

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

March 2015



1940-2015

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

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The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), March 2015. Vol. 76, Number 1.

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 President's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

The month of March this year rings in the *75th Anniversary* of the establishment of the *Berean Bible Society*. Pastor C. R. Stam, our Founder, is silent on earth, but rejoicing in heaven. Like the runner in a race, who receives the baton from his teammate, the baton was passed to me nearly thirty years ago. But I am merely the channel of the Captain of our salvation, who has used me to touch the lives of those who desire to know Him better.

The ministry of the *Berean Bible Society* has a storied past when we pause to reflect on the souls who have been saved by the grace of God—the lives that have been changed by the Word rightly divided—and the conflicts that made us stronger in the faith. This and much more has produced a melody in our hearts, which is the basis of our theme for our Diamond Jubilee: *To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done!*

An anniversary reminds us to remember our roots. Roots are important! They provide stability and nourishment to the mighty oak that towers over the other trees of the forest. This is a fitting analogy of the believer in Christ, who is to be, as Paul says, “Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught” (Col. 2:7). The goal of the *Berean Bible Society* since its inception seventy-five years ago has been to plant believers in the fertile soil of God’s Word, that they might bear fruit to the honor and glory of God. While we are grateful that Christ is preached by others, what sets us apart from the denominations is our acknowledgement and proclamation of Paul’s apostleship and message. We have something to offer that they have no desire to offer, something that will free believers from the bondage of confusion. I speak here from experience, because when I came to see the message of Grace, it changed my Christian life. It set my feet on the path of understanding for the first time, and it will do the same for you.

On this our *75th Anniversary*, by the grace of God we have never wavered in our stand for the truth of Paul’s gospel. We are grateful to all those who have stood with us in the faith and prayed for us without ceasing. As we turn the page of a new chapter, may God help us to remember our past accomplishments for Him, our present responsibility, and the ways in which we hope to serve Him in the future should the Lord tarry.

Amazed at His grace,
Paul M. Sadler, President

75th Anniversary Celebration

Anniversaries have a way of making us stop to smell the roses. They cause us to pause and reflect upon those memorable times we have shared with those of like-precious faith. They also have a way of keeping us in touch with all the changes that have taken place over the years. Hopefully, we are wiser and more courageous in making known the riches of His grace. But most importantly, we thank God for the profound change that took place when we first trusted Christ—how we passed from death to life and life abundantly. Like the two faces of the Roman image Janus that look backward and forward, anniversaries help us to plan for the future, with the goal of seizing every opportunity to advance the cause of Christ to the praise of His glory.

A Special Invitation

You are cordially invited to the 75th Anniversary of the *Berean Bible Society*

Theme: *To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done!*

April 24-25, 2015

On Friday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be an open house at the *Berean Bible Society*. The staff will be giving tours of the facility to better acquaint everyone with the ministry. You will experience an unforgettable walk down memory lane, with fascinating points of interest along the way. BBS is like a gallery of fine Christian art. Many of these prints and paintings have been donated to the ministry over the past seventy-five years by friends of the work. Refreshments will be provided.

On Saturday, April 25 you are invited to attend the *BBS Anniversary Conference* from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The *Falls Bible Church* has graciously agreed to allow us to use their facility for this special occasion. The church is located at W156 N6531 Pilgrim Road in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. A catered luncheon will be served at noon. Please **RSVP** by April 10 to 262-255-4750.

Speakers

- Paul M. Sadler, President
A Walk Down Memory Lane—II Timothy 4:6-8
- Ricky Kurth, Editor, Berean Searchlight
Holding Fast the Form of Sound Words—II Tim. 1:13
- John Fredericksen, Board Chairman
Pressing Forward—Philippians 3:12-20



There will also be testimonials by other Grace pastors and leaders throughout the day. In addition, the day will include special music, special offers, and a time of fellowship. We hope you can join us for this tribute to the grace of God. All are welcome! To receive a brochure, please contact Christine here at the *Berean Bible Society* (262-255-4750). —Pastor Paul M. Sadler



INTRODUCING THE *Fundamentals of Dispensationalism*

By Pastor C. R. Stam

The following article contains excerpts from the Preface and Introduction of the book *Things That Differ*, Pastor C. R. Stam's groundbreaking and revolutionary work, originally entitled *The Fundamentals of Dispensationalism*. Pastor Stam founded the *Berean Bible Society* in 1940, and wrote the following words in 1951 to introduce a book that many consider a primer on "rightly dividing the Word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).



Great strides have already been taken in dispensational Bible study by such men of God as Darby, Scofield, and Larkin, but it would be a mistake to suppose, as some seem to, that the ground has now been completely covered, for in "rightly dividing the Word of truth" the field is as large as the Book itself. Indeed, for the past years the need for another systematic book on dispensationalism has been increasingly felt as it has become evident that the popular writings now in existence on the subject fall short in at least one significant respect; namely, their failure to present clearly and *consistently* the distinctive character of Paul's message and ministry as the apostle of the present dispensation.

Most of our Bible teachers have seen *to a limited degree* the distinction between Paul's ministry and that of the twelve, but have taught *at the same time* that Paul labored under the so-called "great commission" given to the other apostles, that the church of this age began at Pentecost with Peter and the eleven, that "the gospel of the grace of God" was proclaimed before Paul, etc. This failure to grasp fully the distinctive character of Paul's apostleship has contributed much to the confusion that exists among fundamental believers and has left a great deal still to be clarified for those who desire "the full assurance of understanding."

The rediscovery of Paul's special place in God's program, and

the increased emphasis laid in late years upon what he calls "*my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery,*" have provided God's people with the key to many problems which, because they have remained so long unanswered, have caused the great dispensational Bible conferences of a generation ago to all but disappear.

In the study of the dispensations we enjoy true Bible *analysis*. We take the Book apart, so to speak; not to cast *any* of it aside, but to examine its separate parts and to note the differences.

But we also enjoy true Bible *synthesis* in the study of the dispensations and see the perfect harmony of the whole Word of God. Many Bible schools advertise courses in Bible synthesis which really amount to nothing more than brief summaries of its sixty-six books. Any such course should be characterized as *synopsis*, not *synthesis*. Bible synthesis is a systematic study of the *progressive unfolding* of God's revelation and of *the development* of His dealings with men, as well as of *the unity of His purpose* in those dealings. It is a study of the dispensations *in their relation to each other*. Hence no study which denies or ignores the doctrine of dispensations is true Bible synthesis....

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

Those who seek to teach the Word rightly divided frequently

encounter the objection that "*All [or every] Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...*" (II Tim. 3:16). It is argued from this passage that it is dishonoring to God to divide the Bible into dispensations and emphasize the differences between them, since it is *all* for us, from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22.

Does this mean, then, that II Timothy 2:15 and II Timothy 3:16 contradict each other? Surely they do not. The fact is that, written only a few paragraphs apart, by the same author, to the same person, about the same Book, these two verses *complement* each other. II Timothy 2:15 explains *how* God's workman may get the most out of the Bible, while II Timothy 3:16 declares that *all* of it was given for his profit. All Scripture is indeed profitable when "rightly divided," but when wrongly divided or not divided at all, the truth is changed into a lie and becomes most *unprofitable*. Thus II Timothy 2:15 is the key to II Timothy 3:16 and to the understanding and enjoyment of the Word of truth.

One difficulty is that multitudes of Christians shrink from the *effort* involved in *studying* the Scriptures with a view to rightly dividing them. And, alas, their spiritual leaders often encourage them in their lethargy.

Some years ago we heard a preacher exclaim: "Some say, 'This is for the Jew and that is for the church. This is for us and that is not for us.' I take a *whole* Bible!"

Did he mean that we should *not* distinguish between God's program for Israel in Old Testament times and His program for the body of Christ today? Certainly not, but it sounded so. Did

he mean that those who *do* thus divide the Word do *not* believe the whole Bible? No, but he gave that impression. He discouraged his hearers from endeavoring to rightly divide the Word of truth by implying that those who do so discard parts of the Bible as not for them. And this preacher was representative of a large proportion of the spiritual leaders in the church today.



“We take the Book apart...not to cast *any* of it aside, but to examine its separate parts....”

Is it any wonder that the Christian masses use the Bible merely for devotional reading and often neglect even that? How can they be expected to have an interest in the *study* of the Scriptures when their leaders themselves fail to set the example? And one need but look about him to see the delinquency here. Where are the Bible teachers of yesterday? What has happened to the great Bible conferences that were held all over the land? How many pastors *teach* the Word to their congregations? And the missionaries and evangelists: is there not a widespread feeling that they do not need to study the Scriptures too thoroughly since “their business is to win souls”?

As a result, the vast majority of believers really *understand*

very little of God’s Word. They know the basic facts of salvation but seem quite satisfied to remain ignorant of precious truths which, if they but searched to find them, would make them *workmen* whom God could approve, not needing to be ashamed of their service for Him.

But rather than *study* to attain to a better *understanding* of the Word and become proficient in its *use*, many actually boast that they are satisfied with “the simple things”!

And this after all the earnest prayers of Paul that believers might have the spirit of *wisdom* and *revelation* in the *knowledge* of Christ (Eph. 1:17), that they might *know* what is theirs in Christ (Eph. 1:18-23) and *comprehend* the breadth and length and depth and height of it! (Eph. 3:18). This after all his *labor* and *strife* and *conflict* that they might have “*the full assurance of understanding*”! (Col. 1:28-2:2). This after all his prayers that they might “*be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding*” (Col. 1:9). This after his stern rebuke of those carnal babes to whom he could preach no more than Christ *crucified*; whom he had to feed with milk alone because they were not able to digest solid food! (I Cor. 2 and 3).

Slothful Christians often consider themselves quite spiritual merely because their *emotions* are easily aroused. They boast of their contentment with “the simple things” while they should be ashamed of their indifference to the written Word of God. They claim great devotion to God, yet neglect the one great means of knowing Him better. They profess

fervent faith in Him, yet scarcely trouble to find out *just what He has said*. They do not, like David, meditate upon God's Word day and night nor, like the prophets, "enquire and search diligently" as to its true meaning.

The results of this attitude toward the Word are appalling, for such may trust Christ for salvation, but beyond this they exercise, in most cases, a blind, superstitious faith that cannot but dishonor God. *Feelings* are taken for *facts* and their own *wishes* for God's *Word*. They go into wrong paths, saying, "But I prayed very earnestly about it and now feel perfectly at peace." They say, "The Lord spoke to me," and refer to some *feeling* rather than to some passage of Scripture consistently applied. Thoughtlessly they say, "*If it's in the Bible I believe it,*" yet as they read the Bible they take to themselves only what warms their hearts and leave the rest unapplied, not knowing exactly why.

But those who boast of their contentment with "the simple things" and oppose dispensational Bible study on the ground that all the Bible is for us, have certainly missed the fact that all Scripture was given that the *man* of God might be *perfectly fitted and fully equipped for his work* (See II Tim. 3:17).

There is a great difference between the "child of God" and the "man of God" and no one who remains an infant in the truth can be approved as a *workman* for God or as a *soldier* of Jesus Christ, for the workmen God approves must know how to rightly divide the Word of truth and the soldiers He honors must know how to wield the Sword of the Spirit.

We can sympathize with those who have *begun* to study the Bible dispensationally and have found it confusing. The study of almost any subject is confusing at first, but as we persevere we begin to *understand* and to reap the fruits of our toil. Indeed, to any thoughtful person the Scriptures must continue to be confusing until he learns to rightly divide and so to *understand* them. And what joy can compare with that of coming into a fuller understanding of God's Word?

It is written concerning the great spiritual revival under Ezra, when the law was read and explained to the people of Israel:

"And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them" (Neh. 8:12).

On the resurrection morning two disciples trudged wearily toward Emmaus, heartbroken because their Master had been crucified. They did not understand that according to the prophetic Word He *must* suffer and die before entering into His glory. Then the Lord Jesus Himself drew near and, unrecognized, explained this to them from the Scriptures until they understood and believed and rejoiced.

"And they said one to another, did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?" (Luke 24:32).

Studying the Bible dispensationally may seem confusing at first but actually it dispels confusion, explains difficult problems, reconciles seeming contradictions and lends power to the believer's ministry.

If I should step inside a modern United States Post Office all would doubtless seem very confusing to me. But it would be a mistake to suggest piling all the mail neatly in one corner and handing it out promiscuously to all comers as some would do with the Bible. The




postal employees must “rightly divide” the mail so that each person receives what is addressed to him. What seems like confusion to the novice is really a simplification of the work to be done in getting each person’s private mail to him.

It is granted that in the Bible even that which was addressed

to those of other dispensations is given to us for our learning and profit, but we must not confuse this with our own private mail or make the mistake of carrying out instructions meant particularly for others.

While I am reading mail addressed personally to me, a friend may hand *me*, for my interest or information, mail addressed to *him*. His mail and mine may all prove informative and profitable, but I must still be careful not to confuse the two, expecting to receive things promised to him or carrying out instructions addressed to him.

Thus all the Bible is *for* us, but it is not all addressed to us or written about us, and if we would really understand and enjoy it; if we would really know how to use it effectively in service for Christ, we must be careful always to note who is addressing whom, about what and when and why. 



Cornelius Stam

Meet C. R. Stam!

Berean Bible Society founder Pastor C. R. Stam was born in 1908 to a Dutch immigrant who founded the *Star of Hope Mission* in Preakness, New Jersey, a city mission that was also the home of Bible conferences that hosted some of the best known Bible teachers of that era. Pastor Stam grew up hearing those great men of God expound the Scriptures, and after coming into a knowledge of the mystery, he soon gained a reputation in his own right as a gifted teacher of God’s Word. In 1940 he began publishing the *Berean Searchlight*, and

the demand for extra copies of so many of his Bible study articles led to the publishing of these articles in booklet form. Full-length books soon followed, along with a radio ministry and an impact on Christianity that made his name almost synonymous with mid-Acts dispensational Bible teaching, a legacy we are blessed to carry on to this day.

The Influential Writings of C. R. Stam



Perhaps the greatest contribution Pastor Stam made to the church and missions was through his prolific writing ministry. During his seventy-year ministry, he authored more than thirty books on numerous biblical subjects.

The ministry of *Things To Come Mission*, in several countries of the world, was started when nationals were sent Pastor Stam's books. The ministry in the Philippines was started when Brother J. H. Palmer sent Pastor Stam's books and pamphlets to Brother Juan Undag. Juan and others in the Philippines became convinced that what they read in Pastor Stam's books was the truth for today. That truth was the key to understanding the Bible. The truth of II Timothy 2:15—rightly dividing the Word of Truth. This group of Filipino believers and pastors wrote to Brother Palmer asking him to send a missionary to the Philippines to start *Things To Come Mission* and teach this truth.

In January 1958, Brother Vernon Anderson and family arrived in the Philippines to begin *Things To Come Mission*. My wife and I joined them in October 1958. Over the years many other missionaries followed.

Today there are more than 500 national churches, five Bible Institutes (Pastor Stam's books are used as textbooks), hundreds of trained pastors and Bible women, plus Filipino missionaries serving in Kenya, Brazil, Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Africa.

Things To Come Mission has given thousands of Pastor Stam's books to national pastors and leaders in Kenya, the Philippines, Brazil (translated booklets), Indonesia, Australia, and other countries of the world. And we will continue to send these works out as the Lord provides. TCM has greatly benefited by the writings of Pastor Stam.

—Pastor Joe Watkins, June 2003

Berean Bible Society Open House

Date: Friday, April 24, 2015

Location: *Berean Bible Society*
N112 W17761 Mequon Road, Germantown, Wisconsin

The staff will be giving tours of the facility to better acquaint everyone with the ministry. You will experience an unforgettable walk down memory lane, with fascinating points of interest along the way.

Refreshments will be provided!

To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done

75th Anniversary Conference

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015

Location: *Falls Bible Church*
W156 N6531 Pilgrim Road, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

Speakers: Pastor Paul M. Sadler,
Pastor Ricky Kurth, Pastor John Frederickson

For a brochure or additional information,
please contact:

Christine Mulholland at *Berean
Bible Society* (262) 255-4750 or email:
christinem@bereanbiblesociety.org



Christine Mulholland

Meet Christine!

When visitors to *Berean Bible Society* enter the front door, it is Administrative Assistant Christine Mulholland who rises from her desk to greet them. Her warm smile of welcome makes them feel at home while she learns if they have come to shop in our bookstore, or if they have an appointment with another member of the staff. When she is not waiting on bookstore customers, she keeps busy reading and rightly dividing the daily mail, and processing donations and orders for our literature. Christine is

also the woman behind the kind and patient voice you hear when you call us, and the accomplished graphic artist behind the artwork that makes our Sunday School lessons so attractive. She is also behind much of the art in our BBS book covers and other materials that “adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” In addition, your hapless editor looks to her to make his airline reservations for flights to speaking engagements, runs to her with computer questions, gives her all of his snail mail correspondence to proofread and mail, and frankly doesn’t know what he would do without her! We thank God for Christine Mulholland!

Central Tennessee Grace Bible Conference

Dates: April 10-12, 2015

Location: *Country Inn and Suites*
641 Wade Circle, Goodlettsville, Tennessee

Guest Speaker:

Pastor Paul M. Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*

For questions or more information, please contact:

Pastor Vitis Bailey at (270) 634-1881
or Bobby Davenport at (615) 972-7846



Running to Win

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

Steven Malone recounts the amazing story of Derek Redmond that was witnessed around the world:

“The 1992 Olympics in Barcelona featured memorable moments of sports history. Derek Redmond of Great Britain was on the way to fulfilling a lifetime dream, that of winning a gold medal in the Olympics. He had earned a spot in the semifinals of the 400-meter race, and as the gun sounded to start the race, Derek got off to a great start. He was running the race of his life, and the finish line was in sight, when suddenly he felt a stab of pain in his right leg. He fell face-first to the track with a torn hamstring. The race was over for Derek.

“He struggled to his feet before the medical team could reach him. Though every runner had passed him, he began hopping forward, tears of pain and disappointment streaking his face, determined to finish the race. Suddenly, a

man plowed through the security guards on the sidelines and ran onto the track. He raced up to Derek and hugged him, ‘You don’t have to do this,’ Jim Redmond told his weeping son. ‘Yes I do,’ Derek answered. ‘Well, then,’ his father said, ‘we’re going to finish the race together.’

“Derek’s father gripped his son around the shoulders, and they faced the finish line, resolutely waving off the security men who hovered around them. They limped and hopped together, Derek’s head sometimes buried in his father’s shoulder, and stayed in Derek’s lane all the way to the end. The watching crowd gaped at first at the unusual scene. Then one by one, they rose to their feet, and began cheering and crying at the son’s determination and the father’s support.”

Incredible! Derek had prepared for this race for years. It wasn’t a coincidence that he was in the Olympics; it was the result of a lot

of hard work. He spent time building up his endurance to ensure that he could run the quarter-mile of the race effortlessly. Like a laser beam, he was focused on the goal before him and committed to fulfilling a life-long dream.

As noted, the day of the race, Derek was on pace to win the 400 meter. In fact, he could see the finish line when he tore his hamstring and collapsed to the ground in withering pain. To those looking on, the race was over for Derek, or so they thought. Being the outstanding athlete that he was, however, even in the face of adversity, he wanted to finish the race. With the support of his father, he did just that to a standing ovation of those who were present that day.

This is a beautiful illustration of the hardships and triumphs of the Christian life. The *goal* that is set before us is to be conformed to the image of Christ. As we strive to that end, we must prepare ourselves by having a well-rounded understanding of the Word of God. We too must be disciplined and focused on finishing the course, even through times of adversity.

OUR FULL POTENTIAL

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:12).

Paul humbly acknowledged that he had not arrived to the status of fully walking in the newness of life, as much as he desired. This is a remarkable statement when we stop and think about it. Paul had been saved for more than thirty years. He had spoken

to the Lord face-to-face when he received his special revelation for the Church, the Body of Christ. In addition, he had been caught up to the third heaven “and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” (II Cor. 12:4). If Paul felt that he still had a long way to go, we shudder to think how far we have to go simply to arrive at the point he was when he made this statement.



“It is our responsibility to *challenge* them to become involved in...the Lord’s work.”

Not only had the apostle not achieved his goal, he adds, nor am I “already [made] perfect” (Phil. 3:12). That is, he had not yet been crowned for completing the race. While we are perfect in Christ, neither Paul, nor we will reach a state of perfection on this side of glory, but this should be our objective in life. This is what Paul means when he goes on to say “but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.” The term *apprehend* has the idea to “seize.” Paul was desirous to *seize* everything the Lord had for him to accomplish in his life to the praise of His glory. He sought to live up to every expectation that Christ had for him. As long as there was an ounce of strength

left in him, he wanted to fulfill his God-given responsibility as the apostle of the Gentiles to make Christ known according to the revelation of the Mystery.

This naturally raises the questions: Are we living up to our full potential? Have we advanced the cause of Christ? The need for men to be saved today is as great as it was in Paul's day. The necessity for the Lord's people to see that God is doing something new among the Gentiles today is even greater than it was in the apostle's time. Add to this the Church's failure to rightly divide the Word of truth, and you have a perfect storm that grieves the heart of God.

Thankfully, we have the answer to this confusion, but we, like Paul, must take advantage of every opportunity to faithfully make known the gospel of the grace of God. We pray without ceasing that when we stand before the Lord at the *Judgment Seat of Christ*, that we won't have more *regrets* than accomplishments for Him, who is above all others.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before" (Phil. 3:13).

It has been correctly said that "the past is a rudder to guide you, not an anchor to drag you. We must learn from the past, but not live in the past." The Apostle Paul understood better than most the importance of *forgetting* those things that were behind and pressing toward the mark. Paul wisely didn't dwell on past accomplishments, as numerous as they were. On his apostolic journeys

he had established churches at Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, and Ephesus. During his two-year visit at Ephesus, all Asia heard the Word of God, which resulted in the formation of churches at Colosse, Laodicea, and Hierapolis. At Rome, Paul reached many in Caesar's household for Christ, who became faithful followers of his gospel.

The *Berean Bible Society* has also been used of the Lord to reach many for Christ with the good news of God's grace. Our literature has touched the lives of countless souls around the world, freeing them from the shackles of sin and the unfounded traditions of men. BBS's Sunday school curriculum is being used in both Grace and denominational churches, which has had an amazing impact on the lives of our young people.

In 1996, we established the *Berean Bible Institute* to train men and women for full-time Christian service. Many of the graduates of the school now have their own ministries in different parts of the country. This is only a sampling of the Lord's work here at BBS. With this said, we give God all the glory for the wonderful things He has done through us, but we, like the Apostle Paul, do not dwell on the past. Paul understood that to do so would only serve to hinder his pursuit of what yet needed to be accomplished for the Lord.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to Philemon, he referred to himself as "Paul, the aged." But his age didn't deter him for a moment from seeing that there was more work to be done in the furtherance of the gospel. If you find yourself always reminiscing about the good old days of your Christian

experience, you are probably not serving the Lord to your full potential. “But, I’m too old.” To this we say, *remember* Paul, and consider this inspiring true story:

“An elderly widow, restricted in her activities, was eager to serve Christ. After praying about this, she realized that she could bring blessing to others by playing the piano. The next day she placed this small ad in the *Oakland Tribune*: ‘Pianist will play hymns by phone daily for those who are sick and despondent—the service is free.’ The notice included the number to dial. When people called, she would ask, ‘What hymn would you like to hear?’ Within a few months her playing had brought cheer to several hundred people. Many of them freely poured out their hearts to her, and she was able to help and encourage them in the Lord.”¹

THE CHALLENGE

Oftentimes the Generation-Xers and Millennials in the Body of Christ have convinced themselves that there’s plenty of time to serve the Lord. We need to remind them, however, that the years pass quickly, and the opportunities to live for Christ vanish with them. The day will come when they will look back in *regret* of what could have been. It is our responsibility to *challenge* them to become involved in some area of the Lord’s work. They may not realize it, but they have much to offer. With that said, both young and old need to be working in tandem. The older saints provide wisdom and stability in the Lord’s service, while those who are younger in years are able to put feet to what needs to be accomplished.

The apostle also didn’t allow past failures and offenses to weigh him down, as we often do. We must learn from our failures and never permit those who are belligerent to cause us to stoop to their level. We do well to follow Paul’s example as he refused to be distracted by those who hindered the work and personally attacked him. Here’s how Paul dealt with




this matter, and we do well to follow in his footsteps: “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words” (II Tim. 4:14,15).

Through the years, we too have had to take some unpopular stands against unscriptural teachings for the sake of Paul’s gospel. Unfortunately, there were times when we had a parting of the ways with brethren we loved, and still love, but we believed it was necessary for the preservation of Paul’s apostleship and message that was handed down to us. We were unwilling to sacrifice the truth on the altar of compromise. Many have written us over the years to thank us, time and time again, for bearing the criticism and malicious attacks to ensure the perpetuation of this ministry. It is only by the grace of God that we are still here.

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14).

Paul was *always* pressing toward the mark of the high calling of God. Like the runner in a race, he was leaning into the wind, with his eye on the finish line. He was focused! The apostle was along in years at this point, but there was more to be undertaken to fulfill God’s will for his life. Upon his release from prison, the apostle had promised the Philippians that he would visit the assembly to encourage them in the faith. We also know that he sailed to Crete, where he and Titus set in order the things that were wanting in the church. But Paul always had his eye on the goal to visit Spain and the regions beyond (Rom. 15:24). Whether or not he made it there we are not told, but his desire and willingness to go was commendable. We challenge everyone reading these lines to rededicate your

life to Christ. Time is short! And the need is great to reach others with the good news of Calvary. We know Paul finished the race and will be rewarded with the crown of righteousness at that day (II Tim. 4:7,8). He ran to win! The question is: Are we running to win?

These may be the last days of the age of Grace, but fear not, it is not the last days of the *Berean Bible Society*. We have already begun laying plans for the next twenty-five years, should the Lord tarry. Watch the pages of the *Searchlight* closely in the months ahead for a preview of what is to come. We are confident that the good work that the Lord began in 1940 will continue until the day of His appearing. Many, many thanks for partnering with us that all men might see the fellowship of the Mystery. 

Endnote

1. Author unknown



Paul M. Sadler

Meet Pastor Sadler!

After nearly thirty years of serving as the president of the *Berean Bible Society*, I still marvel at how God transforms lives through His Word. The administration of BBS today is far more complex than it was in the early years, but it is an essential part of what we do for the Lord. As an author, my desire has always been to write in a clear, understandable fashion. I’ve often said that the challenge is not to see how intellectual we can make a subject, but how simplistic, so *everyone* can benefit from the message. This is also true of

the pulpit ministry. It has been a privilege to minister the riches of God’s grace for many years across this great land of ours. My wife and I so enjoy meeting and encouraging those who faithfully attend these conferences that we come away blessed and refreshed as well.



Ricky Kurth

Meet Pastor Kurth!

Your editor might live in the south suburbs of Chicago, but that doesn't keep me from working full time for BBS in Wisconsin. Every Monday I drive the 141 miles to our headquarters in Germantown, where I engage a room at a local motel so I can avoid the long trip home until Wednesday evening. As editor of the *Berean Searchlight*, I select articles that meet the criterion of our board of directors, write the News and Announcements, select and edit the Letter Excerpts, and oversee Kevin Sadler in the composition

and layout of the *Searchlight*. I also write *Searchlight* articles that are drawn from messages I give at my home church, *Faith Bible Church*, in Steger, Illinois. Doctrinal questions and counseling issues that are not specifically addressed to Pastor Sadler land on my desk in the form of emails and snail mails, Facebook postings, and phone calls. I also represent BBS at four Bible conference speaking engagements a year. On Thursdays and Fridays I work for BBS from home, where it is just as easy to write articles and handle calls and correspondence as it is at the office. I often kneel and thank God for the opportunity to labor for the Lord here at BBS.

Meet Kelly!

The largest office in our facility is occupied by the youngest member of our staff. That's because it is Kelly Olesiak's job to fill our literature orders, collecting materials from the forty-two shelves along the longest wall of her work area. She's in charge of the inventory of all our titles, and it is her hands that are behind the neat but tight packaging that protects your books, booklets or CDs while they find their way to you. In addition, while the *Searchlight* printers mail single copies of our magazine to our readers, our "package people" would not

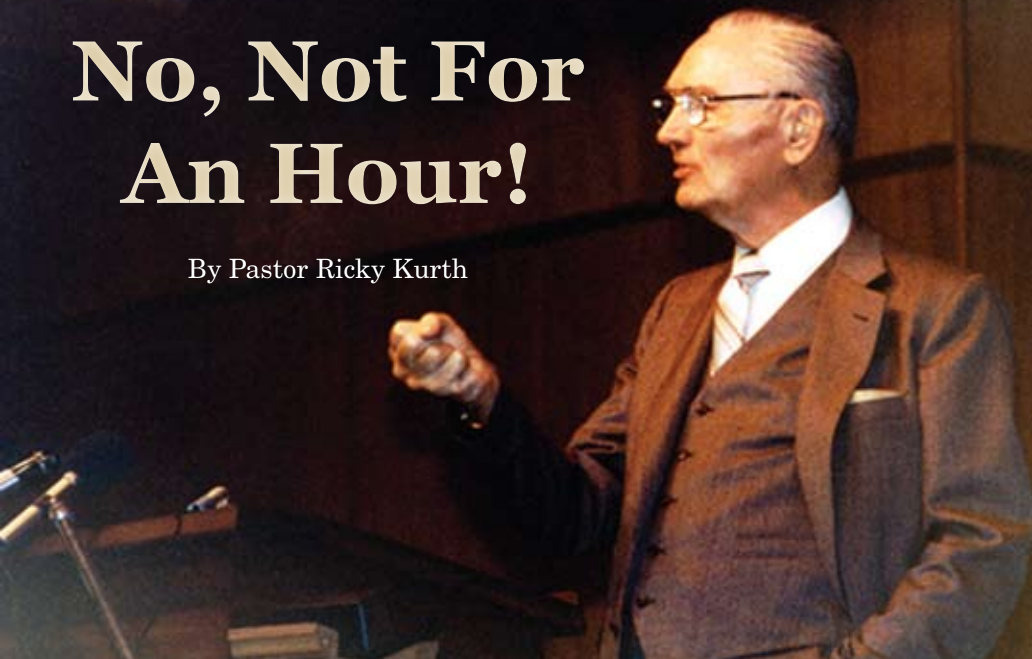
receive their monthly bundle of *Searchlights* without Kelly, and our overseas readers are all beholden to her as well. Then, not a day goes by that we don't receive changes to the *Searchlight* mailing list, and Kelly handles all the additions, deletions, and address changes. In her "spare time" she answers the phone if Christine is busy, oversees the *Searchlight* archives that date all the way back to 1940, and tries her best not to cringe when we enter her office with more work that we throw her way! We thank God for Kelly!



Kelly Olesiak

No, Not For An Hour!

By Pastor Ricky Kurth



“...we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you” (Gal. 2:5).

For seventy-five years, *Berean Bible Society* has stood *firmly* for “the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery” (Rom. 16:25), the message that gives believers “our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 2:4). During those seventy-five years, many “false brethren” have risen up to challenge this message, to whom we, like Paul before us, “gave place by subjection, *no, not for an hour*” (v. 5), “that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.”

Paul’s Historic Stand and Ours

When Paul went up to Jerusalem to establish this message in the eyes of the leaders of the Jewish kingdom church, he knew that the momentous battle of this tremendous dispensational change was not one that he could fight alone, so he went up to Jerusalem “with Barnabas” (2:1), himself a leader in the Jewish kingdom church (Acts 4:36,37), but one who already recognized the new message that had been given to Paul. But the apostle knew that he would also need a godly Gentile to whom he could point to verify that the Gentiles were now being saved apart from the kingdom program of circumcision and the law, so he “took Titus” with him also (Gal. 2:1).

Like Paul, we here at BBS know that we cannot fight the momentous battle of this tremendous dispensational change alone. If we are to establish this message in the eyes of the leadership of *today’s* church,

“the church, which is His Body” (Eph. 1:22,23), we are going to need godly men like Titus to stand shoulder to shoulder with us in this epic fight. *Could you be such a man?* If you are not sure, let’s take a moment to consider the kind of man Titus was.

The Right Man for the Job

When the Jewish leadership called the Jerusalem Council to examine the message that Paul had been preaching among the Gentiles, that of salvation by grace through faith apart from circumcision and the works of the law (Acts 15:1,2), Paul “went up by revelation, and communicated unto them” that new gospel (Gal. 2:2). His message was a radical departure from the kingdom program, where Gentiles were required to be circumcised and keep the law to be saved, as “the Pharisees which believed” later reminded the saints as the council convened (Acts 15:5).

As Paul prepared to leave for the council, he decided to bring a Gentile to the meeting as a sort of a test case. If such an uncircumcised Gentile could walk away from that meeting without being circumcised, it would proclaim to all the world that a dispensational change had taken place, and that God no longer required Gentiles to be circumcised to be saved. Obviously, he needed a Gentile that would not succumb to the tremendous pressure that some at the council were sure to put on him to be circumcised. He selected Titus, the man who struck such fear into the hearts of the carnal Corinthians (II Cor. 7:14,15), and Titus did not disappoint.

“But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised” (Gal. 2:3).

The Right Message for this Dispensation

Here we must pause to explain why it was that God changed His mind after thousands of years of requiring men to be circumcised to be saved. As he explained later in his epistle to the Colossians, believing members of the church which is the Body of Christ are *already* circumcised, “with the circumcision made without hands” (Col. 2:11), a *spiritual* circumcision that God performs on our hearts the moment we trust Christ as Savior. You see, the physical circumcision of a man’s flesh was nothing more than a *symbol* of the circumcision that God longed for men to have *in their hearts*, even Jewish men under the law (Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4). Now that this tremendous dispensational change has taken place, members of the Body of Christ can say that “we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit” (Phil. 3:3). And now that we have the spiritual circumcision that physical circumcision only symbolized, *we have no need of the symbol*.

We might compare this to how we no longer need to offer animals in sacrifice now that we have what all of those animal sacrifices

symbolized, the sacrifice of Christ. Or we might compare our spiritual circumcision to our spiritual baptism (Col. 2:12). Now that we have the cleansing or “washing” that water baptism symbolized (I Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:5 cf. I John 1:7; Rev. 1:5), what further need have we of the symbol? In addition, now that we rest in the finished work of Christ on the cross, what further need have we to observe the Sabbath, which was nothing more than a symbol of rest in Christ.



I like to compare these dispensational changes to my earliest trips to Mexican restaurants. Not being familiar with the names of the entrees, the pictures on the menu helped a gringo like me remember what I had ordered and enjoyed in the past. Sometimes after I ordered, I would continue to gaze longingly at the picture while awaiting my culinary

delight. But after the food arrived, I always laid the picture aside in favor of the aromatic reality that was gracing my plate! Only a fool would ignore a nourishing meal to focus on a symbol, and it is just as foolish to focus on animal sacrifices, circumcision, water baptism, or the sabbath now that we have the reality that these ordinances only symbolized (Col. 2:16,17). But as you know, the professing church foolishly continues to focus on symbols like water baptism and the Sabbath. Oh that they could see the message that Paul made so clear to the leaders at the Jerusalem council so many years ago.

The Right Decision

Once Paul and Barnabas finished “declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles” *without* circumcision and the law (Acts 15:12), James, the leader of the kingdom church, was convinced. He issued a decree that the Jews should “trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God” (v. 19). The kingdom program that he knew and loved had said nothing about Gentiles being saved apart from the law, but as James and the apostles and prophets attending the council listened to Paul, God “revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit” the first principles of the mystery that was given to Paul (Eph. 3:5).

Paul, of course, hadn’t received this new message by the Spirit, he received it “by the revelation of *Jesus Christ*” (Gal. 1:12) when Christ appeared to him in person and *revealed* it to him by revelation. But when God began to reveal it to His apostles and prophets at the

Jerusalem council, He revealed it to *them* “by the Spirit” (Eph. 3:5) as they listened to Paul explain it. If that sounds familiar, it is because that’s how you and I learned the mystery! Speaking of the truths of the mystery (I Cor. 2:7), Paul says that “God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit” (I Cor. 2:10) as we study Paul’s epistles.

This is an important difference to keep in mind, for when we use Ephesians 3:1-4 to insist that the mystery was given exclusively to Paul *alone*, our opponents use Verse 5 to say that it was *also* revealed to God’s other apostles and prophets. That’s true, it was, but it was “made known” to Paul “by revelation” (Eph. 3:3), “*by the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (Gal. 1:12). It was made known to *the apostles and prophets* “by the Spirit” (Eph. 3:5), that is, by the *illumination* of the Spirit, and this is how it is made known to us as well.

The False Brethren

After James and the other apostles and prophets at the Jerusalem council were thus illuminated, and James had issued his decree not to trouble the Gentiles with the law (Acts 15:19), *believing* Jews at the council heeded his advice and troubled them no more. But there were “false brethren” at the council who *refused* to turn away from the symbol of physical circumcision to behold the spiritual circumcision that a godly man like Titus exhibited without the law. Thus, Paul went on to say that there were still attempts made to compel Titus to be circumcised:

“And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage” (Gal. 2:4).

If you are curious as to why false brethren were allowed a presence at the Jerusalem Council, notice that Paul says that they were brought in “un-

awares.” If the believing Jews had been aware that these men were false brethren, they would never have brought them in to the meeting. But if the leaders were unaware that these men were false brethren, how did Paul know? I believe that they *showed* that they were false brethren *when they didn’t agree with Paul*.

Remember how we saw that saved Jews received the mystery “by the Spirit”? Well, we know that “the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God” because they are “spiritually discerned” (I Cor. 2:14), and he doesn’t have the Spirit to reveal them to him.



So when these unsaved Jews tried to compel Titus to be circumcised, Paul knew that they did not have the Spirit within them, revealing his new message of the mystery to them, and so he was able to detect that they were false brethren.

False Brethren Today

This begs a question that we are often asked here at BBS: “Can someone be saved if they don’t agree with Paul?” Well, if you don’t agree with Paul *about the terms of salvation* you are certainly not saved, and the Jerusalem Council had been called to discuss the terms of salvation for the Gentiles. You can disagree with Paul on a number of things and still be saved, but not on the terms of salvation, for he alone in Scripture teaches the salvation-by-grace-through-faith gospel that saves in this dispensation.

But if disagreeing with Paul about circumcision and salvation made those Jews false brethren, that means people today who teach that you have to be baptized to be saved are false brethren, as are those who teach that you have to observe the Sabbath for salvation. In short, anyone who adds *anything* to the terms of salvation beyond grace and faith show that they are *not your brethren*.

Paul said that the false brethren at the Jerusalem Council “came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage” (Gal. 2:4). This kind of spying still goes on today! Most of the email questions I get here at BBS are from *sincere* brethren who are conducting an earnest search for the truth. But sometimes I get questions from people who are just trying to *bait me*. They *sound* like they wish to learn what we believe, but they are actually trying to spy our liberty, the liberty we have from the yoke of the Law (Gal. 5:1), to bring us into the bondage of the law (Acts 15:10) in their followup emails.

But for that to happen at the Jerusalem council, these false brethren were going to have to put the Apostle Paul into subjection, and if you know anything about Paul, you know that he wasn’t about to let that happen!

“To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you” (Gal. 2:5).

No Subjection! No Compromise!

If you are not sure what “subjection” is, remember that Paul says that we are to be “*subject* unto the higher powers” in our government (Rom. 13:1). But Paul knew that the power and authority of these false brethren was certainly not higher than his own, so he “gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour.” The Bible phrase “gave place” means *to retreat* (Judg. 20:36,37), and the Apostle Paul was not about to compromise the truth in any way, shape, or form.

Compromise is okay in some areas, like politics, for instance. Henry Clay was called “The Great Compromiser” when his 1820 Missouri Compromise delayed the start of the Civil War for forty years. Compromise is how government works; it is how it *has* to work until Christ is king of the kingdom of heaven on earth.

But had Paul compromised *with these false brethren* for even an hour, a Gentile passing through Jerusalem in that hour might have heard Paul retreat from the truth of the gospel. Such a man would have gone away thinking that perhaps he was not saved without circumcision and the Law after all. He then might have told two brethren how Paul had given place to legalizers, who in turn may have told two other brethren, and before you know it this error would have spread around the world. This is why it was *crucial* that Paul and Titus refuse to give place to error for even an hour in their day, *and why it is just as important for us today*.

This is also why you should never back down from giving a *consistent* Christian testimony to the world. If you decide that you are going to be bad “for just an hour,” that might be the hour someone passing through your life witnesses your retreat from godliness. They then might tell two people about you, who might tell two other people, and before you know it, believers around the world think that it is okay for children of God to give place to sin. No wonder Paul says of “fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be *once* named among you, as becometh saints” (Eph. 5:3).


Stand with Us!

So, how ‘bout it? Can you be a Paul? Can you be a Titus? Can you stand with us so that the truth of Paul’s gospel might continue to spread around the world? Can you be a man or woman of God whom He can count on to give place by subjection “no, not for an hour” to the false brethren in the religious world today, “neither give place to the devil” in your own personal Christian life (Eph. 4:27)?

I understand that not everyone has the dominant personality of a Titus, so I don’t want to close this article leaving you thinking that God can only use a man like him. In the propagation of Paul’s gospel, God needs Timothys as well! While the Corinthians feared Titus (II Cor. 7:14,15), we know that they were able to intimidate Timothy, or else Paul would not have had to ask them not to (I Cor. 16:10). You wouldn’t think God could use a man like Timothy, but He did, *and He still can*.

If you are thinking about becoming a grace pastor, you should know there is always a perfect church for every pastor. Paul left a “he-man” like Titus to pastor the church in a rough and tumble locale like Crete, telling him to “set in order the things that are wanting” (Titus 1:5), shut the mouths of the “unruly” (vv. 10,11), and “rebuke them sharply”

(v. 13). But when Paul spoke to Timothy about his tears, and his mother and grandmother (II Tim. 1:4,5), we know that he was more of a momma's boy, more of a bookworm than a gladiator like Titus. So Paul left *him* in Ephesus (I Tim. 1:3), a more refined area known more for their schools (Acts 19:9) and books (19:19).

Was Timothy able to have an effective ministry in Ephesus? Have you *read* the Book of Ephesians? That singular epistle stands as a testimony to the deep teaching that Timothy had ministered among them. Timothy obviously had a *tremendous* ministry—and so can you, no matter what kind of man you are. So if you are thinking of entering the ministry, or if you left the ministry before finding the church that fits you best, I exhort you to consider standing with us in *thundering* forth the message that Paul proclaimed, the message that Pastor Stam called “the wonderful gospel of the wonderful grace of God”! 

The Message Produced a Missionary

The following testimony was written by Pat Kilgo, now serving the Lord in Malaysia with *Things To Come Mission*. Once Paul's gospel freed him from the shackles of religion, his heart was burdened with a burning desire to share that liberating message with the world.

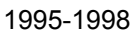
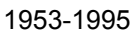
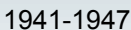
On September 13, 2004, I very miraculously got my hands on a copy of *Things That Differ* as I prepared for a business trip from Boston to Washington, D.C. I read the book as I traveled and rejoiced with every turn of the page. I arrived in D.C. that afternoon, ditched my dinner plans with friends, and finished the book in my hotel room. I became a grace believer that day.

My spiritual life had been a mess because I was wrapped up in “Religiosity” all my life and knew no better. Starting on September 14, 2004, I began a journey that took me out of that bondage into a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ based on His grace. My wife soon accepted these truths as well. Within a week or so I called the *Berean Bible Society* and you sent me a lot of BBS material to read and study. Within a year, I literally owned every BBS book available and I read them all. To this day, I still get excited when I think of rightly dividing the Bible, and the fact that I can understand God's Word.

Well, this letter, like one of Kevin Sadler's sermons, is getting interminably long ☺, so I will close with this: **The work you do at BBS is important because it changes lives.** It changed my life and enriched me in innumerable ways. Your works equip believers with the tools they need to properly exalt the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am sure that some days at BBS are tough, and I know that the Society gets a lot of satanic opposition. But please keep fighting, keep preaching, keep writing, and keep reaching out with the gospel of the grace of God!

Over 75 years, we've chan

How we looked when we visited you



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How we looked when you visited us



Preakness, NJ—1940-1945



Milwaukee, WI—1945-1953



Chicago, IL—1953-1958



Chicago, IL—1958-1967



Chicago, IL—1967-1996



Germantown, WI—1996-Present



The Word of God Is Not Bound

Thanks to the jail ministry of many grace believers and pastors, we frequently hear from many men behind bars, such as this brother in Colorado:

“I had been in prison for five years and had been taught many different doctrines....Then in 1999...I was forced to live with a man everyone said was a crazy Christian because of what he believed, and he told me about BBS....At first I thought everyone was right and he was way out there....He continued to give me...booklets (as a good Christian would)....Around 2004 I had some real problems with how Scripture was being taught....I saw a lot of contradictions between what the gospels taught and what Paul taught...All this time God kept bringing BBS literature across my path, and I really started to see the truth of separating what Paul taught from all the others....all the so-called contradictions went away....Now I can't seem to keep a copy of *Things That Differ*, as I always give them away....I can't wait to get out and be a part of a true grace church....I even want to be a leader of a home church to teach all that God has taught me by His Spirit and through BBS.”

Meet Colleen!

Since Paul bids us to be “not slothful in business,” BBS business is superintended by our business manager, Colleen Romain. Colleen keeps a watchful eye over our accounts payable, payroll, payroll taxes, and all of the filing with the government that is involved in connection with payroll taxes and maintaining our tax-exempt status. She works closely with the CPAs in our accounting firm, and processes the donation receipts that help you in turn run a tight financial ship at home. We love Colleen not just because she pays us, but also because

she keeps track of our vacation schedules and sick days, and asks the best Bible questions during our brief morning devotions. She also takes the lead in preparing reports for Pastor Sadler and arranges travel and lodging for our board members during their twice-a-year board meetings. When Christine and Kelly are on the phone, she takes your calls on Line 3. The world calls her work “bean-counting,” but she likes to call it “looking after the Lord’s money,” and we are all thankful for her work in making sure our books are kept decently and in order.



Colleen Romain

IN THE BEGINNING

Shortly after coming to the *Berean Bible Society*, I initiated the Question Box in the *Searchlight*. When I consulted with Pastor Stam at the time to see what he thought about it, his exact words were, "It's a great idea!" Since that day the Question Box has been a part of the *Berean Searchlight*, answering questions frequently asked by Grace believers. These questions are selected from letters, emails, and phone calls. They are also drawn from our conference ministry. We routinely announce at the beginning of our meetings for the brethren to write out their questions and place them in a designated box. We then set a time aside for a Q&A session at the end of the conference to address each one, as time permits. These questions range from "Where did Cain get his wife?" to "Do we have a guardian angel today under grace?"

—Pastor Sadler



Question Box

"What does Paul mean when he states, we are delivered from this present evil world in Galatians 1:4? Is he speaking about the Rapture, or does he have something else in mind?"

"Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" (Gal. 1:4).

We believe the latter; Paul had something else in mind! Notice the apostle says that this deliverance is in direct correlation with the Cross. The "present evil world" is to be understood as this present evil age (Gr. *aion*). Satan is said to be the god of this age (II Cor. 4:4), who we know has supremacy over the rulers of darkness (Eph. 6:11,12). His kingdom is a kingdom of darkness (Rev. 16:10) filled with immorality, greed, lying, slander, rebellion, and false teaching, making it pure evil!

But the moment we place our faith in Christ we are *delivered* from the power of this darkness, which we once reveled in, and we are transplanted into the kingdom of God's dear Son, which is a kingdom of light and righteousness (Eph. 5:8; Col. 1:13). The precious blood of Christ then has freed us from our former life of habitually living in sin. We now are the children of light, who live in the light of God's Word!

—Pastor Sadler

Meet Vicki!



Vicki Sadler

Pastor Sadler's wife, Vicki, takes care of mailing out the receipts for your donations and memorial gifts. She is also in charge of the duplication process for the CD and DVD copies of messages by Pastor Stam and Pastor Sadler, as well as the teaching CDs generated by our Sunday School program. She is additionally involved in proofreading the *Searchlight*, and scans in our older books and booklets, page-by-page, into digital format when they are in need of reprinting.

All printers now *require* digital copy, but scanners misread characters so often that Vicki must painstakingly check these scans against the original copy. Then, when we travel to Bible conferences, it is Vicki who gathers and prices the literature that we take to feature at our book tables, and she tallies the sales and adjusts our inventory records upon our return. She also makes sure that BBS credit card receipts match the charges and saves BBS money when she comes across the occasional discrepancy. The boss isn't the only one who thanks God for his wife around here!

Meet Jessica!

Kevin Sadler's wife, Jessica, works for us part-time. Depending on the varying volume of her workload, she is in the office two or three days a week. Jessica is responsible for our *Growing Up In Grace* Sunday School binders, a job which involves the reformatting and updating of the binders into spiral-bound books. She also works with her husband when it comes time to update the look of our books and booklets to align and prepare them for reprinting. She has an eye for picking fonts and is good with other creative graphic ideas,

so Kevin relies on her for help with the *Searchlight* titles and display ads. As if she didn't have enough to do, your editor recently asked her and Vicki to select lighthouse pictures for the cover of the *Searchlight* for the next two years, something at which they excelled. You may have spoken to Jess while placing an order with us, for she too will answer the phone when everyone else is busy. Her four children are not the only ones who give thanks for their mom, and her part-time hours allow her to always end her day by getting home in time to greet them after school.



Jessica Sadler



75 Years of BBS Letter Excerpts

1940s

"I would suggest you call all your missionaries home if you have no use for the Great Commission." CA

"Last night my wife came into the knowledge of the mystery of grace and she is just as happy and thrilled as the day she was saved. Hallelujah!" NE

1950s

"A number of years ago I came to see that the ministry of the Apostle Peter was different from that of the Apostle Paul...but not knowing anyone at that time who made any distinction between them, I wondered whether I really had seen anything...so I am thankful to the Lord for you." MN

"Since I started reading your booklets, I've seen for the first time in my life real harmony and purpose in the Scripture. Many of the contradictions I knew have passed away." WY

"We do not care for your paper. We believe in *grace* from start to finish, but don't care for your super-duper dispensationalism." TN

"Next to my salvation, the Word, rightly divided, is the most precious thing I have." AL

1960s

"Today I had the misfortune to receive, for the umteenth time, a copy of your worthless...*Berean Searchlight*.

You may be delighted to learn that one issue...makes a very excellent firelighter." England

"I would like to apologize on behalf of the Englishman who sent you that disgusting letter. I assure you the Bereans who receive this stimulating magazine in this country really enjoy it." England

"Your book has taken me much deeper in my understanding of the Bible...I thank you heartily for making the Bible so clear and simple." Fiji Islands

1970s

"The understanding of the mystery has done more for my Christian life than anything else, save salvation and the assurance of it. Bible study is no longer a chore, but joy unspeakable." VA

"Please take us off your mailing list and stop wasting your money, the postman's time, and our country's woodpulp." MT

1980s

"As we see the isms moving into the area of the Caribbean with much force, we are motivated more than ever to press forward with the message that truly sets men free." Curacao

"Praise God for the revelation of this wonderful truth! My only regret is that I spent nearly twenty years in the ministry without it." NY

"My prayer to God is that you and your disciples will be put to silence and immediate destruction for your perversions of His Word...May your pen and mouths be stopped by the mighty power of God." IL

1990s

"Your booklets have taught me more in one month than from the last ten years from other people. I had many questions about tongues, healings, baptism, prayer...your booklets and my looking into the Word have brought a great relief to me." Japan

"I take offense...that you deny an ordinance, such as baptism, and also you seem to elevate Paul's epistles above the rest of Scripture...take me off your mailing list." SD

"No other approach than a dispensational one makes much sense of the Bible, but *yours* makes so much sense so *obviously and clearly*...." TN

"*Berean Bible Society* rescued me from the ocean of religious confusion. Gracias Dios!" Guatemala

2000s

"Since I feel that you are biblically in error over such matters as baptism and the dispensational nature of the Sermon on the Mount, please remove my name from your mailing list." Nova Scotia

"My walk with the Lord was going down, I was giving up because I couldn't make it work any more, until I started learning about right division from the *Searchlight*." MN

"Please forgive me for not writing sooner—I could not put these books down. After twelve years of frustrating Bible guessing and various 'isms,' God's Word makes sense. The day we talked I was really in despair and about to give up." MI

"'Here I am, send me...' But teach me first to know and understand the entire Bible in light of Paul's gospel. This is all new to me and I am truly hooked on studying the Scriptures from the grace dispensational viewpoint." Internet

"I have been a Pentecostal minister, but I have yet to read anything as compelling as the message in the *Berean Searchlight*. This message of grace has gripped me." TX

"I'm an Episcopal priest and enjoy the *Searchlight*. It is of great help in my sermons." Internet

"I want to say 'thank you' in the deepest sense of those words. This isn't the first time that you have helped me to better understand what the Lord says on some of these issues...Last year you helped me see through the deception of the Pentecostal church by taking me through the Lord's teaching through the Apostle Paul." WI

"I am stunned and amazed at your answer to my question on water baptism. You know how it is very often when reading the Word and it is suddenly illuminated by the Spirit and you *know*? Well, that is what happened to me as I read your explanation. I must admit to shedding a few tears." Internet

"Pastor Stam always had very high standards for the Bible teaching in your magazine, but I have been particularly impressed with the articles from the past several years... This sound teaching is making a difference in people's lives!" IL

"I thank God for...the BBS ministry. As the world is getting ever more entangled in a web of deception, it is good to have yet towers of light shining into the darkness." Switzerland

Meet Kevin!



Kevin Sadler

Your editor's right-hand man has been our graphic designer for nineteen years now. Literally everything you see in the *Berean Searchlight* is the direct result of his diligent work. Each month he takes the articles your editor gives him and converts them from the Word format in which they were written into what you end up seeing on our pages, using a professional design software used to create magazines, books, and other literature. The advertisements you see in the *Searchlight* for our book specials and Bible conferences

are the result of his fertile creative mind. After our proofreaders submit their suggestions, Kevin must carefully and painstakingly make these changes, then search for pictures to enhance the effectiveness of our articles. He is also in charge of composition and layout for our new literature and the reprints of our books, booklets, and charts, and he helps our webmaster maintain our website. You probably know him best as the smiling face behind our BBS book display at the annual BBF conference in Cedar Lake, Indiana, and more recently as the sound expositor of God's Word who represents BBS at four Bible conferences a year. The saints at *Kettle Moraine Bible Church* in West Bend, Wisconsin, are not the only ones that thank God for their pastor!

A Fruitful Church Bulletin

To explain the emergence of the *Berean Searchlight*, I should go back to the years in New Jersey.

I had asked the board at *Preakness Bible Church* to let me use the back of our weekly bulletin exclusively for Bible studies. This they gladly granted and almost immediately the idea took hold. Spontaneously our people were distributing copies of the bulletin more widely. A milkman in our congregation left them with his milk deliveries; a member of a big city sewing group took sixty for the members there, others took quantities for other purposes, until soon we had a list of 700 to prepare each week for distribution. This soon grew to 1600, and when I left Preakness we had a mailing list of more than 7,000 names....

I have never considered myself an outstanding writer. In fact, writing has always been difficult for me, but I do love the challenge. It is a great joy to search that blessed Book, and to try to express one's findings in the clearest possible manner.

—C. R. Stam, *The Memoirs of Pastor Cornelius R. Stam*



Works by BBS's Founder Cornelius R. Stam

ACTS, Dispensationally Considered—Volume 1

(Covers Acts 1:1-15:35)

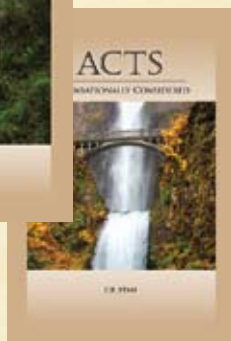
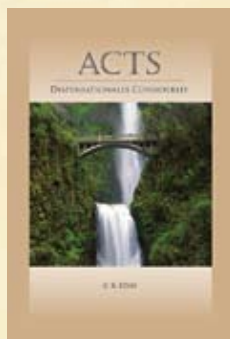
HARDCOVER 560 PAGES

ACTS, Dispensationally Considered—Volume 2

(Covers Acts 15:36-28:31)

HARDCOVER 472 PAGES

Special Price: \$15.00 each



The Memoirs of Pastor C. R. Stam

This 130-page hardcover recounts Pastor Stam's boyhood, the Stam family, the martyrdom of John and Betty Stam, and Pastor Stam's call into the ministry. It also gives a brief history of the grace movement from the standpoint of Pastor Stam's ministry.

See page 33 for an excerpt from the book!

Special Price: \$7.00 (Reg. price: \$13.50)

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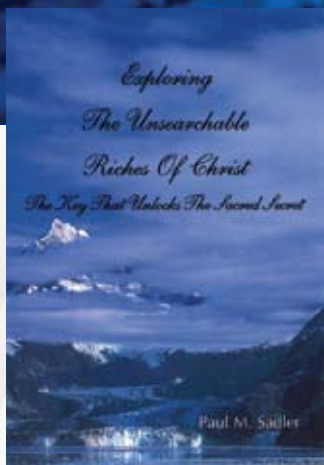
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Works by BBS's President Paul M. Sadler



Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ

This 190-page volume takes a fresh look at what we mean by the phrase, “rightly dividing the Word of truth.”

Special Price: \$9.00

(Regular price: \$12.50)



This booklet of charts is a detailed approach for those who'd like to learn more about the mystery of God, “according to the Scriptures.”

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This fold-out chart is a great way to introduce someone to the Word, rightly divided.

Price: \$0.25 each or

Package of 25: \$5.00 *(50% off!)*



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Wisconsin residents please add 5.6% for sales tax

Meet Our Proofreaders and Webmaster!

Each month, the *Berean Searchlight* is proofread by Pastor Sadler and your editor, in addition to a few other proofreaders who are all eminently more qualified than we are in the areas of spelling, grammar, sentence construction, and all of the other minutia of English grammar that it hurts my head to even think about!

Charlie Fouché of Dalton, Georgia, is our newest proofreader. Charlie holds several degrees, some in theology, one in journalism, and one in wisecracking, but he is all business when it comes time to scour the *Searchlight* looking for grammatical errors that can only detract from the truth we are trying to set forth.



I met Danette Bradford and her husband David many years ago at Jerry and Judy Worthley's *Celebrate Grace Camp* in Colorado. At the time she was only a few years into her now twelve-year career of professional proofreading that has made good use of her degree in journalism. I pinned her offer to proofread for us to my bulletin board, and gave her a call when a position opened up many years later.

Proofreader Dan Dobler of Phoenix, Arizona, used to be BBS Business Manager Dan Dobler, back in the day when we were still located in Chicago. Like all of our proofreaders, he loves the truth of Paul's gospel, and delights to work with us to ensure that we put our best grammatical foot forward with each issue of the *Searchlight*. Also like our other proofreaders, he often catches things that the others miss.



Finally, BBS Webmaster Richard Church is the man behind the scenes that you see when you click on www.bereanbiblesociety.org. Richard has served as the pastor of *Friendship Bible Church* in Friendship, Wisconsin, and makes his living creating and maintaining websites for ministries like ours, and businesses and individuals as well. Richard is always up on the latest innovations, makes many helpful suggestions, and is our go-to guy when we have website woes.

That rounds out our team of out-of-office helpers. There's not a lot of glamour in working behind the scenes, but no ministry can serve the Lord without those who are willing to do so, and we thank God for these willing hearts.



News and Announcements

Do you speak Italian? Our good friend Dr. Salvatore Brancato has translated Pastor Stam's classic work *Moses and Paul* and would like someone to check his work, preferably someone fluent in English and Italian, and fluent in the grace message as well. For more information, email him at sbrancato50@comcast.net, or give him a call at 912-352-9908.

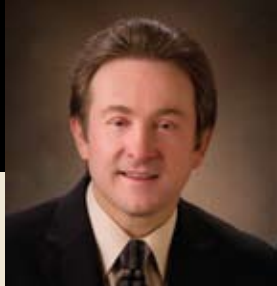
Community Bible Conference: Southwest Indiana is bracing for the storm of blessing that is sure to strike all who are able to make room in their schedules for this March 28 event. *Grace Community Church* has invited BBS president Pastor Paul M. Sadler to proclaim the riches of God's grace at the *Gasthof Amish Village* in Montgomery, Indiana. You can call the church at (812) 277-0520, or let Pastor Dave Wilson fill you in on all the details: (812) 583-3052.

Southwest Michigan Conference: Once our good friends Brian and Linda De Does shared the grace message with Pastor Bill Blair, the eyes of his understanding were enlightened. The next step, of course, is to have a Bible conference! Why not come join the excitement of a new grace work as Don Webb, Joel McGarvey, Perry Lewis, and Pastor Blair lead the reveling in the riches of God's grace on May 15, 16 at the *Orangeville Township Hall* in Plainwell. To learn more, contact Pastor Blair: billbrendablair@yahoo.com, (269) 623-2861 or Brian De Does: blddoes@tds.net, (269) 207-4890.

New Grace Church: *Valley Grace Church* of Peoria, Arizona, would like to welcome Phoenix valley *Searchlight* readers to their Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services. Why not join them in their efforts to fulfill Paul's commission to help all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. You can read all about this new grace work at www.valleygracechurch.com, and then email our good friend Pastor Dick Ware with any questions at rnware@aol.com, or call him at (870) 941-6110, or write him at Box 1286, Peoria, AZ 85380.

New Grace Church: *Grace Bible Fellowship* of Rogersville, Alabama, has outgrown the homes in which they were meeting and are now gathering at the *Rogersville Senior Center* on Sunday morning at 10, and Thursday evening at 7. For more information, call Alan Jaynes at (256) 483-7318, or email former Baptist pastor Elvis Williams (goinupru@bellsouth.net), who will be glad to tell you about how he now preaches the message that he once set out to prove wrong!

From the Editor to You



Dear Friends in Christ,

Seventy-five years ago this month, the very first issue of the *Berean Searchlight* was mailed out to a handful of grace believers, mostly in the Preakness, New Jersey area, where BBS founder Pastor Cornelius Richard Stam was living and pastoring at the time. When we have visitors here at *Berean Bible Society*, I love to show them the copy of that first issue that we keep in Pastor Stam's library. It was about the size of a church bulletin! But back in the day when the grace message was just starting to catch fire, it wasn't long before both the circulation and the size of the magazine grew in response to the hunger in the hearts of God's people for the sound teaching of His rightly divided Word.

Back in the late 70s and early 80s, when I worked for Pastor Stam typesetting the *Searchlight*, he would occasionally write more material than I could fit in our standard 32-page format. At such times, I well remember how he would look at our business manager Fred Swanson and say, "Well, it looks like we'll just have to have another 40-pager this month!" I'm sure Fred cringed inwardly as he wondered where the money would come from for this unexpected additional expense, but thanks to the faithful giving of God's people, the Lord always provided.

I mention all this to call attention to the extra eight pages we are featuring in this present issue. Once we surveyed all the things that we wanted to share with you in observance of our seventy-fifth anniversary, it seemed appropriate to bring back an anniversary 40-page issue as well. These supplemental pages allowed us to introduce you to our staff, show you the different buildings we've called home over the years, and display the changes that the *Searchlight* cover has gone through over time as well.

The truth that so gripped Pastor Stam's heart that he was driven to launch a magazine to share it with the world seventy-five years ago is still the truth that grips us today. If the truth of Paul's gospel has seized your heart as well, I invite you to partner with us in the sacred work of getting this blessed message out to others. As Pastor Stam used to say, if the truth of Paul's distinctive apostleship and message isn't the answer to all the religious confusion in the world, then let's forget it. But if it *is* the answer, let's work like never before to get it into the hands and hearts of God's people around the world.



Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ricky Kurth

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Our 75th Anniversary Conference

April 25, 2015

The only thing we couldn't include in this 75th anniversary issue of the *Berean Searchlight* is the warm fellowship that you'll enjoy at our 75th anniversary conference. For more information about your cordial invitation, see pages 4 and 11.