God our Savior” (Titus 1:3). In time past the Gentile nations lived in darkness, without a commandment from God.

**“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30).**

Today the commandment of God to all nations has been made known: a commandment not for the obedience of works, but for the obedience of faith.

**“And by [Jesus Christ] all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses” (Acts 13:39).**

Paul tells us to use all Scripture, even the law of Moses. But he is also careful to give us some rules.

## The Lawful Use

**“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient...and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; *According to* the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust” (I Tim. 1:8-11).**



Paul tells us that the “lawful use” of the law today is to combat anything that is not “according to” to the doctrine which was committed to him. To use the law lawfully, we must use it to defend and support Pauline truth. But, someone may ask, how do we use the other Scriptures to support the unpropheied mystery given to Paul? Fortunately our apostle is not shy in showing us exactly how we should do just that.

**“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom...Which none of the princes of this world knew...But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us...” (I Cor. 2:7-10).**



“But, someone may ask, how do we use the other Scriptures to support the unpropheied mystery given to Paul?”

Here Paul quotes Isaiah 64 and relates it to “the hidden wisdom” given to him. Of course, when we read Isaiah 64, we find that it is clearly referring to the Second Coming of Christ in wrath. The context is certainly not the mystery which was revealed to Paul. Nevertheless, Paul uses the passage *according to* the revelation committed to him.

**“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” (I Cor. 15:51-58).**

The mystery of the Rapture is nowhere revealed in the other Scriptures. Yet Paul quotes Isaiah 28 and Hosea 13, saying that at the Rapture those Scriptures “shall be brought to pass.” Here again, when we read those passages, their context has nothing to do with the Rapture of the church. But Paul uses them to encourage the saints to be “steadfast” and “unmoveable”; in other words, *stablished*. Paul applies the Scriptures of the prophets here to exhort the brethren to be “always abounding in the work of the Lord,” and no surprise, because all Scripture is meant to throughly furnish us unto all good works.

**“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.* Nevertheless let every**

**one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband” (Eph. 5:30-33).**

Here in Ephesians 5 Paul uses Genesis 2:23-24 not only to charge husbands and wives within the Body of Christ to love and reverence each other, but also to illustrate the mystery of the Body itself.

Clearly, Paul does not hesitate to support mystery truth with the Scriptures of the prophets. In fact he uses them to strengthen the saints in that mystery truth. By applying the Scriptures according to the commandment of God committed to him, Paul demonstrates for us the “lawful use” of the Scriptures of the prophets today.


### **A Word of Warning**

If we are to be Pauline in our use of the Scriptures, we must not hesitate to use them exactly as our apostle teaches us to use them. Paul did not shrink from using the other Scriptures, and he didn’t use them only to show differences. He knew that, used lawfully, the Scriptures of the prophets were as necessary for the stablishing of the Body of Christ as was his gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

But Paul also knew the danger of the **unlawful** use of the law.

**“Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: *From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm*” (I Tim. 1:5-7).**

It is only by “the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery” (Col. 2:2) that we are able to use the other Scriptures rightly. We must always remember “whereof we affirm” when using the Scriptures of the prophets. These are not the truth for today, **except** as we use them as Paul did, “according to” the commandment of the everlasting God made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.

As grace believers we follow Paul in what we learn, receive, hear, and see in him (Phil. 4:9). Study and use all Scripture exactly as he did and you will be fully stablished. 

## **For the believer in Christ we have:**

“No creed but Christ;

“No law but love;

“No book but the Bible;

“No membership but fellowship.”



A photograph of a white door with a large 'WELCOME' doormat in front of it. The door is slightly ajar, and the doormat is a light brown color with the word 'WELCOME' in large, dark, capital letters. The background shows a white porch railing and some greenery.

# Does Christ Dwell in Your Heart?

By Pastor Ken Lawson

**“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...” (Eph. 3:17a).**

The above Scripture is an excerpt from Paul’s prayer showing how he prayed for power and spiritual maturity for Christians. What has perplexed many thinking students of God’s Word is why he would request that “Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” when the Bible plainly teaches that all believers have already been indwelt by Christ. Paul exclaimed, “Christ liveth in me” and concluded, “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:9).

Indeed Scripture instructs us that we are indwelt by all three members of the Trinity. (See I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Ephesians 4:6; 2:21,22). This is true of the saints individually as well as the church body corporately. That the context addresses believers only is proven by the fact that this epistle is addressed to “the *saints* which are at Ephesus, and to the *faithful* in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 1:1). Also the previous verse in the context beseeches the Father to strengthen them “with might by His Spirit in the inner man” (Eph. 3:16). This is not the regeneration of the sinner, but the empowerment of the saint.

To answer this seeming difficulty is to understand the difference between our standing and state—or as some call it, our position and condition. All believers in Christ have been baptized by the Spirit of God into Christ, and thus have a standing in Him which is perfect and unalterable (I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:4). God no longer looks at us in ourselves, but “in Christ” as an abiding position. We have been “blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ,” and this certainly includes the presence of Christ’s Spirit in us (Eph. 1:3).

However our state or condition in this world is far from perfect and requires our continual growth in knowledge and godliness. The goal

of the Christian life is not to be saved (that is only the beginning), but to be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). Even the Apostle Paul had to recognize that he had not yet attained to this spiritual objective (Phil. 3:10-14). While God is even now fashioning Christ's spiritual image in the believers, the final product will not be complete until our Lord Jesus Christ appears from heaven and changes our vile body (body of humiliation), that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body (Phil. 3:20,21).


With this in mind, we can see Paul's prayer for Christ to dwell in our hearts by faith refers to the believer's *state* of dedication rather than their *standing* in Christ. Interestingly enough, there are several words in the Greek New Testament translated "dwell." This one means more than to simply inhabit. *Katoikesai* is made up of *oikeo*, "to live in as a home," and *kata*, "down," thus "to settle down and be at home" (Wuest).

To illustrate the distinction between a house and a home, I remember my former life as a salesman. With some people I called upon, I felt welcome from the time I entered their home. The friendly greeting and "down home" country demeanor caused me to relax and feel comfortable. Sometimes I accepted their invitation to supper and was treated like one of the family. But other people produced a completely different atmosphere. As I entered the house, I sensed strife and tension in the air and couldn't wait to complete my business and leave. So it is with our relationship with the indwelling Christ.

Some Christians walk after their own desires—giving little consideration to glorifying Christ in their mortal bodies. Likewise when we allow bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice to characterize our lives, the Holy Spirit is grieved (but does not leave us); for we are sealed by Him unto the day of redemption (the redemption of our body at Christ's coming for us) (Eph. 4:30). Contrariwise, other Christians have "presented their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God" and seek to walk in the Spirit (Rom. 12:1; Gal. 5:16). In the measure that we follow God's will, Christ will settle down and be comfortable in our hearts.

The normal course of action when we realize the Spirit's grieving in us is to obey God's Word and be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit. The parallel verse in Colossians 3:16 tells us that in order to do this, we should "let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." This "Word of Christ" to us Gentiles in this Dispensation of Grace refers specifically to Paul's epistles. (See Ephesians 3:1-9; Philippians 4:9; Colossians 1:24-27; Romans 11:13; 15:16; I Corinthians 14:37; II Corinthians 13:3; Galatians 1:11,12; 2:2,7; I Timothy 2:4-7). Paul tells us the way of the sanctified life in Christ in Romans 6. We have been baptized (supernaturally identified, made one) with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection thus breaking the power of sin in our

lives. Likewise we are to **reckon** this fact to be true of us personally. Then we are to **yield** ourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and our members as instruments of righteousness unto God (Rom. 6:1-13).

Our Lord Jesus Christ condescends to live in the heart of a sinner saved by grace. What an honor to have such a guest in our hearts! Do we make Him feel at home? We have His promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). But "being strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man" is the necessary prerequisite for Christ Jesus to reign as Lord in our hearts. Does He have free access to all parts of our heart life, or do we exclude Him from certain things? He is our constant Companion and Guide. Let us clear away the old rubbish in the throne room of our hearts and fashion a habitation fit for a King. Only then can Christ settle down and feel at home. 

## Question Box

*"We were wondering if you could shed a little more light on what Paul meant by the phrase, 'the circumcision made without hands.'"*

**"And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:10,11).**

According to the Abrahamic Covenant, the Israelites were to circumcise their male children on the eighth day. Normally the father performed this procedure, which made the little one a child of the covenant. Although circumcision did not save the child, it did give him a favorable position to enjoy the blessings of God, which included salvation. With one turn of the wheel, God often accomplishes a two-fold purpose. In addition to the religious rite of circumcision, the eighth day was significant in that the vitamin K content in the blood (clotting agent) is at its highest level during a lifetime.

The circumcision "made without hands" is an *operation of God*. This pertains to our *spiritual* circumcision in Christ. In short, the Father surgically removed our sins when Christ was *cut off* at the Cross. An understanding of this truth will enable us to live a deeper life in Christ knowing that our sins are forgiven.

—Pastor Sadler



## BBS Letter Excerpts

### From our Inbox:

"I have been reading and ordering a lot of your books in the last year. I can't believe I have been reading the Bible for years and missed most all of this!"

### From Alberta:

"I am still listening to your MP3 sermons on Colossians. A lot of light bulbs go on in my brain as I learn things to add to or complete what I already knew (or to change what I thought I knew!)."

### From Kentucky:

"Your email absolutely helped... I love your point about the Sabbath... I'd never caught that and will share that Sunday....It's funny because I have always wondered about that every time I get back to that passage—mystery solved! I would love to learn more stuff like this." (Me too!—Ed).

### From Washington:

"We hate to tell you this, but we have to cut down on our giving. My husband is 86 years old...we don't have much money coming in. He has to cut lawns when he can for people... But we still want to help reach others while we still can! So please accept our enclosed check...."

### From Virginia:

"I'm about to finish Pastor Sadler's commentary on *Ephesians* for the first time. I emphasize the word *first* because I know I will be re-reading it soon; it has been a real blessing."

### From Florida:

"I very recently read the *Berean Searchlight*...Wow! My eyes began to open with a fuller understanding, and I appreciate what I learned by that reading!...Help me to understand how to rightly divide the Word of truth...I am a Gentile, am I spiritual Israel?"

### From Wisconsin:

"My daughter was interested in the book on *Revelation* from an article she read in the *Searchlight*, so I lent her Pastor Sadler's first book, and she is excited! I have been lending my *Searchlights* to her. My grandson has been hearing that the Church is to go through the Tribulation, so I am having Bible studies with him to put the book of Revelation in the light of the Word rightly divided—the mystery. Thank you for your ministry."

### From our Inbox:

"Would like more DVDs when you get them—many thanks!" (They are already in the works.—PS).

### From Mississippi:

"I enjoyed the December issue of your articles, especially 'Dining with the King,' which brought my heart some peace. Even if...my prayers are not answered, I'm still content and blessed for my salvation (thanks to BBS for showing me the way), understanding that God has done enough for me already and to not expect more. So, rather than complain about my life, I can rejoice to be in heaven with the Lord—a far better blessing!"



### From Pennsylvania:

"Wow! What a wealth of information in all four of the December *Searchlight* articles! I kept reading through them and marking things that I'd either never heard of before or had never considered....never thought about Lazarus being a spiritual picture of the nation Israel. Lots of interesting ideas there! Great article! In 'A Great Mystery,' I'd never considered that the sin nature apparently is transmitted through the father's seed. Very interesting!...Comparing Mephibosheth's situation with our position in this age of grace makes me agree that we can never thank enough for all that the Lord has done for us. Also, 'Christ and the Gentiles' points out that with only two known exceptions, Christ avoided Gentiles while he was on earth. Most Christians do not know that. Again, another good article. I was thrilled to learn so many new and wonderful things!"

### From Minnesota:

"I will be 67 next month, but a few years ago I got hooked on Les Feldick, and within a few dozen of his lessons, my Baptist background was damaged. I started to search for more grace teaching. I found you and...I'm like a dry sponge just soaking it up. I love it! I have learned I want to say a lot, but it has been much more than that. I thank God for all of you and what you are doing in the world. I have repaired my damaged thinking with a Berean Band-Aid."

### From Kansas:

"I found Kevin Sadler's devotional 'The Body's Bodily Resurrection' very, very helpful. If you see him, please tell him so." (He's so tall he's hard to miss!—Ed).

### From Colorado:

"I was let go from my long-time job...But...I ran across my *Searchlight* from March, 2007....Your article there entitled 'Abounding in This Grace Also' was a real encouragement to me because it relates to our current circumstances....I believe I had understood...from past readings of this passage, but your article's emphasis...made me realize the full scope of what God is after here."

### From our Inbox:

"Dr. Bedore, I came across your paper on *The State of the Dead*—very well done. The muddy waters of my thinking are flowing clear again. I am going to use this article as the basis for our Wednesday night Bible study where the problem first arose.... Thanks again for a clear and thorough explanation of the topic."

### From Oregon:

"It's going to take an *eternity* to thank all of you at BBS and Pastor Stam and all the past BBS faithful workers and contributors." (I thank God for Pastor Stam each night when I walk past his library as I leave the office.—Ed).

### From Michigan:

"Thanks for your quick response.... My next Bible study is next Wednesday, so I appreciate having your perspective in such a timely manner....I really cherish Pastor Stam's works because I can trust them to give me a truly Pauline perspective which is not tainted by an Acts 2 bias. I encourage you to remain strong in your commitment to provide such needed publications, even when it's financially so difficult to do so. I assure you, you are making a difference."



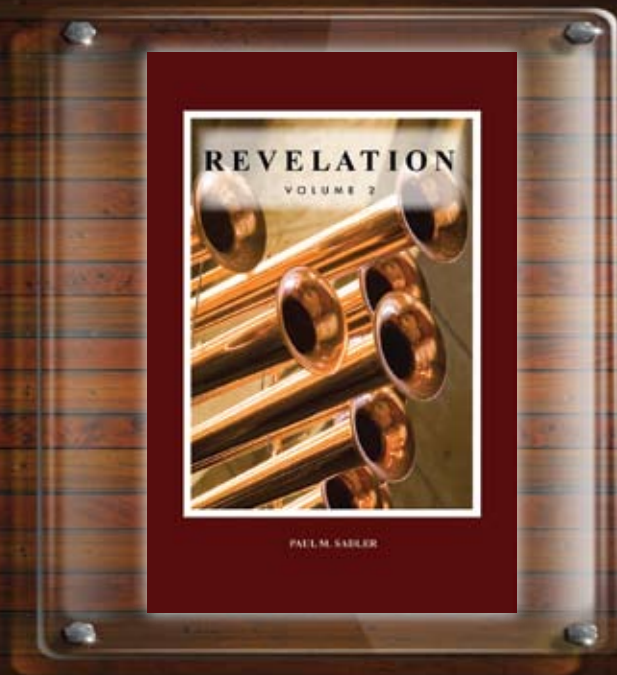
"These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."  
—Acts 17:11



# REVELATION

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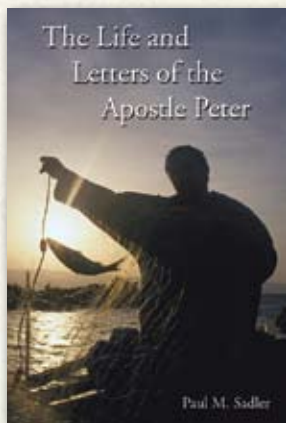
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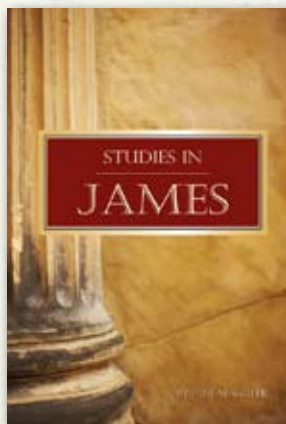
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# News and Announcements

**HELP WANTED:** As we prepare to celebrate our *75th Anniversary* next year, we need your assistance. Perhaps you have an interesting story or snapshot you would like to share with us for our upcoming Anniversary Edition. Of course, the possibilities are *endless*. It could be anything from a dinner experience with Pastor Stam to how you came in contact with our literature. If you plan to mail photographs, may we request that only *copies* of the original be forwarded. Please send all replies here to BBS—**Attention: Kevin Sadler** at [kevin@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:kevin@bereanbiblesociety.org). Thanks in advance!

**Pastoral Opportunity:** *Grace Bible Fellowship* of Clearbrook, Virginia, is looking for a pastor to lead them in the study of God's rightly divided Word, and the proclamation of the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the Revelation of the mystery. If you are qualified and interested in this full-time position, contact Chuck May at [gbfchurch55@gmail.com](mailto:gbfchurch55@gmail.com), or call the church at (540) 662-1040.

**Does Your Church Have a Literature Ministry?** A well-stocked book table and/or literature rack can help ground God's people in the grace message, and a church lending library can provide this same blessing for those of more modest means. In addition, visitor gift packets can ensure that your church guests go away with a clear understanding of how to be saved, and what Paul's gospel is all about. When ordering BBS literature, be sure to ask about the special quantity pricing we make available for those ordering multiple copies of the same title.

**SWORDS Is on the Move!** *Strong Women of Rightly Dividing Studies*, an online ministry hosted by our good friend Mari Edgekoski, has grown to the point where they need a website! To join this by-invitation-only women's Bible study group, just email Mari at [wordfromwisdom@smtel.com](mailto:wordfromwisdom@smtel.com), and she will direct you to a website where the key with which she'll provide you will open the door to a private, secure site, where you can read, learn, and post with other grace women of like precious faith.



The *New Brighton Lighthouse* is located near Liverpool, England. Built in 1830, the light was decommissioned in October 1973. A local architect then purchased the lighthouse and refurbished it, and for a time it was used as a vacation getaway and honeymoon suite.



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