

# *The* **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

June 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.

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**The Berean Searchlight** (ISSN 0005-8890), June 2015. Vol. 76, Number 4.  
The *Berean Searchlight* is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Periodical postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756 and additional mailing offices.



# From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our 75th anniversary celebration began when we opened the doors here at *Berean Bible Society* to welcome what quickly became a steady stream of visitors, grace believers who had all arrived for our anniversary conference a day early in order to tour our facilities. Soon the office was teeming with guests, and it was our privilege to give them a taste of our past and a glimpse into the way that our ministry functions in the present. Each of the staff gave so many tours that it's a wonder we speakers had any voice left with which to deliver our messages at the conference the next day!

The conference itself began on Saturday with BBS president Pastor Paul Sadler taking us all for "A Walk Down Memory Lane," a message that traced the history of the grace message from the Apostle Paul to the present. Doug Cox then favored us with a testimony that was flavored by the time he spent as our business manager, after which my message compared Paul's ministry in II Timothy to our ministry at BBS today. Then, Dr. Robert Nix's testimony traced the influence of BBS in his life from his boyhood under the ministry of Pastor Roy Lange to his present position as president of *Berean Bible Institute*. Afterwards, Pastor Kevin Sadler's testimony reflected on how the *Searchlight* and BBS literature has been used by God to impact so many through the years. BBS Board Chairman Pastor John Fredericksen then assured the crowd that we are not living in the past, but pressing forward in the work of proclaiming Paul's gospel. This motion was seconded by BBS Webmaster Richard Church, whose testimony spoke of the strides our website continues to make in making known the riches of God's grace.

When the conference ended, my favorite memory began, for it was then that I was able to conduct a private tour of our office for ten of the saints from the church that I pastor in Chicago's south suburbs who had missed our open house. It warmed my heart to be able to share the other half of my life's work with these dear ones, and it gave them the opportunity to see firsthand how their pastor participates in the ministry that has touched all of their lives.

If you weren't able to make this anniversary celebration, don't fret. Should the Lord tarry, we'll throw another one in twenty-five years when we turn 100! In the meantime, we hope the anniversary pictures on page 12 will make you feel like you were with us for this historic day of remembrance and challenge.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Ricky Kurth



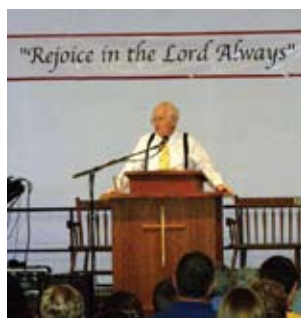


# *In Memory of a Faithful Pastor*



Pastor Floyd Baker will always be remembered affectionately as a godly man who loved the Lord and the Word rightly divided. On April 21st, Pastor Baker was ushered into the glorious presence of the Savior. He never wavered in his deep abiding love for his wife, Irene, and his family. My wife and I had the privilege of meeting Pastor and Mrs. Baker at a *Berean Bible Fellowship* Conference in 1974. Three years later he was invited to be the Commencement speaker at our graduation from the *Berean School of Bible & Theology*. We will long remember his challenge to the student body that warm spring day.

Pastor Baker shared with me on more than one occasion how his dad at one time kept company with the infamous gangster, Al Capone. Thankfully, he and a number of other ex-gangsters trusted Christ as their Savior, which changed everything. So much so, when a Chicago newspaper learned of their dramatic transformation, the paper printed the headline, "They Traded Their Bullets For Bibles!" Floyd used to tell this story to demonstrate how the grace of God changes lives. His dad went on to become an evangelist and later a Grace Pastor who lived a godly life, which prompted Floyd to preach the gospel at a very young age, and eventually enter full-time service.



During my tenure at the *Falls Bible Church* here in Wisconsin, Pastor Baker was also ministering the Word in the area, so we often had opportunities to fellowship and attend conferences together. As a young pastor in those days, he helped me to navigate some of the thorny issues that plagued the movement at the time, for which I am eternally grateful. Like most pastors, we didn't always see eye to eye on everything, but we had a mutual respect for one another. We kept in touch with one another over the years, but this past year, sensing he was beginning to fail, I called him every two or three weeks to see how he and Irene were doing. I have always felt that Pastor Baker was the Barnabas of the Grace movement, and will be deeply missed by us all. He always had an encouraging word for everyone and looked for opportunities to give others a fair hearing, or a second chance if they showed signs of change.

Please remember Mrs. Baker and the family in prayer. May the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort console them with the assurance that we will soon be reunited with all those who have preceded us to glory.

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



# The Twilight of Grace

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

## THE LAST DAYS

**“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come” (II Tim. 3:1).**

Paul warns all those in Christ Jesus that in the last days perilous times shall come. Many have taken this warning lightly, but God would have us *prepare* ourselves to avoid becoming a spiritual casualty due to a lack of preparation. If we were engaged in a military operation, it would be prudent to gather as much intelligence on the enemy as possible. For example, the size of their unit, how heavily armed, and how well they are supplied must all be determined before the conflict begins. As the last days loom on the horizon, now is the time to gather spiritual intelligence to prepare ourselves for those sinister times ahead. The apostle says, “This know also...” What do we need to know? What should we expect to face?

First of all, “perilous times shall come.” In Matthew 8:28 the term

“perilous” is translated “exceeding fierce,” when referring to Legion, who was possessed of many devils (see Luke 8:30). Paul characterizes the last days then as being *exceedingly* fierce wherein evil men will wax worse and worse. Whatever we may be called upon to endure at the hands of men will be nothing compared to the wrath of God in the coming Tribulation. As Paul describes some of the characteristics accompanying the last days of the age of Grace in Verses 2-4, it could be said that these trends have troubled every generation to some degree. However, the apostle implies that these *trends* will intensify to epidemic proportions resulting in the near collapse of morality and authority.

### 1. Characteristics of Men

**“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful,**

**unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (II Tim. 3:2-4).**

If we did not know better, this almost sounds like an editorial out of this morning's newspaper! Paul is describing for us the *moral* and *spiritual* condition of the world and its influence on the Church preceding the Rapture. It is not our intent to enter into an exhaustive discussion of the trends set forth here by the apostle. We simply propose to comment briefly on three of these characteristics, so you will be in a better position to capture the sense of the apostle's words.

*"For men shall be lovers of their own selves."* As we approach the end of this age, men will become more and more *self-centered*. A case in point is the present-day teaching of self-love, self-esteem and self-worth. The influence of this unsound teaching has nearly permeated every strata of Christianity today. Like the beat of a drum, this theme is heard almost constantly from the pulpits of America, and frequently appears on the pages of Christian literature. Beware when you hear or read: "It is important to feel good about yourself," "Learn to love yourself," "Probe your innermost being to understand why you think and feel the way you do," "God sent His Son to die for you because *you* are of great value." Satan never rests in his insatiable desire to corrupt the Word of God.

On the surface these phrases may seem admirable, but in reality

they are diametrically opposed to the Scriptures. The above has been weighed in the balances and found to be wanting. For example: "The heart [innermost being] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). Paul concurred when he said, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) [old nature or self] dwelleth no good thing..." (Rom. 7:18).

The old man (self) is at *enmity* against God (Rom. 8:7). He hates God and the things of God, and left to himself he will not seek God. The Scriptures, from beginning to end, speak with a unified voice that the *old nature* is rotten to the core (see Rom. 3:9-18). Consequently, our old man (self) has been crucified with Christ. Paul made reference to this when he wrote to the Galatians, "I am crucified with Christ [i.e., his old nature]: nevertheless I live [Paul's new nature]; yet NOT I [self], but Christ liveth in me...." We are to *put off* the old man and *put on* the new, which is created in holiness and righteousness (Eph. 4:22-24). It is futile to attempt to improve one's self-image, especially since God abhors any attempt to do so. Rather, we are to conform ourselves to the *image* of His dear Son (Rom. 8:29). With that said, those of the household of faith are to live accordingly:

**"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3).**

*Self* takes great pleasure in acclaim, indulgence, approval and praise—it glories in all these things. But are we not robbing

God when self is esteemed more highly than His glory? “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which



is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:19,20). Shall we permit the “love of one's self” teachings to overshadow the love of God in Christ Jesus? God forbid! May God help us to stand against this insidious satanic philosophy.

Also during the last days a spirit of independence will prevail throughout the land. I can remember a time in my life when everything centered around the home, the church, and the community. A new day brought the milkman or baker to the door, giving everyone an opportunity to chat and share their concerns about the neighborhood. Since everyone knew one another, a walk to the corner grocery store meant stops along the way to visit with friends. Unfortunately, those days have passed and with them our involvement in the lives of others; consequently, we have fewer opportunities to witness for Christ.

In our modern day of advanced technology, man has managed to become so self-sufficient that

he has insulated himself from others. Consider this solemn thought for a moment: We drive to the gas station where we pay at the pump, then stop by an ATM to do our banking, purchase a hamburger at a drive-thru window, and electronically open and close the garage door upon arriving home. Whether we realize it or not, we have successfully avoided any personal contact with those around us simply for the sake of convenience.

To complicate matters further, our children are taught that man has evolved from the lower life forms, therefore denying the very existence of God. Humanism naturally follows, erecting a philosophy that man is the be-all and end-all—he is the alpha and omega. The humanist claims that human wisdom has brought us to where we are today; as a result, it is important to get in touch with ourselves, they say. After all, “You DESERVE it!” as the commercial says. Little wonder the world is in the state it is! Man has become a god to himself with no room for the true and living God or his fellow man.

“Covetous,” means that men will be consumed with the *love of money*, which is an inescapable fact of our generation. This insatiable desire to have more and more possessions is destroying the family unit. Businesses as well have trodden down this path of no return. Pride in workmanship and product quality has taken a backseat to the all-consuming desire to get rich quick.

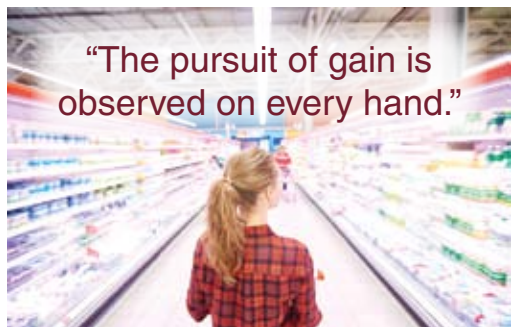
The pursuit of gain is observed on every hand. Every time you enter a supermarket, the

management is manipulating you through the store. Here is a case in point: Have you ever noticed that when you go to Walmart to purchase milk and eggs they are seldom at the front of the store? Nine times out of ten, these two items are at the back of the store, which means you must pass the soda, snacks, and those irresistible sale items at the end of each aisle. Products normally priced \$2.29 marked down to \$.99—who could possibly resist? So a trip to Walmart to purchase two staples ends up costing you a bundle. This has all been engineered by the store management to entice you to buy additional products, which results in a handsome financial profit. It takes discipline to shop these days!

*“Without natural affection.”*

Years ago, it would have been difficult to understand what form this could possibly take. Today, self-love and the lack of *natural affection* are seared into the conscience of our nation. Who would have thought that we would ever see the time that a mother’s love and affection for her unborn child would wax cold. Since Biblical times, conception and birth have been celebrated as joyous occasions as a new life was received as a gift from God (Gen. 21:1-8). Today, however, in many cases conception has become a death sentence for the child who is unwanted. On average there are 1.2 million *reported* abortions performed in America annually! The cost of abortions at a 16-week gestation period is approximately \$500. The slaying of the innocents has become a multi-billion dollar industry!

At the time of Christ’s birth, King Herod decreed that in Bethlehem all infants two years of age and under should be slain (Matt. 2:16). How many little ones do you suppose lost their lives—40 or 50? It was more likely hundreds. At any rate, throughout history this has come to be known as the *slaughter of the innocents*. Although we are horrified at Herod’s insensitive crime, it pales by comparison to the abortion rate today.



The mother of the unwanted child who is contemplating an abortion, along with the physicians who perform the abortions, are disgraceful examples of what it means to be *“without natural affection.”* Thankfully, there is forgiveness for those who have had an abortion through Christ and His shed blood.

## 2. A Form of Godliness

**“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (II Tim. 3:5).**

Man has always been inherently religious. This may take the form of the animist who worships nature, or the eastern cults that worship idols and practice self-mutilation. With a growing sense of hopelessness in the last days, the world will flock to the house



of religion to fill the longing of their souls. However, multitudes will be led astray by religious leaders who merely have a *form* of godliness. They will have the *outward semblance* of godliness, but it will be nothing more than a cheap imitation of the genuine. With their lips they will honor God, but in reality their hearts will be far from Him.

Since the natural man would rather not hear that he is a sinner, these godless leaders will proclaim a *social gospel* mingled with political concerns. Their philosophy has no room for the Deity of Christ or His finished work. Paul says they will “deny the power thereof,” that is, they will reject the preaching of the Cross and dismiss the blood of Christ as repulsive. Thus, the apostle admonishes us, “from such turn away.”

Any pastor, teacher, missionary or ministry that denies or questions the finished work of Christ must be avoided. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). It has been correctly said that Hell will be filled with religious men and women.

Obviously this phrase, “having a form of godliness” will manifest itself in many ways. A good example may be found in the teachings of the *New Age Movement*. Norman Geisler, professor of theology at *Dallas Theological Seminary* writes: “At least 14 doctrines are typical of New Age religions. While not all New Age groups hold all these beliefs, most groups embrace most of them. And all groups are characterized

by the pantheistic perspective reflected in them.

“These beliefs are: (1) an impersonal god (force), (2) an eternal universe, (3) an illusory nature of matter, (4) a cyclical nature of life, (5) the necessity of reincarnations, (6) the evolution of man into Godhood, (7) continuing revelations from beings beyond the world, (8) the identity of man with God, (9) the need for meditation (or other consciousness-changing techniques), (10) occult practices (astrology, mediums, etc.), (11) vegetarianism and holistic health, (12) pacifism (or anti-war activities), (13) one-world (global) order, and (14) syncretism (unity of all religions).”<sup>1</sup> The warning is clear: *Believer beware!*

### 3. Miracle Workers

**“Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was” (II Tim. 3:8,9).**

Prior to our Lord’s return for the Church, there are going to be those who will claim to have the power to perform miracles. Paul swiftly exposes these deceivers by comparing them with Jannes and Jambres who withstood Moses in Egypt (Ex. 7:11,12). The remarkable thing about these two magicians, who stood in Pharaoh’s court, was their uncanny ability to do miracles by the power of Satan. To demonstrate the mighty hand of God, Aaron cast down Moses’ rod before Pharaoh, and it miraculously turned into a living serpent.

But, amazingly, Jannes and Jambres threw down their rods and they, too, became serpents. These evildoers challenged the servants of the Most High, and we can expect the end-time seducers to do the same. “But evil men and *seducers* shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (v. 13). Vine defines the Greek word *goes* (seducer) as one who wails. “Hence, from the howl in which spells were chanted, a wizard, sorcerer, enchanter.” In other words, these impostors will weave their *miraculous* manifestations on the looms of the magical arts.

But what possible purpose could Satan hope to accomplish by having his ministers of darkness perform miracles in the sight of men? This will be one of the many means whereby he will *deceive* men. While Satan is inferior to God, he does possess extraordinary power to do mighty wonders (II Thes. 2:9). He afflicted Job just short of causing his death. One can only conclude that he also has the power to remove affliction and heal. In Luke 4:5,6, the devil flashed all of the kingdoms of the world before the Savior in a moment of time. Furthermore, during the future Tribulation he will empower the false prophet to call fire down from heaven (Rev. 13:13,14). In the last days of this dispensation, the adversary will use pseudo miracles to deceive the world and turn the hearts of men away from the living Word by enticing them to follow *experience*.

#### 4. Three Safeguards

**“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose...” (II Tim. 3:10).**

How can the child of God avoid falling victim to the evil influences of the last days? There are *three safeguards* that if applied daily, will keep us from spiritual harm. First, we must familiarize ourselves with all of the doctrines taught by the Apostle Paul in his epistles. Doctrine always affects walk. If you believe the Church is going through the Tribulation, then you should be storing food and water, and praying that the Antichrist does not declare himself to be God on the Sabbath (Matt. 24:15-21). However, if you hold, as we do, that Paul teaches the Church is to be delivered from the wrath to come, then we should spend our time leading men and women to Christ.

Second, we must follow Paul’s *manner of life* even as he followed Christ. Paul loved the Lord and by the grace of God sought to apply the Word of God in every area of his life. His heart’s desire was to be more like Christ—patient, humble, kind, and esteeming others better than himself. In addition, diligence should be taken to carry out the *purpose* that was given to our apostle. And what was Paul’s purpose in the ministry? To finish his course with joy, and “make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery” (Acts 20:24; Eph. 3:9). May God give us this *same* burden to the praise of His glory.

#### 5. Final Trials


**“Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me” (II Tim. 3:11).**

What prompted the apostle to single out these *three cities* from the others he had visited on his apostolic journeys? The answer is twofold: First, the rejection of the gospel of the grace of God greatly intensified. Second, Paul's persecutions grew increasingly worse in each of these cities. At Antioch, the enemies of the Cross *reviled* Paul and Barnabas, and forced them out of the city. At Iconium, things deteriorated even further when their very *lives were threatened*. And at Lystra, the multitude was so enraged that they dragged the apostle out of the city and *stoned* him—some say, to death (Acts 13:50; 14:5,19).

By relating these thoughts in the context of the “last days,” the apostle implies that the closing days of this dispensation are going to follow the *same* course. He is merely *preparing* us for the inevitable. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Tim. 3:12). The persecution that the apostle speaks of here will be at the hands of ungodly men who despise the very name of Christ. So naturally the object of their wrath will be directed at those who proclaim the good news of Christ and Him crucified. Undoubtedly, the first wave of oppression will be very subtle. It may simply take the form of *intolerance*. But this will quickly turn into *threats*, and in some cases believers may even be called upon to be *martyrs* for Christ. Standing for the truth in the “last days” could have grave consequences. We must be very careful here never to confuse these wicked deeds of men with the wrath of God to come; they

are two entirely different sets of circumstances.

Many believe the Church probably will be driven underground before the Lord returns. Little by little, we are losing our “religious freedom,” even as we speak. The Bible is no longer welcome in society, and is summarily dismissed on the basis that it is not relevant. Prayer and Bible reading once observed in public schools is banned. Many Christian schools have had to close due to nonconformity to *unreasonable* regulations imposed by state and local governments. If you stand against abortion or homosexuality, you are labelled intolerant and identified with so-called radicals on the Christian right. The very tenor of these words should be cause for alarm throughout the household of God.

The time is soon coming when we may be worshipping in the catacombs of our basements, much like the first century believers. In the midst of this oppression which lies ahead, there is *hope*! Paul says, “But out of them all [persecutions and afflictions] the Lord delivered me” (v. 11). This promise is given to all those who are faithful in Christ Jesus. May the utterance of our lips be in accordance with the words of the apostle: “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death” (Phil. 1:20). 

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### Endnote

1. Bibliotheca Sacra, Volume 144, January—March 1987, Number 573. *The New Age Movement*, Norman L. Geisler, p. 85.

# Open House

# 75TH AN





# NIVERSARY

## Conference





# *In Remembrance of the Lord's Work*

By Paul M. Sadler, President

Every so often we like to remind our readers about the importance of planning ahead. While we should never dwell on the future, it is important to have our house in order in the event the Lord would call us home unexpectedly. Historically, the *Berean Bible Society* has used gifts received from wills and estates to help replenish our literature inventory.

If you are planning to draw up a will this year or update one that's outdated, please consider including *Berean Bible Society* in your estate planning. (Of course, we feel compelled to say that you should not neglect to remember your loved ones and your local grace church if you have one.) By remembering BBS, you would assist us in making known the riches of His grace long after your home-going. A good example of this was one of our former board members who served on the BBS Board of Directors for many years. Before this dear brother departed to be with Christ, he sold two modest properties in northern Wisconsin on Land Contracts and set things in motion that the mortgages would be paid to BBS. Because of his foresight, every month like clockwork, we received two gifts in the form of mortgage payments. This was a gift that kept on giving!

Since we have lost a number of inheritances over the years due to fraud, may we suggest that you name an *impartial* executor, such as a family attorney, to guarantee that your wishes are honored. You might also consider speaking to a Christian financial advisor about other creative ways to help meet the needs of the Lord's work, such as a Charitable Remainder Trust, naming BBS as the beneficiary on your life insurance policy or retirement account. These are a few ways to ensure that your legacy will be used to the glory of God.

If you are considering becoming a regular monthly contributor or you are preparing to draw up a will, it is important to remember how *Berean Bible Society* functions, and how it is funded:

1. It is a non-profit 501-c3 corporation, governed by a Board of Directors.
2. It is not endowed or underwritten by any denomination or Christian organization.
3. It does *not* charge a subscription price for the *Berean Searchlight*, which reaches into 50 States and more than 60 foreign countries.
4. It is supported entirely by the *voluntary* contributions of those who are willing to make sacrifices so that others may come to rejoice in the riches of God's grace.
5. It is in the truest sense a *work of faith*, reaching tens of thousands with the gospel of salvation, and the Word rightly divided.

Thank you in advance, for remembering the Lord's work!



# Excuses, Excuses!

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

Perhaps you've heard about the man who phoned his boss one day and said, "I need a day off, there is something wrong with my eyes." When his boss asked what was wrong with his eyes, the man replied, "I don't know, but I just can't see myself coming in to work today!"

Well, as excuses go, that certainly wasn't a very good one! But the excuses that unbelieving Jews were giving in Paul's day for not believing on Christ were hardly any better. If you are wondering where these excuses might be found in Scripture, this writer believes that the Apostle Paul was quoting and addressing these excuses in the latter half of Romans 10, in the midst of his discussion of what happened to Israel in Romans 9-11.

If you are not sure why I would think this, consider that after Paul quoted Joel's prediction in Romans 10:13 that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved," the apostle said some things in Romans 10:14-17, and then began Verse 18 with the words, "But *I* say..." indicating that up until that point he had been repeating what *others* had been saying. I believe that in these verses Paul was citing the excuses that unsaved Jews were giving as to why they *hadn't* called upon the name of the Lord and been saved, as Joel had said they could have done.

With that in mind, I'd invite you to read the following familiar verse and consider that the hypothetical questions that Paul poses here were actually a protest offered by unbelieving Jews in an effort to justify their refusal to believe on Christ.

## A Logical Excuse

**“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Rom. 10:14).**

Can't you just picture an unsaved Jew in Paul's day saying, "How were we supposed to believe on the Lord if we never heard about Him, and how were we supposed to hear without a preacher?" Of course, if you are thinking that it wasn't correct to say that God hadn't sent them any preachers, you'd be right!

First, John 1:6 says that "there was a man *sent* from God, whose name was John," speaking of John the Baptist. Next, we read that the Lord "called His twelve disciples together...And He *sent them* to preach the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:1,2). If that weren't enough, *the Lord Himself* was an Apostle (Heb. 3:1), and the word "apostle" means *sent one*, or *one that is sent*. The Greek word for "apostle" is *apostolos*, the verb form of which is *apostello*, a word which our King James translators almost always translated "send," making an apostle a *sent one*. That being said, you don't have to know Greek to know that the Lord was sent to the Jews, for at Pentecost, Peter cried,

**"Ye men of Israel...God, having raised up His Son Jesus, *sent Him to bless you...*" (Acts 3:12,26).**

Nor were John the Baptist, the Lord, and His twelve apostles the only preachers God sent Israel, for "the Lord appointed other seventy also, and *sent them...*into every city..." (Luke 10:1). If that wasn't enough, after most of the nation rejected the preaching of the Lord and His followers, God sent them *another* preacher. The Lord predicted the sending of this Preacher when He spoke of...

**"...the Comforter...the Holy Ghost...whom the Father will *send in My name...*" (John 14:26).**

And when the Spirit came and indwelt the apostles at Pentecost, to whom did He preach through them? Wasn't it to the "men of Judaea" and the "men of Israel" (Acts 2:14,22), "Jews...out of every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5)? And what happened when those Jews, who had assembled for the feast day, went home? Why, "Jews...out of every nation under heaven" heard the gospel of the kingdom, of course!

## A Scriptural Excuse

So as you can see, there is no way the Jews could claim that God had not sent them a preacher to help them believe on Christ. This writer believes that, knowing this, these unsaved Hebrews rather sought to excuse their unbelief by challenging the *quality* of the preachers God had sent them, with the following words:

**"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:15).**



Here I believe it will become apparent that the unsaved Hebrews were challenging the quality of the preachers that God sent them when we consider the context of this quotation from the prophet Isaiah:

**“Therefore My people shall know My name: *therefore they shall know in that day that I am He that doth speak: behold, it is I.* How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings...” (Isa. 52:6,7).**

The excuse of the Jews who rejected Christ on these grounds ran something like this: “God’s Word said that when the preachers came to tell us about the Messiah that *we would know that it was God speaking through them.* Since we *didn’t* know, they must not have been very good preachers! If they’d have been good preachers, we would have believed.”



**“...if your heart longs to be able to answer the excuses that unbelievers give *you*...”**

### **A Prophetic Excuse**

As we read on in this passage, Paul cites *another* excuse being offered by unsaved Jews as to why they refused to obey the gospel:

**“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. *FOR* Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?” (Rom. 10:16).**

That word “for” here shows that the unsaved Jews were saying that the *reason* they didn’t believe is that Isaiah *predicted* they wouldn’t believe! They were saying, in effect, “You can’t blame us for not believing on Christ, *it was foreordained that we wouldn’t believe!*” This is a lame excuse that Paul will address in detail later in this

passage. For now, suffice it to say that they were confusing God’s *foreknowledge* with His *foreordination*. You see, just because God *knew* that they wouldn’t believe does not mean He *caused* them not to believe.<sup>1</sup> The nation of Israel and her leaders were made up of individuals who could have freely chosen to believe on Christ individually, and if they had done so, Isaiah would have predicted *their belief* instead of predicting the unbelief that God knew in advance they would insist upon.

The next verse in our text is a verse that is often quoted but is seldom recognized as Paul’s summation of the excuses that unsaved Jews had been advancing at that time.


### **The Sum with No Substance**

**“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom. 10:17).**

Those words “so then” are often used to sum up arguments that have previously been advanced (Mark 10:8; Rom. 7:25; 8:8; 14:12, etc.). Here

they summed up the excuses proffered by the Christ-rejecting Jews of Paul's day. Their complete line of thinking went something like this: "Because God sent us bad preachers, we didn't hear the word that God sent us, and since we didn't hear it, we couldn't believe it."

To be honest, that certainly sounds like an ironclad argument! What could Paul possibly say to such a seemingly unchallengeable line of reasoning? That's this month's cliffhanger! We'll consider Paul's withering response to these excuses in our next issue. But you don't have to wait until then to learn how Paul positively *dismantled* every excuse these Hebrews raised to justify their refusal to believe on Christ! If you'll just study Romans 10:18-21 with this setup in mind, you'll see how Paul was responding to their arguments, and our article in the August issue will serve as little more than icing on your cake!

In the meantime, a quick look at Paul's response in the remainder of this chapter will reveal that the apostle answered the excuses of his day *with Scripture after Scripture*. So if your heart longs to be able to answer the excuses that unbelievers give *you* for not believing, if you long to be able to answer them with the same power and authority that Paul demonstrates in this passage, why not begin to immerse yourself in the only Book that has the answer to every excuse ever raised for not believing on your Savior? You'll be eternally glad you did—and so will they! 

### Endnote

1. See our article *Who Blinded the Jews?* on Page 13 of the November, 2012 *Searchlight* for a consideration of John 12:37-40.

## Anniversary Afterglow

"I am writing to say how I appreciated the time of information and encouraging fellowship that I enjoyed at your 75th anniversary celebration. I am thankful for the BBS staff and their tireless work in presenting the Word of God, rightly divided, to the world. After seeing firsthand the tour of your offices and facility by Pastor Kevin, how proud I am to know that such care is given to the study and distribution of the Word. The integrity of your staff in every capacity was clear to see, and the testimony of Webmaster Richard Church made me know that God has placed the right people in the right positions. It gives me such an appreciation for BBS to know that you are tirelessly contending for the Word, rightly divided. Pastor Paul Sadler said in his address, 'it's not how we start, it's how we finish that matters.' You have given me confidence that we will finish strong. Thank you so much for your encouragement."

—Pastor Jeff Bertram, *Old Bethel Bible Church*, Alpha, KY



# Are You a Man After God's Own Heart?

By Pastor Ricky Kurth



**D**id you ever wonder how God could call David “a man after His own heart” (I Sam. 13:14)? True, He called him that *before* his horrific infractions of adultery and murder. But even after his death, God said of him that he did “keep My statutes and My commandments” (I Kings 3:14). How can this be?

Well, to begin with, compare how Balaam was able to say of God that “He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath He seen perverseness in Israel” (Num. 23:21). This, of course, was because the Jews could say that “as far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us” (Psa. 103:12), and Isaiah could pray with confidence, “Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back” (Isa. 38:17). Similarly, God was able to turn a blind eye to David’s sins, knowing that Christ would one day pay for them.

But there has to be more to it for God to be able to call David *a man after His own heart*, and I believe there is. You see, when God said of David that his heart was “perfect with the LORD his God,” He said that in contrast to Solomon, whose wives “turned away his heart after other gods” (I Kings 11:4). Despite his great sins, David never fell into idolatry. He always had a heart for the Lord, *and a burning desire to serve Him*.

As a pastor, Christians often ask me how I can think so highly of them when, in many cases, I have counseled them through their times of sin and failure, and so I know their deepest shame. I always explain that it is *their heart for the Lord* that God looks at, and so I always try to do the same. I don’t mean to say that those who strive to serve the Lord can do no wrong in my eyes, but this is very close to being so.

So it is that while we should always strive to live our lives as perfectly as God sees us in Christ (Phil. 3:10-14), if you are beating yourself up about your past sins and failures, *stop it*. Remember that “man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart” (I Sam. 16:7), and if God doesn’t behold your iniquity, *neither should you*.

Finally, if you are a judgmental Christian, why not learn to look upon others the way God looks at you, and “receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God” (Rom. 15:7).

# Can a Week Change Your Life?

When I was a teen, the weeks I spent at *Rocky Mountain Grace Camp* had an impact on my young Christian life that I will not soon forget. Then, as a father, I watched as my son Jesse's weeks at *Northern Grace Youth Camp* helped forge his Christian life as well. Yes, a week sequestered with God's people, away from TV and radio, was able to change my life, and these days weeks away from cell phones and video games can do the same for our young people.

For us adults, a full week away from the distractions of life, secluded together with other believers, is almost impossible to find these days. But if you long for six days of unbroken fellowship, a time of seclusion and shelter from the incessant demands of an overwhelmingly busy schedule, visit [bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com](http://bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com) and plan to attend the BBF conference in Cedar Lake, Indiana, on June 20-25. Only the sound teaching of God's rightly divided Word can impact your life in the way that you are aching to see it transformed. Isn't it time your spiritual life was changed for the better?

—Pastor Kurth

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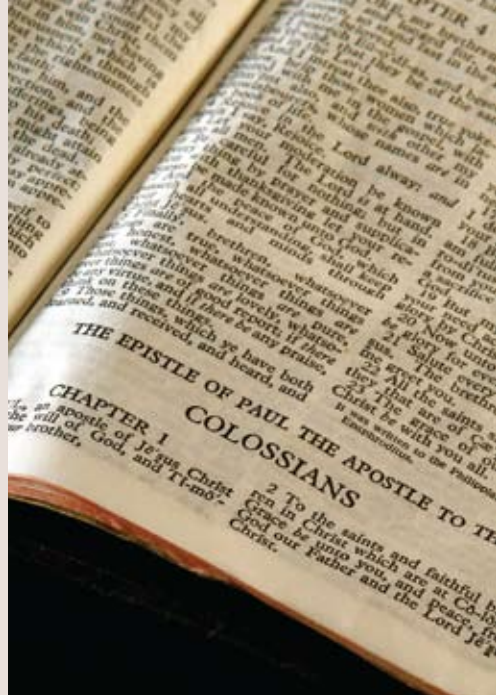




# Introducing *an Epistle* and *an Apostle*

By Pastor C. R. Stam

An excerpt from Pastor Stam's commentary on *Colossians*, which is now back in print. See page 28 for a special offer on this work.



## INTRODUCING AN EPISTLE

Of all Paul's wonderful epistles, perhaps the most wonderful of all are those he wrote that are called the Ephesian, the Philip-pian, and the Colossian epistles. One of them, at least, was a circular letter, but these are the names they bear.

These three epistles belong together as a group because they all have particularly to do with Christ and the Church, which is His Body.

Ephesians has as its basic theme the "*Body*," and its relation to the *Head*, Christ. *Colossians* has to do with *Christ*, the Head and *His relation* to the Body. No other epistle is as "Christ-full" as this letter of Paul, the Apostle to the Colossians. Finally, Philip-pians deals with the *members* of the Body of Christ in their relation to *each other*.

Colossians, of course, was written or dictated by Paul. However, in his introduction he associates Timothy with himself as he does in five of his other letters: II Corinthians, Philippians, I Thes-salonians, II Thessalonians and Philemon. He writes to the Colossians as "*an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God*" (1:1). Colossians is another of his great *doctrinal* epistles.

So these three epistles—Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians—are connected together and the great theme of Colossians is *Christ*; not as He was when on earth, but as He is today, now, glorified in heaven as the Head of the Church, a spiritual Body whose members are found in and out of every religious denomina-tion, and all over the world.

As we read on, it soon becomes evident that the Apostle had been used only indirectly to found this

church. He personally had never seen the Colossians (1:4,5; 2:1). How touching is the Apostle's love and concern for even unknown souls lately won to Christ! He had not even seen these brethren, yet he continually prayed for them, and with much thanksgiving (1:3).

Paul was never satisfied with signatures on dotted lines. In Acts 15:36,41, we find him traveling back to numerous cities, to small churches he had founded, to "*see how they do.*" His epistles bear witness to his genuine and continuing concern for those whom he had been used, directly or indirectly, to win to Christ. In some cases he had stayed on the scene for considerable periods of time, to make sure that the congregations were well established. He had stayed at Corinth for a year and a half and at Ephesus for three years.

The Epistle to the Colossians is basically about the Lord Jesus Christ, including *what Christ has done for us*. In Colossians 1:5 he begins by referring to "*the hope which is laid up for you in heaven,*" reminding them how they had heard about this hope "in the word of *the truth of the gospel.*" This hope is vastly different from that which Christ and the twelve proclaimed while our Lord was on earth. Israel's hope has always been *earthly* in sphere. Daniel prophesied that after other kingdoms had risen and fallen, the "God of heaven" would set up a kingdom on earth which would never be destroyed (Dan. 2:44). John the Baptist, our Lord, and the twelve proclaimed this "kingdom of [not *in*] Heaven" (Matt. 3:1,2; 4:17; 10:5-7). The

Lord promised the twelve that at His return to earth they would sit with Him on twelve thrones, "*judging the twelve tribes of Israel*" (Matt. 19:28). Even in the gospel according to John, much of which has been so grossly misread, it is the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth that is in view.



"When we make these things  
our theme we are...cutting  
bad fruit from a bad tree..."

Even at Pentecost, Peter did not tell his hearers: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will take you up there." Rather he said, "Repent, and God will send Jesus down here" (Acts 3:19-21).

It is not until we reach Paul's epistles that we find a message about salvation by grace through faith *alone*, based on the all-sufficient, *finished* work of Christ at Calvary. It is not until we come to these epistles that we learn of "*the hope which is laid up for you in heaven*" (Col. 1:5) and our *present* position and blessings in the heavenlies, in Christ (Eph. 1:3; 2:4-7). This message is powerful, and has brought forth much precious spiritual fruit, as the Apostle says in Verse 6:

**"Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and**

**knew the grace of God in truth” (Col. 1:6).**

Is this message less effective today? Has it lost its power? Is it irrelevant to the difficult times in which we live? By no means! There is abundant evidence on every hand of the power of the gospel of the grace of God in the lives of those who open their hearts to it. How we wish that we could induce some pastors—yes, some “grace pastors”—to stop preaching on all kinds of peripheral subjects, while neglecting the great truths contained in that blessed message of grace which Paul calls “my gospel.” Let us never forget that this message is *our message* too. Let us never apologize for proclaiming Jesus Christ “*according to the revelation of the Mystery*”—for this IS *our gospel* (Rom. 16:25).



Some have charged us with riding a hobby horse because we have made this *our* message through the years, and have related everything in the Bible to it. To these criticisms we respond: “Was Ezra riding a hobby horse when he read only the Law from morning to mid-day, and bound its precepts upon the hearts of his hearers (Neh. 8:2,3,8)?” Of course not. He lived under the dispensation of the Law. That was his God-given message to Israel. Were the twelve apostles

riding a hobby horse when they went everywhere, during our Lord’s earthly ministry, preaching “the gospel of the kingdom”? They were not. This was the message they were *sent* to proclaim (Matt. 10:5-7). Nor are we riding a hobby horse when we consistently, faithfully proclaim the unadulterated “gospel of the grace of God,” and the blessed truths of the Mystery revealed through Paul. Rather we would prove to be unfaithful if we began to change our message or water it down by preaching largely on current events, political problems, family living, or by spending undue time denouncing abortion, sexual perversion, violence, etc. When we make these things our theme we are at best cutting bad fruit from a bad tree rather than laying the ax to the *root* of the tree.

We pray that God will use these words to bring some pastors back to that blessed message which ought to be their theme: “the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery” (Rom. 16:25). When they do get back to this message they will never have enough time to preach it all. The scope is so vast and broad, the necessity for preaching so urgent, that they will soon have a backlog of messages they have never had the time to bring.

## **INTRODUCING AN APOSTLE**

**“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,**

**“To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father**

and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Col. 1:1,2).

### **“AND TIMOTHEUS OUR BROTHER”**

Timothy as you recall was Paul’s “own son in the faith” (I Tim. 1:2). He had been won to Christ through Paul’s ministry and had become a very faithful partner in the work of the Lord. But Paul doesn’t always link Timothy’s name with his own in the same way. For example, when he writes to the Philippians, he opens his letter with the words, “Paul and Timotheus, the *servants* of Jesus Christ.” This is because the Philippian letter is *not* basically doctrinal or theological in character. It was written to patch up a quarrel in the Philippian church and, if possible, to restore unity. Paul wanted them to feel that the plea came from simple servants of Christ, and that the plea came from both Timothy and himself as he appealed to them to work and worship together in unity.

The Colossian letter, however, is entirely different. It is basically doctrinal, basically theological in character. It has to do with the great revelation committed to Paul by the glorified Lord in heaven. So he takes the responsibility for everything he says upon himself, and he calls himself—not a servant of Jesus Christ as in Philippians (1:1)—but “*an apostle of Jesus Christ*,” and he links Timothy with himself simply as a *brother*, both theirs and his.

In fact, the original doesn’t really say “Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ,” because there is no indefinite article in the Greek. Actually, it would read more like this:

“Paul—apostle of Jesus Christ” or “Paul, Jesus Christ’s apostle, and Timothy, our brother.”

### **PAUL, NOT ONE OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES**

Now this may seem like a very little thing but in reality it is very important, because Paul was not just one of the apostles as so many people seem to think, and as so many preachers still make him. His apostleship was absolutely separate and distinct from that of the twelve. That doesn’t mean he had nothing ever to do with the twelve, but it does mean that he was raised up later as *another* apostle with *another* message which *superceded* theirs.

As you’ll remember, they were sent to preach the gospel of the kingdom, and our Lord promised them twelve thrones in that kingdom:

**“And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28).**

Under the so-called Great Commission—under *their* great commission—the twelve were sent to make disciples of all nations, beginning at Jerusalem:

**“Ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).**

And you remember how Peter at Pentecost declared that God had raised the Lord Jesus to sit on the throne of David. These are the very words he said:



**“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.**

**“Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, *He would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;***

**“He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ” (Acts 2:29-31).**

In other words, Peter says here that according to prophecy God had raised up Christ to sit on David’s throne. Peter then called upon the people to repent so that Christ would come back, that is, to repent of having crucified Him so that He would return and the long-promised times of refreshing would still come. Here is *Peter*, not Paul, but Peter speaking to the house of Israel:

**“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, [that so] the times of refreshing [may] come from the presence of the Lord;**

**“And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:**

**“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution [or, the setting right] of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:19-21).**

## **AN APOSTLE BY THE WILL OF GOD**

But as you know the favored nation did not repent and Christ did not—indeed, has not yet—returned. And the wonderful

times of refreshing did not come, and have not yet come. Now how could these twelve apostles go and make disciples of the other nations when their own nation had not yet received Messiah?




According to prophecy, Christ is to reign—not in Washington or London or Paris—but at Jerusalem. So when Jerusalem and the chosen nation did not receive Christ, God interrupted the Prophetic Program and sent forth *another* apostle to usher in *another* dispensation. Not that God was taken by surprise. Not at all. He knew all about this.

In fact, He had another program called “the Mystery” in mind all the while, and He says that this Mystery was “kept secret since the world began.” It was planned and purposed by God “before the world began,” but not until “now” was it “made known” to and through the Apostle Paul. So when Jerusalem and the chosen nation did not receive Christ, God interrupted the Prophetic Program and sent forth another apostle, the Apostle Paul, to usher in “*the dispensation of the grace of God,*” under which we now live. And this explains why, at the great Jerusalem council held eighteen years after Pentecost, the apostles there shook hands with Paul and Barnabas in a solemn, official, public agreement, that

from then on, *he*, not they, should be the Apostle of the Nations:

**“And when James, [Peter], and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the [Gentiles], and they unto the circumcision” (Gal. 2:9).**

So here the leaders of the twelve, and the elders at Jerusalem among the believers there, actually agreed publicly and officially that *not they* but Paul should now be the Apostle to *all* nations. This is why in Colossians 1:1 and elsewhere, Paul calls himself **“AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST BY THE WILL OF GOD.”** 

## Question Box

*“Can you explain Matthew 11:12, especially ‘the violent take it by force?’”*

**“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.”**

The “violence” that the Lord said the kingdom had suffered since John’s day was the violent *resistance* that the unbelieving leaders in Israel waged against the proclamation of the kingdom gospel. These violent rulers made several attempts on the Lord’s life as He preached the kingdom of heaven (Luke 4:29; John 5:18; John 7:1,19,25; 8:37,40; 10:31). As the Lord went on to explain, these violent attempts on His life were attempts to take possession of the kingdom by force.

The Lord illustrated all this with the parable of the “householder” who represented God (Matt. 21:33), “which planted a vineyard” that represented Israel in the Old Testament (Matt. 21:33 cf. Isa. 5:1,2,7). God “hedged” or “fenced” Israel (Matt. 21:33 cf. Isa. 5:2) with an invisible wall of protection from her enemies, but also “dugged a winepress” (Isa. 5:2 cf. Matt. 21:33), which indicated He expected to reap a harvest of grapes from his vineyard to press into wine in return for His efforts. But the “servants” that God sent Israel to gather these fruits, the Old Testament prophets, were violently persecuted (Matt. 21:35,36). Last of all, He sent them His Son (Heb. 1:1,2), but when Israel’s leaders “saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill Him; *and let us seize on His inheritance*” (Matt. 21:38), His inheritance being Israel (Isa. 19:25).

—Pastor Kurth



# BBS Letter Excerpts

## From Facebook:

"We enjoyed the tour last weekend!"

## From Tennessee:

"I so enjoyed reading your articles online that I found in my search for information."

## From the Internet:

"This 'Mind Your Magistrates' article is another example of...those who know not the will of God. With this article...I will cease to...promote berean@bereanbiblesociety.org. It is just another one of man's manipulations of God's Word...the fallacy of religion is extremely evident in the lack of real leaders in the pulpit, those who kowtow to the 'Magistrates' who minister to the prince of the power of the air, Satan. This goes to men whom I...know are aware of this fallacy expressed by Ricky Kurth."

## From Florida:

"Recently I have opened up to dispensationalism because I was not satisfied with the system that covenant theology teaches as far as explaining redemptive history, and their use of spiritualizing many Old Testament prophecies." (You have to be a dispensationalist to be honest with the Scriptures!—Ed).

## From Alaska:

"Be assured that your message of the Mystery revealed by Paul is making a large impact around the world, as it is in my life."

## From Missouri:

"It is with *much joy* that I am reading your January article about 'The Olive Tree Graft.' I have read it three times now with my Bible in hand. I was mired in replacement theology for over twenty years before I learned of the Word rightly divided in 2008. Thank you very much for this article."

## From Florida:

"Please send me ten copies of *Things That Differ*...I left a copy in our church and a friend picked it up and now he is on fire for rightly dividing the Word."

## From Texas:

"Reading 'Encouragement to a Weary Soldier' today was such encouragement...This message today was so very personal to me."

## From Facebook:

"I use the Scripture Index often. It leads me to hidden treasures written years ago. A very useful study help!" (I use our website's Scripture Index often myself!—Ed).

## From Pennsylvania:

"The *Berean Searchlight* goes into my barber shop waiting room after I read it."

## From California:

"You have no idea how much your words help me...Praise God for the Pauline revelation and our instructions in this dispensation."



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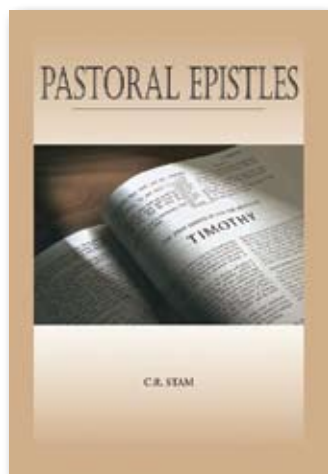
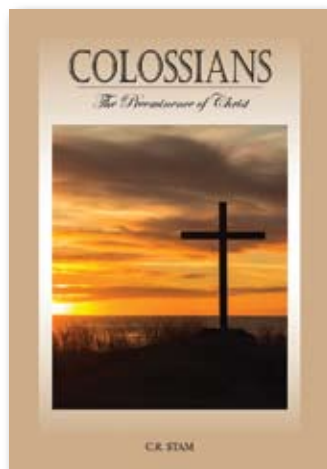
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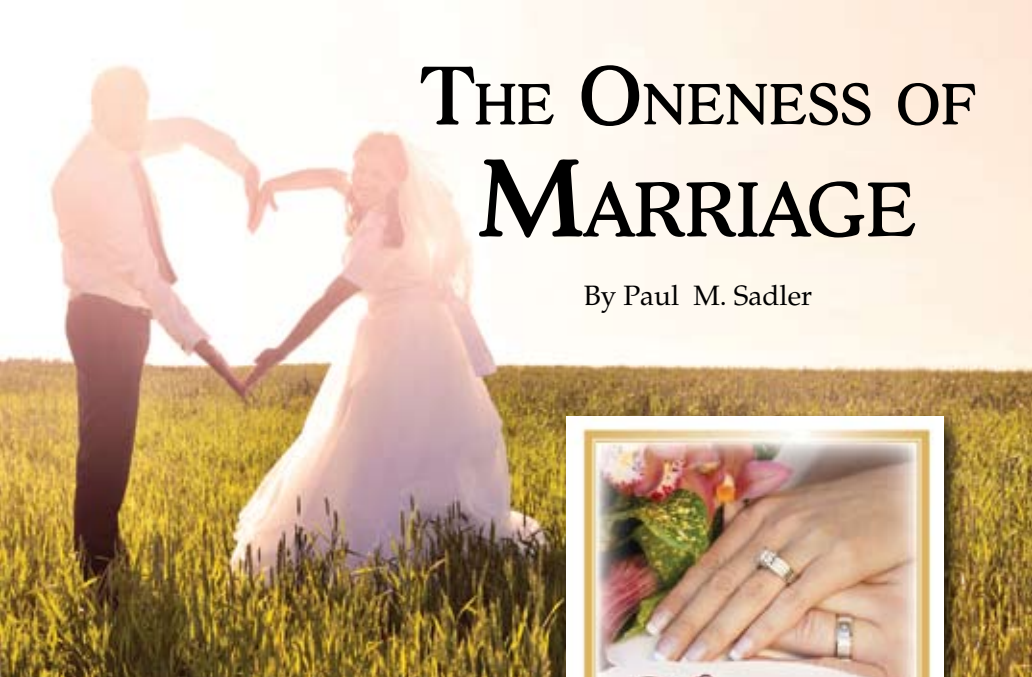
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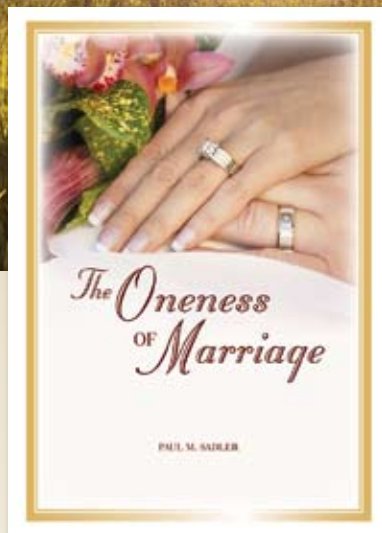
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# News and Announcements

**Every Picture Tells a Story**, and the pictures of our 75th Anniversary Open House and Bible Conference that you'll find on page 12 are just a sampling of the many pictures we have posted on our website. Be sure to visit our site and see the story of how so many grace believers came together to help us observe our historic milestone.

**This House Is Always Open!** After the special "open house" we held in April, we heard from some who couldn't make it, and wondered when we might offer another opportunity to tour our facilities. With that in mind, we thought we should mention you are always welcome to stop in and see our ministry in action. While we are often here before and after normal business hours, we'd prefer if you visit us weekdays from 9 to 5 when you can meet the staff and observe these creatures in their natural habitat.

**Central Michigan Bible Conference:** Our good friend Phil Long says that last year's conference was such a blessing that they just had to do it again! This year you'll want to make your way to Flint's *America's Best Value Inn & Suites* to hear Pastor Paul M. Sadler and Pastor Kevin Sadler prove beyond all doubt that grace is still America's best value! Just clear your schedule for July 10,11, then call Phil at (810) 444-0670, or email him at [assignphillong@yahoo.com](mailto:assignphillong@yahoo.com) to tell him you're coming!

**Southeast Bible Conference:** When the world thinks about Tupelo, Mississippi, they think about Elvis, but the Lord thinks about *Grace Bible Ministry Church*. Your editor has been there and can testify that you just can't help falling in love with the warm-hearted saints who have invited me back to hold forth the Word of life among them on August 8th and 9th. Pastor John Smith will set out an extra chair for you, but first you have to let him know you are coming: (662) 706-4086, [gracebibleministry@att.net](mailto:gracebibleministry@att.net).

**Special Sunday Service:** Once the nation is through celebrating her independence, your editor will lead the saints of *Kettle Moraine Bible Church* of West Bend, Wisconsin, in a July 12 day of rejoicing in "the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." Contact Pastor Kevin Sadler at (262) 305-6860 or at [kettlemorainebible@gmail.com](mailto:kettlemorainebible@gmail.com) for further information.



The *Yaquina Head Lighthouse* is located in Newport, Oregon. The light was made in Paris, France in 1868 and shipped to Oregon. It has been used as a setting in television episodes and movies. During World War II, seventeen servicemen were stationed at Yaquina Head to keep a lookout for enemy ships.

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“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him” (Proverbs 20:7).