

The BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

September 2015



Feature Article

The Living Sacrifice, *by Ricky Kurth*.....5

Articles

Blood Moon Mania, *by Ricky Kurth*.....13
The Recompense of Reward, *by Paul M. Sadler*.....15
Twice Divided, *by David Stewart*21

Departments

Words Well Chosen.....4
Question Box.....25
Echo Month.....26
News and Announcements30

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
E-mail: berean@bereanbiblesociety.org

The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), September 2015. Vol. 76, Number 6.
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 Brethren,

The other evening I turned on the national news to see what chaos and mayhem was going on in the world. I really wasn't surprised by what I heard! Year after year, the headlines are becoming increasingly more ominous. In the Middle East, Syria is embroiled in a major civil war;

Israel is repeatedly threatened with annihilation; and ISIS is attempting to build an Islamic State where the beheadings of those who reject their ideology is commonplace. Then there's Iran, which is nearing the completion of a nuclear bomb, that will undoubtedly result in the nuclear proliferation of other nations in the region.

In Europe, many countries are facing financial collapse. Greece has already declared bankruptcy. Here in America, our government has managed to rack up a national debt to the tune of 17 trillion dollars, which our country will probably live to regret simply because there's no one to bail us out. If this isn't troubling enough, most of our cities are becoming more like the wild west where lawlessness has taken over our streets with daily carjackings and shootings being a common occurrence.

The opportunists have seized the moment to run commercials between these alarming headlines to alert everyone to the coming economic collapse that will make the 2008 crash look insignificant. The survivalist takes advantage of this mass hysteria to warn everyone to be prepared for the next act of God or man-made disaster by purchasing a survival kit with a large supply of food.

If you had to take two aspirins and lie down after reading these lines, it is important for you to remember that Paul predicted that *perilous times* (II Tim. 3:1) and *lawlessness* (I Tim. 1:9) would be widespread in the last days of the age of grace. These troubling events have caused many believers, who fail to rightly divide the Word of truth, to wonder if we are in the early stages of the Tribulation. But we want to assure everyone who reads these words that if you are a believer in Christ you are delivered from the future Tribulation and wrath to come (I Thes. 1:10; 5:9 cf. Rev. 6:15-17).

Not one Old Testament prophecy is being fulfilled today, including those found in the four Gospels and early Acts. This does not necessarily mean that the stage isn't being set by Satan for coming world events. The above headlines should remind us that we are living in man's day and will experience many times the injustices of man's wrath (I Cor. 4:3). Through it all, we can rest in the peace of God that passes all understanding—it will keep our hearts and minds through the most trying times!

Resting in Him,

Paul M. Sadler, President



Words Well Chosen

By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

We have all had the unfortunate experience in life of having to speak with someone who is demeaning and offensive in how they approach a matter. They seem to relish putting people on the spot. Somehow they think that taking a hard-hitting approach will drive home their point more effectively. Usually the opposite is true, because their manner of speech is speaking more loudly than what is being said. Rather than relationships being strengthened, they are destroyed by abrasive words.

This type of response from the unsaved shouldn't surprise us, but it should never be true of a believer in Christ. Sadly though, it is becoming increasingly true in the Christian community. One of the graces that nearly has been lost in the Church today is *tact*. Tact is a "keen sense of what to do or say in order to maintain good relations with others or to avoid offense." Essentially, it is having perception and grace when dealing with others. The Apostle Paul was a seasoned veteran in the art of tact. While he could be firm when it came to confronting error, he always did so with grace, hoping to restore the offender. More often than not, however, he exercised tact to accomplish his purpose.

A good example is when Paul addressed his countrymen in Jerusalem who were determined to take his life. As he was being led away to the castle, he requested that the chief captain allow him to speak to the unruly mob. We're sure this probably seemed to be a strange request to the Roman captain, but he gave Paul permission to speak to his countrymen.

"Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defense which I make now unto you. (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,) I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel..." (Acts 22:1-3).

Before Paul shared his conversion on the road to Damascus, he, tactfully addressed them with titles of respect, "men, brethren, and fathers." Then he perceptively spoke to them in the Hebrew language, the mother tongue of the chosen nation. Notice their response, "they kept the more silent." Once he had their undivided attention, Paul identified himself with them, revealing that he was a Jew, born in Tarsus, but lived most of his life in Jerusalem, where he sat at the feet of one of their revered doctors of the law, Gamaliel.

That's tact! May the Lord give us this type of discretion when we minister to others! And may it be to the praise of His glory.

The LIVING Sacrifice

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

All those who say it is easier to serve the Lord under grace than it was under the law probably haven’t given serious consideration to the words of the apostle of grace here. After all, under the law God’s people were only asked to sacrifice the bodies of bulls and goats to God. Under grace, we are called upon to present our *own* bodies as *living* sacrifices to Him, to sacrifice what we want to do with our bodies in life and replace it with what *He* wants.

Paul the Beggar

If you are thinking that this is a lot to ask of someone, notice that it is *the Apostle Paul* who is doing the asking. When a stranger begs you to do something, it doesn’t

carry a lot of weight. If a *friend* begs you to do something, it carries a little more weight, and if *your mother* begs you to do something, it carries *considerably* more weight. After all, she gave you physical life! But when *Paul* begs you to do something, it should carry the most weight of all, for he gave you *eternal* life.

Before you protest that it was *God* who gave you eternal life, remember that your mother didn’t give you physical life, *God did* (Acts 17:25). Your mother was just the life-giving instrument in His hands, and Paul was the life-giving instrument that God used to give you *eternal* life. You see, if you are saved, you were saved by Paul’s gospel! He’s the only one in the Bible that preaches the “salvation by grace through faith apart from works” gospel that saves in this dispensation. So when the one who was used of God to give you eternal life begs

you to present your body to God as a living sacrifice, it should carry all the weight in the world!

We see this illustrated in the story of Onesimus, the slave who ran away from his master and met up with the Apostle Paul and got saved. When Paul returned this servant to his master, he told Philemon that as his apostle he could *order* him to be lenient to Onesimus, but chose rather to *beseech* him “for love’s sake” (Phile. 8,9). Paul knew that Philemon loved him because Paul had led him to the Lord and given him eternal life (Phile. 19), so he begged him to do what was right out of the love that he had for Paul; and now Paul is begging *you* to present your body a living sacrifice to God to show *your* love for him.

Don’t forget, this plea comes from the man who practiced what he preached, having offered *his own body* as a living sacrifice to God in a measure that we cannot even begin to fathom (II Cor. 11:24-33). Grace believers all claim that they love Paul, and that he’s the second person they’ll look for when they get to heaven. But the first question Paul will ask you is, “Did you give your body a living sacrifice to God?” and you don’t want to have to give your apostle the wrong answer in that day.

God the Beggar

If that’s not enough to convince you to offer your body to God, remember that when *Paul* begs you to do something in Scripture, it is actually *God* begging you to do it through him. If it makes you uncomfortable to think of God as a beggar, don’t we say that when Paul *exhorts* us to do something,

it is actually God exhorting us through him? And when Paul reproves, rebukes, or corrects us, don’t we say it is God leading us to make adjustments in our lives through him? If so, then to be consistent, we have to say that when Paul begs us to sacrifice our will for our lives and bodies that it is God begging us through him.

“Beseech” is a particularly *grace* word. In the Old Testament, God never begged anyone to do anything. Under the Law, He *commanded* His people to serve Him through Moses, but under grace He *begs* us to serve Him through Paul (cf. Eph. 4:1). According to Solomon, “*the poor useth intreaties*” because begging is the only way the poor have to get what they want. But it is not *God’s* only way. He could *order* us to serve Him, but He is not too proud to beg. The only question is, are you too proud to give Him that for which He is begging you?

The Basis for the Begging

Notice that Paul begs for your body on the basis of “the mercies of God.” Do you remember the difference between *mercy* and *grace*? Grace is when God gives you what you don’t deserve, an eternity in heaven and all spiritual blessings in the meantime (Eph. 1:3). Mercy is when God *doesn’t* give you what you *do* deserve, an eternity in the lake of fire. Based on such infinite mercy, shouldn’t you offer your body a living sacrifice to Him?

At the risk of sounding like an infomercial, I’ll add, “But wait! There’s more!” The word “therefore” in our text shows that Paul is *also* thinking of the mercies of God that he just finished talking

about in Romans 11:30-32, the mercies He showed on Jews and Gentiles *as corporate groups of people* in time past.

Four thousand years ago, when the Gentiles rebelled against God at the Tower of Babel, God didn't give them the destruction they deserved, He just set them aside in mercy. Two thousand years later, when the Jews joined them in their rebellion against God by crucifying their Messiah and stoning His prophet Stephen, God didn't give Israel the destruction she deserved, He just set her aside in mercy. So whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, God has not only been merciful to you as an individual, you wouldn't even *exist* if it weren't for the mercy God had on *your people* in time past.

Do you think maybe *that's* a good reason to offer yourself to God as a living sacrifice? Paul thought so! He told the Corinthians,

“Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not...” (II Cor. 4:1 cf. I Tim. 1:13).

You too have received a ministry, and if you want to be like Paul, you won't faint either, you'll present yourself to God as fully as Paul did.

Presentation Is Everything

To impress upon us the *seriousness* of presenting our bodies as living sacrifices to God, Paul uses the same word that Moses used to describe how Aaron “*presented* the burnt offering” (Lev. 9:13). If you love animals, you should know that animals were not sacrificed to God lightly in time past. There was a *presentation* made of

the animal on the altar. It was no light thing to take the life of an innocent animal, and it is no light thing for you to present your body to God either.

If you are not sure what it *means* to “present” your body to God, follow me for a moment. Remember how Paul reminded the Corinthians that he was their spiritual father since they'd been saved by believing his gospel (I Cor. 4:15)? With that in mind, when he espoused them “to one Husband” (II Cor. 11:2), he explained to them that he did so “that I may *present* you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” As you know, in a wedding ceremony, there is a *presentation* made. The bride's father *presents* her to the groom,



and when he does, *he is presenting her as a living sacrifice to her husband*. This official presentation signifies that she is now going to sacrifice what she wants in life and replace it with what her husband wants. Ladies, don't be getting married unless you are ready to make a commitment like that, and husbands, don't ever forget what your wife gave up to marry a big lug like you. She presented herself to you as a living sacrifice and allowed her will for her life to be swallowed up in yours. *That's*

what God has in mind in asking you to “present” yourself to Him, to allow your will for your life to be swallowed up in His.

Notice that Paul wants you to present “your” body to God, *not* the bodies of your children, as God’s people did in time past when they sacrificed the bodies of their children to Molech (Jer. 32:35). Parents today try to get away with offering their children as *living* sacrifices to God when they *send* them to church instead of *bringing* them. These same parents frown upon Hollywood parents who sacrifice the lives of their children to be in movies, but they do the same thing when they present their children’s lives to God and not their own. Parents, the best way to make sure your children offer their lives to the Lord is to lead them by your example!

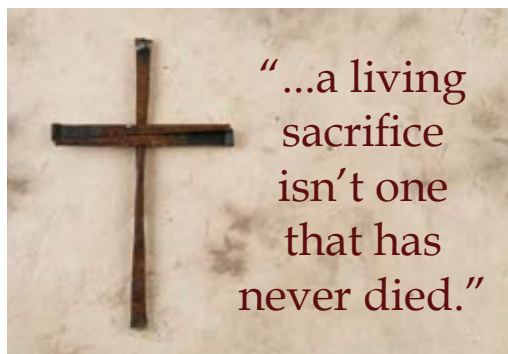
What’s the Big Deal?

If you are thinking that giving your body a *living* sacrifice isn’t as big a deal as giving your body a *dying* sacrifice to God as a martyr, let me show you how Paul felt about that. He told the Philippians,

“...if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all” (Phil. 2:17).

As Paul penned those words, he was in prison, unsure “if” he would live or die at the hands of the emperor. But he told the Philippians that if he were to die, the offering up of his life to God as a dying sacrifice would be “offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith.” Old Testament offerings were all offered *on an altar*, but Paul was thinking of an offering that was offered on top of the sacrifice that

someone else had brought. The only offering that was made on top of another offering in time past was the drink offering, a sacrifice that consisted of wine poured out on top of the main sacrifice of an animal. When we put it all together, Paul was saying that if his life were to be offered to God as a dying sacrifice, it would only be a drink offering on top of the main sacrifice of the Philippians.



What was their offering? Why, they were the Macedonians whose “deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality” (II Cor. 8:2), the saints who “first gave *their own selves* to the Lord” (v. 5). Does that sound like a living sacrifice to you? Paul then is saying that even if his life was given to God as a *dying* sacrifice, it would only be the drink offering on top of the *main* sacrifice of the Philippians who were giving their lives to God as *living* sacrifices. It would seem from this that Paul believed it is harder to live for the Lord than it is to die for Him. Few of us will ever be asked to die for the Lord, but we are all asked to live for Him.

By the way, wine is a type of *joy* in Scripture. No wonder Paul told them that he would “joy, and

rejoice with you all” if his life was poured out as a drink offering on their sacrifice. He was more than happy to play second fiddle to the Philippians when rewards are being handed out at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and rejoiced with them all in the thought.

Give Yourself Wholly

Now notice that the body you offer God must be “holy.” If you are thinking that yours isn’t, think again. Remember, Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25,26) “that He might present it to Himself...*holy and without blemish*” (v. 27). If you weren’t saved, you couldn’t offer your body to God, for unsaved bodies are not holy; but now in Christ *you are as holy as He is*.

Of course, when it comes to offering a holy sacrifice to God, He’s looking for more than just the holiness we receive when we get saved. He’s also looking for a spiritually clean life, “for God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto *holiness*” (I Thes. 4:7). So “let not sin therefore reign *in your mortal body*...but yield yourselves unto God, *as those that are alive from the dead*” (Rom. 6:12,13). If you’re not sure what it means to live your life as someone who is alive from the dead, remember that “so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death” (Rom. 6:3).

“Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

When you got saved, the Spirit took you back to Calvary and

made you one with Christ in His death, in His burial, and in His resurrection. *That’s* what it means to live your life “as those that are alive from the dead.” You see, a living sacrifice isn’t one that has never died. A living sacrifice is someone who died with Christ and rose again, and is so grateful for his resurrection life that he offers it to God in return and doesn’t let sin reign in his mortal body. A living sacrifice is one who says,

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

Your Acceptance Is Guaranteed

When Paul says that the body you offer God should be “acceptable,” we are reminded that under the law, some animals were *unacceptable* as sacrifices. In those days, if a man wanted to offer an animal to God, he brought it to the temple to “*present* the beast before the priest” (Lev. 27:11), after which we are told, “...the priest shall value it, whether it be good or bad...” (v. 12). So what determined if a beast was good or bad? God’s people weren’t left guessing, they were clearly told, “*whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you*” (Lev. 22:20). Are there any blemishes of sin in your life? If so, what makes you think God will accept the body that you are offering Him? Well, in and of yourself you are unacceptable; but because of Christ’s work

on the Cross, you are “accepted in the Beloved” (Eph. 1:6).

Of course, you still sin, and sin was a major problem under the Law. Speaking of the smell of the burnt offerings that the Jews had to bring, God told them,

“...if ye will not...hearken unto Me, but walk contrary unto Me...I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours” (Lev. 26:27-31).

When Israel didn’t hearken unto God, He told them,

“...I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer Me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them...” (Amos 5:21,22).

Do you ever walk contrary to God? That’s what I thought. But so did the Philippians! Two of them were fighting (Phil. 4:2), and the whole church was taking sides. You can tell by the way Paul kept addressing “all” of them (Phil. 1:1,4,7,8,25) to show that *he* wasn’t taking sides! But this meant that they weren’t obeying Paul’s admonition to “keep the unity of the Spirit” (Eph. 4:3). Yet despite their quarreling, Paul was able to write them,

“...I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God” (Phil. 4:18).

How could this be? They were walking contrary to God, yet Paul says that their sacrifice was acceptable to Him. You know the answer to this. It’s found in Paul’s assurance that “we are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:15). We are not under the law that says our sacrifices won’t be accepted if we walk contrary to

God, we are under the grace that makes our sacrifices *accepted in the Beloved!* This means that when you offer your body a living sacrifice to the Lord (at the risk of sounding like a life insurance commercial), your acceptance is *guaranteed*. Now that you know this, doesn’t it make you *want* to offer yourself to the Lord?

When I was a teen, my buddies and I used to hang out at the A&W drive-in where we enjoyed flirting with the carhops. When a cheerleader from our school started working there, we were all too intimidated to ask her out, afraid that we wouldn’t be accepted. But when my friend called one day to tell me that he had learned she liked me, I jumped in the car and drove straight over to ask her out, knowing it was guaranteed that I would be accepted. That’s how eager you should be to offer your body a living sacrifice to God, now that you know He will accept it!

Let’s Be Reasonable

After all, doing so is “your reasonable service.” It is only reasonable that after He died for you that you should live for Him (II Cor. 5:14,15). If you feel that it is *unreasonable* for God to ask you to offer your body to Him, you’re forgetting that *He already owns it* (I Cor. 6:19,20). Only *unbelievers* think things like, “our lips are our own: *who is lord over us?*” (Psa. 12:4). Of course, unbelievers also think that their *money* is their own, but someday in the kingdom of heaven on earth, God says,

“...I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

The silver is *Mine*, and the gold is *Mine*, saith the Lord...” (Hag. 2:7,8).

The “desire of nations” is not Christ, as many suppose, it is *money*. The nations have never desired Christ, but they have always desired money. In the kingdom, God will shake the money out of the nations and use it to beautify and glorify His house, the temple (cf. Rev. 21:24-26). While the world might consider this a criminal shakedown, God explains here that He has a right to the wealth of the nations for *it is His to begin with*. By virtue of creation, “the earth is the LORD’s, and the fullness thereof” (Psa. 24:1), and he owns everything and everyone in it.




As a believer, I trust you know better than to think of your money as your own. Since we are not required to tithe as God’s people were under the law, Christians often wonder how much of their money they should give to the Lord. May I humbly suggest, on the basis of what we have seen in God’s Word, that the question is not how much of your money you should give to the Lord. The question is how much of the Lord’s money do you dare keep back for yourself? Do you remember

what David prayed after God’s people gave so lavishly to build the temple?

“...what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? *For all things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee*” (1 Chron. 29:14).

David humbly recognized that all of the money that his people gave to God to build the temple was money that was already His to begin with, so it was only right that they give it. Well, now that God has ransomed and redeemed you, the same is true for your physical body. It is already His to begin with, so it is only right that you give it to Him. In fact, it is a very real possibility that Paul was thinking of David’s words in writing the words of our text, for just before opening Chapter 12 by asking us to present ourselves to God as living sacrifices, He closed Chapter 11 with these words:

“For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen” (Rom. 11:36).

Your physical body is “of Him” by virtue of Creation and “through Him” by virtue of redemption, and it will eventually go “to Him” at the Rapture. Why wait until then to give Him what He has already bought and paid for? The question is not how much of your life you should give to the Lord; the question is how much of your life do you dare keep back for yourself? Is your will swallowed up in His as it will be when Christ returns and takes us to heaven? If not, why not get a taste of heaven on earth by presenting your body a living sacrifice to the Lord *right now*. You’ll be eternally glad you did! 



Did You Find Them?

In August we sheepishly admitted to having made *ten* errors in the June *Searchlight* and challenged our sharp-eyed readers to see if you could find them. We even provided the tempting incentive of double your money back to our subscription-free magazine to any who could find all ten boo-boos.

As of this writing, no one has claimed the prize, and we are not surprised, for these mistakes eluded even our vigilant team of professional proofreaders. But at the very bottom of Pages 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, and 27, in the place where the June *Searchlight* should say “June 2015,” you will find that it reads “May 2015” instead.

They say that confession is good for the soul and bad for the reputation, but we’re hoping that you’ll forgive us “even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32).



Gulf Coast Fall Bible Conference

Dates: November 6-8, 2015

Location:

Greystone Bible Church
5350 Girby Road, Mobile, Alabama

Guest Speaker:

Pastor Paul M. Sadler,
Berean Bible Society

For questions or additional information,
please contact:

Pastor James Healan at 251-753-6891
or Church at 251-661-5528

Blood Moon Mania



By Pastor Ricky Kurth

The Christian world is once again tingling with prophetic excitement, thanks to the popularity of something called “the blood moon prophecy.” If all the hubbub surrounding this prophecy has escaped your attention, we’ll present a brief description of it and then offer some thoughts as to its validity.

When the earth casts its shadow on the moon during a total lunar eclipse, it can cause the moon to be reddish in color, a phenomenon that is sometimes referred to as a *blood moon*. When we experience four total lunar eclipses in a row, with no partial eclipses in between, it is called a lunar *tetrad*, and September 28 will mark the last eclipse of the most recent tetrad. While lunar eclipses are not rare, and even these tetrads occur not infrequently, occasionally the eclipses of such tetrads coincide with Jewish holidays, and that’s what is causing all the prophetic stir with the present tetrad.


You see, the last time the blood moon tetrad landed on Jewish holidays was in 1967 during Israel’s Six-Day War, and the time before that came in 1948 with the creation of the state of Israel. Since events that concern Israel are viewed as Biblically significant, great anticipation has arisen as to what might unfold in connection with this latest tetrad. Since the apostle Peter declared that “the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come” (Acts 2:20), some are even suggesting that the blood moon prophecy proves that the Rapture must be near.

We here at *Berean Bible Society* feel that all of the commotion surrounding the blood moon prophecy is unfounded, for several reasons. First, remember that we are not living during the time of *prophecy*, we are living in “the dispensation of God” that Paul called “*the mystery*” (Col. 1:25,26), a dispensation in which not a single Bible prophecy has

been fulfilled for nearly two thousand years. Second, neither the Six-Day War nor the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 has anything to do with what God is doing today, or will do in the future.¹ Third, Peter's blood moon prophecy has to do with the day of the Lord, the seven years of Tribulation that will follow the Rapture. I know that many good grace pastors and teachers hold that the stage is presently being set for the Tribulation, and so might argue that the blood moon prophecy might be a part of this setting of the stage, but I personally believe that all of the stage-setting for the Tribulation will take place when God's prophetic calendar resumes, after the Rapture, but before the beginning of Daniel's seventieth week.²

The problem with setting dates for the Rapture is always the aftermath. Disappointment, disillusionment, and even shattered faith are often the result of projecting even an approximate time for the Lord to come if He doesn't appear when He is expected.

We see an example of this when the Lord told the apostles that He would meet them in Galilee after He rose from the dead (Matt. 26:32 cf. Mark 16:7). After He rose, He appeared to them twice (John 20:19-29), but disappeared soon after. "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them" (Matt. 28:16), gathering in Galilee at the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1), another name for the Sea of Galilee (John 6:1). But while "*eleven* disciples went away into Galilee," John reports that only *seven* were on hand (John 21:2) to witness His return to them (vv. 3-14). I believe that this was because when the Lord didn't appear in the time that they thought He should, four of them got discouraged and left.³ I base this conjecture on the fact that when the Lord *still* didn't appear, even Peter gave up hope and announced he was returning to his old way of life in the fishing industry, and the other apostles showed their disillusionment when they readily agreed to join him (v. 3).

Now how about you? If you've been convinced that the blood moon prophecy means the Lord's coming is near, if He doesn't appear when you think He should, will you return to your old way of life of living for yourself, rather than living for Him with His coming in view? We trust that this reaffirmation that we are living in the dispensation of the mystery will bolster your determination to continue to be "looking for that blessed hope" (Titus 2:13) should the prediction of the star-gazers come to nothing, and that your life will continue to reflect your firm faith in the promise of His return. 

Endnotes

1. See "What Happened in 1948?", *Berean Searchlight*, September, 2011, pg. 19, and "Is Israel Really Back in the Land?", *Berean Searchlight*, January 2012, pg. 13.
2. See "The Gap Theory," *Berean Searchlight*, November, 2011, pg. 11.
3. Isn't it wonderful to see that *Thomas* was not one of the ones that gave up hope that the Lord would return!

Recompense of Reward



By Paul M. Sadler, D.D.

Years ago, a Brinks truck was traveling down one of the Chicago expressways when the unexpected happened. Apparently, the driver had forgotten to secure the rear doors properly, which set up an interesting chain of events. As the truck rounded a curve in the road, the back doors flew open, and huge bags of money began cascading into oncoming traffic. It might seem rather strange to some that the operator of the vehicle was unaware that his precious cargo was being distributed on the highway behind him. But in Chicago, traveling on the interstates can be a life-threatening experience. Lane changes are often made at a high rate of speed with only inches to spare between the vehicles. Driving there is not for the fainthearted! It requires your undivided attention if you hope to survive to the next exit.

Well, after a long day, the driver arrived safely at the depot in Indiana. However, there was one small problem—most of the money he was hauling was missing! Back on the expressway, motorists thought “their ship had come in,” as they gathered up bundles of currency from the roadway. But then they were faced with a real dilemma—cast their morals to the wind and keep it, or return their new-found fortune that did not rightfully belong to them? As it has been said, “It is a dangerous thing to disobey your conscience.” That evening, most of the money was returned to the authorities by law-abiding citizens who felt it was the right thing to do. Of course, they were handsomely *rewarded* for their honesty.

The same can be said of the Christian life. God has saved us according to the riches of His grace and called us with a holy

calling. If we faithfully serve the Lord and return to Him the honor and glory that is rightfully due Him, He will *reward* us accordingly. Our faithfulness now will have a bearing upon us throughout eternity. Therefore, it is essential for us to be obedient even in the seemingly small things. Probably it seemed like such a small matter when the Lord said to Lot and his wife "...look not behind thee..." when they departed from Sodom (Gen. 19:17). But when Lot's wife turned to gaze upon the fiery destruction of those cities of the plain, she suffered severe consequences for her actions. She was immediately turned into a *pillar of salt*! God desires that we be faithful in *all things* so that we might reap the full recompense of reward.

Rewards

"If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (I Cor. 3:14,15).

Having established in the previous article that all members of the Body will stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we now want to explore the nature of the believer's recompense of reward. Those who build upon Paul's foundation with gold, silver and precious stones are promised a *reward* for their faithful service. Like a sparkling diamond, there are many different facets of the believer's reward found in Paul's writings. While we are not told what every facet is, we know that

whatever God has in store for us is sure to be a blessing. Needless to say, it is in our best interest to obey the counsel of His will that we might procure the full benefit of God's endowment.



"Some of the facets of our reward are in the form of *crowns*."

Some of the facets of our reward are in the form of *crowns*. Here we must distinguish between the kingly crown of prophecy and the victor's crown found frequently, though not solely, in Paul's epistles. The royal crown (Gr. *diadem*) is closely associated with the millennial reign and kingship of Christ, while the Greek *stephanos* speaks of the *victory garland* that was presented to those who were victorious in a particular sporting event. It is this latter crown that is said by Paul to be bestowed on the faithful at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Whether or not these crowns will be literal crowns presented to us at that day is doubtful. We know, however, that they represent specific areas of the believer's walk that will be *acknowledged* by the Savior.

"For what is our hope, or joy, or *crown of rejoicing*? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For

ye are our glory and joy” (I Thes. 2:19,20). This is the soul winner’s crown. Paul could confidently say that he was “pure from the blood of all men” (Acts 20:26). He took the evangelism of lost souls seriously; begging sinners to come to the foot of the Cross and be saved. The apostle never neglected his responsibility, nor should we, to warn men of the judgment to come. Everywhere Paul set his foot he told men about the meritorious work of Christ on their behalf. It is important to bear in mind that this crown isn’t merely reserved for evangelists and missionaries, but for all those who faithfully witness for the Lord. Those who labor sacrificially that others might hear the gospel will receive special *recognition* for having compassion on the lost. When the Lord summons those that we won to Christ, this will be our joy and crown of rejoicing in the presence of the Father.

“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an *incorruptible* [crown]” (I Cor. 9:25). The athlete who is training for a particular event exercises self-control in all things that he might perform to his maximum ability. He disciplines himself to be the best that he can be, as they say.

In the spiritual arena, those who desire to bring their bodies under *subjection* must also apply the above principles. In so doing, they strive to have victory over the flesh by making a practical application of their identification with Christ, and consistently yielding their members as instruments

of righteousness (Rom. 6:1-13). With every fiber of their being they seek, by the grace of God, to glorify Him in word, thought and deed. Those who apply this truth to their lives desire to abstain from even the appearance of evil. When the trump sounds, a very special honor will be bestowed upon them, in the form of the incorruptible crown.

“I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing” (II Tim. 4:7,8).

In spite of unbelievable obstacles, the Apostle Paul had finished his course with joy. And one of the contributing factors that enabled him to endure such hardships was the *blessed hope*.



When I was on my high school’s track team, my coach required two things of every member of the team. First, if one of the runners on our team stumbled and fell, he was to get up and finish the race. You see, he had no way of knowing if the runner in first place would be disqualified for stepping out of his lane. Second, he was to

complete the race, even if in last place, in order to maintain a sense of accomplishment. In a nutshell, always finish what you start!

We, too, are in a race. The course is long, the hurdles many, but those who love His appearing will receive the *crown of righteousness*. Of course, some believers only look for the Lord's coming in times of crisis. Paul, however, has in mind the saint who lives every waking moment in anticipation of the Lord's appearing.

Reigning with Christ

"It is a faithful saying...If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us: If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself" (II Tim. 2:11-13).

This raises a very important question for every believer in Christ. Are we willing to suffer for His name's sake? If we are, then we will also reign with Him; that is, in a *higher degree*. All believers will rule and reign with Christ in the heavenlies, but not all will hold the same position. One need only read the history of the Reformation to see what terrible things those saints endured for the cause of Christ. Because they were willing to name the name of Christ, they suffered many barbaric injustices. The journal of the Reformation reads like a handbook on "How to Torture the Innocent." Those dear saints experienced everything from cruel mockings to being burned at the stake. Nevertheless, they obtained a good report through faith and ensured themselves a *better* reigning position with Christ.

Many believers around the world still experience similar atrocities today. But here in America, the most common form of suffering is *rejection* and *ridicule*. Whatever the form may be, if we are willing to *stand* for the truth, our Lord will look favorably upon us. But "if we deny Him, He also will deny us." Those who question the biblical teaching of eternal security often appeal to this passage as proof that if we are found unfaithful in the course of our Christian experience, Christ will deny us salvation. But nothing could be further from the truth as the following passage confirms. "*If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself*" (II Tim. 2:13). The proper interpretation of this passage is, if we are ashamed of Christ, He will *deny* us a more prominent reigning position with Him because of our unfaithfulness. Yet He abides faithful to His Word in spite of our actions. Christ has promised eternal life to all those who believe on Him (Rom. 6:23). Hear me and hear me well, God cannot lie. Therefore, He cannot deny Himself (Titus 1:2).

God's nature is to do everything decently and in order. This is clearly seen in relation to His angelic host. The seraphims are said to hover *above* the throne of God. Then, there are the cherubims who *encircle* the throne. The seven spirits stand *before* the throne in the presence of God prepared to carry out His highest commands at a moment's notice. Stepping down to the next order of angels, we have the *principalities* that hold the classification of supreme rulers. The *powers* are delegated

by a general. The next rung down is the *thrones*, which are seats of authority, such as governors, held by angelic beings over assigned territories. Then, there is the realm of *dominions*, which are divisions under the thrones. Finally, we have the rank of *might* or the enforcement agencies (Isa. 6:1-3; Ezek. 28:14; Rev. 4:6-9; Rev. 4:5; Eph. 1:21; Col. 1:16).

The archenemy of God basically has ordered his forces of evil in the same manner. At the present, they occupy the second heaven. But the time is soon coming when the devil and his angels will be cast out of heaven to the earth (Rev. 12:7-10). Subsequently, the members of the Body of Christ will assume the positions vacated by the fallen host in the consummation of all things. Little wonder, Satan hates the Mystery with such a passion! Be it known, our *present faithfulness* will determine the level of our reigning position with Christ throughout eternity (Eph. 2:6,7).

The Judgment Seat of Christ is in no way a beauty contest where Christ will capriciously show favor to some while passing by others. Some tend to look upon this judgment in this manner. All of the above acknowledgments of the Lord are solely based upon our *individual conduct* and *faithfulness*. God has given us a lifetime of opportunities. If we suffer loss at that day, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

The following story was told by a father who learned how unwise it was to neglect spending time with his son:

“One year ago today, I sat at my desk with a month’s bills and

overdue accounts before me when my bright-faced young boy rushed in and impetuously announced, ‘Happy Birthday, Dad! Mom says you’re 55 today, so I’m going to give you 55 kisses, one for each year.’ He began to make good on his word when I exclaimed, ‘Oh, Andy, not now; I’m too busy!’ He became silent, and when I looked up I saw that his big blue eyes were filled with tears. Apologetically I said, ‘You can finish tomorrow.’ He made no reply, but he was unable to conceal his disappointment as he quietly walked away.




“That same evening, I called to him. ‘Come and finish those kisses now, Andy.’ Either he didn’t hear me or he wasn’t in the mood for there was no response. Two months later, as a result of an accident, God took him home to heaven. His body was laid to rest in a little cemetery near a place where he loved to play. The robin’s note was never sweeter than my son’s voice, and the turtledove that cooed to its nestlings was never so gentle as the little one who left unfinished his love-imposed task. If only I could tell him how much I regret those thoughtless words I spoke, and how my heart is aching now because of my unkind

actions. Instead, I sit here thinking, 'Why didn't I return his love? Why did I grieve his young heart that was so full of tenderness and affection?'"¹

Regret is a terrible, terrible thing! We fear though that many at the Judgment Seat of Christ will look back over their lives with *regret* that they failed to acknowledge Paul's apostleship and message, or neglected to return the love of the One who died for us by living a godly life in Christ Jesus. Perhaps a lifetime of turmoil could have been averted had they only accepted the Word, rightly divided. The following poem by C. T. Studd sums everything up beautifully:

Only one life,
'twill soon be past,
Only what's done
for Christ will last.

And when I am dying,
how happy I'll be,
If the lamp of my life has
been burned out for Thee.

Our response to these three questions will have a bearing on eternity: Are we standing for the truth of Paul's gospel and faithfully making it known? Are we walking worthy of our calling in Christ Jesus according to Romans Chapter 6? Do we love His appearing as we live in light of the Rapture? We give thanks to God that the members of the Body of Christ are partakers of His eternal purpose and have been *delivered* from the wrath to come! 

Endnote

1. *Windows on the Word*, Dennis J. DeHaan, Compiler, p. 68.

A Patriarch Departs

After a lifetime of serving the Lord, Julio Cesar Anibal Ortiz, of the *Juana Diaz Bible Church* in Puerto Rico, recently left all who loved him behind to serve his Savior in person. Through the years, "Nigole" served as pastor of the church, taught Sunday School, and was in charge of the New Members Class for many years. When I visited the church in 2014, Brother Julio was still serving the church as the official greeter; and when he met me at the door, I finally got to meet the man with whom I had discussed the Scriptures via email for many years prior.

Brother Julio's legacy will not soon be forgotten, for his son Miguel now stands in his pulpit, proclaiming the same Pauline truths that his father held forth so faithfully. Should you visit the church, you will have the opportunity to witness firsthand the work that God has wrought in Puerto Rico through the dedicated ministry of a father and his son.

—Pastor Kurth





TWICE DIVIDED

By David Stewart

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light...and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night” (Gen. 1:3-5).

Have you ever noticed the prominent role that *division* plays in the very first chapter of your Bible? The words “divide” and “divided” appear no less than five times in Genesis chapter one. Then there are things in this chapter which are divided without actually using the word: things like heaven and earth, land and sea, man and beast, and more.

If “rightly dividing” is the key to a proper understanding of the word of truth, as we know it is, we shouldn’t be surprised that the Bible’s opening chapter focuses so heavily on the theme of division. In fact, we believe this is by divine design. The divisions of Genesis chapter one, we believe, foreshadow the great divisions God had in store for His written Word from the foundation of the world, and before.

Of the many things that are separated in Genesis chapter one, heaven from earth, waters from waters, sea from land, and more, light and darkness are actually divided twice. We’ve seen the first occasion in the quote above on the first day of creation, and will return to it shortly. The second division of light from darkness occurs on day four with the creation of the sun and moon, the “greater” and “lesser” lights.

“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night...And God set them in the firmament of the heaven...to divide the light from the darkness” (Gen. 1:16-18).

Only the Beginning

The verses we've seen so far are only the first of many in the Bible that deal with darkness and light in the context of division. For example, in John's first epistle we read...

"Again, a new commandment I write unto you...because the darkness is *past* and the true light *now* shineth" (I John 2:8).

Here John speaks of darkness and light as being past and present. He says that the darkness is a part of time past, while the true light is shining now. He also notes that because of this transition from darkness to light there is "a new commandment," a new instruction from God, now that the world has moved from the night season into the day, and from the "old commandment" (vs. 7) to the new.

For the believer in every age, the Bible has been "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psa. 119:105). The Old Testament was a light indeed, but it was a lesser light. Like the moon itself, it was a light that enabled men to see, but only in shadows (Heb. 10:1). It was "as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Prov. 4:18). Like the moon, the Old Testament ruled over the night season. It provided light in the darkness, but always looked forward to that coming hour when the "Sun" would arise (Mal. 4:2), bringing with it the long awaited *day* of the New Testament.

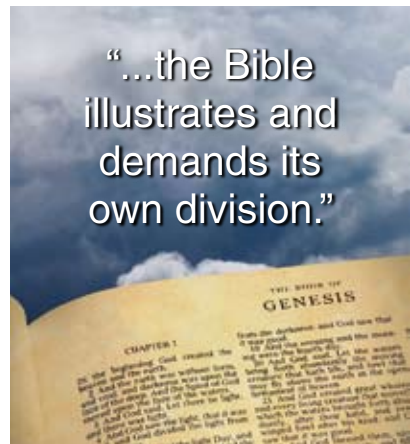
The Apostle Peter connects the moon and sun with the two testaments when he declares...

"We have also a more sure word of prophesy...*a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts*" (II Pet. 1:19).

According to Peter, the word of prophesy, the Old Testament, was a light that shone in the darkness until the dawn. Like the moon, the Old Testament was a great light, but it was only one of two great lights that God had ordained. It was not that great light which would enable men to see all clearly. It was given to keep men from stumbling in the darkness until the "greater light" of the New Testament would finally arise.

Paul adds his witness in II Corinthians chapter three, once again representing the Old and New Testaments as two great lights, one lesser, and the other greater.

"Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament...For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. *For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth*" (II Cor. 3:6-10).



As the light of the moon is completely outshined by the exceeding glory of the sun, even so the great light of the Old Testament gives way to the greater glory of the New. This is the light which Paul calls “the glory that excelleth.” Like the sun, the New Testament is the greater of two great lights which God had ordained to rule over the earth.

Paul, Peter, John and other Bible writers testify that the sun and moon, the two great lights of Genesis chapter one are, among other things, pictures of the Word of God (Psa. 19:1-7; Prov. 4:18; Jer. 31:31-36; 33:19-21). And not of His Word only, but of a great divide He intended to create within it.

From its first verses, the Bible illustrates and demands its own division. The sun and moon themselves were set in the heavens to declare that great divide which God would one day establish within the pages of His written Word, the division between the Old Testament and the New.

Back to the First

But the division between the sun and moon was not the only division God made between light and darkness in Genesis chapter one. As we’ve seen, there was another, an even earlier one. So as our “excellent glory” passage in II Corinthians three moves into chapter four, Paul leaves his dissertation on the two Testaments and begins to discuss “our gospel.” Moving beyond the division between those greater and lesser lights, Paul draws our attention back to that earlier division ordained of God **before** the sun and moon.

“But if *our gospel* be hid, it is hid to them that are lost...lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them...for God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (II Cor. 4:3-6).

Here Paul is no longer referring to the division on the fourth day between those two great lights, but to the first division of Genesis one, the division God made while it was yet without form (Gen. 1:2-5). It was here that God called forth the light of His own glory to dispel the darkness presiding over an earth without form and void. Like our gospel, the gospel of the grace of God, that first great division burst forth with the glory of God Himself upon a submerged and lifeless world.

Today, that same glory can be seen through each and every member of the body of Christ as we walk by His unprecedented grace...

“...in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life...” (Phil. 2:15,16).

Before the great light of the moon, before the greater light of the sun, there was a light even greater still which Paul compares to “our gospel.” What an eternal privilege it is to be called as a beam of that

greater light. How unimaginable to think of a member of Christ's body not enjoying that privilege. Is the light of God's grace shining in you? Remember that God ordained your light **sooner** than the others, so today is *the day* to shine (II Cor. 6:2), sooner rather than later.

The Light of the world was revealed first in the division God made before the world was formed. Even so, God ordained before the foundation of the world that His glory would be manifest in this age through those who would believe on Jesus Christ, the very Lord of glory (I Cor. 2:7).

Thank God for the Earlier Division

According to the word of prophesy, before the "Sun of righteousness" shall arise to bring the New Covenant to its full, that same Sun must first bring the day "that shall burn as an oven" (Mal. 4:1-2), the great day of God's wrath. That very day was about to dawn as Saul of Tarsus traveled the road to Damascus. But as that "terrible day of the Lord" (Joel 2:31) prepared itself to burn, it was suddenly outshined by the appearing of *yet another* "great light."

"And it came to pass, that...there shone from heaven a great light round about me" (Acts 22:6).

"I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me" (Acts 26:13).


As our ascended Lord was revealed to Saul from heaven, one more "great light" appeared in the Scripture. And just as it was with the other great lights, but now with even **more** excellent glory, another great divide in the working and Word of God was about to unfold. So brilliant was this great light that it turned what Genesis chapter one called "the greater light," the sun itself, into shadow.

From this point forward the greatest divide in the Word of God will no longer be the one between the Testaments, but it will be that great divide between all of prophesy and the revelation of the mystery committed to Paul. Unlike the division made by the sun and moon, which were ordained from the foundation of the world (Gen. 1:16-18; Matt. 25:34; Heb. 4:3), this is the division ordained of God before the world was formed (Gen. 1:2-5; Rom. 16:25,26; I Cor. 2:7).

Above the Sun

On the mount of transfiguration, Christ appeared to Peter, James and John, shining "as the sun" in His kingdom glory (Matt. 17:2). On the road to Damascus He appeared to Paul, not in the glory of the sun, but above the sun. The glory which shines today is like that *first* great light in Genesis chapter one; the light of the glory of God Himself.

Ours is a division, a dispensation, in which that day of the rising sun waits while another day shines, lit by an even greater light. It is a day wherein the grace of God, by the body of Christ, beseeches all men to be reconciled to Him by faith in His blood, that the veil of darkness

might be lifted and that the light of life and immortality might shine in their hearts (cf. II Tim. 1:10). This age is like that first great division, calling men out of darkness, to walk, not in the moonlight, not even in the sunlight, but in the greatest light of all, the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 

Question Box

“There seems to be some confusion over the future resurrections these days. C. I. Scofield, for example, taught that at the Rapture, ‘Not Church saints only, but all bodies of the saved, of whatever dispensation, are included in the first resurrection.’ What are your thoughts on this statement?”

We hold the *Scofield Reference Bible* in high regard, but Dr. Scofield often failed to rightly divide the Word of God consistently, which is somewhat understandable, seeing that the truth of Paul’s gospel was still being recovered. With that said, the order of the future resurrections is as follows:

1. *Secret Resurrection* of the Body of Christ: This glorious event will take place at the Rapture of the Church. It will *only* include those who are “in Christ,” from the Apostle Paul to the sound of the trump (I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thes. 4:13-18).

2. *First Resurrection* of the prophetic saints: After the seven-year Tribulation Period runs its course, it will be followed by the Second Coming of Christ to the earth. At that time, Christ will raise the *believing* prophetic saints of time past, along with the martyrs of the Tribulation, and usher them into the Millennial Kingdom (John 5:28,29; I Cor. 15:23; Rev. 17:6; 20:6).

3. *Resurrection of Damnation*: This particular event occurs immediately following the 1,000-year reign of Christ. In that day, the *unsaved* of all ages will be resurrected from the dead and appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, where they will be found in their sins and judged accordingly (John 5:29; Rom. 2:4-6; I Cor. 15:24-26; Rev. 20:5,11-15; 21:8).

Thankfully, those who have trusted Christ as their personal Savior have been delivered from the wrath of God at the Great White Throne (Rom. 5:9). But what about that unsaved loved one or friend today? Don’t put it off another moment. Tell them about Christ before they slip away into a Christless eternity where all hope is lost.

—Pastor Sadler

ECHO MONTH

Last fall we revived a tradition that Pastor Stam began in the *Searchlight* many years ago, one in which we encourage our readers to make September the month that we hear back from you in response to the way God is blessing our ministry in your spiritual life.

Some things in our lives have to be done daily, some weekly, some monthly, and others yearly; but one thing I've noticed in my personal life, if I don't schedule a time to do something, it never gets done!

Don't let that happen when it comes to letting us hear from you, make September the month that you write us at Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022, or at berean@bereanbiblesociety.org.

—Pastor Kurth



Central Indiana Regional Bible Conference

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2015

Location:

Das Dutchman Essenhaus Restaurant
240 US Hwy. 20, Middlebury, Indiana

Guest Speakers:

Pastor Ricky Kurth, *Berean Bible Society*
Pastor Joel McGarvey, *Bible Doctrines To Live By*

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

Luke and Darlene Hunt at 260-774-9300
or email: thehunts@centurylink.net



BBS Letter Excerpts

From Pennsylvania:

"I feel blessed to receive your booklet, the *Berean Searchlight*...I have learned more in these past years than I have all my life."

From our Inbox:

"Thank you! I did not know I could ask questions and, praise the Lord, I accidentally saw the option on your site!"

From South Dakota:

"Sola Scriptura is not supported by the Bible. 'The word of the Lord is spoken' (Jer. 25:3), not just written. Paul told us to hold to our traditions (II Thes. 2:15)...the Catholic Church has one unified truth as compared to 43,000 evangelical/protestant groups who contradict and confuse." (See "The Treachery of Tradition" in the October, 2008 *Searchlight*.—Ed).

From Florida:

"I recently asked your ministry for four or five copies of your article, 'The Twilight of Grace,' from the June 2015 *Berean Searchlight*, Pastor Sadler. You wrote a tremendous truth about where we are right now in the age of Grace."

From California:

"I have been moved to a different prison. I am now living in a hospital prison. I will probably do the rest of my time on earth right here. Anyway, I'm looking forward to receiving your magazine, so I can share them with our brothers here."

From South Carolina:

"I was cleaning some file cabinets yesterday and stumbled on an envelope filled with hard copies of *Two Minutes with the Bible*. They are probably twelve to fifteen years old. I like them! I would like to add this column to my church pages in both the Holly Hill Observer and The Santee Stripper. These newspapers are weekly community newspapers."

From our Inbox:

"Can you include me again in your daily mailing list of *Two Minutes with the Bible*? I have not received it any more. I cannot look at it on the internet because I'm at sea. I need encouragement through God's Word." (We need encouragement from the Word here on land as well!—Ed.)

From Texas:

"Thank you all for the difference your ministry has made in my life for these many years."

From our Inbox:

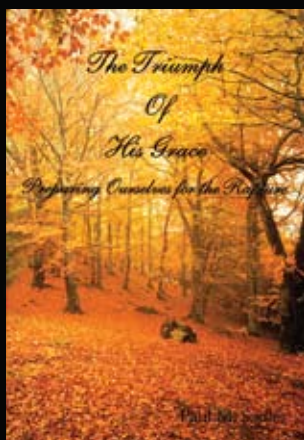
"Thank you for your counsel on the phone...and prayers, the Lord has helped me to understand things better. The book on marriage...is also very helpful, I'm reading it more than once."

From Ohio:

"Please accept our offering collected from our small group Bible study who now study the gospel of grace with the help of C. R. Stam, Paul Sadler, and *Berean Bible Society*."

Blood Moon

If the Blood Moon Prophecy has you seeing red, these volumes will help you spread the truth about the Rapture!



The Triumph of His Grace

By Paul M. Sadler

This volume is a comprehensive study on the doctrine of the pre-tribulational Rapture of the Church.

HARDCOVER 215 PAGES

Special Price: \$12.00



Thessalonians

By Cornelius R. Stam

Pastor Stam shows how clearly these letters teach the Rapture of Christ's Body *before the Tribulation begins.*

HARDCOVER 182 PAGES

Special Price: \$11.00

THESE OFFERS END SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

(For international orders please ask for special pricing)

Orders up to **\$30.00**, please add **\$4.00** for postage and handling

Orders over **\$30.00**, please add **15%** for postage and handling

Wisconsin residents please add 5.6% for sales tax



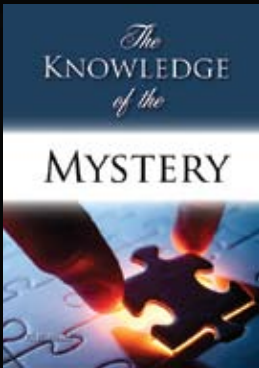
Munitions

*The Revelation of the Mystery is the answer
to all prophetic disappointments!*



The Knowledge of the Mystery

By C. R. Stam



44-Page Booklet
Price: \$2.00

We Know a Secret

By C. R. Stam



32-Page Booklet
Price: \$2.00

This Is That— But What Is This?

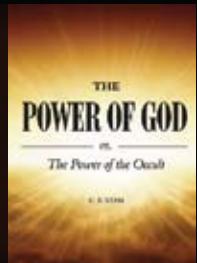
By C. R. Stam



16-Page Booklet
Price: \$2.00

**Buy all three of these Mystery booklets
and we'll include another booklet
that's sporting a new cover for free!**

The Power of God vs. The Power of the Occult





News and Announcements

The Berean Bible Fellowship Fall Conference will be hosted this year by the *Old Bethel Bible Church* of Alpha, Kentucky. Pastor Jeff Bertram has arranged for this October 9-11 event to be held at the *Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park* in Burkesville, Kentucky. If you'd like to join Pastors Paul Sadler, John Fredericksen, Robert Nix, Richard Ware, Ken Lyon and Don Webb as they expound the riches of God's grace in the Bluegrass State, contact Pastor Bertram at (606) 307-4396, or BBF president Pastor Kevin Sadler at kevin@bereanbiblesociety.org.

A Two-For-One Sail in the South: As long as you're in the neighborhood after the BBF Fall conference in Kentucky, why not sail two hours down the road to the *Central Tennessee Fall Bible Conference* in Goodlettsville, and attend two conferences in one trip. Pastor Vitis Bailey has invited BBS president Pastor Paul M. Sadler to come minister to his flock on October 16-18. Just let Pastor Bailey know you are coming at (270) 384-2731, or Patsy Davenport will take your call at (615) 972-7846.

New Grace Church: The newly formed *Grace Believers Church* is now meeting on Sundays and Wednesdays in Lincolnton, Georgia, under the direction of our new friend Larry Beggs. To find out when and where they get together to rejoice in the riches of God's grace, contact him at (706) 831-0287, or beggsbunch7@juno.com.

New Grace Church: Our new friend Phillip Thomas has asked us to let our Texas readers know that *Berean Bible Church* is up and running and meeting on Tuesday evenings at the Civic Center in Huntington. Everything's bigger in Texas, and that includes the size of the welcome you'll receive if you let Phillip know you're coming: gracedispensation@yahoo.com, (936) 876-2812.

A New Way to Give: If you like to shop on *Amazon.com*, why not check out smile.amazon.com, where .5% of the price of your eligible Amazon-Smile purchases will be automatically donated to *Berean Bible Society*. Give while you shop—what a concept!



The *Split Rock Lighthouse* is located in Two Harbors, Minnesota. The lighthouse was built in response to the great loss of ships during the Mataafa Storm of 1905, in which 29 ships were lost on Lake Superior. One of these shipwrecks, the *Madeira*, is located just north of the lighthouse.

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)	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

“Buy the truth, and sell it not...” (Prov. 23:23).

“Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.”

—Sir Winston Churchill, 1874-1965