

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

November 2016



Feature Article

Rightly Dividing the Commissions (Cont.), *by Kevin Sadler*5

Articles

The Great Tribulation, *by John Fredericksen*13

Rejoice in Every Good Thing, *by Kevin Sadler*17

Paul’s Call to the Ministry, *by Ricky Kurth*19

Departments

Who’d Christ Come to Save?.....4

If Only16

Question Box.....18

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” (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,

More than a year ago, my father and I were talking at BBS, and I mentioned to him the idea of getting an app for *Berean Bible Society*. He loved the idea. My immediate thought was to enlist the help of a grace believer by the name of Jason Randolph from Langlois, Oregon. Jason has been converting our BBS works to eBooks. He runs a company called Shelf Bloom which deals with creating and publishing eBooks.

Our first attempt with the app was with a company that would have hosted it for a very low cost. The problem with this company was that they were going to fill the app with advertisements that we could not control. The second attempt led us to a local company in the Milwaukee area, but they were extremely costly.

After doing more research and contacting more than twenty companies, Jason found a company out of Seattle, Washington, called Subsplash/The Church App. This company hosts apps for many fundamental, Christian organizations and churches. Their price was reasonable, and after I talked with them, it was clear that we had found the right company. They have a very user-friendly way to create the app, and have been a joy to work with. In fact, after my phone call with them to be trained in how to build the app, the gentleman on the phone prayed with me!

The app is now live. It works on all Apple and Android smartphones and devices. It is available now to download on the app stores: iTunes, Google Play, Windows Phone, and Amazon. On the app, we'll be posting the *Berean Searchlight* every month with a notification when the newest edition is available. The app has a Bible built into it. You can ask us Bible questions through it. There are MP3 series to listen to by C. R. Stam, Paul M. Sadler, Ricky Kurth, and myself. You can keep up with the schedule of BBS conferences. It has links to the BBS website, Facebook, and Twitter. You can also read the daily *Two Minutes with the Bible* on it. It includes all these features and many more.



We really appreciate Jason Randolph's dedication to this task of finding the right company for hosting the BBS App. Please be in prayer for the app that it will be used by the Lord to help "to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery" (Eph. 3:9).

In His grace,

Pastor Kevin Sadler, President



WHO'D CHRIST COME TO SAVE?

A TV commercial that aired years ago featured two people talking about financial investing in the midst of a crowded room. When one said to the other, “Well, my broker is E. F. Hutton, and E. F. Hutton says...,” all the people around them hushed their conversations, and leaned toward them so as not to miss out on E. F. Hutton’s advice. I thought of this recently when I read 1 Timothy 1:15:

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”

Imagine you’re not saved, and you’re hearing that verse read in church. If the pastor paused at the word “save” to turn the page, I daresay you’d lean forward in your seat in eagerness so as not to miss out on hearing who Christ came to save! How thankful you would be when you heard He came to save *sinners*, for you know you are among the “all” who “have sinned” (Rom. 3:23).

But the news would not have been as good for you had you been a Gentile reading the Bible before the inclusion of Paul’s epistles. When the angel told Joseph his wife would bear a son, he added, “He shall save *His people* from *their* sins” (Matt. 1:21), and the Lord’s people were Jews! Aren’t you glad Paul later made it clear that Christ came to save *sinners*, whether they be Jew or Gentile?

When Paul says this saying is “worthy of all acceptance,” he means there is no part of it that is not worthy for you to accept. That’s not true of all old sayings! They say there is nothing certain in this world except death and taxes, but that saying is not worthy of all your acceptance if you are saved. There will always be taxes, but your death is anything but sure since the Rapture might come in your lifetime! We Christians aren’t looking for the undertaker, we’re looking for *the Uppertaker* (Titus 2:13).

But if you’re not saved, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” is a saying worthy of *all* your acceptance. Christ *did* come into the world, and He came to save sinners like you. If the greatest need of men were education, God would have sent us a teacher. If our greatest need were philosophy, He would have sent us a philosopher. But our greatest need was *salvation*, so He sent us a Savior who died for our sins and rose again (1 Cor. 15:3,4). “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). —Pastor Kurth



Rightly Dividing the Commissions (Cont.)

The Commission for the Body of Christ

By Pastor Kevin Sadler

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:18-20).

Craig Larson writes the following, “On my desk I like to display, on a bookstand, the kind of gift books you put on the coffee table—those filled with professional photos of nature or tourist destinations. One I really like is titled, *America’s Spectacular National Parks*. For several days, I had the book open to a photo of the Grand Teton Mountains, an extra-wide photo that filled not only the left page, but crossed the

fold and took half of the page on the right. It is a majestic display of deep blue sky; rugged, gray, snow-capped mountains; and a calm lake in the foreground.

“One morning I decided to turn the page to the next photo, and as I did I discovered that I had missed something important. The right page of the Grand Tetons photo was an extra-long page folded over, covering part of the Grand Tetons. So when I opened it up, it not only revealed what was covered, but added another eight inches to the Grand Tetons photo, and then it opened again another 8 inches. In other words, when I opened the fold, I added some 16 inches to the width of the photo. Wow. The Grand Tetons became even grander.”

That’s how it is with the revelation of the mystery. We get the full picture of the plans and purposes of God in His Word. We see what was formerly hidden



by God, but now revealed to the Apostle Paul and in his writings. When we rightly divide the Word and understand Paul's gospel, the Bible becomes even grander. We see the grandeur of God's grace and glory that He has revealed for the Church today. And in this formerly hidden message revealed to Paul, we find a new dispensation, a new gospel with a new hope, and a new commission revealed to a new Church: the Body of Christ.

SIMILARITIES AND BIG DIFFERENCES

The commission given to the eleven apostles is a powerful and important commission because Christ gave it. There are similarities with our commission under grace, and there are big differences. Similarly, we too are called to "go;" we too have Christ with us always; we too are to go to the world; we too have the Holy Spirit. But consider the differences:

(1) Proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom with its earthly kingdom hope, (2) Repentance, confession of sins, and water baptism required to be saved,

(3) Miraculous signs as evidence of salvation, such as speaking in tongues and healing; (4) Teaching the observance of the law, (5) Teaching the conditional forgiveness of sins based on forgiving others, (6) Teaching forsaking all and selling all to gain eternal life, (7) Having the authority to forgive sins, (8) Reaching Jerusalem and Israel first. These things are incompatible with the truths found in the Pauline epistles and the gospel of the grace of God. Although the words at the end of the Gospel records are the Lord's parting words to His apostles here on earth before He ascended to heaven, these are not the last words Christ spoke concerning the mission and commission of His saints.

After Israel fell in their unbelief and her program was temporarily set aside, Christ spoke again. To the Apostle Paul He revealed a new commission for the Church today. The Lord gave a commission here on earth for the nation Israel based on God's earthly program. And the Lord gave a commission from heaven for the Body of Christ based on God's heavenly program.



Many are operating under the wrong commission today, because they have failed to rightly divide and recognize God's message to the Church today through the Apostle Paul, which is separate and distinct from the message of the Twelve Apostles. But we *must* reach out to the world with the right message, with the right gospel, and follow the right commission. We *must* serve and carry out the Lord's instructions and commission according to what He is doing *now* under grace.

To place ourselves under the commission given to the Twelve is to place ourselves back under the law and under Israel's program, both of which are not in operation today. Paul says we are "not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14). Paul says that Israel has fallen, is cast away, and is temporarily set aside today (Rom. 11:11-15). The Great Commission is not our commission. Just as Israel is temporarily set aside, that commission is a temporarily set-aside commission.

The fact that miraculous signs do not follow those who believe today is one proof of many that the commission for Israel is not

what God is requiring today. Also, the gospel of grace says salvation is by grace through faith alone, not of works. Water baptism is a work that was required for salvation under the Great Commission. Forsaking all, selling all, following the law, confessing sins, forgiving others to be forgiven, all are works. The fact that salvation is "not of works" (Eph. 2:9) shows that the Great Commission is not for today.

The Great Commission was also based on prophecy, and Israel was primary in that commission. Israel needed to be reached first. Israel was to be the light to the world, and the hope for all was Israel's earthly kingdom. However, the commission for today isn't based upon prophecy nor Israel's program, but upon God's revelation of the Mystery, which had been kept secret since the world began (Eph. 3:1-9). Today God is building the Church, the Body of Christ, which has a completely different calling, walk, and destiny from Israel. We have a heavenly hope, not an earthly hope (Col. 1:5; Phil. 3:20). The revelation of the Mystery through Paul reveals God's plans and purposes for a

people reigning in the heavens: the Body of Christ. Prophecy reveals God's plans and purposes for a people reigning over the earth: Israel.

Our risen, glorified Lord has given very definite instructions for the Church, the Body of Christ, as to *our* commission for today. Just like the earthly kingdom commission, the Lord Jesus Christ is the focus and foundation of our commission. He is the One with all authority, and is over all as the Head of the Body and He commissions and gives the charge to the Church today. Christ is "the power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16) to all who believe the gospel of grace for today. The commission for today was given by the Lord from heaven to *one man*, the Apostle Paul (Gal. 1:11,12). It is within Paul's writings that we find the commission for the Body of Christ under grace.

“Our risen, glorified Lord has given very definite instructions... as to our commission for today.”

In Paul's letters we learn that the gospel of the commission for the Body of Christ is not the gospel of the kingdom, but the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24; Eph. 2:8,9). The gospel of the kingdom was a message of salvation that, when believed, gave people an earthly kingdom hope. But it is a temporarily set-aside gospel today. The gospel that is in force today, the only gospel that saves, is the gospel of the grace of God.

This message of salvation, when believed, gives people a heavenly hope. It is God offering eternal life and salvation by grace through faith *alone*, not by any works, just believing that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.

God has sent us, the Body of Christ, out as His ambassadors to the world with this gospel. As members of Christ's Body, we are *all* ambassadors for Christ. We each represent Christ before this world. We are all the official representatives of *God the Son!* This carries a great weight of responsibility.

As Christ's ambassadors, Paul says "as though God did beseech you by us: we pray [or implore] you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." Through us and our efforts to share the good news of salvation, God is begging, pleading with men, women, boys, and girls to trust Christ and the gospel of grace. This begs the question: Is God *pleading* with people to be saved by my life?

We stand here in Christ's stead, as His ambassadors, offering the good news for anyone to be reconciled to God through the Cross as a free gift. God the Father and God the Son implore sinners through us to accept forgiveness and be reconciled to God. Christ has done the work of reconciliation. Now God has *committed* to us the word of reconciliation, and His will is for each of us to take part in the worldwide outreach and testimony to His grace to reach the unbelieving.

There is no order of places that we take God's message of grace. It is not, as it was in the past,

through Israel to the world; it's not the world coming through Israel to be saved. It's just to the world. We are sent to *all* men, *without distinction*, sharing God's grace far and wide, in as many means, methods, and ways as possible, doing whatever it takes. We do so by faith, using our God-given gifts, by prayer, in God's strength, not with the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). By rightly dividing the Word, we are to carry out the commission for the Body of Christ with a clear gospel presentation (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8,9), with Christ's love and grace constraining and driving us to do so (2 Cor. 5:14).

THE MAIN THING, PART 1

“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4).

I have always liked the phrase, “Keep the main thing, the main thing.” The main thing is 1 Timothy 2:4. God's will should be our will. The things that break God's heart should break our hearts. The things that bring joy to Him should bring joy to us. The things that matter to God, should matter to us. What matters to God is the salvation of souls, and people coming to the full knowledge of His truth of what He is doing today under grace.

The U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue Team motto is “This we do so others may live.” This is a good motto for the Body of Christ as well. All that we do for Christ should be “so others may live” and find life eternal, forgiveness, and hope in Christ. Today God turns to all men individually, and offers

reconciliation to all people simply by believing in His Son and His finished work. The door of salvation and heaven is now thrown open to “all,” to Jew and Gentile alike without distinction today (Rom. 10:12). Christ died for *all* (2 Cor. 5:15), He gave Himself a ransom for *all* (1 Tim. 2:6), and today grace is offered to *all* individually and indiscriminately.



“...The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:12,13).

Today God works through the Church, the Body of Christ, made up of all who have trusted Christ as their personal Savior. Israel was God's light to the world in the past (Matt. 5:14). The Body of Christ is God's light to the world now (Eph. 5:8). Philippians 2:15 says the Church is “in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.” The Body of Christ is to be a shining light in this spiritually dark world. As His lights, we're to reveal and radiate God's truth, and show the way to Him through the gospel of grace, “holding forth the Word of life” (Phil. 2:16), and its message of salvation to the world.

God loves all men. He wants the whole world to know about His full provision of salvation through His Son. He takes “no pleasure in the death of the wicked” (Ezek. 33:11). He is “not willing that any should perish” (2 Pet. 3:9). God desires that the lost be saved from eternal death and separation from Him, and from the horrors of hell that await those who do not trust Christ and die in their sins. He desires everyone to come to the Cross, trust Christ as their Savior, be saved from their sins, and enter into an eternal relationship with Him. Out of His love for all, He has provided salvation for all (Titus 2:11). But each person must make that personal decision to trust God’s provision, and only those who trust it are saved (Eph. 1:13).

We are confronted daily with the horrible state of the world, and with the horrific, brutal, evil events and injustices that happen constantly. You hear many often ask, “Why doesn’t God do something about it all?” “When is the Lord going to come to take the Church home and judge this wicked world?”

In 2 Peter 3:15, Peter gives us the answer why the Lord waits: “*the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation, even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you.*” The reason this current dispensation of grace has continued for 2000 years, the reason why it still continues, and the reason why the Lord is being so longsuffering with all the terrible things that happen in the world is simply this: the salvation of souls.

God wants people to be saved. Today, He is giving all men an opportunity to be saved through Christ *alone*. His grace is being magnified today and showered on the world (1 Cor. 1:3). God’s heart is huge, and His grace is infinitely great. In His longsuffering, He’s waiting and wanting people to respond to His salvation that He’s provided by His grace. The next thing on God’s timeline after the Rapture is judgment, the judgment of the Tribulation period. But God continues, like the Prodigal Son’s father, to watch patiently, wait, look for, and desire lost sinners to come home.

That’s where the Body of Christ comes in with our mission. We are God’s ambassadors. We are His rescue workers. We are God’s representatives to this world. We are His mouthpiece, and God wants to communicate His message of salvation by grace with the world through us.

In knowing and imitating God’s heart, the Apostle Paul had a burden for all men to be saved. 1 Cor. 9:19,22 says, “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant *unto all*, that I might gain [win] the more [to Christ]...I am made all things to *all men*, that I might by all means save some.” Paul had a passion for lost souls. He was willing to do whatever it took to win the lost. He was flexible, adaptable, dealing with different people in different ways, and he labored hard to reach the unbelieving. Paul tells the Church in 1 Corinthians 11:1 to “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” We should most definitely follow Paul in doctrine, and we should also most definitely

follow Paul in practice, and in his example of a deep burden for lost souls (Rom. 10:1).

THE MAIN THING, PART 2

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ” (Eph. 3:9).

A true story was shared with me many years ago that has stuck with me. It was about a father who refused to attend his daughter’s wedding, because the man she was marrying couldn’t speak in tongues. The father believed that this young man wasn’t saved, and didn’t have the Holy Spirit if he couldn’t speak in tongues.



But the young man had a clear profession of faith in Christ as his personal Savior. The father refused this as the basis to believe that he was saved. Because of his failure to understand the “truth,” this father missed the most important day in his daughter’s life. He did not have that special moment of walking his daughter down the aisle because of a misapplication and misunderstanding of God’s Word, and how God is operating today under grace.

God wants *all* to come to the knowledge of the truth. The Apostle Paul tells the Church, the

Body of Christ, in his letters that we have a twofold commission: to beseech all men everywhere to be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20), and “to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery” (Eph. 3:9).

The “truth” God desires all men to know and see is the truth of “the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery” (Rom. 16:25). The “truth” of the mystery tells us that Jesus Christ is carrying out a heavenly ministry in His exaltation at God’s right hand today. Under grace, He is building a Church, the Body of Christ, and He is its living Head (Eph. 1:20-23). In following the mind and heart of God (Eph. 5:1), the work of the Body of Christ is to be about sharing His gospel of salvation *and* establishing people in His truth.

Grounding believers in the “knowledge of the truth” keeps them from being tossed around by false teaching and traditions of men. It keeps people stable in their Christian lives and able to rightly *apply* the Word to grow deeper in Christ. The knowledge of the truth and understanding that it is in Paul’s epistles that we find the direct instruction for the Church, allows us boldly to hold out God’s *pure* gospel of grace, without mixing it with the law, Israel’s covenants, water baptism, or the gospel of the kingdom and its earthly hope. The knowledge of the truth of the mystery allows us to know for certain what God’s desire is for our daily walk and life, that it is to be a walk of liberty, faith, and grace (Gal. 5:1; Col. 2:6), lived in God’s enablement and power by the Holy Spirit and

by the Word, rightly divided (Gal. 5:16; Eph. 3:16).

BEING AVAILABLE

In fulfilling our commission under grace, it's been rightly said, "Without God we can't; without us He won't." God wants to use our lives to reach people that they might be saved from eternal death and have eternal life. And God wants to use our lives to reach people that they might be saved from traditions, incorrect teachings, and have a proper understanding of what God is doing today.

Father's Day 2005 was not a joyful day for Toby Hawkins of Bountiful, Utah. His 11-year-old son Brennan Hawkins had been missing for two days. A much-anticipated excursion at a Boy Scout camp in the rugged Uinta Mountains had turned tragic.




Somewhere between the camp's artificial climbing wall and the chow hall, Brennan had become separated from the others. In spite of 3,000 volunteers joining with law enforcement search-and-rescue units to comb the wind-swept wilderness area 100 miles northeast of the Hawkins' home, there was no trace of the boy.

As day three of the fruitless search gave way to day four, hope began to bow to reality. An

11-year-old without food or shelter in the dangerous outdoors could not survive indefinitely. Forrest Nunley, like thousands of others, learned of Brennan's disappearance on the news over the weekend. Making himself available to join in the effort, the 43-year-old housepainter from Salt Lake City took Tuesday off from work, and drove nearly two hours to the search area.

But instead of looking in the region where the search had been focused the previous four days, Nunley drove his ATV about five miles away from the camp. By midday, he made the discovery for which countless people had been praying. "I turned a corner, and there was a kid standing in the middle of the trail. He was all muddy and wet from walking over wet ground," Nunley said.

Having discovered Brennan, the willing volunteer picked up his cell phone and was relieved to get a signal. He dialed 911 to report his find. It was a call that would precipitate a corporate sigh of relief and prayers of thanks.

One man's decision to make himself available and be used on a life-saving mission was the link that saved Brennan Hawkins's life. Your decision to make yourself available as God's ambassador can be the link to saving someone from eternal death. We are commissioned to rescue the perishing by sharing the gospel of grace. And we are also commissioned to rescue the saved from wrong doctrine, and shed the light on the truth of God's revelation of the mystery. This is the commission for the Church, the Body of Christ. 

The GREAT TRIBULATION

(An excerpt from Pastor John Fredericksen's new commentary on *Matthew*)

What did the Lord Jesus Christ mean by the phrase “great tribulation” in Matthew 24:21?


- The Lord Jesus Christ uses the word “then” five times from verse 9 to verse 23 in Matthew Chapter 24. Each time He does so, it helps define what is meant by the phrase. The Savior tells His disciples, after the early stage of the Tribulation is over, “then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you” (Matt. 24:9). “Then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another” (Matt. 24:10). “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation...then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains” (Matt. 24:15-16). After the abomination of desolation causes Israel to flee, “then shall be great tribulation” (Matt. 24:21). “Then...shall arise false Christs, and false prophets” (Matt. 24:23-24). Each one of these examples are linked intricately to one another.
- The “great tribulation” is a division of time and events during the seven years of Tribulation. It marks the halfway point of the Tribulation. Matthew 24:8 explains “the beginning of sorrows” are those events associated with the supernatural judgments and signs which God will perform on the earth. “Then” a new phase in the Tribulation will begin. Marked, or identified, with the antichrist going into the Temple to put an end to any form of worship to Jehovah and demanding he now be worshipped as God. Then what the Savior termed the “great tribulation” will begin. It is called the “great tribulation” because the intensity of troubles for man will be unprecedented. The Lord Jesus Christ described it by saying,

“then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matt. 24:21).

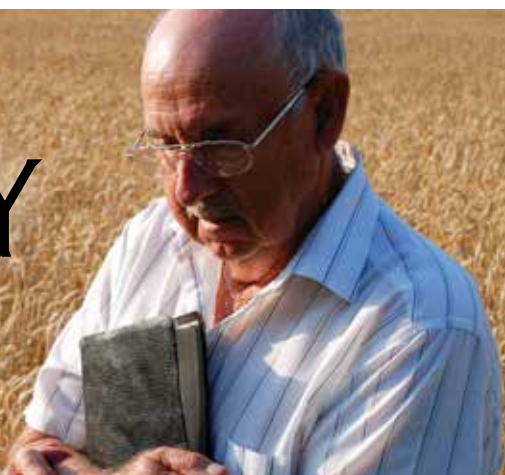
- The Tribulation on earth will be great during the last half of the Tribulation because of Satan. As discussed in God's diverse purposes for the Tribulation, the Lord will use the events in the entire seven years of Tribulation to accomplish His divine will. This includes punishing Israel and the entire world, and breaking the sinful will of mankind to bring many to salvation. Though Satan and his forces bring terrible trials upon man, they will be the unwitting instrument of God (see Isa. 10:5-6).
- It is at the middle of the Tribulation when there will be a “war in heaven... And the great dragon...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Rev. 12:7-9). From this point on, Satan and his forces will no longer have access to an atmospheric vantage point from which to wage warfare on earth. But when this happens he will “come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Rev. 12:12).
- Satan will also be enraged because he will be dislodged from his previous domain in the atmospheric heavens, and he will greatly step up his sinister plans, because he will know his end is near.
- From the middle of the Tribulation, Satan will attack Israel viciously. The Lord Jesus Christ explained this to His disciples in Matthew 24:9-13, when he said believers would be hated of all men and persecuted unto death. However, in Revelation 12:13-17, two separate aspects of satanic persecution against Israel are indicated. Revelation Chapter 12 depicts a scene where a woman, who has a crown with twelve stars, gives birth to a man child. This man child is the one who is to rule all nations with a rod of iron. The man child refers to the Savior and the woman refers to Israel.
- When Satan seeks to persecute the woman, three things happen. First, she “fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God” (Rev. 12:6). In other words, God has a special place where He supernaturally will protect many of the Jews. Second, “to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness...and the earth helped the woman...and swallowed up the flood [of Satan's host who pursued Israel] which the dragon cast out of his mouth” (Rev. 12:14-16). Here we see God assisting

Israelites supernaturally in reaching a special place of safety. Third, “the dragon...went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 12:17). Clearly, all national Israel will not be protected supernaturally. Many believers will be persecuted, and for many, it will be a persecution leading to their death.

- Zechariah 13:8-9 describes the above process where only some of national Israel will be protected supernaturally. Israel was told, “And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire [of the rest of the Tribulation], and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name...and they shall say, The LORD is my God.” Some of national Israel will be spared the torture and martyrdom of the last half of the Tribulation, where Satan’s evil wrath will be poured out like a flood. These will be protected supernaturally for “a thousand two hundred and threescore days” (Rev. 12:6), or “for a time, and times, and half a time” (Rev. 12:14), both of which refer to the last three-and-one-half years of the Tribulation. However, the largest percentage of Israel will suffer greatly.
- The Book of Revelation describes those who endure the persecution of the antichrist by suffering “hunger,” “thirst,” and many “tears” (Rev. 7:16-17). The antichrist will “make war with the saints” (Rev. 13:7, Dan. 7:21). This will most likely involve a formal and detailed declaration of war (a “Jihad,” if you will, or holy war, as many Arabs say) against every Jew, but it certainly will be a sinister warfare singling out any of Israeli descent.
- Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet will, through the power of demonic spirits and miracles, draw “the whole world, to gather...to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:14). These evil forces verbally will call the nations of the world together to destroy Israel, but, ultimately, the Lord is the one who will “gather [or draw] all nations against Jerusalem to battle” (Zech. 14:1-2). He will use these forces as an instrument of punishment, but He will come miraculously to their rescue, destroy the wicked, and make Jerusalem a testimony to all (Zech. 14:3-9; 13:1-9).
- The trials will be great during the last half of the Tribulation because of God’s wrath.

- The Lord will enable His two witnesses with miraculous powers. “If any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies” (Rev.11:5). They will also “have power to shut heaven, that it rain not...and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will” (Rev. 11:6). After their death, God will send “a great earthquake” that will slay seven thousand (Rev. 11:13).
- We believe the height of God’s wrath will not reach its pinnacle until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, we believe God’s wrath is being experienced throughout the entire Tribulation, whether events are directly enacted by the Lord, or He sovereignly uses others as His instruments. Nonetheless, God’s wrath will be experienced. 

IF ONLY



“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21).

We fear that many believers today take the things of the Lord far too lightly. Of course, the concern is that at the end of their life they are going to look back with *regret* at what could have been, *if only!* When you come to the end of your life are you going to find yourself uttering those dreadful words? *If only*, I had lived a godly life when I was raising my children, perhaps they would have an interest in spiritual things today. *If only*, I had heeded the Lord’s leading and had gone to Bible School, I might have made a difference on the mission field in those regions beyond. *If only*, I had agreed to become a Sunday School teacher, perhaps I could have helped one of our young people avoid a shipwrecked life.

If only, I had taken the time to study the Scriptures, perhaps I could have been used of the Lord to win souls to Christ and comfort those who were crying out for help! *If only*, I hadn’t been so selfish and self-serving. *If only!* As we prepare to stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ, mark these words, and mark them well: “Only one life, ’twill soon be past; Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



Rejoice *in* *Every Good Thing*

By Pastor Kevin Sadler

“And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm...And He hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land...And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which Thou, O LORD, hast given me...And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee” (Deut. 26:8-11).


Deuteronomy 26 instructs Israel how, after they entered the Promised Land and conquered it, they were to bring the first fruits from their first harvest that they reaped from the land and to present it to the Lord in worship and thanksgiving (Deut. 26:1-2). Now this was told to Israel *before* they entered the land, but these instructions were given in full expectation that they *would* conquer and possess the land as God said they would (Deut. 6:1; 7:1-2). God is faithful, and when He makes a promise, it’s as good as done. Joshua wrote years later:

“And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which He sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein...There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass” (Josh. 21:43-45).

Having trusted Christ as our Savior, God says we’re heaven bound. One day when we stand in God’s heaven, dwelling in the presence of God, blessed and exalted in Christ, we’ll also say, “Not one thing failed of any good thing the Lord spoke unto us. All came to pass.” We should start thanking Him now for this by faith!

Out of thanksgiving, Israel was to bring the first and the best of their harvest in a basket to the priest at the tabernacle and then profess audibly, acknowledging God’s faithfulness to Israel in preserving them and bringing them to the land as He had promised (Deut. 26:1-4). They were to rehearse how God had heard their cries and prayers for help in Egypt and that He delivered them out of their hard bondage and affliction “with a mighty hand” (Deut. 26:5-8). God brought Israel *out* of Egypt by His faithfulness to them and then He would bring Israel *in* to the Promised Land by His faithfulness to them, giving them a wonderful land which would meet their every need (Deut. 26:9).

Israel was to acknowledge God's goodness, mercy and working on her behalf. They were to remember how God provided for them, and to worship Him because of "the firstfruits of the land, which Thou, O Lord, hast given me," and rejoicing "in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee" (Deut. 26:10-11).

These are good things to remember as we observe Thanksgiving. We have a deliverance to remember and thank God for, a deliverance from sin by the sacrifice of our Savior. Christ delivered us from the bondage of our sins with strength, "with an outstretched arm" on the Cross, and "with a mighty hand" that was pierced for our sins. God redeemed us and brought us *out* of the bondage of our sins, and He is faithful and He will bring us *in* to our hope of heaven one day. Like Israel of old, we should recognize how God has provided for us and has worked in our lives. We should praise Him together because of His goodness to us, thanking Him and rejoicing in "every good thing" which the Lord has given unto us. 

Question Box

"Is Romans 13 about obeying civil government or church government, as some are saying?"

In the context, it is true that Paul just finished speaking about "he that ruleth" *in the local church* (12:8). But the "rulers" in Chapter 13 bear a "sword" (v. 4) that cannot refer to "the sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17) borne by church rulers, for he that bears it is called "*a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil*" (13:4). That doesn't fit the role of rulers in a grace church, but it is an apt description of *civil* rulers. In the more immediate context, Paul has just finished quoting God as saying, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay" (12:19). So when Paul then goes on to call the bearer of the sword "a revenger," he is explaining that God *takes* vengeance on evil doers in the dispensation of grace *by the sword of civil government*.

In return for their civil service, we are told to pay these rulers "tribute," something paid to *kings* (Matt. 17:24,25; 22:17), not rulers in grace churches. The Jews paid tribute to Israel's religious leaders (Num. 31:37-41) because they were a theocracy, a government ruled by God, and so paying tribute was just giving God His due. But the word "due" (Rom. 13:7) speaks of what is *owed* as a *debt*, and so "tribute" is a word that cannot be used of giving in the local church. Under grace, our giving is not done "of necessity" (2 Cor. 9:7).

—Pastor Kurth



Paul's Call to the Ministry

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

Did you hear about the young Christian man who was wondering what to do with his life when one day he looked up and noticed that the clouds had formed the letters “G P C.” He immediately interpreted this as a sign from God that he should “Go Preach Christ.” He didn’t want to be a pastor, but he felt that the sign left him no choice. A few years later, when it didn’t exactly work out for him in the ministry, he asked a friend how he could possibly have misinterpreted the sign. His friend replied by suggesting, “Maybe G P C meant *Go Park Cars.*”

Unlike the young man in this fictitious story, there was one man whom God called to the ministry *in no uncertain terms.* The Apostle Paul would later use the word “apprehended” to describe how the Lord called *him* to the ministry (Phil. 3:12), and thirty years later he was still thankful for the call!

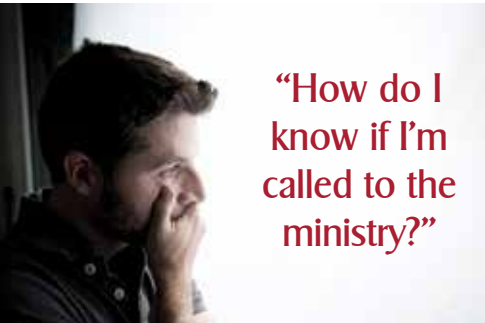
“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry” (1 Tim. 1:12).

As regular *Searchlight* readers know, I am issuing a *call to arms* to men of God in the grace movement to step up and train for the ministry in the wake of the recent home-going of BBS president Pastor Paul M. Sadler. I’m basing this call on texts found in Paul’s first epistle to a minister named Timothy. Perhaps these articles have you thinking about the ministry, but you’ve heard that a man must be “called to the ministry.” To help you determine whether or not God has called *you*, let’s consider the call the Lord issued to Paul, the first minister in “the church, which is His body” (Eph. 1:22,23), a call for which he here thanked “Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Why Thank the Lord?

But before we consider the apostle’s call, his words here raise a question we are often asked here at *Berean Bible Society*: “Is it okay to pray to Jesus?” When asked that question, I always point to Ephesians 5:20, where Paul says we should be “giving thanks always for all things *unto God the*

Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Since all of our prayers should include thanksgiving, this verse would seem to indicate that we should pray to the *Father in the name of the Son*.



“How do I know if I’m called to the ministry?”

But if Paul would have us thank *God the Father* “for all things,” why did he himself thank *God the Son* when it came to *the one particular thing* of his call to the ministry? I believe this was Paul’s way of letting us know that the day the Lord called him, He did something for him that He *doesn’t* do to call men to the ministry today. In the dispensation of grace, God is not calling men with miraculous signs or visions such as He used to call Paul (Acts 26:19).

Whenever a man asks me, “How do I know if I’m called to the ministry?” I always respond by directing him to Paul’s words in 1 Timothy 3:1. There the apostle mentions a “desire” to be a pastor as the first and foremost requirement in a list of qualifications for the ministry. If you are wondering if God can use *you* in the pastorate, don’t wait for a vision or a sign in the clouds. If you have the desire to be a pastor, *consider yourself called*, for most men *don’t* have that desire. That’s the only

kind of call a man can’t possibly misinterpret.

A group of preachers was once asked if they believed God speaks *only through His word* in the present dispensation, and they all agreed that this was so. They were then asked about their respective calls to the ministry, and most of them had to backpedal, for they all remembered *feeling* called to the ministry in a tangible, powerful, extra-biblical way.

But I would submit to you that each of these pastors was called to the ministry when God created a desire in him for the pastorate *using His Word*. As they read the Scriptures and realized that the lost need to hear the gospel, and that God’s saints need to be edified in the faith, the Word of God worked in their hearts so *powerfully* that they felt it *physically*.

But is that how the Lord called *Paul* to the ministry? Was he studying the Scriptures one day only to find himself overwhelmed by the desire to see sinners trust the Lord Jesus as their Savior and grow in grace? No! Paul was living in rebellion *against* the Word of God that was being preached by the twelve when God singled him out and called him into His service. That’s what made his call to the ministry unique, and Paul thanked God the Son in this unique way to point this out.

The Enablement of Grace

But how did Christ Jesus the Lord “enable” Paul to be a minister? Well, that word means to make someone *able* to do something, to supply an individual with the *ability* to perform a given task. And while the Lord *called* Paul

to the ministry in a unique way, He *enabled* the apostle to serve Him in the same way He enables us. When God made Paul and his associates “*able* ministers of the new testament” (2 Cor. 3:6), it wasn’t by any *miraculous* enabling. He rather empowered His apostle to serve Him in the ministry *by giving him such an easy message to minister*.

Sometimes manufacturers will recruit salesmen by saying, “You’re going to make gobs of money with very little effort because *this product sells itself!*” But for a product to *truly* sell itself it has to be an *astounding* product that is *ridiculously* low priced. Well, both of those things are true of the new covenant of which God has made us able ministers!

First, it is a “product” of *grace*, the most astounding product of all time! A quick review of the terms of the new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34 will reveal all the things God promised to do for His people *asking nothing in return*. Well, God has a word for that kind of thing; He calls it *grace*, and it is now available to all men everywhere at a ridiculously low price—it is *absolutely free* (Rom. 3:24; 5:15-18).

That’s how the Lord enabled Paul to serve Him in the ministry, and that’s how He enables men to serve Him today! If you are praying about getting into the ministry, but don’t think much of your ability, read what Paul said right *before* he spoke of how God enabled him:

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able

ministers of the new testament...” (2 Cor. 3:5,6).

If you aspire to become a minister of the gospel of the grace of God, you are as sufficient to proclaim the riches of His grace as Paul was, for God has given you the same astonishing message of grace that He gave Paul so many years ago.

The Lord Is Counting on You

But first you have to be *counted faithful*, as we learn when Paul said, “Christ Jesus our Lord... *counted me faithful*, putting me into the ministry” (1 Tim. 1:12). But this begs a question. Remember, the Lord put Paul into the ministry *moments after saving him*, saying,

“...I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister...delivering thee from... the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee” (Acts 26:16,17).

The question is, how was the Lord able to count Paul faithful in the scant few minutes between saving him and making him His minister to the Gentiles? How did He count him faithful before he had a chance to show how faithful he would be?

Well, something similar happened when Paul and his entourage entered Philippi and encountered a women’s prayer meeting (Acts 16:12,13).

“A certain woman named Lydia...attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul...and she besought us, saying, *If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide*” (vv. 14,15).

Here we have the same kind of thing. Paul had just met Lydia.

How was he able to evaluate her faithfulness so quickly? Well, notice that she *attended* to the things spoken by Paul. That word means to *listen to*, to *pay attention* to someone. It also has the idea of *responding*, as when we read,

“...God hath heard me; He hath attended to the voice of my prayer” (Psa. 66:19).

How did the psalmist know that God had attended to his prayer? He must have *responded* to it by *answering* his prayer! So when Paul says that Lydia *attended* to the words spoken by Paul, it means she *responded* to his words. And on the basis of her response, he judged her to be faithful enough to host him and his entourage, even though he had just met her and God had just saved her from her sins.

And the same thing happened the day Paul was saved. When the Lord told Saul, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest,” he responded by saying, “Lord, *what wilt thou have me to do?*” (Acts 9:5,6). When the Lord heard Paul attend unto His words with a response like that, He was able to count him faithful and put him into the ministry. That is, when Saul showed he was willing to do a complete “180” and turn from being a *persecutor* to one of *the persecuted*, that told the Lord all He needed to know about how faithful Paul would be.

And if you as a man of God have spoken those same words, “Lord, *what wilt thou have me to do?*” then that tells the Lord all He needs to know about you. He is more than willing to count you faithful once He hears you attend unto His Word with a response like that. All that remains is for

you to get some solid ministry training so you can convince a local grace assembly that you can be counted faithful, and they will be more than happy to ordain you to the ministry.

The Basis For Paul’s Charge

Paul began this epistle by charging Timothy to charge *others* “that they teach no other doctrine” than *Pauline* doctrine (1:3). The apostle then went on in this passage to remind this young pastor of the *basis* for this charge:

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare” (1 Tim. 1:18).

Paul was obviously speaking here of a time when the gift of prophecy was still in operation. Based on the prophecies that were made on Timothy, most likely at his ordination, Paul issued this charge to the young man “according to” those prophecies. This suggests that the prophets had predicted that Timothy would be a leader of men, someone who could be charged with charging others.

Since the prophets spoke for God, this shows that God saw something in Timothy that others probably did not. Remember, we know that Timothy was *timid* by nature, since Paul had to instruct the Corinthians not to intimidate him (1 Cor. 16:10). So it is likely that no one else saw leadership potential in Timothy, but based on what God prompted His prophets to say about him, *God did!*

This reminds us of what happened when God told Samuel to go anoint a king for Israel among the

sons of Jesse (1 Sam. 16:1). When Jesse's eldest son came before Samuel, "he looked on Eliab, and said, *Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him*" (v. 6).

"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (v. 7).

Eliab was evidently tall and handsome, the kinds of things men look for when choosing a leader—but *not God!* When God showed a similar disinterest in the rest of Jesse's sons,

"Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep..." (v. 11).

While Jesse may not have known that Samuel was looking for Israel's next king among his sons, it is clear that he saw nothing in his youngest boy that prompted him to even present David to Samuel when the prophet invited "*Jesse and his sons*" to come to his sacrifice (v. 5). But *God* saw potential in David that evidently not even his father saw.

Timothy could picture him charging men, *but God did!* Accordingly, Paul committed this charge to Timothy, as he said, "according to the prophecies which went before on thee" (1 Tim. 1:18).

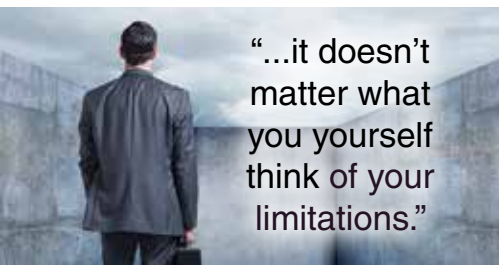
The Basis For Timothy's Courage

But God not only intended for those prophecies to persuade Paul to charge Timothy, He also intended for Timothy to draw courage from those prophecies, that "by them" he might "war a good warfare." This suggests that God knew that even *Timothy* didn't see anything in himself that would convince him he could be a man who could charge others. So He caused the prophets to predict otherwise, knowing how the memory of his ordination would serve to remind Timothy of the confidence that God had in his ability to be a leader of men.

If you're not sure how that would work, consider the prophecy that went before on Jacob's son Judah:

"Jacob...said...Judah...thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies..." (Gen. 49:1,8).

If you were a member of the tribe of Judah, do you think that this prophecy might give you the courage you might lack to fight the Lord's battles? It seems that at least one member of the tribe of Judah drew courage from it, for after God gave David victory over his enemies, he quoted that prophecy, praying, "Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies" (2 Sam. 22:41). This suggests he was familiar with Jacob's prediction about his tribe and had used it to bolster his courage.



And He likewise saw potential in Timothy that no one else was likely to see. No one looking at

Similarly, Timothy could draw courage from the prophecies that God made on *him*. He may have thought, “I don’t think I have it in me to charge men, but evidently God thinks I do, and He knows me better than I know myself!”

Of course, Timothy still had to decide to live up to those prophecies, but we see evidence that he did so when Paul later told him,

“Fight the good fight of faith... whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Tim. 6:12).

This means that when Timothy first heard the predictions that he would fight a good fight and war a good warfare, he might have “gulped,” he might have even quivered, *but he manned up*, and before all the men who had gathered to witness the confirmation of his call to the ministry, he professed, “Yes, I’ll fight the good fight of the faith.”


The Basis For Your Courage

Now how about you, man of God? Are you willing to answer God’s call? If you’re thinking, “But there aren’t any prophecies about *me* warring a good warfare,” you’re right, there aren’t. But that doesn’t mean there’s no place in God’s Word to which you can look to draw courage for the conflict. Pastors aren’t the only ones whom God expects to be soldiers of the cross. Paul told the Corinthians,

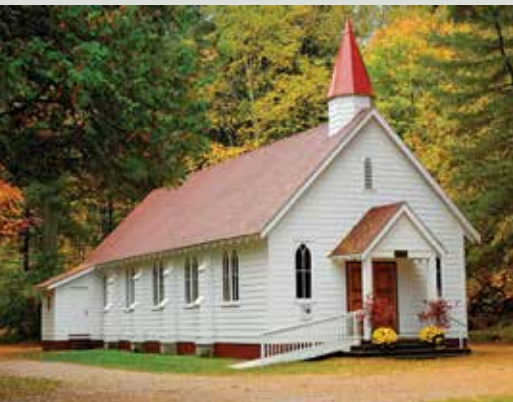
“...we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)” (2 Cor. 10:3,4).

Hold on a minute! Surely Paul didn’t expect that *the carnal Corinthians* would be able to war a good warfare! Or did he? In this same epistle, he told them, “I have confidence in you *in all things*” (7:16). No one looking at the Corinthians would expect that they could fight the good fight of the faith—but *God did*, and He inspired Paul to express that confidence. They probably thought themselves incapable of warring a good warfare, but they no doubt drew courage from Paul’s confidence in them.



So again, *how about you*, man of God? It doesn’t matter what others think of your height or your handsomeness, or your ability to lead the charge in proclaiming God’s command to teach no other doctrine. And it doesn’t matter what you yourself think of your limitations, for God knows you better than you know yourself. These very Corinthians testify to the truth of the old saying that says, “God does not call the qualified, *He qualifies the called*” (1 Cor. 1:26-29). If you have the “desire” to get into the ministry (1 Tim. 3:1), *consider yourself called*, get some training, and *come out fighting!* If not you, then who? If not now, then when? 

THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT



Many who have come to rejoice with us in the riches of God's grace live near small churches where the unadulterated "gospel of the grace of God" is faithfully taught, but they attend the big denominational churches because of the supposed advantage of wider fellowship for themselves and their children.

But how will the smaller "grace" church grow into a larger one if these "grace" believers do not attend? And how will these believers grow in "the knowledge of the mystery" by attending denominational churches? Besides this, are we not responsible to support those who stand for the truths we believe? So, support your grace church. This will honor the Lord, and some day you will be glad you paid the price.

—C. R. Stam



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BBS Letter Excerpts

From Florida:

“I am so thankful for the *Berean Searchlight* and the stand you all and others take getting out the grace message. I am 84 years old, pastored Baptist churches for about 40 years, and I am just finding out about the grace message. You all are doing a great job getting the truth of God’s Word to a lost and unlearned world.”

From our Inbox:

“I have been in a lot of Christian churches looking for right division, instead of the heretical allegorical theology. I believe that that will be its downfall into Chrislam. I cannot imagine any other way people will be conned into it! My wife and I are ex-carnies, so we can spot a con job right off! That is why we went to so many different churches, I never felt right in any...”

From Minnesota:

“Please let Ricky know how very much I appreciated his encouraging word in the one page article titled ‘Are You a Man After God’s Own Heart?’ from the June 2015 *Searchlight*. I’m going to copy it and pass it along, and also keep it in my Bible.”

From our Inbox:

“I read everything in the March issue, and so appreciate your work. It is so refreshing to have access to this material...I would also like to send my regrets to all of you regarding the passing of Pastor Paul Sadler. I look forward to studying his many books.”

From Brazil:

“Part of our ministry here in Brazil (PTL, of over 45 years!) is quite similar to yours. A good number of Pastor Stam’s booklets and books have been translated and printed. We consider them to be the ‘building blocks’ for teaching the grace message. These translations are used throughout Brazil and also in Portugal and Africa...our Grace Library in Portuguese is the largest body of grace literature in print other than in English” (From our dear friend Missionary Shirley Keiper.—Ed).

From Ontario:

“Have another question to send you at lunch...Would you be okay with me letting my husband read the information that you’ve been sending me? I can’t think of any other way to try to explain right division to him.”

From Florida:

“I feel that too many pastors avoid those troubling passages but you tackle them. Thanks for the literature...I’ve sent many unsaved friends your tract, *Gambling With Eternity*, which is awesome!”

From Pennsylvania:

“I read Tracy Lesan’s article on grace yesterday and was quite impressed...he clearly explained a number of ideas and words in ways I had not read before. I found it refreshing, and hope that he will be writing other articles for the *Searchlight*. I eagerly await the next one.”

From Georgia:

“The article on Isaiah 41:10 this month was really timely. God always knows what we have need of.”

From Illinois:

“I still remember sitting in the back of the house...reading *The Unsearchable Riches of Christ* by Pastor O’Hair. Every study in that book was absolutely mind-blowing. I stayed up all night devouring it, and called my friend the next morning to see what else he had on right division. Of course he had *Things That Differ* and several booklets by Pastor Stam, to which I immediately laid claim, and I was off like a freight train. It was like getting saved all over again.”

From our Inbox:

“Thank you Dr. Bedore. Your exposition on sheol/ Hades, hell, etc., has been a blessing to me, and offered me much basis to study the subject.”

From Georgia:

“Dave Stewart, your article is extremely well-written, and beautifully, logically expounded. Not only that, it is a *much-needed* admonishment to the Bible-believing Body of Christ today. In the three years I have been associated with the BBS as a proof-reader, I have not seen a better nor more important article published in the *Searchlight’s* pages.” (From our good friend Charlie Fouché—Ed.)

From our Inbox:

“Recently I was listening to Lesson 21 of John... You have made Bible study a passion for me because I can sense your love for our precious Savior. Truly this is true worship, studying Scripture with Scripture and rightly dividing the Word of God.”

From Michigan:

“This *Two Minutes* [“A Worry-Free Life,” by Pastor Paul Sadler] is what I needed today. It has been an interesting couple of weeks that not too long ago would have sent me to the store for booze and beer... Instead I just said Lord, I’m trusting in you to see me through it all!”

From our Inbox:

“Today’s Two Minutes is an excellent example of rightly dividing!”

From California:

“I found some of the articles in the April issue to be simple foundations for even an unbeliever that has had no doctrine taught to them. So I would like to purchase five copies that I can hand out. I would like my dear friend to begin receiving the *Searchlight*, and this would be a good start for her to begin her road to grace given freely to all who believe.” (*Searchlight* copies are free up to five; after that we charge 50 cents apiece, and that includes shipping.—Ed.)

From Brazil:

“I would like to say a special thank you for your attention and accuracy in answering my questions. How nice to have such a quick response when I am preparing a study or a preaching!”

From our Inbox:

“Your society helped me so much during my incarceration in Arizona State Prison in Florence. I did every Bible study out there, and the *Searchlight* was the only one that calmed my anger, and I’ve been sober five years now. Your ministry is definitely a very important tool that God has implemented to help people like myself... I love this new app!!!!”



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

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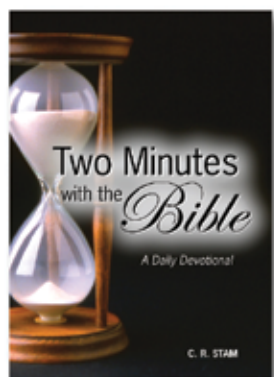
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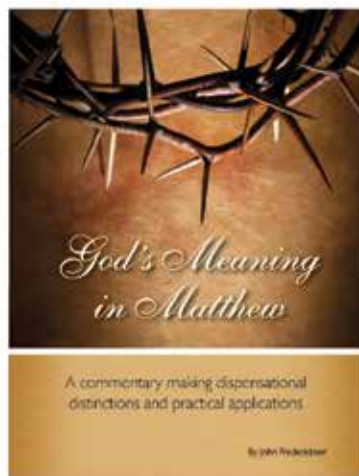


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News and Announcements

More Minutes With the Bible is the name of a new weekly email containing Bible study articles that are much longer than what we feature in our daily *Two Minutes With the Bible* email. If you find yourself hungering for more time with God's Word after reading your daily *Two Minutes*, just click on the "Bible Study" heading on our Home Page and you'll see the *More Minutes With the Bible* subhead that will lead you to the page where you can sign up. Then check your inbox every Sunday evening for a Bible study that you can either dive right into, or save for whatever day of the week works best for you. How often we hear people say that they read our monthly *Searchlight* from cover to cover as soon as it arrives, then have to wait a month for the next issue. This weekly email will help bridge that gap!

Florida Bible Conference: The warm-hearted saints at *Haven of Grace Bible Church* in Winter Garden have extended a warm welcome to BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler to hold forth the Word of life at a January 7,8 weekend conference. I checked with host pastor John Fredericksen, and he said you can come too. As if you need a reason to want to visit the Orlando area in January! Contact Pastor Fredericksen for more information, and to let him know you're coming: (407) 952-0510, jfgrace@gmail.com.

Did You Know? Two of our long-time friends were recently surprised to learn that our website has a Scripture Index that logs all of the Scripture references in all of the back issues of the *Searchlight* on our site. Your editor uses this feature constantly to locate articles that reference specific verses, and you may find it useful as well. Just go to the "Bible Study" category and click on the "Berean Searchlight Scripture Index" link and you're in business. Many thanks to our dear brother Roger Newell of Valrico, Florida, for faithfully chronicling these many references for us every year.

New Colorado Grace Fellowship: Our good friend Jim Welker has asked us to let Loveland area grace believers know about a new opportunity to grow in grace. *Grace Believer's Bible Church* is now up and running, but contact Jim and he'll give you the rundown: (970) 231-4716, jim.welker@westviewplace.com.



Split Rock Lighthouse is located in Two Harbors, Minnesota. *Split Rock Lighthouse* was built in response to the great loss of ships during the famous storm of 1905, in which 29 ships were lost on Lake Superior. Split Rock Light Station soon became one of Minnesota's best known landmarks.

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"A lack of
thankfulness is
because of a lack
of thoughtfulness."

*Psalm 103:2: "Bless
the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all
His benefits."*