

# *The* **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

May 2015



Feature Article

Not Imputing Their Trespasses Unto Them, *by Ricky Kurth* .....5

Articles

The Influence of the Restrainer, *by Paul M. Sadler* .....13

The Children of the Kingdom and the Gentiles, *by J. C. O’Hair* .....19

A Little Space of Grace, *by Ricky Kurth* .....24

Departments

A Thorny Issue .....4

47th Annual Berean Bible Fellowship Conference .....23

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.

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

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

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



You can reach us at:

BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
N112 W17761 Mequon Road  
PO Box 756  
Germantown, WI 53022

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

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

E-mail: [berean@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:berean@bereanbiblesociety.org)

**The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), May 2015. Vol. 76, Number 3.**

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,

I was sharing with a friend the other day that while the sign gift of healing is no longer being used by God today, in His infinite mercy He has allowed the advancement of medical technology to address many of our afflictions. This is a glorious exhibition of God's grace that prolongs life, thus enabling us to continue in His service. The words of the Psalmist offer this insightful truth about the Great Physician, "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."

Both my wife and I have passed through the furnace of affliction recently, which has served to strengthen our faith and draw us closer to the Lord, and to one another. On Tuesday, March 17th, Vicki had a benign pituitary brain tumor successfully removed. She was released from the hospital two days later and is doing remarkably well.

We are very grateful to God that He guided the surgeon's hands to remove the mass effectively. The tumor was putting pressure on the optic nerve, which caused her to have blurred vision. Since its removal, her eyesight is slowly improving. The other night when we retired for the evening, she sat up in bed to tell me that she could see the numbers on the clock on her nightstand. Prior to the surgery, she could only see the light on the digital display but was unable to make out the numbers. A few days later, we were watching the news (she says "news" is short for snooze) when she realized that she could read the words streaming across the bottom of the screen for the first time since the surgery. I had to adjust my bifocals to read them!

Vicki's up and around, but for the next six weeks she is not permitted to bend over or lift anything over two pounds. To put that into perspective, a gallon of milk weighs about nine pounds. So I'm getting a much-needed workout—I never realized how many times she bends over in the course of a day. My new exercise routine ranges from opening the oven door to picking up the dog toys, and everything in between. I now have a much better understanding of what she does around the house.

We are now working our way through all the follow-up appointments; and so far, so good. Vicki is on track to make a full recovery, by the grace of God. We give thanks to the Lord for His watchful care and for your prayers on her behalf—they are greatly appreciated!

Amazed at His grace,  
Paul M. Sadler, President



# A Thorny Issue

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

We often hear from grace believers who have been told, by someone who should know better, that those who belong to a denomination could not possibly be saved because they have no understanding of the Grace message. In their mind, they are entangled in a form of “religion” and merely going through the ceremonial motions. To them their hearts are far from God; therefore, those who attend a denominational assembly should be called “anathema.”

Those who hold this extreme position have a short memory, seeing that many of them are the fruits of one of these churches. According to them I was not saved when I was a Baptist. With this I would take issue. It is my firm conviction that it is not a prerequisite to fully understand the Mystery to be saved. Anyone who believes the terms of salvation set forth by the Apostle Paul—that Christ died for their sins and rose again—is saved by the grace of God and is a member of the true Church, the Body of Christ.

This means that anyone who has believed the gospel of salvation is saved, no matter what their denominational affiliation. Even though they may not have the understanding that we have of Paul’s gospel, we owe them both honor and respect as members of Christ’s Body. In light of the coming Judgment Seat of Christ, we are well served never to speak disparagingly of them. Mark these words of the Apostle Paul, and mark them well, “Why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought [despise] thy brother? for we shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ...So then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:10,12).

We most certainly acknowledge that Catholicism spiritually binds its hearers with the need to earn their salvation through good works. This false “religious system,” with all its unfounded traditions, must be exposed as heresy. But even here we must give thanks that there are Catholics who have believed the gospel and eventually recanted Catholicism. Protestantism, on the other hand, with all its shortcomings and denominational bias, does at least in varying degrees preach faith in Christ. Even though they have many times opposed us for proclaiming the gospel of the grace of God, we like Paul, are grateful that Christ is preached (Phil. 1:15-18).

Rather than criticize those of the denominations who are saved, we have a responsibility to share the Word rightly divided with them so that they too might be delivered from the commandments of men. As Paul says, we are to “speak the truth in love,” something that is oftentimes lacking in the Grace movement.



# Not Imputing Their Trespasses Unto Them

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

Our concluding study of “The Reconciling of the World”

Perhaps you heard about the two accountants who were standing in line at a bank when suddenly two bank robbers burst in. While one of them robbed the tellers, the other began ordering the customers to hand over *their* money and jewelry. Just before he got to the accountants, one of them stuffed something into the pocket of the other. When the second man asked, “What’s that?” his fellow accountant replied, “That’s the \$100 I owe you!”

Well, while you have to admire the man’s integrity, you have to question his timing!

We share this humorous story not to denigrate accountants, but to get you to thinking about *accounting*, for accounting plays a big part in the Bible doctrine of *reconciliation*, as we can plainly see from our text:

**“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed**

**unto us the word of reconciliation” (II Cor. 5:19).**

That word “imputing” is an *accounting term*. In fact, our KJV translators translated that word as “account” or “accounted” or “accounting” four times in our Authorized Version. If you are curious as to why Paul would use an accounting term in speaking about our “trespasses,” it is because when we sin we become *debtors to God*. That’s why the Lord taught the apostles to pray, “forgive us our *debts*, as we forgive our debtors” (Matt. 6:12). If you find it hard to think of sins as debts, remember that under the Law, if you sinned against a man by stealing from him, *that put you in his debt*. If you were caught stealing a man’s ox, for example, you not only had to return it, you *owed* the man five additional oxen in *reparations* (Ex. 22:1).

“Reparation” is another accounting term that you hear used even today. There is talk of paying

reparations to African Americans for the labor of their ancestors. There is also talk of paying reparations to Native Americans for the confiscation of their lands. So “reparations” is actually a *legal* accounting term, a term that is admittedly not found in the Bible. However, the synonym “recompense” *is* found in the Bible, and God uses this word often in legal accounting situations:

**“...when a man or woman shall commit any sin...and that person be guilty; then they shall... recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed” (Num. 5:6,7).**

The word “principal” here is yet *another* accounting term. In this verse, it referred to the thing that was stolen that had to be paid back with an additional “recompense” of “the fifth part.” In other words, if you stole an ox, you had to restore the principal ox and five more oxen in recompense or reparation.

### **Your Account with God**

By now you may be asking yourself how sins against *men* make us debtors to *God*. Well, remember that in the law it is *God* who tells us not to lie to our fellow man, nor steal from him, kill him, or covet his belongings. Thus it is that any infraction against *men* in these areas makes us debtors to God, as well as to the men against whom we commit these trespasses.

Then there is something else to consider in this regard, something very serious. Do you remember what David prayed after committing adultery with Bathsheba

and then murdering her husband Uriah the Hittite? He called upon God and said, “Against Thee, *Thee only*, have I sinned...” (Psa. 51:4). Now think about that! If he sinned against *anyone*, it was against *Uriah*. I mean, if you sleep with a man’s wife and then have him killed so you can marry her, I daresay you sin against him *and him only*. God says otherwise! This is because sins against others ultimately make you a debtor to Him *and Him alone*.



No wonder the Lord taught the apostles to pray “forgive us our debts”! (Matt. 6:12). Since “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23), the account of every man ever born into the world is *way* overdrawn and “in the red” with Almighty God—and there are certain people to whom you don’t want to owe money. The IRS, for example, or the Mafia (some would say they seem like one and the same!); your in-laws, to use another example (again, they might seem like one and the same!). You also don’t want to be found in debt to God; yet such is the case of every man.

### **Balancing Your Account**

But unlike any of these creditors, *God* has made it simple to

get out of debt. Our text speaks of how “God was in Christ” (at Calvary<sup>1</sup>) “not imputing their trespasses unto them.” Well, if God was not imputing our trespasses to *our* account at Calvary, to whose account was He imputing them? If you are saved, you know the answer to that! At the Cross, God was charging our trespasses to *Christ’s* account. There’s an old saying that says that people often get what’s coming to them, but on the Cross the Lord Jesus didn’t get what was coming to *Him*, He got what was coming to *us*.

That’s why that same Greek word for “imputed” is translated “number” when Mark described the Lord’s crucifixion and added, “and He was *numbered* with the transgressors” (Mark 15:28). Doesn’t the word “number” sound like yet *another* legal accounting term? I mean, if you number a man with men on death row, it had better be legal, and he had better have done something so *evil* that only his *death* can balance his account. Of course, in our Lord’s case, this was only true after our sins were placed on Christ and God then justly condemned and judged Him.

In Luke’s description of the Cross, this inspired historian said that the Lord was “*reckoned* among the transgressors” (Luke 22:37). We know that “reckon” is still *another* legal accounting term, for the Lord told of...

**“...a certain king, which would take *account* of his servants. And when he had begun to *reckon*, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him**

**to be sold...and payment to be made” (Matt. 18:23-25).**

In those days, if you couldn’t pay your debts, you were sold into slavery or cast into prison until the debt you owed to your creditor was paid.

When we add it all up, we know that when the Bible says the Lord was *numbered* or *reckoned* with the transgressors, we know that the sins of the world were *imputed* to His account as He hung on Calvary’s Cross.

### **What’s Needed to Balance Your Account**

This does not mean that every individual in the world is saved, of course. For men to be saved, there has to be yet *another* imputation, *another* accounting charge reckoned to yet *another* account. Paul uses the Greek word for “impute” again when he described this final accounting charge, reminding us that “Abraham believed God, and it was *accounted* to him for righteousness” (Gal. 3:6 cf. Gen. 15:6). When Abraham believed God, the Father credited *righteousness* to his account, and He is willing to do this for *anyone* who will just believe what God says, as Paul explains in Romans 4:23,24. After speaking of Abraham’s faith (4:1-21), the apostle went on to say in this passage,

**“Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;**

**“But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead.”**

Now this kind of thing happens all the time, right? You owe the IRS money and they say, “We’ll

not only freely forgive your debt, we'll make you the richest man in the country!" No, this kind of thing doesn't happen anywhere on earth, *but it happens with God*. When you believe the gospel, He not only forgives your debt, He makes you the richest man in all Creation, an equal heir with Christ, equally as spiritually rich as every other member of "the church, which is His Body."

### What's Being Taught

This brings us to the problem doctrine that has arisen in the grace movement. Some very good men are saying that since God imputed the sins of men to Christ at Calvary that God will never impute the sins of men to the men themselves, *even if they don't believe* and receive the righteousness that God imputes to the accounts of believers. We here at *Berean Bible Society* believe that this teaching is not only unscriptural, it is dangerous, for it is a step in the direction of universalism, a doctrine that also teaches that the sins of unbelievers will never be brought up again now that they have been imputed to Christ. So we're going to consider this idea that God will never impute the sins of an unsaved man to him, and that sin will never again be an issue between God and men.

First of all, it is true that God is not imputing sins to unsaved men *today*, in the dispensation of grace, but there's a *reason* for this, a *dispensational* reason. You see, "sin is not imputed *where there is no law*" (Rom. 5:13), and "we are not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:15). Because of this, God is not imputing the unbeliever's

sins to him today. The unsaved man can stand on any street corner and blaspheme God till the cows come home and no lightning bolt will strike him down, nor will any other sort of divine judgment befall him.



The problem is that Romans 5:13 is being used to say that God will *never* impute the sins of the unbeliever to him, and you know that this cannot be true, for you know that the dispensation of grace will *end*, and men will once again be under the law. That's why Paul warned unbelievers,

**"...despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:4-6).**

Paul knew that unsaved men would be tempted to think that they were getting away with sin since God is not imputing their sins to them today, so he told them that they could despise God's grace if they wanted to, but warned them that they weren't

getting away with living in sin. Instead, they were merely treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath. The day of wrath will begin with the Tribulation period. In that day it will be said, “the great day of His wrath is come” (Rev. 6:17); and it will be said to God, “Thy judgments are made manifest” (Rev. 15:4), because men will again be under law, and not under grace. If God is going to “render to every man according to his deeds” in that day, it must mean that God will again be imputing the sins of men to them, which must mean that the day of grace will be past.

The law of Moses will continue to be the law of the land of all the earth in the kingdom of heaven, and men will be under the law again for a thousand years. Then, when the millennial kingdom is done, men will *continue* to be under the Law at the Great White Throne of Judgment. In a description of that dreadful day, John declares that “the dead were judged...according to their works” (Rev. 20:12 cf. Rom. 2:6). If men’s sins are going to be imputed to them on this great day of judgment, it must be because men are no longer under grace.

### **The Debt of Sinful Works**

Now the brethren who teach that the unsaved man’s sins will never be brought up point out that John says men will be judged according to their “works” and not according to their *sins*. I personally cannot see any distinction here since it is my conviction that *every work of every unsaved man is sin*. Proverbs 21:4 says that even something as innocuous

as “the *plowing* of the wicked is sin.” Isaiah insists that “all our *righteousnesses* are as filthy rags” (64:6) because God considers the righteous works of unsaved men to be *self* righteousness! All this explains why, as the Lord put it,

**“Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt. 7:22,23).**

Prophesying and casting out devils *are* wonderful works, but when performed by unsaved men whom the Lord doesn’t know, they are works of “iniquity.” Good works done by unbelievers are not good works! This explains why God says “there is *none* that doeth good” (Psa. 14:3). You may be thinking that you know plenty of unsaved people that do good, but God says you don’t!

In addition, there are many other places where the “works” of men are called works of “iniquity.” The Lord Jesus testified of the world “that the *works* thereof are *evil*” (John 7:7). Paul testified, “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil, the Lord reward him according to his works” (II Tim. 4:14). As you can see from these verses, the “works” for which God will someday reward men with judgment are “evil” works of iniquity, and God has a word for such evil works; He calls them *sins*. Thus it is not accurate to say that men’s sins will never be imputed to them, and to say that men will be judged according to their works and not according to their sins.

## Cooking the Books

We see further evidence that men will be judged according to their sinful works at the Great White Throne when John says that “the books were opened” and “the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Rev. 20:12). One of these books will be “the book of life,” of course, and other of these books will no doubt contain the record of men’s sinful works. But I believe John also has in mind the same kind of “books” that informed Daniel that his seventy years in captivity were coming to an end (Dan. 9:2), that is, *the books of the Bible*. The Book of Jeremiah is the book that gave the prophet hope in that day (Jer. 29:10), but *the books of Moses* are the books that will be open at the Great White Throne. We know this to be so because when the Jews of our Lord’s day thought that He would accuse them of their sins, He replied, “there is one that accuseth you, *even Moses*” (John 5:45).

All this means that it is not correct to say, as is now being taught, that the sins of unsaved men are no longer on the table and will never be brought up since they were imputed to Christ at Calvary. It is true that their sins were imputed to Him, but if they refuse the sacrifice of Christ that paid for their sins, their sins will be imputed to them at the Great White Throne. If it were otherwise, the following verse would make no sense:

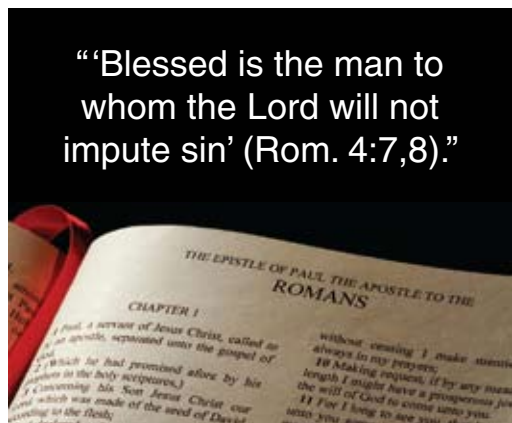
**“...Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. *Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin*” (Rom. 4:7,8).**

If Paul says that there are men to whom the Lord will *not* impute sin, does that not imply that there are men to whom the Lord *will* impute sin? The man to whom the Lord will impute sin, of course, is the unsaved man. If God will *not* impute sin to unsaved men, as some are saying, then Romans 4:7,8 is saying that unbelievers are “blessed” with the blessing of sins forgiven. We rather believe that in describing these indescribable blessings that Paul has *believers* in mind, not unbelievers.

## Someone Has to Pay

It is also being currently taught in the grace movement that no future payments for sin will be necessary since Christ paid for everyone’s sins. This doesn’t square, however, with the stern warning the Lord issued in Matthew 5:22-26:

**“‘Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin’ (Rom. 4:7,8).”**



**“...whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...of hell fire...agree with thine adversary...lest...thou be cast into prison...thou shalt by no means come out...till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.”**

This gets us back to that business of sin being a legal debt to God. The Lord is speaking here about paying a debt in prison, and He said this in the context of speaking about the “prison” of *Hell*. The intent of His analogy was to teach that men do not get out of Hell until they have paid the debt of sin they owe God. The reason Hell has to be eternal is because *men can never finish paying for their sins* in that awful place.

Consider the end of that parable that we referenced earlier, the one where the man was sold into slavery “and payment to be made” (Matt. 18:25). The Lord used him as a picture of how if a man does not let Christ pay for his sins that he would have to be delivered “to the tormentors, *till he should pay all that was due*,” adding, “So likewise shall My heavenly Father do also unto you” (Matt. 18:34,35).

All of this means that if an unbeliever refuses the payment that Christ made for his sins, then he himself must pay for his sins with his torment for all eternity. Remember, we’re talking about *accounting*, and accounting is an *exact science*. Every accountant knows what we learned from the discussion of accounting terms with which we opened this article, and that is that accounts must always balance *exactly*, and God is just as insistent that the accounts of men’s souls balance exactly as well. A sin against an eternal God demands an eternal punishment. If the unsaved man were able to live a million years before dying, he could never balance his account by paying his debt to God in *this* life, and that’s why Hell has to be eternal in the *next* life as well.

## There’s Going to Be Hell to Pay

The Lord Jesus Christ described Hell as “the fire that never shall be quenched” (Mark 9:43), a place “where their worm dieth not” (vv. 44,46,48). The bodily state of unbelievers will be reduced to that of a worm in Hell as they suffer the wrath of God for their sins. Annihilationists teach that men in Hell will eventually burn up and cease to exist, but the Lord finished His stern warning by saying of people in Hell that “every one shall be salted with fire” (Mark 9:49).



We think of salt as a condiment to enhance the flavor of food, but the ancients thought of it as a *preservative*. When men went to sea for months on end, if they wanted to have meat to eat for the duration of their long voyages, that meat had to be heavily salted to preserve it. So it is that with these somber words the Lord was saying of people in Hell that the *reason* “their worm dieth not” is because “every one shall be salted with fire.” God knows how to make a fire that *preserves* rather than *consumes*, as He proved at the burning bush, which “burned with fire” but “was not consumed” (Ex. 3:2).

The Lord’s final dreadful description of people in Hell states

that “every *sacrifice* shall be salted with salt” (Mark 9:49). If you are curious as to why He would call people in Hell *sacrifices*, it is because if a man rejects the sacrifice of Christ for his sins he must *become* a sacrifice to pay for his own sins in that place where “the worm dieth not.” The Lord became a worm *for us* as He endured God’s wrath on the Cross (Psa. 22:1,6 cf. Matt. 27:46), but if a man rejects the Lord’s sacrifice for his sins, he must *become* a sacrifice to pay for his own sins. This is important in the context of our discussion because, the thing about a sacrifice is, *it bore the sins of whoever brought it*. Thus if the unsaved man in Hell is called a sacrifice, this can only mean that *he is still bearing the sins that he refused to let Christ bear by believing in Him*.

## What It All Means And What It All Means to You

All of this means that it is not correct to say that the sins of unsaved men will never be imputed to them, for as we have seen, their sins will be charged to them at the Great White Throne, and they will bear the judgment of their sins for all eternity. If you think that this is a good reason to give them the gospel *now*, in *this* life, why not determine that you will be much more aggressive in sharing Christ with the lost, and much more consistent in the godly life that you must live if you want to “adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things” (Titus 2:10).



---

### Endnote

1. See our comments on this verse in the April, 2015 issue of the *Searchlight*.

# 2nd Annual Central Michigan Grace Bible Conference

## Dates:

July 10-11, 2015

## Location:

America's Best Value Inn & Suites  
6075 Hill 23 Drive, Flint, Michigan

## Guest Speakers:

Pastor Paul M. Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*  
Pastor Kevin Sadler, *Berean Bible Society*

For additional information or to receive  
a brochure, please contact:

Phil Long at 810-444-0670 or email:  
assignphillong@yahoo.com



# THE INFLUENCE OF THE RESTRAINER

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.



## INFLUENCE

The moon plays a key role in our solar system, even influencing many aspects of life upon the earth. For instance, the moon's gravitational attraction to the earth is the primary cause of high and low tides. Just as gravity is an unseen force that produces a cause and effect, so too, one solitary life can have a far-reaching *influence* on those around it. The following account is a good example:

"Years ago the communist government in China commissioned an author to write a biography of Hudson Taylor with the purpose of distorting the facts and presenting him in a bad light. They wanted to discredit the name of this consecrated missionary of the gospel. As the author was doing his research, he was increasingly impressed by Taylor's saintly character and godly life, and he found it extremely difficult to carry out his assigned task with

a clear conscience. Eventually, at the risk of losing his life, he laid aside his pen, renounced his atheism, and received Christ as his personal Savior. Whether we realize it or not, our example leaves an impression on others."<sup>1</sup>

The members of the Body of Christ, whether individually or corporately, are holding back a tidal wave of lawlessness in this present evil age that threatens the very existence of mankind. Paul was so concerned that we understand the seriousness of what lies ahead, he warns us in no uncertain terms to be watchful as this age nears an end.

**"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" (II Thes. 2:6,7).**

Please allow me the liberty to paraphrase the above passage to

help simplify what the apostle is expressing: “Brethren, ye already know what is restraining the Antichrist from being revealed before the Tribulation. For the spirit of lawlessness is presently at work; only he who now hinders the coming of the day of the Lord will hinder it, until he is removed.”



“The poison these false teachers had poured into their cup of deceit was...”

To understand the tenor of Paul’s words, we must first understand the nature of the problem at Thessalonica. We learn from the narrative that this assembly had been infiltrated by those seeking to rob these saints of their blessed hope. The poison these false teachers had poured into their cup of deceit was a convincing message that those at Thessalonica were in that dreaded time known as the *day of the Lord*. In the preceding verses, Paul has already given the antidote to this insidious teaching; however, before leaving the matter he gives an additional argument to ensure that this false doctrine never gains a foothold in the assembly. The apostle informs us that there is a *restraining influence* in the world that is withholding the Tribulation and

subsequent manifestation of the Antichrist.

The large majority of dispensationalists believe that the Holy Spirit is the One hindering the man of sin’s debut. If we follow this line of thought to its logical conclusion, it would be the Holy Spirit Who is removed from the earth at the Rapture. This interpretation, however, is inconsistent with the future ministry of the Spirit set forth in the prophetic Scriptures.

### THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT IN PROPHECY

The prophet Joel was one of the first to predict the coming of the Holy Spirit. This promise was later confirmed by our Lord who instructed His disciples that in His absence He would send another *Comforter*. “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth *with you*, and shall be *in you*” (John 14:17). These two prepositional phrases are very significant—not only will the Holy Spirit abide *with* the Kingdom saints, He will also *indwell* the followers of Messiah, thus enabling them to endure the *day of the Lord*. Peter recognized this on the day of Pentecost when he quoted Joel’s prophecy concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit in relation to Pentecost and the future Tribulation.

**“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams...The**

**sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come” (Acts 2:17,20).**

The Spirit of God is going to play a far more significant role in the coming day of the Lord than He does presently in the administration of Grace. “He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8). Moreover, He will empower the Tribulation saints to perform the miraculous sign gifts as a testimony of the mighty power of God (Rev. 11:3-14). Since the Spirit of truth is one of the chief participants in the coming day of the Lord, He could not possibly be the restrainer who is said to be *removed* from the earth here in II Thessalonians Chapter 2. To say otherwise is to say that the Spirit will not be present during the Tribulation period. This would mean that He will not indwell the Kingdom believers in that day as promised. Nonetheless, the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit on the earth is an absolute certainty according to the prophetic Scriptures.

### **THE SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS**

**“Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?” (II Thes. 2:5).**

**“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work” (II Thes. 2:7).**

Shortly after the Mystery was given to Paul, Satan set in motion an evil scheme known as the “mystery of iniquity.” His ultimate goal is to undermine all forms of God-ordained authority and bring the world to a state of *lawlessness*. As we approach

the Lord’s Secret Coming for the Church, this unrelenting attack is sure to intensify. Satan has already successfully targeted the home, the Church, and human government nearly decimating all semblance of authority in these three pillars of society.

For centuries Satan has sought to subvert the authority of *human government*. His most effective weapons of destruction have been corruption, dishonesty, immorality, and greed. One wonders how much longer things can continue at the present rate with the rise of terrorism, civil wars, economic collapse, starvation, and diseases like Ebola, threatening the population of many nations. The world as we know it is heading for a chaotic time when confusion will reign.

From the ashes of despair, Satan will introduce the world to the *Great Problem Solver*. The Antichrist will grace the world’s stage with charisma, intelligence, unmatched leadership abilities, communication skills that will enthrall the masses, and an unbelievable knowledge of foreign affairs. He will arise from obscurity to become one of history’s most *notorious* leaders. Nations will be mesmerized by his uncanny ability to resolve complex issues. As a result, they will hastily align themselves with his emerging world empire. Thankfully, the *restrainer* is holding back this evil plan of Satan to take over the world.

### **THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE RESTRAINER**

If the Holy Spirit is not the restrainer, then who is? To answer this question, we must consult the context in which our passage is

set. The subject that the apostle is dealing with in II Thessalonians 2 is *our gathering together* unto the Lord (II Thes. 2:1). In verse 6, Paul makes it very clear that the saints at Thessalonica knew *what* was detaining the arrival of the Antichrist. "And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time." The phrase "what withholdeth," or "that which is restraining," is in the neuter gender; consequently, the apostle is not speaking about a person but an *event*. According to the narrative, the event that will trigger the circumstances of the day of the Lord is *our departure*. The Rapture of the Church must first take place before Satan can wreak havoc upon the earth.

**"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [hindereth] will let [hinder], until he be taken out of the way" (II Thes. 2:7).**

Since *our departure* is the overriding theme of the context, this can only mean that "he who now hindereth" could only be the *Church, the Body of Christ*. We are the restraining influence in the world that is hindering the Adversary from fulfilling his wicked intentions. Personally, I do not believe that the Body of Christ is the Bride of Christ. This explains why we are never referred to in the feminine gender in Paul's writings. It also clarifies why the apostle uses the masculine pronoun "he" in the above passage (see also Eph. 2:15). Paul clearly identifies the pronoun "*he*" as Christ's Body of which we are members. Of course, this does not diminish whatsoever from the fact that it is the Spirit's influence

through the Church which enables it to be a deterrent. Nevertheless, the apostle clearly teaches that the Body of Christ is the *restrainer*. With this in mind, the Church then is "taken out of the way" preceding the Tribulation, which cannot be said of the Holy Spirit who will play a prominent role in *things to come*.

For obvious reasons, the Church is not nearly the compelling force it once used to be. But while our voice may be weakened, we are still an influence with which to be reckoned. For example, many Christian groups around the country have been successful in closing down pornography shops in their neighborhoods. Their relentless objections to this obscene literature have drawn attention to how detrimental this type of unseemly material can be, especially on young impressionable minds.

For the most part, it is the Christian community who has been the defender of the *right-to-life* issue by openly opposing abortions and those who perform them. The opposition can call it what they may, but in the sight of God, who esteems life, abortion is MURDER, pure and simple. We may not condone all the tactics that are being used, but at least the conscience of our nation has been awakened to this senseless genocide.

Even the godless teachings of evolution and humanism are being challenged in some public schools. Recently a small town in Pennsylvania, led by the Christian right, demanded that the creation account be given equal time. The same is true in some school districts in the state of Oklahoma.

After much discussion and debate, the school boards, in some cases, reluctantly agreed.

### A SOLEMN THOUGHT

A short time ago I was browsing through a Christian bookstore when a colourful pamphlet caught my eye. As I picked it up to leaf through it, I noticed that the author had portrayed the Rapture as a *chaotic* event. The pictures graphically depicted widespread pandemonium on the earth as planes fell from the sky, cars drove off cliffs and trains collided. According to this scheme of thought, tens of thousands tragically will lose their lives. But does this coincide with the Scriptures? We



must remember and remember well that God is not the author of confusion; He always does *everything* decently and in order (I Cor. 14:33,40). For Him to do otherwise would run contrary to His nature. The above scenario, however, is the epitome of mass confusion, with capital letters.

But how might God accomplish His purpose to remove us from the earth without there being total bedlam? We are well served to

remember that God is sovereign over His creation. In the days of Joshua, God stopped the rotation of the earth on its axis one whole day so that the sun appeared to stand still for 24 hours (Josh. 10:12-14).<sup>2</sup> This prolonged period of daylight gave the Israelites the opportunity to avenge themselves upon their unmerciful enemies.

God simply could use an opposite strategy preceding the Rapture by merely causing a *supernatural* darkness to cover the earth, as He did in the land of Egypt. It is said of the Egyptians that “they saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days” (Ex. 10:23). If this were to be done in conjunction with the cutting off of all power grids worldwide, including all sources of battery power, it would bring everything to a screeching halt. Planes would be grounded, subway service would be disrupted, and trains would be stopped in their tracks. All forms of transportation would be sitting in an eerie darkness until the Lord removed the Church.


Then we have Peter, who with the help of angels, escaped from prison *twice*. Remarkably, the unsaved captors who incarcerated him were totally unaware that he was gone until hours later (Acts 5:17-28 cf. 12:1-11). Seeing that myriads of angels are at God’s beck and call, they will doubtless be pressed into service when the roll is called up yonder. “Nothing is impossible with God!” We believe that He will *remove* the Body of Christ from the earth without there being wholesale casualties, or totally disrupting the balance of everyday life on the earth for a

long period of time. This, of course, is merely one of many scenarios that God could use to fulfil His purpose for the Church.

For the sake of our loved ones, we pray that there will be one last spiritual awakening before God pours out His vengeance. Most feel that this is highly unlikely, and they are probably correct; but God is “able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.” He delights in mercy and takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. The hour is nearly upon us: “Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” Take Christ today by believing that He died for your sins and rose again—it is a decision you will never regret!

With the removal of the Body of Christ when the trump sounds, the Church’s realm of influence will be withdrawn. The adversary awaits this day with great anticipation, for *lawlessness* will be the red carpet upon which the Antichrist will make his grand entrance. Hence, Paul says, “And then shall that Wicked [one] be revealed, whom

the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is *after the working of Satan* with all power and signs and lying wonders” (II Thes. 2:8,9).

This whole chapter (II Thessalonians 2) gives further credence to the teaching of the *pretribulation Rapture*. To say that the Body of Christ is going through any part of Daniel’s seventieth week shows a failure to understand fully the distinctive character of Paul’s apostleship and message. Before the Holy Spirit can resume His future prophetic ministry, we must be ushered to glory; otherwise, the two programs of God stand in jeopardy of being confused, with terrible consequences. 

---

### Endnotes

1. Hudson Taylor, <https://bible.org/illustrations/1514/Influence>
2. Since those in Joshua’s day were unaware that the earth orbited the sun, they perceived that it was the sun that stood still. The passages in the Book of Joshua only present the general observation of those who were there that fateful day.

# Southeast Bible Conference

**Date:** August 8-9, 2015

**Location:** Grace Bible Ministry Church  
144 South Thomas Street, Suite 102, Tupelo, Mississippi

**Speaker:** Pastor Ricky Kurth, Berean Bible Society

For questions or additional information, please contact:  
Pastor John Smith at [gracebibleministry@att.net](mailto:gracebibleministry@att.net) or 662-706-4086



# *The Children of the Kingdom* AND THE GENTILES

By Pastor J. C. O'Hair

Note these three interesting verses of Scripture:

**"But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled; for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs" (Mark 7:27).**

**"But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 8:12).**

**"I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 8:11).**

The Jews, or Israelites, were called **"the children of the kingdom."** Note how Peter addressed them in Acts 3:12, "Ye men of Israel," and in Acts 3:25, **"Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant** which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed." "The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus; Whom ye delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go" (Acts 3:13).

But now the two statements: **"Let the children first be filled,"** and **"the children of the kingdom shall be cast out."** With the second statement let us read Romans 11:7,11,15:

**"What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded."**

**"I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid; but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy."**

**“For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?”**

Something happened to the children of the kingdom. The Lord Jesus, on earth, foretold God’s awful judgment upon Israel. Note Matthew 22:7 and Luke 21:20,23,24.

**“But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth; and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.”**

**“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.”**

**“But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”**

Several years before the terrible judgment fell upon Israel and Jerusalem, the Apostle Paul pronounced God’s judgment of blindness upon Israel, in Acts 28:25-27, and then added “the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles and...they will hear it” (Acts 28:28).

Here we learn that the children of the kingdom were cast into the outer darkness of blindness; and we learn in Romans 2:7-9 that a far worse judgment was the portion of the individual Jews who died without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the “Acts” period (from about 33 A.D. to 63 A.D.) the children were first being filled. This we learn in Acts 3:25,26, Acts 10:28, Acts 13:46, and Acts 18:5,6.

**“Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. UNTO YOU FIRST GOD, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”**

**“And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.”**

**“Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God SHOULD FIRST HAVE BEEN SPOKEN TO YOU; but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES.”**

**“And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.”**

## THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

Note the words of the Lord Jesus and the response of the Jews.

**"I know that ye are Abraham's seed, but ye seek to kill Me, because My Word hath no place in you" (John 8:37).**

**"They answered and said unto Him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham" (John 8:39).**

The saved and the unsaved Jews were called "the children of the kingdom." They were the children of Abraham.

Note these significant verses:

**"And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" (Luke 13:16).**

**"And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:9,10).**

Jesus Christ was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel (Matt. 15:24). He was a minister of the circumcision (Rom. 15:8). It was God's decree that no uncircumcised man should have fellowship with God's people (Gen. 17:8-14). Peter also stated that this fellowship was unlawful (Acts 10:28).



**"Something happened to the children of the kingdom."**

Jesus Christ, on earth, was the circumcised Son of Abraham (Matt. 1:1; Luke 2:11-16). He took His place with the Jews as a worshipping Jew, with the God-given religious program (Luke 4:16; John 4:22).

Christ had kingdom blessings for the children of the kingdom, the sons and daughters of Abraham.

In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we read of but one Gentile man who received a blessing from the Lord Jesus. Note why this one Gentile man received the blessing from Jesus Christ

- 1—Because he was of great faith (Luke 7:9).
- 2—Because he was very humble (Luke 7:7).
- 3—Because he asked the sons of Abraham to intercede for him (Luke 7:3).
- 4—Because he loved the sons of Abraham and built them a synagogue (Luke 7:5).

All of this is most significant. The story is told in Luke 7:1-10 and in Matthew 8:5-12. Read the two records.

Note why one Gentile woman received a blessing from Jesus Christ:

1—She was of great faith (Matt. 15:28; Mark 7:26).

2—She overcame every obstacle to reach Jesus (Matt. 15:23; Mark 7:24).


3—She took her place as a Gentile dog (Matt. 15:25-27; Mark 7:28).

This is the only record of any Gentile woman who received a blessing from the Lord while He was on earth. The woman at the well, in John 4:7, was not a Gentile (John 4:12; Matt. 10:5).

So the two Gentiles who received blessings from Jesus of Nazareth give us one of the dispensational outlines of Acts: **“Let the children first be filled”** and **“Let the children be cast into outer darkness.”**

God’s order was, “to the Jews, and not to the Gentiles,” while Jesus Christ was on earth (Matt. 15:24; 10:5). God’s order was, “to the Jews and not to the Gentiles” during those first years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ covered by the first nine chapters of Acts (Acts 5:29-32; 10:28; 11:19). God’s order from the new commission to Paul in Acts 13:2 to the Divine judgment upon Israel in Acts 28:28 was, “to the Jew first and also unto the Gentile” (Rom. 1:16). All through the Book of Acts the children were first being filled, then the children were cast out. From the close of Acts down to the present time God’s order has been: to the Gentiles and also to the Jews.

A blindness in part is happened unto the children of the kingdom until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in (Rom. 11:25). Then the children of the kingdom will be brought back into Divine favor (Rom. 11:26).

In the meantime all saved Gentiles have been translated into the kingdom of the Son of God’s love (Col. 1:13). They have been adopted into the household of God, and are the children of God and joint-heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:5; Rom. 11:13-17). 

*If you enjoyed this article by one of the patriarchs of the Grace Movement,  
see the J. C. O’Hair Online Library on our website.*

# “All gave some; some gave all.”

(Korean War veteran and Purple Heart recipient Howard William Osterkamp)



“Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for  
his friends” (John 15:13).

47th Annual Conference  
of the  
**Berean Bible  
Fellowship**

**THE PILLAR  
AND  
GROUND  
OF THE  
TRUTH**

June 20-25, 2015

Cedar Lake Bible Conference Center  
Cedar Lake, Indiana

**Location:**

*Cedar Lake Bible  
Conference Center  
13701 Lauerman Street  
Cedar Lake, Indiana*

**Dates:**

June 20-25, 2015

**Bible Hour Teacher:**

Pastor Richard Ware

***Guest speakers from  
around the country will  
be present to proclaim  
the riches of God's grace!***

**Young People's Programs:**

Teenagers: Every morning  
9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Children: Every morning  
9:00 a.m. to Noon

Babysitting: Every day  
8:45 a.m. to Noon and  
6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

**Accommodations:** For reservations, write: *Cedar Lake Conference Center*, Reservations Manager, PO Box 665, Cedar Lake, IN 46303; email: [info@cedarlakeministries.org](mailto:info@cedarlakeministries.org); or phone: 219-374-5941.

Facilities for travel trailers, motor homes, and tent camping include electric/water hook-ups, dump station, showers, etc.

For more information or to receive a brochure, please contact:

Kevin Sadler (BBF President)  
at 262-305-6860 or  
[kevin@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:kevin@bereanbiblesociety.org)

Visit the BBF website at:  
[bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com](http://bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com)





# A LITTLE SPACE OF GRACE

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

**“And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD...” (Ezra 9:8).**

If you know anything about the history of Israel, it was a constant series of them sinning, God punishing them, them repenting, and then “a little space” of grace in between, such as this space that came after the punishment of the Babylonian captivity. Today, of course, we live in the *dispensation of grace* (Eph. 3:2), a time when God is dispensing grace *unmixed with any periods of wrath*. No matter what you do, you can’t make God punish you, whether you be saved or lost.

Of course, a *believer* who sins grieves God’s holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30) and may still suffer the natural consequences of sin. For example, a believer who ignores God’s prohibition against homo-


sexuality (Lev. 18:22) may contract AIDS. However, this is not the wrath of God, this is just an example of reaping what you sow (Gal. 6:7), a principle that applies in every dispensation. If you want to know what God thinks of homosexuality, don’t look at a mealy-mouthed disease like AIDS, look at *Sodom and Gomorrah*. Then remember that it is true of all kinds of sins that “because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. *Be not ye therefore partakers with them*” (Eph. 5:6,7). Just because you are saved and immune from the penalty of sin doesn’t mean you should engage in the kinds of sins for which God will punish unsaved men in Hell for all eternity.

If you are not saved, enjoy the dispensation of grace while it lasts, for you are going to be left behind when the Rapture brings an end to this dispensation. The Great Tribulation that will follow the Rapture will be the exact *opposite* of a dispensation characterized by grace not mixed with any periods of wrath, for it will be a time of wrath *unmixed with any periods of grace*. When that day comes you will “drink of the wine of the wrath of God, *which is poured out without mixture...*” (Rev. 14:10). As the uncut, unmixed, *undiluted wrath of Almighty God* is poured out, “in those days shall men seek *death*” (Rev. 9:6) because they will understand that even the slightest space of *grace* will then be out of the question to seek. Your only hope is to “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...” (Acts 16:31).

If you are thinking that you'll wait and see if the Rapture really comes before believing on Christ in the Tribulation, think again, for God's undiluted wrath will not convince you to believe as you might think it would. In John's vision of that day,

**"...men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not...and they gnawed their tongues for pain and blasphemed...God...because of their pains...and repented not of their deeds" (Rev. 16:9-11).**

Of course, these pains will be the least of your worries, for all who persist in unrepentant unbelief will be "tormented with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 14:10), "and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night..." (Rev. 14:11).

The choice is yours: undiluted grace or undiluted wrath. "Christ died for your sins" and "rose again" (I Cor. 15:1-4). All He asks of you is to *believe* it, and rest in what He did for you on Calvary's Cross. 

## Question Box

*"A friend recently shared with me that she was convinced that President Obama is the Antichrist! Is this possible?"*

No! I do not believe so for a number of reasons. To say the president is the Antichrist would mean that Old Testament prophecy is being fulfilled in the age of Grace, which would be inconsistent with the Word rightly divided. We know, for example, the identity of the Antichrist will not be revealed until *after* the Rapture of the Church (II Thes. 2:3-8, see article on p. 13). According to prophecy, the man of sin will be a Jew who will have no regard whatsoever for the God of his fathers (patriarchs), nor for women, which is a clear indication that he will be unmarried (Dan. 11:36,37).

There is, however, one similarity between President Obama's meteoric rise to the presidency and the future coming of the Antichrist. The president was relatively unknown as a fundraiser and US Senator prior to running for office. Many marveled at how quickly he rose to power, which will also be true of the Antichrist. He too will be an overnight sensation! Wisdom says, never interpret the Scriptures on the basis of current events—those who do always live to regret it.

—Pastor Sadler



## BBS Letter Excerpts

### From Oklahoma:

"I want to mention how much of a blessing it has been to have found the videos and study resources teaching the Bible, rightly divided! Coming from the Baptist faith, it really opens up and clarifies so much of the confusion. Almost 59 years on this planet and I believe I've finally found some-one teaching truth!"

### From New York:

"I was going to order a pizza, but the new BBS MP3 player sounds better. I can get much more enjoyment out of that." (The player is about the same price as the pizza, and won't give you heartburn!—Ed).

### From South Africa:

"I have listened to most of your audio messages and have been greatly blessed by them as they have sustained me during these many years starting with the commentary on Galatians (what an exposition of false religion)...I often copy them and pass them on to others...I was totally blown away with your insights...."

### From California:

"Please remove my name from the mailing list for the *Searchlight*. The articles being written are anti-semitic...The words 'rightly divided' if followed under the Hebrew and/or the Greek mindset is to 'correctly handle'; Strong's says to dissect (ex-pound) correctly (the divine message) not to divide and cause confusion in the minds of other believers."

### From Florida:

"I'm 65 years old and started to read the Bible for the first time...in 2010 (61 years old). Talk about confusion! Since discovering old copies of the *Searchlight* and meeting others who follow your teachings (the Bible, rightly divided) a lot of the confusion is now under control."

### From California:

"I am writing regarding the article introducing *The Fundamentals of Dispensationalism*, that I have just read with great joy! Amen! I love a hard-hitting piece that makes no bones about this extremely important matter...So I wanted to ask if there might be any way you could put this article in a booklet. I know some of it comes from *Things That Differ* but this is written so concisely to be able to hand it out to those who cannot see. This could hit them between the eyes!" (You can order extra copies of the *March* issue or make copies from our website.—Ed).

### From our Inbox:

"I have been reading the Bible daily from Genesis 1:1...on the recommendation of BBS to read it through in a year...reading as I do now has confirmed so much of God's Word found in the New Testament is to Israel...It certainly confirms the special revelation given to the Apostle Paul for this dispensation by the very absence, nor any mention, of those wonderful truths...I am so enthralled reading His Word, I can't seem to slow down!"

### From Florida:

"It was in prison that I found the truth of right division, and it just clicked. I had an emotional breakdown because it was so simple to me, and I found what I was searching for my entire life. I truly believe in my heart that if I hadn't had that spiritual awakening, I would still be living in bondage. In prison the *Searchlight* gave me much joy, and still does!"

### From Indonesia:

"I am so grateful for your answer about chastening in this dispensation of grace. I think many people are helped in understanding God's will for us in this dispensation through *Searchlight* articles. I live in Jakarta and praise God for helping us through people like you and the whole team at BBS."

### From Wisconsin:

"Often, I do thank and praise the Lord for your ministry. It is not only a blessing to me, it is my spiritual lifeline...Is this article by Pastor David Adams titled 'Bible Contrasts' in pamphlet form? Sure would be good to have a few of those to share!" (We are putting those articles in booklet form!—Ed).

### From Colorado:

"Thank you BBS and Pastor Kurth for the conferences in Dallas and Houston. I was hesitant to go because of the distance...but I am very glad I went. It was well worth the drive (approx. 800 miles). As an 'isolated grace believer' the conference was very special. My only regret is that I have been saying 'next year I will make it to a conference' for just shy of 18 years. I hope to make it to a couple a year from here on out."

### From our Inbox:

"I thank you wholeheartedly for this article on Hell. I am relieved and truly set free. I have been in the dark a long time. I was raised as a Jehovah's Witness but discontinued meetings regularly since I was 14. I am now almost 23 years old. Jesus has shown me the way, and I can truthfully see the light. My prayers have been answered."

### From Florida:

"This *Two Minutes* article ['The Body's Bodily Resurrection'] is superior and most welcome. I was edified to know in a more clear way that our resurrection is separated from both the 'first' and 'second' resurrections in Scripture. Great article, Kevin!"

### From Puerto Rico:

"From all of us at the *Juana Diaz Bible Church*, and from my family, we join you in celebrating your 75th anniversary. I personally have been blessed from the *Searchlight* and the books that BBS has published. So many times I have shared many of the topics and Bible studies in our church and our radio program. Gracias!!!" (Thanks, Pastor Ortiz!—Ed).

### From Florida:

"A brother in Christ shared a *Searchlight* with me in April of 2009, and from the very start, so much was cleared up."

### From Ohio:

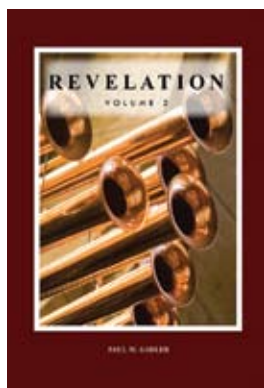
"The articles in the *Searchlight* are very good. Occasionally I will send out an article via email, some to whom understand the mystery and some don't. This is a great resource to use to get one thinking about the uniqueness of this age of grace."



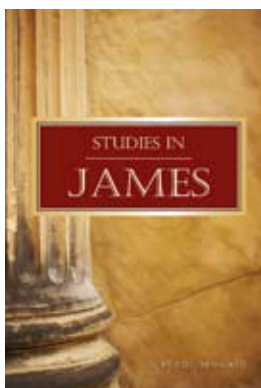
"These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."  
—Acts 17:11

# BBS EBOOKS

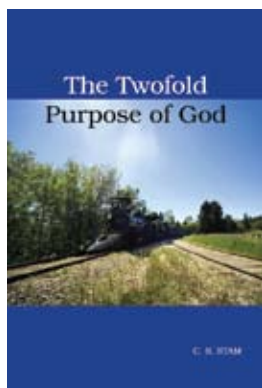
## Newest eBook Releases



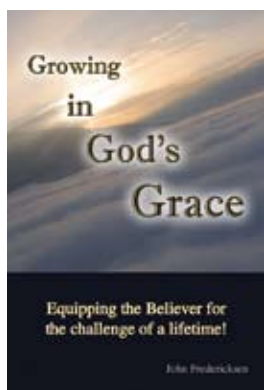
\$9.00



\$6.00



\$5.00



\$5.00

### Other eBooks available:

*Acts, Dispensationally Considered (Volumes 1 and 2) • Revelation (Volume 1) • Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ • Paul's Epistle to the Philippians • Two Minutes with the Bible • Things That Differ • Moses and Paul*

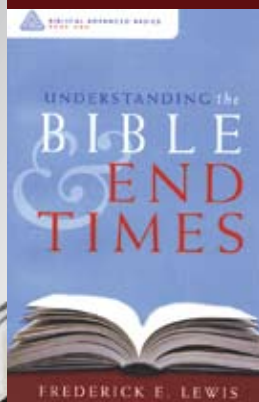
To order and download to your eReader, tablet, smartphone, computer, or other electronic device (PDF, Mobi, or ePub), visit:

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

Kindle version also available at Amazon.com

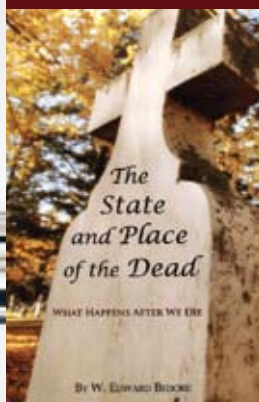
120-page Paperback

**Special: \$9.00**



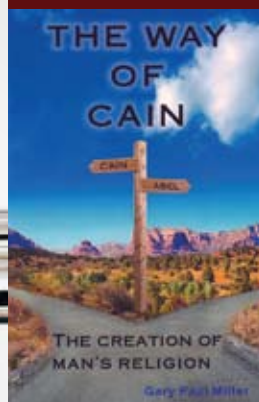
150-page Paperback

**Special: \$9.00**



164-page Paperback

**Special: \$10.00**



## The Sampler Platter

These six titles are just a taste of the works of twenty different writers that can be found on our website under *Works By Other Grace Authors*

**SEVEN  
BASIC BIBLE FACTS**



Every Christian Should  
Know and Believe

*Doctrinal Tract*  
**25 for \$1.00**

**A PRAYING LIFE**

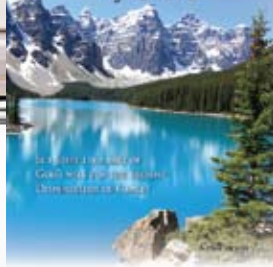
*True Spirituality and Prayer*

By Karin J. Nader



*50-page Booklet*  
**Special: \$3.00**

**The CONFESSION  
of SINS**



*36-page Booklet*  
**Special: \$1.00**

**THESE OFFERS END MAY 31, 2015**

*(For international orders please ask for special pricing)*

Orders up to \$30.00, add **\$4.00** for p/h — Orders over \$30.00, add **15%** for p/h

*Wisconsin residents please add 5.6% for sales tax*



[www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org) or (262) 255-4750



# News and Announcements

**BBS Gift Cards:** You know that your friends need to learn the grace message, but how are you supposed to know if they'd prefer one of our books, or the audio version of our books on CD to listen to in the car. For that matter, hikers and joggers might prefer our MP3 players. Well, no matter what your friends might want, they can buy it with a BBS Gift Card! Whether you want to spend \$10, \$25 or even \$50, just call us at (262) 255-4750 or visit our bookstore at [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org). Of course, if *your* birthday is coming up, you might want to circle this announcement and leave this *Searchlight* laying around the house opened to this page!

**Northeast Ohio Bible Conference:** The author of our recent series on *Bible Contrasts* has invited Pastor Paul M. Sadler to *First Grace Gospel Church* of Ashtabula to warm the hearts of his already warm-hearted people with the sound teaching of God's Word. Reschedule whatever you have planned for May 15-17, and contact Pastor David Adams for further information. If no one answers at 440-992-9008, call 440-997-8191.

**Midwest Grace Fellowship Conference:** This year's MGF will welcome Missionary Bernardo Craesmeyer and Pastor Andy Kern to the platform. Andy is Dean of Distance Studies at *Berean Bible Institute* and the assistant pastor of *Falls Bible Church* in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Bernardo has served the Lord faithfully for years in Brazil, and together they will serve Him faithfully by heralding truths that most of Christianity has forgotten. Contact MGF president Byron Finley to learn more about this June 5-7 get-together of grace in Bethany, Missouri: [finfarm@gmail.com](mailto:finfarm@gmail.com).

**Michigan Bible Conference:** Summer just isn't summer without a trip to *Bitely Community Church* in Bitely. This year your editor will join Don Webb, Matt Ritchey, Dean Reinheimer, and David Gross in leading the reveling in the riches of God's grace that is sure to take the sting out of flipping the calendar over to the last month of summer. So ask your phone to remind you when July 31-August 2 rolls around, and then call conference host Pastor Ken Lyon for more information about the only grace conference that comes with its own pig roast! (231) 465-1641.



Our cover picture was taken by Lauren Balingit. The *St. Joseph Lighthouse* is located in St. Joseph, MI. A catwalk extends over 300 yards from shore to the the lighthouse. Catwalks were built so lighthouse keepers could access the lights when the sea was rough and the waves were crashing over the pier.

# PRICE LIST

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

### (Hardcover—Gold Stamped)

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

### Paperbacks

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

## WRITINGS BY PAUL M. SADLER—PRESIDENT

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (Hardcover) .....	\$12.50
Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter, The (Hardcover) .....	13.50
Oneness of Marriage, The (Paperback) .....	8.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (Hardcover) <i>Out of print</i> .....	16.50
Paul's Epistle to the Philippians (Hardcover) .....	12.00
Revelation, Volume 1 (Hardcover) .....	12.50
Revelation, Volume 2 (Hardcover) .....	14.00
Studies in James (Paperback) .....	10.00
Triumph of His Grace, The (Hardcover) .....	13.50
According to the Scriptures (Booklet) .....	2.00
Are You Secure? (Booklet) .....	2.00
Historical Beginning of the Church, The (Booklet) .....	3.00
Key to Understanding the Scriptures, The (Chart) .....	0.50
Supernatural Sign Gifts of the Acts Period, The (Booklet) .....	4.00
Trials and Temptations (Booklet) .....	2.00
Uncertain Trumpet of Water Baptism, The (Booklet) .....	2.00

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

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

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

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

PERIODICALS  
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI  
AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES

## *This Mother's Day...*

"Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:2,3).