

# *The* **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

May 2016



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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” (2 Tim. 2:15), to *energize* the Christian life, and to *encourage* the local church.

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## *A Note From the President*

Dear Friends in Christ,

During the time of transition after being named President of BBS, I had a heart-to-heart conversation with my father. He challenged me to keep BBS on course. He said that there would be opposition and difficulties ahead, and there would be those who would encourage me to compromise the truth. He said that I needed to keep my focus on the Lord at all times.

I'm thankful to the Lord for the emphasized stand for the distinctive ministry and message of the Apostle Paul by C. R. Stam, and then by my father, Paul M. Sadler. I feel a burden from the Lord to continue their legacy of faithfulness to the truth. In God's strength and enablement, the message of grace through Paul will continue to sound forth clearly from this ministry just as it has for the past 75 years.

I want to thank you for the notes, cards, emails, and phone calls that I have received from many of you. They have each been so encouraging. It's been a bittersweet time. I am getting used to my new role as President of BBS, but at the same time, I'm having a difficult time with the health of my father, and also with having to step down as pastor of a church that I dearly love, *Kettle Moraine Bible Church*. The plan was for my father to be here to help with the transition, to train me for the position, and give me his invaluable advice. Instead, with my dad in the hospital, it's been baptism by fire. We have a wonderful staff here at BBS, who know their positions well. This has been a help as I rely on each one's expertise. I went, almost overnight, from my sole focus being the design and printing of the *Berean Searchlight* and our books and booklets, to being involved in all aspects of the ministry here. For 20 years working alongside my father I saw how hard he worked. But I had no idea how much he packed into a day! He made it look easy.

As I was reading God's Word the other day in Ephesians, these verses really jumped at me.

**Eph. 6:18-19: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel."**

Please pray for me that I may continue as my father and Pastor Stam have done, that with clarity and boldness I might "make known the mystery of the gospel." For this ministry to be driven forward it must be by God through prayer. BBS needs your prayer support, especially now with the changes taking place. We covet your prayers.

In His redeeming grace,

Pastor Kevin Sadler, President



# *A Virtuous Woman*

*happy mother's day!*

Proverbs 31:10 asks the question: “Who can find a virtuous woman...?” Webster’s dictionary defines the word *virtuous* as general moral excellence, goodness of character, or chaste. The end of verse ten goes on to say if you can find such a woman, “her price [or value] is far above rubies.” The standard here is not an unrealistic perfection in all areas of life. Instead, it is an inward beauty of character and morals that can make any woman who seeks to cultivate these qualities a highly valued woman to all who know her.

We actually have biblical examples of virtuous women. Ruth was told that all the city knew she was a “virtuous woman” (Ruth 3:11) for her devotion to Jehovah, loving care for her elder mother-in-law, work ethic, and humility to listen to instruction. The virtue of Sarah is described in 1 Peter 3:4-6 for her submission to her husband with a “meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

Proverbs 31 emphasizes several qualities of a virtuous woman. She is worthy of her husband’s trust (verse 11), will always do her husband good and not evil (verse 12), diligently and consistently “worketh willingly” to advance family finances (verse 13-24), she conducts herself with “strength and honor” (verse 25), “opens her mouth with wisdom [or discretion, and]...kindness” (verse 26), and “looketh well to the ways of her household” without engaging in “idleness” (verse 27). Verse 30 seems to also imply that while she may possess or desire outward beauty, she realizes this is “vain,” or empty, and fleeting. Therefore, she places a higher value on the inner beauty of the virtues studied above, and she does so because she has godliness or is “a woman that feareth the Lord.”

If you are a man who has found a virtuous woman, you are greatly blessed. Proverbs tells us “a prudent wife is from the Lord” (19:14), and she is “a crown to her husband” (12:4). Tell your virtuous woman today that you greatly appreciate her godliness, which makes her a true “trophy wife.” If you’re not yet married, this is the kind of woman you should be looking for. If you are a woman who is not satisfied that these qualities are developed fully enough in you, don’t be discouraged. Instead, take one of these qualities, ask the Lord to help you grow in this virtue, and prayerfully work on it today.

—Pastor John Fredericksen



# Thank God You Were Chosen!

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

**D**id you hear about the woman who complained to her friend, “Every Christmas I send each of my grandchildren a generous check, but they never send me a thank you note in return!” Her friend replied, “My grandchildren always come by to thank me *in person* for the Christmas checks that I send them.” Impressed, the first woman asked, “What’s your secret?” To which her friend replied, “Well, they think I’m old and forgetful anyway, so every year I ‘forget’ to sign the checks!”

Obviously, that woman’s grandchildren are obligated to thank her for her yearly gift because she has something they need—her signature on their checks! But in writing to the Thessalonians, the apostle Paul felt obligated to thank God for something that He had done for them *with no strings attached*:

**“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation**

**through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth” (2 Thes. 2:13).**

## Chosen To Salvation From What?

Now on the surface, it looks like Paul is thanking God because He had chosen the Thessalonians to be saved *from their sins*. But here it helps to remember that there are many different kinds of salvation in the Bible. For example, Moses commanded the people of Israel to “stand still, *and see the salvation of the Lord*” (Ex. 14:13), adding, “for the Egyptians ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.” In this instance, you can tell from the wording that Moses spoke of their salvation *from the Egyptian army*, when God “*saved the people out of the land of Egypt*” (Jude 1:5). In addition to this example, the Apostle Paul spoke about being “*saved*” from the wind and the waves of a ferocious storm (Acts 27:31), from the bonds of imprisonment (Phil. 1:19), and



even from the misery and heart-ache that always comes when we don't "take heed" to Pauline truth (1 Tim. 4:16).<sup>1</sup>

But in the Thessalonian epistles, the word "salvation" often refers to salvation *from the Tribulation*:

**"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thes. 5:9).**

Here Paul can't be speaking about salvation from the "wrath" of Hell, for he uses the future tense to speak of this salvation. If you know Christ as your Savior, you don't have *an appointment* to obtain salvation from Hell, you were saved from Hell the moment you trusted in Him! But you *do* have an appointment to be saved from the "wrath" of the Tribulation by the rapture (1 Thes. 1:10; 4:17—5:9). That's why in speaking of the "salvation" of the Rapture, Paul told the Romans that "now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Rom. 13:11). Our salvation *from Hell* is no nearer now than when we believed, but thank God the Rapture is! So in the context of the Thessalonian epistles, it is *the salvation of the pre-tribulation rapture* to which we are chosen, *not* our salvation from Hell.

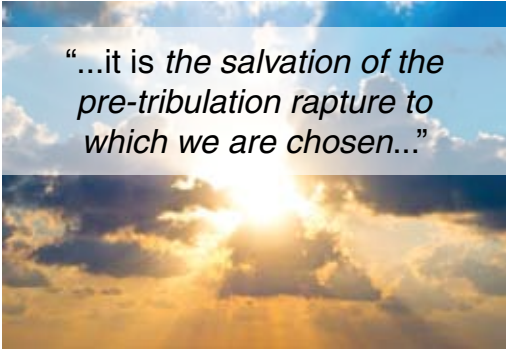
### **But Doesn't The Bible Say...?**

Perhaps you are thinking, "But doesn't the Bible say that God has 'chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world' (Eph. 1:4)?" Well, yes, it does; and while this verse is often used to teach that we've been chosen to be saved *from our sins*, you'll notice it doesn't say that God chose us to

be in Christ; it says He chose us—*in Him*. Christ is God's chosen, His elect. The law of first reference confirms this. This Bible study principle says that the first time a word is used in Scripture it defines it, and the word "elect" is first found in Isaiah 42:1, where God said *of Christ*:

**"Behold My servant, whom I uphold; Mine elect, in whom My soul delighteth; I have put My spirit upon Him: He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles."**

Since this prophecy is quoted and ascribed to Christ (Matt. 12:18), we know that Christ is God's elect. God chose *Him*, and when you trusted Him as your Savior, you became part of God's elect when you were baptized into Him (1 Cor. 12:13). That's how you were "chosen *in Him*."



**"...it is the salvation of the pre-tribulation rapture to which we are chosen..."**

If you find that line of thinking hard to follow, perhaps an illustration might help. Up until 1964, the Democratic Party was so strong in our southern states that this mighty voting block was often referred to as "The Solid South." In those days, Southerners often voted "a straight ticket," choosing to elect all the candidates running on the Democratic ticket. Individual candidates were only

chosen *in the party*. In those days, a man could be a complete unknown, or even an absolute crook, and still get elected *in the party*. Similarly, you and I were as “crooked” as they come (Psa. 125:5), but when we believed the gospel and became “members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones” (Eph. 5:30), we became a part of Him, and that’s how we were “chosen *in Him*.”

### A Delightful Choice

Did you notice that God described His elect as someone “in whom My soul delighteth” (Isa. 42:1). Most of the time when you and I go to the polls to elect a new leader, we have to hold our nose, as it were, and choose “the lesser of two evils.” Not God! When He chose *Christ* to “bring forth judgment to the Gentiles” (Isa. 42:1) in the kingdom of heaven on earth, it was His *delight* to elect His Son to rule the nations! Then, when Jews under the kingdom program *believed* in Him, they became part of God’s elect *in Israel* (Rom. 11:7).

But God also chose Christ to rule the angels in heaven, electing Him to the office of “Head of all principality and power” (Col. 2:10). And when God “set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power,” He “put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things *to the church*” (Eph. 1:20-22). That is, when the Father chose Christ to rule the heavens, He did so with “the church, which is His Body” in mind (vv. 22,23). When we believe on Christ during the dispensation of grace, we become

part of “the elect of God” (Col. 3:12) in *this* dispensation and will “reign with Him” (2 Tim. 2:12) in heavenly places. As members of “His Body,” we are “the fullness of Him that filleth all in all” (Eph. 1:23). That is, all of the members of the Body of Christ will fill all the positions in the heavenly government vacated by the fallen angels, “all things...that are in heaven...*whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers*” (Col. 1:16).

“But doesn’t the Bible teach that we are *predestinated*?” It does (Eph. 1:5), and there’s no denying that the word “predestinate” means *to pre-determine* someone’s *destination*. However, don’t assume that we are predestinated to go to *Heaven* as opposed to going to *Hell*. As the elect members of the Body of Christ, we are predestinated to go to Heaven *as opposed to remaining here on earth with the elect in Israel*. Remember, Paul says of our predestination that “we have obtained *an inheritance*, being predestinated...” (Eph. 1:11). God pre-determined that the destination of our inheritance is in heaven, where we will “judge angels” (1 Cor. 6:3) as part of God’s elect.

But God predetermined that the destination of *Israel’s* inheritance is on earth. God told them, “thy seed shall *inherit* the Gentiles, *and make the desolate cities to be inhabited*” (Isa. 54:3), and faithful Jews will rule over the Gentiles in those revived “cities” in the kingdom of heaven on earth (Luke 19:17,19). God never intended to take Jewish kingdom saints to heaven (John 17:15), but

you've been predestinated to go to heaven in the pre-tribulation rapture, and *that's* what Paul said he was "bound" to thank God for.

### Bound To Give Thanks

That word *bound* means to be under legal or moral obligation to do something. Of course, Paul wasn't under any *legal* obligation to thank God that the Thessalonians were chosen to be saved from the Tribulation. Even under the Law, thank offerings were voluntary, and Paul was under grace (Rom. 6:14,15). But the apostle did feel a *moral* obligation to thank God. If you are wondering why, did you notice that Paul thanked God "for" the Thessalonians "that" God had chosen them? This suggests that *they weren't thanking God* for the salvation of the pre-trib rapture (Titus 2:13), so Paul felt bound to thank God *for* them!

Oh, sure, when Paul *first* taught those brethren that they were chosen to be saved from the Tribulation, I'm sure they were very thankful, for they knew "perfectly" about the "destruction" that terrible time would bring (1 Thes. 5:1-3).<sup>2</sup> But someone had forged a letter that convinced them that the day of the Lord was "at hand" and signed Paul's name to it (2 Thes. 2:1,2).<sup>3</sup> When that happened, all the thanksgiving that they felt for their salvation from the Tribulation went out the window!

Of course, if this caused Paul to feel "bound" to thank God *for* them, you and I should feel just as bound to thank Him for all those who *today* have similarly abandoned the doctrine of the pre-trib

rapture. Beloved, anytime God gives *anything* to *anyone*, He should be thanked by *someone*, wouldn't you agree? The unsaved aren't likely to thank God for the sun and rain that He sends them (Matt. 5:45), so we should thank God for these things *for* them. He also "giveth to all life, and breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25), but those that don't know the Lord are probably not thankful for these things either. If we want to be like Paul, we should feel bound to thank God for all of these things.

Notice that Paul goes on to say that we have been chosen to the salvation of the pre-trib rapture "through sanctification of the Spirit" (2 Thes. 2:13). What's that all about? Well, the word "sanctify" means *to set something apart unto the Lord* (Ex. 13:2 cf. 12), and since you are a member of the Body of Christ, the Spirit has set you apart unto the salvation of the pre-trib rapture.


### Set Apart From Whom?

Now, whenever God says we are sanctified, He usually means we've been set apart *from unsaved people*. Paul told the Corinthians, "the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God... and such were some of you: but ye are washed, *but ye are sanctified*" (1 Cor. 6:9-11). So our text is certainly saying we've been set apart from the unsaved who will be left behind at the rapture. But remember, our text is not speaking about how we've been chosen to go to Heaven as opposed to Hell. It is addressing how we are predestined to go to Heaven *rather than remain here on earth*



to go into the kingdom that will follow the Tribulation, which is Israel's hope. With that in mind, I believe Paul is also saying that the Spirit has set us apart *from the redeemed in Israel*.

If you think that's a stretch, consider that the only other time in the Bible that we find that exact phrase "sanctification of the Spirit" is in 1 Peter 1:2, where Peter addressed the Jews who were "elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, *through sanctification of the Spirit*." God foreknew that Jews who were saved under God's prophetic kingdom program would go through the Tribulation, so the Spirit sanctified them from unbelievers. But He *also* set them apart from the people He sanctified to be raptured *before* the Tribulation that Peter went on to describe in this very passage:



"...don't assume that we are predestinated to go to *Heaven* as opposed to going to *Hell*..."

**"...ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:6,7).**

If you know your Bible, you know that's Tribulation talk (Mal. 3:2,3)! It's true that Peter's first century readers were going through a "fiery trial" even in those days (1 Pet. 4:12), but this epistle will come into its own during the Tribulation, when God's people will look to the Hebrew epistles for guidance the way we look to Paul's epistles today. When that happens, God will bring His people in Israel "through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried" (Zech. 13:9). That's why Peter used that same terminology in a passage that talked about how the "sanctification of the Spirit" set his readers apart from members of the Body of Christ who will be raptured before the refining of Israel begins.

### **The Truth Shall Set You Apart**

If you *still* think this perspective is a stretch, notice that Paul *also* says that we were chosen to salvation from the Tribulation "through...belief of the truth" (2 Thes. 2:13). What truth? The truth committed to Paul! The Jews who believed *Peter's* truth were set apart to go *through* the Tribulation. Those who believed *Paul's* truth were set apart to be raptured *before it*. That's why Paul went on to say in our text,

**"Whereunto He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thes. 2:14).**

If the Thessalonians had been called by *Peter's* gospel, the belief of *that* truth would have separated them to an earthly hope in

the kingdom after going through the Tribulation. Since they were called by Paul's gospel, they were separated from the Hebrew kingdom believers to be raptured to a heavenly inheritance *before it*.

Both kingdom saints and Body saints were called "to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord," as Paul says in our text, but the Hebrews who believed Peter's gospel were called to obtain His glory only after going through the Tribulation, as Peter went on to say to his readers:

**"...the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, *after that ye have suffered a while...*" (1 Pet. 5:10).**

### **Stand Fast!**

The doctrine of the pre-trib rapture is an integral component of the unique message committed to the Apostle Paul by special revelation from the Lord in Heaven, and Paul was *adamant* that members of the Body of Christ must *never relinquish* this precious hope. As he draws near to the end of the discussion of the hope of our calling, he issued this exhortation:

**"Therefore, brethren, *stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle*" (2 Thes. 2:15).**

The word "fast" here means *firmly* or *securely*, as when we read that "God...by His strength *setteth fast the mountains*" (Psa. 65:5,6). In using this word, we know that Paul wants us to stand *as firm as a mountain* in the knowledge that our hope will be realized before the day of the Lord. That's the

only thing that can save us from being "shaken in mind" and "troubled," as the Thessalonians were when they surrendered their hope (2 Thes. 2:1,2).

As you can see, Paul refers to the doctrine of the pre-trib rapture as one of the "traditions" that he had taught them. Since the Bible has many negative things to say about tradition, we need to point out that, as Paul assures us here, there are *Pauline* traditions in which we need to stand fast. The word "tradition" simply means *things delivered*, as we see when our King James translators rendered the Greek word for "tradition" as "ordinances" when Paul told the Corinthians to "keep the *ordinances*, as I *delivered* them to you" (1 Cor. 11:2).

The primary things which Paul delivered to us, of course, were *doctrines*. He told the Romans that they had "obeyed from the heart that form of *doctrine* which was *delivered* you" (Rom. 6:17). The doctrine of the Lord's Supper was a Pauline tradition that Paul actually comes right out and *says* he "delivered" to us (1 Cor. 11:23), as was the very gospel of salvation (1 Cor. 15:3,4). The tradition of the pre-trib rapture is a doctrine we must likewise hold fast if we want to continue to enjoy the "consolation" Paul went on to say that we have in Christ:

**"Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us *everlasting consolation and good hope through grace*,**

**"Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work" (2 Thes. 2:16,17).**

## Everlasting Consolation

The word “consolation” means *comfort*, as we see when Paul told the Corinthians that “God... *comforted* us by...the *consolation* wherewith he was *comforted* in you” (2 Cor. 7:6,7). In the context of our text, Paul has to be speaking about *the consolation of the pre-trib rapture*, for after telling them about the rapture (1 Thes. 4:13-17), Paul instructed them to “*comfort* one another with these words” (v. 18). Then, after describing the Tribulation that will follow the Rapture (5:1-10), Paul directed them to “comfort yourselves together” (v. 11) with the *additional* comfort that comes from knowing the rapture will come before the day of the Lord.

There are many things that can comfort us amid the troubles of life, but only the thought of the Lord’s coming for us can give us “*everlasting consolation*.” When you are troubled, a friend may drop by to cheer you up, and you are comforted—but then the friend leaves, and with him goes the temporal consolation that he brought you. Or in the midst of your troubles, you might read an inspirational book, or watch a feel-good movie, and your soul is eased—but then the movie ends, along with your temporary comfort. If you are looking for *everlasting* consolation in this life, it can only be found in the hope that Paul couldn’t help but describe as “that *blessed hope*” (Titus 2:13).

But to avoid heartache and confusion, never forget that this is all very different from Israel’s hope. Under the Law, God promised them that He would

preserve them “*through* the fire” of the Tribulation (Zech. 13:9), not rapture them before the fire begins. No wonder Paul calls our hope “good hope through grace” (2 Thes. 2:16).

## The Stablishing of Hope

Did you notice that Paul closes this chapter by claiming that our blessed hope will “*stablish*” us? (2 Thes. 2:17)? Of course! The pre-trib rapture is a “mystery” (1 Cor. 15:51), part of the overall mystery that was given to Paul “to *stablish* you” (Rom. 16:25).

But if knowing we’ll be raptured before the day of the Lord stablishes members of the Body of Christ, how could Peter say to his Hebrew kingdom readers,

**“God...who hath called us unto His eternal glory...after that ye have suffered a while... *stablish, strengthen, settle you*” (1 Pet. 5:10).**


How could it possibly stablish Hebrew kingdom believers to know that they must “suffer” the Tribulation before obtaining the glory of their hope in the kingdom of heaven on earth?



Well, imagine some first-time parents who take their sick child

to the doctor, who identifies their son's malady and assures them that his nausea will be followed by vomiting and fever, after which they can expect him to develop chills and diarrhea, and then he'll be fine. While none of this sounds very comforting, these new parents find that knowing what is coming has *settled* their fears and *established* them in the knowledge that their child will eventually recover. In the same way, knowing that they will eventually obtain the glory of the kingdom after they suffer the Tribulation can settle and establish the hearts of God's elect in Israel.

Meanwhile, it should firmly establish you in the faith to know that no matter how evil the world around you grows from day to day, you will be spared even a glimpse of "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7). "He shall be saved out of it," but you'll be raptured before

it! While all around us believers lose sight of the doctrine of the pre-trib rapture (the inevitable result of failing to see the rapture as the distinctive hope given to the Body of Christ through Paul), let's you and I obey Paul's command to *stand fast* in this Pauline tradition, and let's heed his exhortation to *comfort* one another "with these words." 

### Endnotes

1. See also 1 Timothy 2:15 and 4:16 for other uses of the word "saved."
2. The perfect understanding that these *Gentiles* had of something that was only found in the *Hebrew* Scriptures no doubt stemmed from hanging around the synagogue in Thessalonica (Acts 17:4).
3. The Tribulation is sometimes called "the day of the LORD" (Isa. 13:6) and it is sometimes called "the Day of Christ" (2 Thes. 2:2) *just as* the Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10) is sometimes called "the day of the Lord" (2 Cor. 1:14) and is sometimes called "the day of Christ" (Phil. 2:16). Context is always key in interpreting Scripture!



## *A Late Word About Our President*

Just before going to press with this issue of the *Berean Searchlight*, our beloved president Pastor Paul M. Sadler left the Lord's work here on earth to join His service in glory. Next month's issue

will acknowledge Pastor Sadler's distinguished and dedicated service to *Berean Bible Society* over the past thirty years, and express our grateful appreciation for his unwavering faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ, His rightly divided Word, and His people.

# The Importance of THE BOOK OF ACTS

By Pastor C. R. Stam



Standing in the *Preakness Bible Church*, in Preakness, New Jersey, birthplace of the *Berean Searchlight*, Pastor Stam points to the chart he created to introduce the Book of Acts, a chart now on display here at *Berean Bible Society*.

Nearly a century ago Dean J. S. Howson, “an eloquent man, and mighty in the Scriptures,” and to whom, under God, we all owe so much,<sup>1</sup> said:

“I doubt whether the peculiar importance of this Book of the Acts of the Apostles has ever been exhibited or felt as fully as it might have been” (Hulsean Lectures for 1862, pg. 221).

Indeed, Dean Howson went farther than this, saying:

“A careful consideration leads us to think of the Acts of the Apostles as the key-stone of the arch of the New Testament...” (Ibid. pg. 224).

Our present generation of Bible students would do well to heed these words and engage in a serious and prayerful re-study of the Book of Acts, for a correct interpretation of the Acts of the Apostles is essential to a clear understanding of God’s eternal purpose and of His message and program for the present dispensation, and it is certainly a prerequisite to an appreciation of the exalted truths of the Pauline epistles.

## THE POPULAR INTERPRETATION OF THE ACTS

Nearly all writers on Acts have assumed, without the slightest foundation, that it is the record of the birth and growth of the Church of this dispensation; that in Acts we find the doctrine and practice of the Church in its earliest and purest form; that it is a spiritual story book containing inspiring examples of what we might do if we but possessed the faith of the first century believers.

We quote from a representative volume:

“The book of Acts is the story of early-day Christianity...God has given us in the book of Acts a pattern of Christian testimony, missionary



effort, world evangelism and building of Christian churches—a pattern which we would do well to follow. Certainly we can be assured of this: the closer we come to ordering all things according to this holy pattern, the greater blessing will attend our efforts.”<sup>2</sup>

These words were written by one who was doubtless the most popular Fundamentalist Bible teacher of the past generation, and they express the view of the vast majority of believers today.

Nevertheless, in the light of the written Word of God this view of Acts is erroneous—not merely in certain details, but *fundamentally and essentially* so—and accounts largely for the confusion that has gripped the Church in our day.

The honest student of the Word will readily admit that Acts presents many problems, especially since much of it is transitional. But these problems are multiplied and rendered insurmountable by the theory that this book is the record of the birth and growth of the Church of today.

### WHERE THE POPULAR INTERPRETATION FAILS

If the Book of Acts truly constitutes “*a pattern of Christian testimony, missionary effort, world evangelism and building of Christian churches—a pattern which we would do well to follow,*” why does no one consistently follow “this holy pattern”? One reason is that no one today *can* follow it. God has rendered this impossible, and all attempts to use Acts as a pattern end in confusion and frustration.

First of all, Acts presents a *changing program*. The author of *Lectures on the Book of Acts* himself calls it “a book of transition,” i.e., of transition from the past dispensation to the present. How then can we use it as a pattern for our practice *today*? How can we follow a pattern that keeps changing?

What *message*, for example, shall we preach? Shall we call upon men to “*repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins*” and offer them Messiah’s return and the establishment of His kingdom as Peter did (2:38; 3:19-21), or shall we proclaim the message which Paul later “received of the Lord Jesus”: “*the gospel of the grace of God*”? (20:24). The Church at large, using Acts as a pattern, is preaching a confused mixture of both. Certainly no one can preach what Peter preached in Acts 2 and 3 and *also* proclaim clearly the glorious truths of Romans, Ephesians and Colossians.

And *where* and *to whom* shall we preach? Shall we begin our ministry at Jerusalem as the twelve did under their “great commission” (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8), or shall we go with Paul “far hence unto the Gentiles”? (22:21). Shall we go to “*the Jews only*” as the followers of Christ did in early Acts (11:19), or shall we say with Paul: “*Your blood be upon your own heads...I will go unto the Gentiles*”? (18:6). Obviously, if it is our purpose to reach the Jews first, we will now find greater numbers of them in New York, Chicago and San Francisco than in Jerusalem.

And what *economic program* shall we follow? Shall we follow the pattern of Acts 2 and 4 and dispose of our investments and have “*all things common*,” or shall we retain our private possessions and give to the Lord’s work “*every man according to his ability*,” as did the believers under Paul in Acts 11:29? And if we follow the pattern of Acts 2 and 4, may we be assured that none of *us* will lack (4:34) or will we end up with “*the poor saints at Jerusalem*”? (Rom. 15:26).

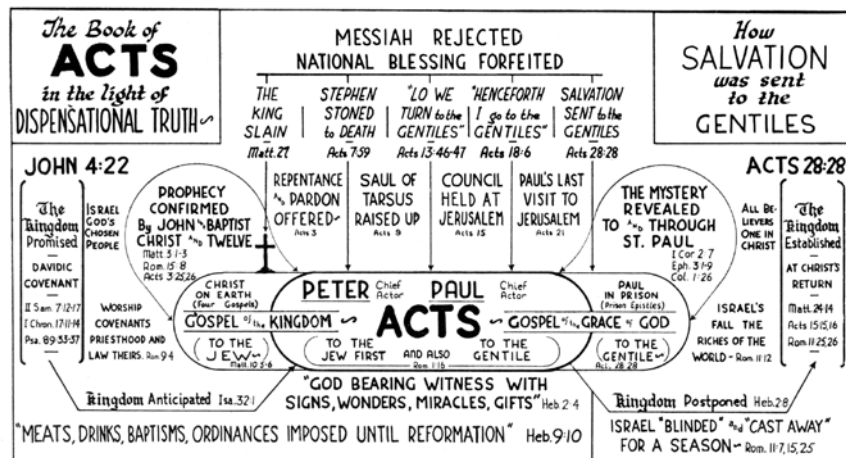
Again, if we *could* use Acts as a pattern and faithfully carry it out, could we expect divine intervention in persecution or not? Could we look for angelic deliverances like the twelve, or would we find ourselves shut up in prison, delivered to death, forsaken by man and seemingly by God, like Paul?

This brings us to another reason why we *cannot* follow the Book of Acts as a pattern. When Israel sealed her rejection of the resurrected, glorified Christ, God recalled the gifts of miraculous power bestowed at Pentecost, as the epistles of Paul clearly indicate (Rom. 8:22,23; 1 Cor. 13:8,13; 2 Cor. 4:16; 5:2; Phil. 2:26,27; 1 Tim. 5:23; etc.). Our Pentecostalist friends may claim to possess these powers still, but the evidence is not very convincing. Such words as those we have quoted from *Lectures on the Book of Acts*, however, have proved a great encouragement to the Pentecostal movement—and that while the author himself considered Pentecostalism a Satanic heresy!

It is impossible to follow the Book of Acts as a pattern, but in vainly seeking to “order all things” according to “this holy pattern” of “early-day Christianity,” the Church has actually turned a deaf ear to the Pauline epistles and the revelation from the glorified Lord for *us today*. As a result she has brought herself into a state of serious disorder and division and has presented to the world a confused, incoherent testimony.

(An excerpt from the introduction to Pastor Stam’s *Acts, Dispensationally Considered*)

1. Especially for his part in the standard work: *The Life and Epistles of Saint Paul*.
2. *Lectures on the Book of Acts*, pg. 10.



## Question Box

*“Does Daniel 12:4 describe the increase in knowledge that we see today?”*

**“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”**

We are living in the time of the mystery (Eph. 3:1-9), not in the time of the fulfillment of prophecy, so nothing in the prophetic book of Daniel describes anything that is going on today.

Since the previous verses say that the saved in Israel will rise from the dead (v. 2) and “they that be wise” shall shine in the kingdom of heaven on earth and “turn many to righteousness” (v. 3), the “knowledge” of verse 4 must refer to knowledge *of the Scriptures*, the only knowledge that can turn people to righteousness. In that day, “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD” (Isa. 11:9) since knowledge *of Him* will be increased.

The subsequent context bears this out as well. When Daniel is told that “the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end” (v. 9), it is in the end times that “the wise shall understand” (v. 10), and it is *then* that knowledge of the Scriptures shall be increased, and God’s people will use that knowledge to turn many to righteousness (Dan. 11:33). —Pastor Kurth

## What’s in Your Wallet?

We’ve always accepted Visa and MasterCard to receive your donations and orders, but recently we came up with the capital idea of accepting American Express and Discover cards as well. It pays to discover new ways to order our materials, and as for giving to the Lord’s work...priceless.



# The Commandments of the Lord

By Pastor Kevin Sadler



**“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37).**

Many Christians have a fuzzy idea that when Christ ascended up from the Mount of Olives to heaven, He stopped speaking. But nothing could be further from the truth! Paul says that the things he wrote to the Corinthians, and to the Body of Christ as a whole, were the “commandments of the Lord”! Similarly, in his epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul says, “For ye know what *commandments* we gave you by the Lord Jesus” (1 Thes. 4:2).

After Christ ascended to heaven, Israel continued in her rebellion against God by rejecting the Holy Spirit’s ministry through the twelve. Thus, Israel was temporarily set aside by God (Acts 7). God then raised up a new apostle, and gave Him a message which had never before been revealed (Acts 9; Gal. 1:11,12). Christ spoke again!

From heaven the glorified Christ gave to the Apostle Paul a new revelation concerning His heavenly ministry to the Church, the Body of Christ. To Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13), was given the commandments of Christ for the Body of Christ today. In Paul’s epistles, we have the will of God for our Christian lives during the dispensation of the grace of God. In Paul’s letters, we find the doctrines of grace that the Church is built upon and is to live by and share with the world.

Notice that Paul’s words, as revealed to Him by Christ, are spoken of as “commandments.” This is not a take-it-or-leave-it word. When a commandment is given by God, He expects us to obey and conform our wills to His will. In past dispensations, other commands were given which were valid at the time given, but are not for today, and are not for our obedience.

Take food for example (a topic close to my heart). The Bible commands man to eat only vegetables and fruit, then it allows for eating meat with fruit and veggies, then it commands only certain foods to be eaten, then it commands that all food can be eaten. It is impossible to obey all of these different commands at the same time.

There are many other issues in Scripture like this, so it’s imperative to determine which commands God would have *us* obey today. The answer is that Paul’s letters are the commandments of the Lord which are valid for today under grace. And Paul says we can eat all things (1 Tim. 4:3-5). It’s great to live under grace!



**Location:**

*Community Bible Church  
1427 W. Main Street  
Tipp City, Ohio*

**Dates:**

June 26-30, 2016

**Bible Hour Teacher:**

Pastor John Fredericksen

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

**Young People's Programs:**

Teenagers: Every morning  
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At the LaQuinta Inn, BBF has a block of 30 standard rooms (various bed offerings) at a rate of \$69 per night, June 25-July 1. Mention the BBF conference and reserve prior to June 4 to get this rate. The hotel has a pool, continental breakfast, and is walking distance (about 2 blocks) from church. *Regular rate at LaQuinta is \$109.*

The Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY, is a little over an hour away from the church. We encourage you to see the museum while you are in the area.

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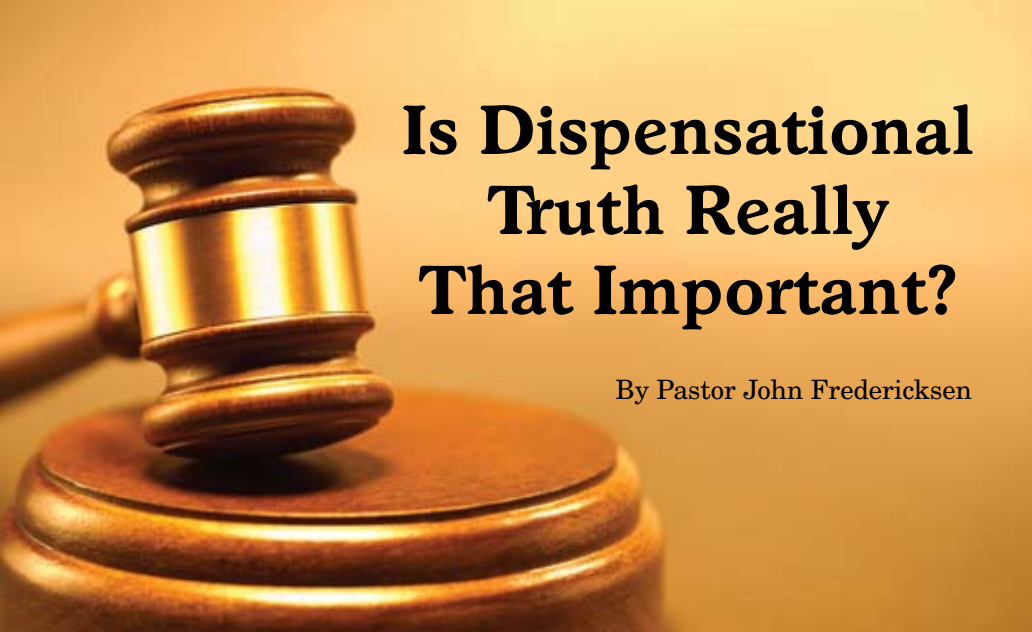
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# Is Dispensational Truth Really That Important?

By Pastor John Fredericksen

*Is dispensational truth really that important?* Everyone who has been introduced to the right division of the Scriptures eventually must answer this question. After all, the majority of Christian people do not understand these teachings. Those who accept these beliefs have often been attacked as extremists, and there is often a price to pay, of one kind or another, for those who embrace these precious doctrines with a consistent conviction. So it is no surprise when a believer sincerely asks, “How important is it to study the Scriptures dispensationally?”

Thankfully, we are not left to wrestle with this question in our own wisdom. The Word of God gives us an emphatic answer. When all that were in Asia turned away from Paul (2 Tim. 1:15), and many had “swerved” (1 Tim. 1:6) so far from his teachings that they desired to be “teachers of the law” (v. 7), our Apostle writes to Timothy saying, “**charge some that**

**they teach no other doctrine**” (v. 3). Timothy is also urged, “be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner” (2 Tim. 1:8). Instead he must “**hold fast the form of sound words**, which thou has heard of me...[and] **that good thing** which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us” (2 Tim. 1:13-14).

Dispensational truth was vitally important to the Apostle Paul. He realized these principles were as important as yeast is to bread, or having the right key to a particular lock. Rightly dividing the Word of Truth unlocks the truths of God’s Word with clarity and consistency. It alone enables the entire Bible to rise above seeming contradictions, to a plane on which every believer can understand God’s instructions without spiritualizing any passage out of its intended meaning.

Our great God was wise enough to understand that these inspired

arguments of Paul would not be enough to convince some to whole-heartedly embrace dispensational truth. So, He recorded *ten compelling reasons* in Scripture to further motivate us. The first is found in 2 Timothy 2:15. There we are told to “study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth **not to be ashamed**, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”

Over the years, my wife and I have frequently been involved in ministries to children. Bible lessons, Bible memorization, and a game time gave a balance in learning and fun. Awards for achievement in the Bible lessons and memorization provided motivation on multiple levels. Every quarter, each student was recognized for the progress they had made. At the end of the year, special awards and rewards (usually Bibles) were given to those who had worked hard, according to the rules, and earned them. All participants were recognized, but only those who faithfully expended the appropriate effort were given special awards. But usually, those who had not applied themselves wished in retrospect that they had because they had missed out on a reward that was achievable.

When we stand before the Bema Seat of Christ, the only way to be fully **approved** and avoid being ashamed, is to recognize that God has placed divisions in His Word. This alone is a strong motivation to embrace and consistently stand true to dispensational truth.

**Future rewards** will also be determined on the basis of how

faithful we are to dispensational truth. Second Timothy 2:5 states, “If a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”



In a recent Olympics, two participants were devastated. After years of dedicated efforts in training hard for a distance race, neither were awarded a medal. During the event, Zola Budd cut too closely in front of American Mary Decker, causing Mary to stumble and fall. Mary attempted to get back up and finish the race, but she was denied the gold medal she was favored to win. Zola did finish the race but, to her great disappointment, she was disqualified for a medal because she had changed lanes in a way contrary to the rules. In effect, Zola caused herself to be disqualified, and her actions caused another to stumble and not reach her goal. Similarly, a failure on our part to recognize God's dispensational changes in Scripture will cause us to be disqualified from eternal rewards we might otherwise receive, and our attempting to practice things not divinely intended for today may also cause others to fall short of eternal reward they might have otherwise achieved.

***The confidence of an uncondemned standing*** with God is only possible by recognizing divisions in Scripture. In the past, Israelites only had the assurance from God that He would accept them if they had adequately “consecrate[d]” themselves” (Ezek. 43:26,27), and offered the right sacrifices. But failure brought out the wrenching insecurities that David expressed in Psalm 51:11, “cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.” What a contrast to the confident security blanket of Romans 5:1 and 8:1! We know that “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” and that for us “there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” Such an assurance is possible, but only by recognizing that God deals differently with us today from how God dealt with Israel in the past.

***The purpose for the Old Testament and the Gospels*** is explained in Romans 15:4. God did NOT provide it for us in our Bibles so that we would attempt to keep all or even part of His commands to Israel. “Whatsoever things were written aforetime ***were written for our learning***, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” God wants us to LEARN from these examples of faith, failure, and faithfulness (1 Cor. 10:1-3). Modern seamen greatly benefit if they study the lessons learned by ancient mariners, but they recognize that things are far different in application today. The only way for a believer to

safely and intelligently navigate through the Scriptures that appear before the book of Romans is to recognize that God divides them into a category of learning, not for our daily practice or church doctrine today. The Old Testament Scriptures and Gospel accounts are primarily for our “learning.”

*Have you ever tried to put a large jigsaw puzzle together?* Our family does one every Christmas. We’ve found that it is almost impossible unless you keep the picture on the box in front of you, so you can constantly look to see where any piece properly fits. There is ***only one way to understand how the Bible fits together*** as a whole. Ephesians Chapter 2 breaks it down into three simple sections.

***“Time past”*** has to do with Israel under the law. The books of Genesis through Acts records their birth as a nation, promises, history, and being set aside. ***“But now”*** is a reference to us today under grace, explaining our distinctiveness from what God promised and required in the past. Only in Paul’s Gentile epistles, Romans through Philemon, do we find the doctrines for, and the destiny of, the Body of Christ. ***“Ages to come”*** points to the future, after the age of grace ends with the rapture, when God will take Israel through seven years of tribulation and a one thousand year reign of Christ on earth. Hebrews through Revelation explains these events. Unless we keep this picture before us when we study Scripture, we will end up trying to force

sections together that were never intended to fit.

Romans 16:25-26 tells us of *the only thing that will “stablish” us spiritually*. It is “the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery.” Many believers have knowledge of a lot of Biblical truths, and are even very sincere in what they believe. But quite often they are like “children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14). Failure to see that the Bible has different parts and how they fit together leave them adrift on a stormy sea of confusion. But those who embrace dispensational truth are like a securely anchored boat in a very safe harbor. The authority of Romans 16 promises that it will stablish you. So if you want to be spiritually stable, it will only come by studying God’s Word “according to the revelation of the mystery.”

It is also *the only answer to the charismatic confusion* of our day. Television preachers that promise financial prosperity, the ability to heal physical illness, and the enablement to miraculously speak in tongues are very popular today. Sincere saints with some experience in the faith often realize something is wrong with such practices, but are frequently at a loss to find Biblical evidence to prove that Charismatics are in error. Scriptures like 1 Corinthians 14:39 which says, “forbid not to speak with tongues” only complicate their frustration. But we who rightly divide God’s Word have the answer. Miraculous signs

practiced in the Acts era were for a sign, “NOT to them that believe, but to them that believe not,” (1 Cor. 14:22). Such signs were also temporary. Before the Scriptures were completed, God used miraculous signs as a witness to unsaved Jews to convince them that the Lord Jesus was their Messiah. But when God fully set Israel aside in unbelief (Rom. 11:7-15), fully established the Dispensation of Grace (Rom. 6:14), completed the perfect written Word of God (1 Cor. 13:8-10), all miraculous signs through the hands of men were “done away.” Rightly dividing the Word of Truth is the only answer as to why God does not work today with miraculous signs as He did in Acts.



“...there is a clear and very important division in Scripture that began with Paul...”

In March 2015, 27-year-old Sheeena Keynna of Lakeland, Florida, inadvertently ignored the warning bells, walked around the lowered crossing gates, and into the path of a train. She was clipped by the engine, thrown into the air, and broke her arm, but survived. Why did this happen? She was distracted by texting on her phone.<sup>1</sup> The point of this illustration is the same one Paul makes in 1 Corinthians 1:14-18.

There he relates that, unlike John the Baptist, “Christ sent me not to baptize...lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.” Had Paul continued to practice things that God once required of Israel, but the Lord no longer wanted, those very activities would have distracted or detracted from the cross of the Savior. Unless we carefully and consistently recognize dispensational changes in God’s Word, it is nearly inevitable that we will ignore God’s warning bells and crossing gates of instruction, and walk into the path of practices He does not intend for us to observe, thereby inadvertently dishonoring Him.

There has been a lot of debate among Bible believers about **just when did the Church begin?** It’s an important issue, because we’re obligated to carefully observe all the instructions given to the Church. Few seem to realize *there are actually three churches specified in the Scripture*. There was the “church in the wilderness” under the leadership of Moses, and under the law (Acts 7:38). There was a *Jewish Kingdom church*, so called because its hope was a millennial kingdom, where Israel will reign with her King all over the Earth. Christ confirmed the existence of this church in Matthew 16:18. Then there is “*the Church, which is His Body*” (Eph. 1:22-23), most commonly referred to as *the Body of Christ*. Some believe this church, which is comprised of believers today, began way back in the Old Testament. A few believe it began with John the Baptist, while others

conclude it began at the cross. But most believers think it began in Acts 2. *Who’s right?*


If you remember how the Boy Scouts used to be, it may help. For many years its only members were BOYS, until laws changed that forced the organization to accept girls. For several thousand years, God’s people were almost exclusively Jews. The Gentiles were “without hope” unless they became proselytes of Israel, in large part, because the Jews were His chosen people. But it is not so in the Church, the Body of Christ. Today “there is neither Jew nor Greek” (Gal. 3:28), because now there is “no difference” (Rom. 10:12). A careful and honest study of the Scripture reveals this did not happen until the middle of Acts, after the conversion of the Apostle Paul. So there is a clear and very important division in Scripture that began with Paul and his letters.

The only way to have a **rock-solid peace about not going through the terrible seven years of tribulation** is by recognizing God’s divisions in the Scripture. Those who see themselves as being some form of spiritual Israel today have no reason to think they will not also endure these dreadful days. After all, the tribulation will be the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7), when God once again takes His stubborn nation through trials designed to bring them to Christ. Those who believe “every promise in the Book is mine,” if they are consistent, must also assume all of its curses and trials are too. But God’s Word, understood



dispensationally, has a wonderful promise for us. We have its assurance that “God hath not appointed us unto wrath... [because He has] delivered us from the wrath to come,” (1 Thes. 5:9; 1:10). This assurance provides more peace of mind than any insurance policy ever could, because it is based on the integrity of Scripture and how God Himself tells us to study it when He tells us we need to be able to “rightly divide the Word of truth.”

*Is dispensational truth really that important?* It most certainly is! Refusing to compromise the right division of Scripture is the only way to be assured we will not stand before the Lord ashamed. It is the only way to be assured of future rewards, our present acceptance in Christ, and to understand the purpose for the Old

Testament and the Gospels. It is the only way to see how all of Scripture fits together, to become spiritually stable, to answer the charismatic confusion, and to be certain we’re not detracting from the cross. It is the only way to know with assurance that we will not go through the tribulation. These reasons are compelling. Each one by itself is enough to convince us that we should consistently embrace the right division of God’s Word without compromise. Too much is at stake for us to falter. May God use these reminders to make dispensational truth a deep conviction in our own soul. Now, what do you need to do to make right division a deep conviction in the hearts of your children? 

1. Taken from New York Daily News, 3-11-15.

## *A Legacy Lives On*

Two years ago this month, we told you about the home-going of our good friend Newton Dobson, whose love for souls prompted him to pass out more than seven million gospel tracts over the course of his Christian life. But like God Himself, Newton would have all men to be saved *and* come to a knowledge of the truth of God’s rightly divided Word (1 Tim. 2:4). With that in mind, he established and maintained a fund here at *Berean Bible Society* upon which we could draw whenever we heard from a pastor who was interested in the grace message, but who could not afford to purchase our literature. Only eternity will show the extent to which God was able to use this ministry to pastors and, in turn, to all of the people to whom *they* then ministered.

Recently we heard from Pastor Richard Young, a grace pastor who benefitted from Newton’s fund many years ago and came to fully embrace the grace message as a result of his generosity. Touched by Brother Dobson’s burden to see pastors grow in grace, Pastor Young has volunteered to maintain the fund that Newton established. If you would like to help him, designate your monthly or one-time gift as *Literature For Leaders*, and you too can help this important legacy live on.

—Pastor Kurth



# The Truth of Scripture

By Pastor Jim Tollar

When I was in elementary school, it was common in gym class to pick teams for baseball, basketball, etc. I would wait anxiously as each captain chose who they wished to be on their team. If you were athletic, you were picked first. If not, you had to wait...and wait! Essentially you were judged based on your athletic ability and chosen accordingly.

Thankfully God does not work this way. He has a chosen team called "The Body of Christ" and anyone can join! The work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit has made all of this possible.

Paul opens his letter to the Ephesians by addressing them as saints (Eph. 1:1), *set apart* or *holy* ones. How could he address them as such? Had those in Ephesus done many good works or performed miracles to earn this title? No, they simply believed the good news of the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24) and placed their faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

After letting these saints know they have been "*blessed with all spiritual blessings...*" (Eph. 1:3), we learn that God chose the Body of Christ (v. 4) and has "*predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself...*" (v. 5). The idea of adoption is that we have been have been placed into God's family and given a very special position as His adult sons (Gal. 4:4-7).

This brings us to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, who made this adoption process possible, because we have been redeemed by His blood (Eph. 1:7). How wonderful it is to know our sins have been forgiven because of the "*riches of His grace.*"

Once the unsaved person trusts Christ for salvation, God seals that individual with His Spirit (Eph. 1:13). The Spirit is "the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession" (v. 14), the down payment of **the future hope** we have in Christ. This is the final step of the adoption process, "the adoption...the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:23), the body that was purchased with the blood of Christ (1 Cor. 6:19,20).

This team is open to anyone! Your ability does not matter, and God will accept you no matter your circumstances. Simply believe the gospel—Christ died for your sins, was buried, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Once you do this, congratulations, you are on the team and are now a saint!



# BBS Letter Excerpts

## From Michigan:

"Praise the Lord for this wise choice of a faithful man of God to lead the *Berean Bible Society* forward... Pastor Kevin Sadler is the perfect choice to step in and immediately be ready to lead. He is obviously God's man for the hour. Congratulations Kevin."

## From Facebook:

"An outstanding Christian man to provide leadership to an outstanding Christian organization. Thanks be to God!"

## From our Inbox:

"All my life I have been involved in the church, and served in just about all capacities, and in different denominations, but I was not satisfied. It seemed something was missing, and no matter who I asked it was kind of an 'I don't know' answer. What I wanted to know I found at the *Berean Bible Society*. Thank you all for the fabulous work you do."

## From South Carolina:

"For most of my Christian life I have been in an Independent Baptist Church. All the preaching and teaching by my pastor...has been traditional, and things just never seemed to line up. To be honest, I was very confused. Then about a year ago a dear brother...gave me a book to read, *Things That Differ*. Now God's Word is lining up, and this Bible is now a true blessing I can understand."

## From Arizona:

"When I first got saved...a man... began to share with me how baptism was required for salvation, Acts 2:38, etc. I knew that it wasn't so, but I had no scriptural answer at the time and became very distressed. I shared these concerns with the men at our local Bible study. A guy from our study approached me after one of our midweek services and handed me a copy of C. R. Stam's book, *Baptism and the Bible*. I didn't think much of it at the time, but shortly after I started reading it, the light went on. My Christian life has never been the same, I have found the answers that I've been looking for."

## From South Dakota:

"You can bet your bottom dollar that Zachariah and Paul are aghast that you are putting something they said ahead of what Jesus instructed. They would be very much against your using anything they wrote as justification for your 'grace movement message.'"

## From Illinois:

"Thank you for your continued assistance to me and all the inmates in general. Although you are heretics, you are good people."

## From our Inbox:

"Thank you for the effort to write me such lengthy straight-to-the-point explanations about the questions many dare not ask, or are on the fence about."

### **From California:**

"A friend took us to a weekend conference where we met Paul Sadler, and he answered some important questions. It's been a wonderful adventure...Frankly, we simply love and enjoy reading the Scriptures, and we really couldn't say that before. Simply because we know where we are in God's plan...now how exciting is that!"

### **From Canada:**

"Just read today's email: 'The Faith of Jesus Christ' by Pastor Cornelius R. Stam. Again I applaud Pastor Stam for making it so easy to understand the love of Jesus."

### **From our Inbox:**

"This is awesome; I can't thank you enough for your scriptural reply and sending the attachment on the assurance of salvation."

### **From Mississippi:**

"I'm grateful you all help me learn the truth, and you take the time to spread a little knowledge to me, as other big shots don't have time for prisoners."

### **From Florida:**

"I love to start my day with your daily devotional and enjoy all the monthly *Berean Searchlights*...you folks are right on target...."

### **From Georgia:**

"Thanks to your great work (articles, publications, audio sermons) my blessings are up considerably this year! Those blessings are spiritual in nature, of course!"

### **From Oregon:**

"The most incredible thing just happened to me. Out of nowhere, an acquaintance of mine came by my apartment and gave me this money, with no explanation. So, I knew right away that this money was for you, for any way you want to use it."

### **From Iowa:**

"The February issue is so full of what every true believer needs to learn, or review and/or distribute that to obtain extra copies would be a real help."

### **From our Inbox:**

"Thank you for your immediate reply to my query. It cleared the doubts in my mind and gave me wonderful feelings of satisfaction. I am really blessed." (We can't always answer immediately, but we do try to monitor our mail even after business hours.—Ed).

### **From the Philippines:**

"With so many false teachings abounding, good and sound biblical materials are becoming a scarcity today. Your magazine has always been a help in my studies and teaching."

### **From Kentucky:**

"Your articles point out things we often overlook in our Bible study. I have been a true believer since 1969, and taught my husband how to study by right division. It opened up a whole new way of life for him. He now teaches others in his church."

### **From Michigan:**

"Your ministry...has helped me go from a lifetime of confusion to a much clearer view of the Word of God. I own nine books written by Pastor Stam, and it's my desire to start a small library with the many books your ministry provides. Being on disability only allows me to order two to three books a month, but I'll get to my goal, God willing."

### **From Washington:**

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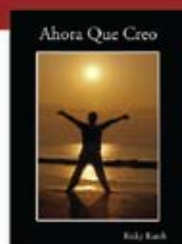
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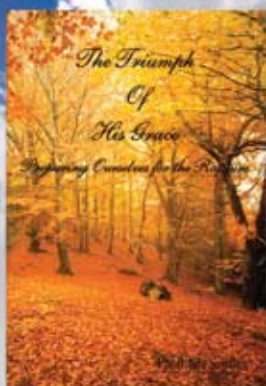
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*If our article on the pre-tribulation rapture of the church (See Page 5) left you longing to learn more about the "blessed hope" of our Lord's coming for us before the day of His wrath, these works are sure to bless your heart!*

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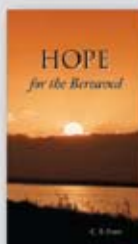
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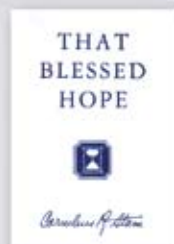


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# News and Announcements

**BBF Conference Kickoff:** After *Community Bible Church* of Tipp City, Ohio, volunteered to host the *Berean Bible Fellowship's* June 26-30 conference, Pastor Jeff Seekins extended an invitation to Pastor Paul M. Sadler to minister to his congregation during their Sunday morning service just prior to the beginning of the conference on Sunday night. In light of Pastor Sadler's recent serious heart issue, newly appointed *Berean Bible Society* president Pastor Kevin Sadler has agreed to take his place. Pastor Seekins has all the conference information you need, so contact him asap at [jjseekins@juno.com](mailto:jjseekins@juno.com); or at (937) 667-2710.

**New Wisconsin Grace Bible Study:** Back in February, one of our readers gave a copy of *Things That Differ* to Pastor Pearlie Conley, Jr., and six weeks later he was standing in our office here at BBS buying complete sets of our literature and everything else we have to offer about rightly dividing the Word of truth! If you are like Pearlie and just can't get enough of the truth that set us free, why not join the Bible study that he teaches a couple of times a week in Monroe? Just give him a call at (608) 434-8089 to find out when and where they meet.

**New Pennsylvania Grace Church:** Some years ago, our good friend Pastor Bill Simanovich shared the grace message with Pastor Richard Everly, who is now pastoring the *Bible Fellowship Church* in Muddy Creek, on Route 21 between Waynesboro and Carmichael. If you're not sure where that is, give Pastor Everly a call at (724) 984-0554, and he'll tell you how you can join this soul-winning pastor in taking a stand for the truth of God's rightly divided Word.

**New Ohio Grace Fellowship:** The Ambassadors Bible Study is now meeting Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in Jim Shaffer's home in Pataskala. After spending some time with Jim at one of our conferences last year, your editor feels more than confident in recommending him to those within driving distance of Pataskala, and all who might be passing through. He's ready to take your calls about this new work at (614) 507-7314, or you can write him at [Annuity4u@aol.com](mailto:Annuity4u@aol.com). Tell him BBS sent ya!



*Split Point Lighthouse* is located in Aireys Inlet, a small town on the Great Ocean Road, Victoria, Australia. This lighthouse is affectionately called the "White Queen" and is a welcome sight for ships that have rounded Cape Otway.

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