

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

February 2018



Feature Article

Thank God for His People!, by Ricky Kurth5

Articles

The God of All Comfort, by Paul M. Sadler13

Grace Confession, by Dave Stewart.....15

A Voice of Grace, by Kevin Sadler.....19

Departments

Prophecy and the Mystery4

Question Box.....24

Payday Someday25

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.

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

Editor: Ricky L. Kurth—**Graphic Design:** Jessica Sadler (Book specials: Christine Mulholland)

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



You can reach us at:
BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY
N112 W17761 Mequon Road
PO Box 756
Germantown, WI 53022

Main Office: (262) 255-4750 — Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, CT

Internet: www.bereanbiblesociety.org

E-mail: berean@bereanbiblesociety.org

The *Berean Searchlight* (ISSN 0005-8890), February 2018. Vol. 78, Number 11.

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

From the Editor to You



Dear Friends in Christ,

I know what you're thinking. "Who is this old guy, and what has he done with the young editor who usually writes to me on this page?"

It has now been nine years since Pastor Paul Sadler asked if I would assume the position of editor of the *Searchlight*. The picture we had taken at that time has needed updating for several years, of course. But between my duties here at BBS in Wisconsin and the local church I pastor in the south suburbs of Chicago, there just always seemed to be something more pressing to do than go to a studio and smile for a camera.

Paul says we should be "redeeming the time" (Eph. 5:16), an instruction I must take seriously due to the demands that two ministries make on my time. When people call to speak with me during the three days I am in the office, and I am up against a deadline to prepare the *Searchlight* or some conference messages, I often have Christine ask if I can return the caller's call on my two-hour drive home on Wednesday nights. Not only does this allow me the most time to visit with callers, it also helps me multitask and make the best use of the Lord's time.

I also try to save time in other ways. There are no stores near where I live, so I do all my shopping in the commercial area that surrounds the motel where I stay near BBS. There are no asthma doctors close to my home, so I see a physician two doors down from our office. I get my hair cut at a Germantown shop because it is ten minutes closer than the one where I live. I even microwave food for 33 seconds rather than 30 seconds because it is faster to press "3" twice than to lift my finger to press the "0"!

If you are a busy person, all of this is nothing new to you, for you too are surely employing these and other techniques to redeem the time. But I'm reminded of how *Cheaper By The Dozen* writer Frank Gilbreth wrote another book on time and motion study. With a dozen children, efficiency was a must in his family! He was once challenged to increase the efficiency of a factory worker whose hands were a blur as she performed her job. But after Frank asked her to slow down so he could study her every movement, he suggested a few changes which increased her productivity!

With that in mind, why not slow your life down just long enough to examine all the things that you are doing to make sure you're not wasting the time that God says we should be redeeming in 2018!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Prophecy and the Mystery

THE
HOLY BIBLE

PASTOR WIN JOHNSON

past BBF president

“What are the two basic divisions of the Bible?” Without a moments hesitation the answer came back: “the Old and New Testaments.” We were not surprised. The majority of professing Christians would have concurred. BUT, is this correct? It seems to us that these traditional divisions of the Bible do not accurately designate the teaching they are supposed to represent. For example, Genesis is not in the Old Testament nor are the greatest portions of the Gospel records in the New Testament.

Therefore, we respectfully suggest that the answer to the first question, in this article, should be: “PROPHECY and the MYSTERY.” Please note the following Scriptures: 2 Samuel 7:16,17, Isaiah 65:19-25, Jeremiah 23:5, Daniel 2:44, Matthew 6:10 and 19:27-29, and 1 Peter 1:10,11. **Prophecy** concerns the establishment of Christ’s Kingdom on the earth, and God’s purpose for Israel and the nations ON THE EARTH. Proclamation of this prophetic purpose was committed particularly to the Twelve Apostles (see Matt. 10:5-7; Acts 1:6-8 and 3:19-26; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21-23).

In contrast to this, we have Scriptures which concern the Lord’s people in this age. In these, we read of the **Mystery**, God’s secret purpose for the Church, the Body of Christ, IN HEAVEN. This purpose was first revealed to the Apostle Paul (Gal. 1:11,12; Eph. 3:1-9; Col. 1:25-27). William R. Newell wrote, “Paul’s letters constitute an independent and complete body of doctrine. They reveal not only God’s method of salvation in this age, but also, the true character, calling and destiny of the Church.” In this same connection, the Scofield Reference Bible says of Paul, in a footnote, “In his writings alone we find the doctrine, position, walk, and destiny of the Church.” With these statements, we are in hearty accord.

Comparing the Gospel of Matthew with the book of Ephesians will point out the obvious difference between God’s prophetic purpose (prophecy) and God’s secret purpose (the mystery). Many have evidenced great interest in prophecy. Would that more were concerned about the mystery. May we never confuse the two.

(Pastor Win Johnson was the first president of the *Berean Bible Fellowship*. This year BBF will observe their 50th anniversary at their annual conference in Tipp City, Ohio. For more information, see their website www.bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com or contact current BBF president Dave Brown at: 920-693-3039 or pineridge@tds.net.)



Thank God for His People!

PASTOR RICKY KURTH

Editor

Last Thanksgiving I saw an online meme that said, “I’m thankful for family and friends. I’m also thankful for Caller ID, which helps me *avoid* certain family members and friends!” If avoiding certain of *your* friends and family popped into your mind when you read that, you’re probably not alone!

But if there were people in the Apostle Paul’s life whom he’d just as soon avoid, we know that Timothy wasn’t one of them, for Paul wrote to him,

“I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day” (2 Tim. 1:3).

It is touching to see Paul open his second epistle to Timothy by expressing thanks to God for him. You see, when the apostle wrote this epistle, he was in prison awaiting his imminent execution (2 Tim. 4:6). In other words, he was in the absolute

worst situation in which anyone could possibly find themselves. And yet, after a brief introduction, the very first words to leave his pen in this epistle were, “I thank God.”

Would those be *your* first words if you were writing a letter from Death Row? They would be if you knew, as Paul knew, that no matter how bleak your situation in life is, there is always something for which you can be thankful. For example, on the fourteenth day of a *horrendous* storm at sea, Paul gave thanks for a meal (Acts 27:33-35). Beloved, no matter how bleak your situation in life is, if you have something to eat, you have more than many people in the world.

And despite how bleak *Paul’s* situation was, as he sat there in the shadow of the executioner’s sword, he had *Timothy* in his life, and he thanked God for the remembrance of that young man.

And something had just happened in Paul’s life that made him

especially thankful for Timothy, as he went on to tell him later in this chapter:

“This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me...” (2 Tim. 1:15).

The Apostle Paul had just lost a boat load of friends and loved ones in the faith. And you know how it is when you lose *even one friend*. It makes you appreciate the ones you have left all the more. It seems almost unimaginable to read that Paul had lost *hundreds*, perhaps *thousands*, of dear friends in Christ. No wonder he thanked God for the remembrance of Timothy! What a comfort it must have been for him to recall the faithfulness of this young man, a faithfulness that prompted him to *not* turn away from Paul as the hour of his death drew near.

A Dispensational Difference

But what we are seeing here is a *dispensational difference* from what we find in the Old Testament. When Paul remembered *Timothy* to encourage himself in the midst of his troubles, compare that to what the psalmist Asaph remembered to encourage himself:

“In the day of my trouble I sought the LORD...Will the Lord cast off for ever? And will He be favourable no more? Is His mercy clean gone for ever?...Hath God forgotten to be gracious?...but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. I will remember the works of the Lord...Thy wonders of old” (Psa. 77:2-11).

In the Bible, the right hand of God is associated with *His*

miraculous power. So as you can see, in the midst of Asaph’s trouble, he didn’t take refuge in the remembrance of any of the brethren who were still standing with him, as Paul did. He rather comforted himself with the remembrance of God’s powerful “wonders of old” that wrought deliverances for His people by His right hand (eg., Ex. 15:4-6).

Now the *reason* Asaph dwelt on remembrances like that during his time of trouble is that he lived in a dispensation where God promised that He would *deliver* His people from their troubles if they lived a godly life. So reminding himself that God had been faithful to His promise *to others* in the past bolstered Asaph’s faith that God would faithfully deliver *him* from his troubles in the present.



But grace believers know that God is *not* delivering His people in that miraculous fashion in the dispensation of grace, no matter how godly a life a believer might lead. Today He doesn’t deliver us *from* our troubles. He rather sees us *through* our troubles *by His grace* (2 Cor. 12:7-10), and comforts us *through His people*.

That's why, when Paul found himself on Death Row, forsaken by all in Asia, he didn't comfort himself with remembrances of the miraculous deliverance that God had given him in the past during one of his first imprisonments (Acts 16:22-29) in the hope that He might deliver him in that fashion again in the present. Instead, he comforted himself with his remembrance of *Timothy*.

And so it is, when you find yourself in adverse circumstances—when you are really up against it in life—remember that God's grace is as sufficient for your needs as it was for Paul's, even in your darkest hour, as it was in his. And remember to do as he did and find your comfort in His grace and in His people. I mean, when most Christians find themselves in dire situations, they pray “night and day” as Paul did here (2 Tim. 1:3), but usually it is to cry, “Lord, deliver me from my desperate situation!” But if we want to be as Pauline in our prayer life as we are in our doctrine, we have to follow Paul's lead and “thank God” for His grace and for His people in even the most ominous of circumstances.

The Comfort of Old Age

As we turn our eyes back to our text in 2 Timothy 1:3, we see that Paul had something else for which he thanked God, something else that brought him a great deal of comfort. And that was his ability to speak of God as someone “whom I serve from my forefathers.” Now that I'm nearing the end of my life I can

tell you how thankful I am that I have spent it serving the Lord.

If you have too, you know the comfort that a life surrendered to the Lord can bring, especially if you too are approaching the end of your sojourn here on earth. The mad prophet Balaam once exclaimed, “Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!” (Num. 23:10). The problem with the aspiration expressed in that plea is that Balaam hadn't lived the life of the righteous, and so was not entitled to know the comfort that the righteous can know at the hour of death.



“And something had just happened in Paul's life that made him *especially* thankful....”

If *you* would like to experience the comfort the Apostle Paul enjoyed at the end of his life, you need to start living the life of the righteous as he did. People talk about “cramming for my final exam” as they begin to get up there in age, and while it is never too late to begin to walk with God, you will find life *immensely* more rewarding and *infinitely* more satisfying if you'll begin to walk with Him *today*.

But how could Paul say that he served God “from my forefathers?” If you know anything about Paul's forefathers, you know they didn't

always serve God as they should. The only other time the word “forefather” appears in the Bible is when God spoke to Jeremiah about the people of Israel in his day, saying,

“They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear My words...” (Jer. 11:10).

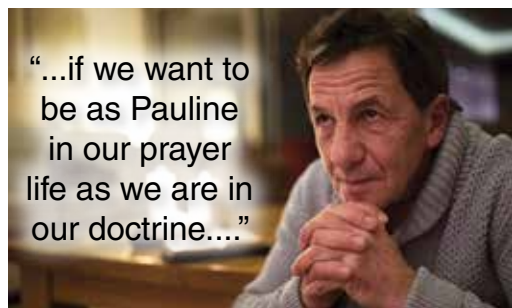
As you can see, Paul came from a long line of forefathers who refused to hear God’s Word. And it used to be that Paul could be found standing in that long line, for speaking to the Jewish council that assembled to judge him, Paul said of himself, “I am a Pharisee, *the son of a Pharisee*” (Acts 23:6). Paul used the present tense to describe himself as a Pharisee for he was being examined by the council concerning the matter “of the hope and resurrection of the dead,” and in that fundamental of the faith, he stood squarely with the Pharisees against the apostasy of the Saducees, “which say that there is no resurrection” (Matt. 22:23). But overall, the Pharisees *earned* the bitter denunciations that the Lord gave them on more than one occasion due to their refusal to hear His words.

So how could Paul claim he served God from his forefathers, and why would he mention his dubious spiritual heritage to Timothy here? And in light of his dark past as a persecutor of the Lord’s followers (Acts 8:1,3; 9:1,2; 22:4; 26:9-11), how could he speak of God as someone “whom I serve from my forefathers *with pure conscience*” (2 Tim. 1:3 cf. Acts 23:1)?

A Pure Conscience

The answer to these questions lies in the fact that all the time Paul persecuted the saints *he thought he was doing the right thing*. The Lord had warned His apostles that “the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you *will think that he doeth God service*” (John 16:2), and Paul was the personification of that prophecy. His failure to recognize the Scriptural evidence that Jesus was their Christ made him the poster child for an entire generation of Christ-rejecters in Israel.

Does that tell you anything about the danger of following the world’s advice to “let your conscience be your guide?” Having a pure conscience is obviously not enough when it comes to serving God! We need to serve Him with something *else* that is pure as well. The psalmist prayed, “Thy Word is *very* pure” (Psa. 119:140). You see, a pure conscience is only as good as the truth it is enforcing. If it is not enforcing the Word of God, *it’s not an accurate guide*.



Of course, grace believers know that it is also not enough to follow a conscience illuminated by God’s Word alone. It must be illuminated by God’s Word *rightly*

divided. Part of the reason Saul of Tarsus and his entire generation did not recognize the Lord Jesus as their Christ is that they failed to make the dispensational distinction between the Lord's first and second comings. They looked for a Messiah who would deliver them from their enemies, something the Lord will do at his Second Coming (Luke 1:71,74), but something He could not do "in holiness and righteousness" (v. 75) until He delivered them from their sins at His first coming.



This explains how Saul of Tarsus found himself thinking he was doing God's will as he slew the disciples of the Lord. Anyone who has ever done any hiking knows that the farther you travel down a path that deviates from the one suggested by a compass, the farther you get from the path you should be following. Once that generation in Israel failed to recognize their Christ, they put more and more distance between themselves and the little flock.

This also explains why religious leaders today resist Pauline truth as vehemently as they do. Their failure to recognize Paul as their apostle set them on a course that has taken them so far from

the truth that they, like Saul, feel led to persecute saints like us who are traveling the path that they too should be following.

A Great Apostolic Desire

Paul's fond remembrance of Timothy left him longing to see the young man, as we read in the next verse of our text:

"Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy" (2 Tim. 1:4).

Paul was so eager to see Timothy that he told him later in this epistle, "*do thy diligence to come shortly unto me*" (4:9), adding, "*do thy diligence to come before winter*" (4:21). Clearly, the apostle's remembrances of his friend and brother in Christ had sparked a desire to see him and be comforted by his fellowship in his last days on earth.

You see, Paul may have been the apostle of the Gentiles, but this great man of God knew the importance of fellowship. He "greatly" longed for the fellowship of the Philippians as well (Phil. 1:8), and asked the Romans to *pray* that he could fellowship with them, beseeching them to "strive together with me in your prayers to God for me...that I may come unto you with joy...and *may with you be refreshed*" (Rom. 15:30-32). This great man of God knew that even the greatest men of God need the refreshment of the saints.

We should be very thankful that we live in an age when a pastor's ministry can go beyond the four walls of his local church

and minister to stranded grace believers by means of the internet, CDs, DVDs, phone apps, and so forth. But if you live near a church where the Word is rightly divided, don't be sitting at home watching videos or streaming online. That has never been God's intent for His people. If even the Apostle Paul "greatly" longed for fellowship, you should too.

A grace pastor once told me that his church had just begun a live stream of their services online. That very Wednesday night he noticed that one of the regular attendees of his midweek Bible study was missing. When he asked where the man was, he was told that he had elected to stay home and watch the live stream that night! Beloved, on-line ministries can bring a lot of joy, but if you want to be "*filled with joy*" (2 Tim. 1:4), you need to do as Paul did and seek out the fellowship of the saints.



The Fullness of Joy

Of course, it took more than just darkening the door of the church to *fill* Paul with joy, it took obedience to God's Word. We see this exemplified when Paul wrote the Philippians,

"Fulfil YE my joy, *that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind*" (Phil. 2:2).

The Philippians were attending church, but two of the ladies had had a falling out (4:2), and everyone in the church was siding with one or the other. Soon they were feuding like the Hatfields and the McCoys, and this caused a major disruption in their local assembly. Fellowship like that won't fill anyone with joy, so Paul encouraged them to bury the hatchet (1:27)—and not in each other's back! And not with the handle of the hatchet sticking out of the ground so they know where to find it later if they wanted to begin feuding again. But from this we can conclude that obedience *also* filled Paul with joy, and Timothy certainly obeyed Paul (Phil. 2:22).

But we know that Paul's desire to see Timothy was prompted by more than just his personal desire to be comforted by the fellowship of this obedient young man, for Paul added that he desired to see him because he was, as he said, "*mindful of thy tears*" (2 Tim. 1:4). That shows the great spiritual strength of the Apostle Paul, for most men who found themselves on Death Row would be mindful of their own tears! But Paul was "*ready*" to die (2 Tim. 4:6), and one of the advantages of not bemoaning one's own circumstance is that it allows you to look *past* your circumstances and be concerned with the struggles of others.

I see this same spirit in many of the saints to whom I minister.

I'll email or call them when I know they are going through tough times, and they'll listen as I minister to them. But then they'll reply, "How are you doing, Pastor?" And I have to tell you, it gets me every time, for it shows the same spirit Paul exhibited when he spoke of his care for Timothy's tears in the midst of his own grim circumstances.

The Source of Unfeigned Faith

As we read on, Paul reveals the particular remembrance of Timothy that brought him the most comfort:

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (2 Tim. 1:5).

The word "feign" often means *to pretend* (cf. Luke 20:20). So when Paul spoke of Timothy's "unfeigned faith," it means the young man possessed faith in God that was *legitimate* and *sincere*. We know the word "feign" can also mean *half-hearted*, however, for God once lamented, "Judah hath not turned unto Me with her whole heart, *but feignedly*" (Jer. 3:10). But Timothy's faith in God was "unfeigned," it was *wholehearted*, and Paul thanked God for it and longed to see him so that he might be encouraged by it. Is your faith in God wholehearted enough to be an encouragement to others?

If you're not serving God with your whole heart, you're in danger of turning away from Paul's gospel. And that's not just me

testifying to that, "all they which are in Asia" give testimony to that as well (2 Tim. 1:15). Surely it was Timothy's unfeigned faith that kept him from joining all in Asia, of whom Paul had to lament that they had "turned away from me." The only place of spiritual safety is in wholehearted faith in God's rightly divided Word.

When Paul told Timothy that his unfeigned faith "dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice," he wasn't saying that faith can be passed on genetically. Timothy's great faith stemmed from the fact that, as Paul wrote him later in this epistle, "from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures" (3:15). "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17), so we know that Timothy's mother and grandmother had passed on the unfeigned faith that dwelt in them *by teaching him the Word of God from an early age*.

I wonder if the same might have been true of David. In speaking to God in prayer, David twice identified himself as "the son of Thine handmaid," speaking of his mother (Ps. 86:16; 116:16). We know that David wasn't ashamed of his father, for he readily identified himself to King Saul as "the son of thy servant Jesse" (1 Sam. 17:58). But the fact that he twice honors *his mother* in writing the Scriptures suggests to me that perhaps she took the lead in *teaching* him the Scriptures.

What a testimony Timothy is to the spiritual power of the hand that rocks the cradle. Paul came

from a long line of spiritually deficient forefathers, but Timothy came from a line of foremothers who *overflowed* with spirituality. And he turned out a whole lot better than Saul of Tarsus!

Moms and grandmoms, you have a unique opportunity to instill the Word of Almighty God in the tender hearts of your children. A mom in the church that I pastor listens as her her 6 and 7-year-old children read Paul's epistles aloud to her every year, a little each day. If you're not a mom or a grandmom, find children to whom you can *be* a mom or a grandmother, and teach them the Word. If you succeed in passing on your unfeigned faith, you may be used of God to raise up a David or a Timothy—or a Lois or a Eunice!

The Persuasion of Paul

Finally, notice that Paul says that he had to be “persuaded”

that the faith of Lois and Eunice dwelt in Timothy also (2 Tim. 1:5). Timothy was a timid man, and I wonder if there weren't times when Paul looked at him and questioned whether or not he was someone the apostle could count on, whether he was someone who would be found faithful. But after a decade of standing shoulder to shoulder with Paul, the apostle knew that his faith was wholehearted.

How about you? Are you someone that the Apostle Paul could depend on if he were here? Are you someone of whom he could be persuaded that that same unfeigned faith dwells in *you*? It's still true, even in the Lord's work, that “all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's” (Phil. 2:21). Why not be a Timothy and stand out from the crowd? You'll be eternally glad you did!



KENTUCKY

BIBLE CONFERENCE & BUILDING DEDICATION

Dates: March 2-4, 2018

Location: *Old Bethel Bible Church*
352 Old Bethel Church Road
Alpha, Kentucky

Speakers:

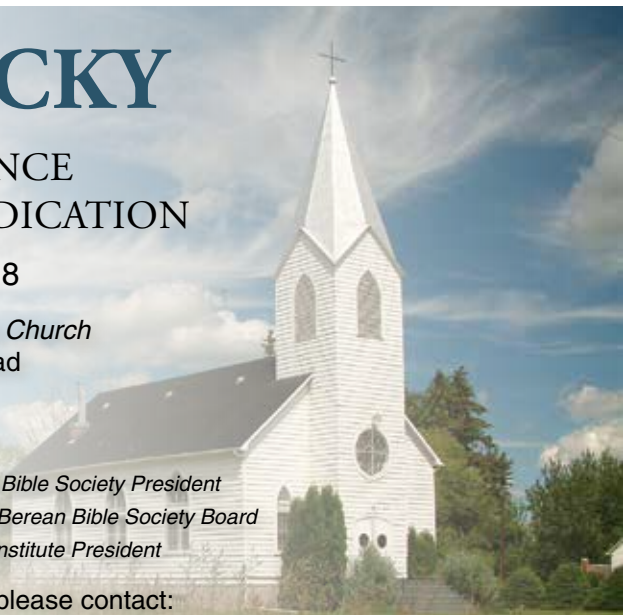
Pastor Kevin Sadler, *Berean Bible Society President*

Pastor John Fredericksen, *Berean Bible Society Board*

Dr. Robert Nix, *Berean Bible Institute President*

For additional information, please contact:

Pastor Jeff Bertram at (606) 348-3071 or (606) 307-4396



THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

PASTOR PAUL SADLER
past BBS President

(An excerpt from
Revelation Volume 3
by Paul M. Sadler)

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” (2 Cor. 1:3,4).

Whatever trials and sorrows you may encounter in life, God wants you to know that He is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. But exactly how does the Lord comfort us in our time of need? He does so in unique ways in this administration of Grace.

It is comforting to know that, because we have a personal relationship with Christ, we can speak with our heavenly Father about all the things that are on our hearts. Prayer is *communication* with God. It's the channel through which the finite has access to the infinite. Having been accepted in God's beloved Son, we have access to talk with God at any time. Moreover, when we meditate on the Scriptures, God often comforts us through His written Word.

Oftentimes, the Lord consoles us by bringing someone into our lives to encourage us. Many times it is a believer who has experienced the same adversity that we are facing. The world can be unmerciful in its attacks when we faithfully stand for the truth. This accounts for some of the sufferings we endure for the cause of Christ.

Then there are those occasions when we are comforted by the arrival of good news. Perhaps it takes the form of diagnostic tests that come back negative, or an answer to prayer.


It is also comforting to know that the Lord's people are keeping us before the throne of Grace in our hour of need. It's reassuring to realize that we do not need to bear our burdens alone.


When finally we are delivered from our affliction, whatever form it may take, we are given a very special ministry by God. We are now in

the position to comfort those who are hurting. The Lord doesn't comfort us merely to be comfortable, but that we might also comfort others. Having passed through affliction ourselves, we are able to relate better to what someone else is facing.

I remember making a hospital visit when one of the brethren from our local assembly stopped by. During the course of the conversation, he shared how, years earlier, he had had the same surgery that the one we were visiting was going to have. Almost immediately he had the patient's undivided attention. Nothing I would've said could have ministered more effectively than the testimony of that dear brother in Christ.

Consider for a moment the greatness of God. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things in heaven and earth. When we peer into the night sky, we see His handiwork; the heavens are immense and reflect His glory (Psa. 19:1). The galaxies of stars that dot the heavens, He created and gave each of them a name. Such power and knowledge, as David said, is beyond our comprehension (Psa. 139:1-6; 147:5). But this same God, who is above all, has taken a personal interest in you and me (Psa. 8:4). That's grace!

Like the weaver who weaves a beautiful tapestry, God is methodically creating for the Church today an image of His divine purpose. Because we are currently on the wrong side of eternity, things can be difficult to understand. But soon all things will be made clear when we are caught up into the glory of His presence and see the finished tapestry of His grace. 



“Just finished the November *Searchlight* and really appreciated the articles [“In the Footsteps of Paul”] following the trip. I was fortunate to be able to be in Rome earlier this year and took the tour you described around the Colosseum and took note of the Titus arch that you mention with its detail of how the Romans plundered the temple. Our tour guide described how it was that very wealth that subsidized the construction of the Colosseum and that the tens of thousands of Jews brought back as slaves were forced to work on its construction. This highlighted for me how Israel's downfall also led to the construction of this arena or temple of sorts to the god of this world that would use resources out of Israel and its temple to see the death of around 400,000 people over the next almost 400 years, so much of it directed toward Jews and Christians. The world paid a huge price for their lack of faith.”

—Wayne Van Andel

Grace Confession



DAVE STEWART *Faith Bible Church, Steger, Illinois*

“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest” (Psa. 51:1-4).

The passage above is taken from one of the most powerful confessions of sin ever made. It is a confession by one of God’s greatest saints regarding one of the most heinous offenses committed by a child of God in all of Scripture.

King David, beloved of the Lord, had not only lusted after, taken, and impregnated the wife of another man, but afterward had that honorable man murdered to cover his deed. Psalm 51 was written by David after the prophet, Nathan, was sent to tell him that his sin was not hidden from the eyes of God.

Sin is always unacceptable with God and calls for our immediate repentance. But while the confession and repentance we see in this passage are fitting for a saint living under the law, they are not at all suited to the dispensation of grace in which we live today.

Below are the first 12 verses of the 51st Psalm compared with as many statements from Paul, the apostle of grace.

Psalm 51 Under the Law

1. “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.”

2. “Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.”

The Apostle Paul Under Grace

“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Eph. 1:7).

“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11).

3. "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."	"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross" (Col. 2:14).
4. "Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest."	"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Rom. 8:34).
5. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."	"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22).
6. "Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom."	"But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30).
7. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."	"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).
8. "Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."	"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement" (Rom. 5:11).
9. "Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities."	"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses" (Col. 2:13).
10. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."	"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).
11. "Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me."	"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39).
12. "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit."	"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom. 5:2).

GRACE PROVISION

By these verses we can see that each act of mercy David is praying for in Psalm 51 has already been granted to us by God's grace in Christ Jesus.

It is not an expression of faith for a child of God in this age to ask the Lord to "blot out my transgressions" when we are clearly told that He has already forgiven us of all our sins (Eph.1:7; Col.2:13). To ask God to "wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" is to deny the truths of grace, that we are already washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:5).

But if you and I are not to beg God's forgiveness, what should we, as members of the body of Christ, do when we sin? What exactly does confession and repentance look like in this age of grace?

GRACE CONFESSION

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Rom. 7:18,19).



In this passage, Paul, like David, openly confesses his own sin. Notice however, that unlike David, Paul's confession is not with regard to an individual act that he had committed, but rather to the entire body of sin which he calls "my flesh." While David's grief was with "this" evil act he had committed before God (Psa. 51:4), Paul's confession is that he is unable to do any good at all. Where the 51st Psalm confesses one bad thing, Romans chapter 7 confesses "no good thing." So, under the law, one confesses his **sins**, while under grace, we acknowledge our **sin**.

GRACE REPENTANCE

"Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me" (Rom. 7:20).

Here, Paul is not denying responsibility for his sin. Just the opposite, he is repenting of his sin. Remember, grace confession is not a list of evil deeds we've committed, but an acknowledgement of the evil person that is our flesh. Even so, grace repentance is turning from that evil person, the old man, putting him off (Eph. 4:22), and putting on the new man which is created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24). So that now "it is no more I."

Confession and repentance under grace is not merely admitting to and turning from some sinful deed or list of deeds. It is putting off the old man **with** his deeds (Col. 3:9). Turning from the old man who cries, “Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities” (Psa. 51:9), we confess that all our sins have already been forgiven in Christ (Col. 2:13). Repenting from the old religious spirit that says, “my sin is ever before me” (Psa. 51:3), we rejoice in grace and acknowledge “it is no more I that do it” (Rom. 7:20). We confess that we have been made new creatures in Christ, and we repent from walking in the old man we used to be.

Grace confession: I have been freed from sin.

Grace repentance: I turn from every thought, doctrine, or manner of life that says otherwise.

And if ever our flesh should get the better of us, compelling us to cry out with our apostle, **“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”** our immediate answer will ring out together with his; **“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (Rom. 7:24,25).



Arizona Bible Conference

Dates: March 16-18, 2018

Location: *West Valley Grace Fellowship*

114465 R H Johnson Boulevard, Sun City West, Arizona

Guest Speaker:

Pastor Kevin Sadler

Berean Bible Society President

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Pastor Mark Dilley at jjdster@gmail.com, 623-377-3071 or

Jim Humphrey at jhumph783@gmail.com, 623-466-7636





A VOICE OF GRACE

PASTOR KEVIN **SADLER**

President

“Grace believers should be gracious!” This saying has been floating around the grace movement for some time. It’s true though. In living a life of grace in the dispensation of grace, we should be gracious in our actions and with our words. Those of you who knew my father, Pastor Paul M. Sadler, understand that this was his legacy and one of the greatest impacts he made by his life. He was gracious. As a husband, father, pastor, and friend, he was gracious, kind, and uplifting. With brothers and sisters in Christ who disagreed with him, he showed grace by how he responded; he treated them with respect. And with the unbelieving, he was gracious and showed care for their souls. The life God calls each of us to is a life of grace.

In Luke 4:22, after our Lord shared the Word, we read, “And all bare Him witness, and wondered at the *gracious words* which proceeded out of His mouth.” God’s ultimate goal for our lives is that we would be conformed to the

image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). As that happens, others should wonder at the gracious words which come from our mouths as well.

Always With Grace

“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col. 4:5-6).

The context of Colossians 4:5-6 is that of Paul having just written of “singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (3:16). With that in mind, Paul goes on to write of speaking “with grace.” Our mouth (4:6) and hearts (3:16) agree. Matthew 15:18 tells us that “those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart.” Before what proceeds from our mouths can “be always with grace” (Col. 4:6), we need to have grace in our hearts by the Word of Christ dwelling in us “richly in all wisdom” (3:16). As the grace of God is learned and received

through God's Word, rightly divided, and we apply it and allow it to touch and change our hearts, we can be always gracious with our speech.

Paul writes in Colossians 4, verse 5, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without," meaning without Christ, outside the Body of Christ. Paul is teaching the Church that it is important that we communicate with words of grace when we interact with those who don't know Christ as their personal Savior. Many believers want to debate with people about eternal, spiritual matters and let loose on those who don't believe, thinking they can be argued into heaven. Instead, we see from this passage how God would have His Church share the gospel of grace with grace.

"C. T. Studd was once traveling to China on a ship whose captain was an ardent infidel, and who had studied the Bible with the sole intention of confusing simple Christians, especially the missionaries who frequently sailed on his vessel. On learning that another missionary was on board, the unbelieving captain sought out Mr. Studd and started on his usual line of ridicule. Studd, instead of arguing, put his arm around the captain and said, 'But, my friend, I have a peace that passeth all understanding, and a joy that nothing can take away.' The hardened sailor replied, 'You're a lucky dog,' and walked away. A few days later he became a rejoicing believer in the Lord Jesus Christ."¹ That's the kind of speech God desires, "with grace, seasoned with salt,"

knowing how we "ought to answer every man."

God wants our speech *always* with grace. James 3:8 tells us that "the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." If we try to tame and control our tongue in our own strength, we will fail. Believers are to make gracious speech a habit of life *by the power of the Holy Spirit*. The way this instruction can be carried out in our lives is in light of Colossians 1:11: "Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power." Speaking always with grace under the control of the Spirit means that our communication should be wholesome, kind, respectful, sensitive, complimentary, truthful, and thoughtful.



Paul also says our speech should be "seasoned with salt." "Where's the salt?" or "Pass the salt," are common things we say when we sit down to eat. Salt brings out flavor in food that we might think is dull on flavor. Salty speech refers to lively, interesting discussion. It's the opposite of dull speech. Paul is saying we don't want our conversation to be bland or uninteresting, but rather to add a little flavor or liveliness and earnestness when we share

the truth with others. Put joyous effort and thought into it, in other words. Our speech needs to have an effect, like salt does on food. Salty speech makes people thirsty for more, if you will.

When we speak about God and His grace, we should inject some enthusiasm. What could be better than God's grace? We have an incredible message to share! The gift of eternal life, forgiveness of sins, all spiritual blessings in heavenly places—all ours, who don't deserve any of it—for free, strictly and entirely by the grace and kindness of God, through faith in Christ alone.

Speaking with grace, seasoned with salt, is "how ye ought to answer every man." This is how Christ would have His Church always respond and answer every man as we interact with others in our daily lives and share the gospel and give reason for the hope within us.

Ministering Grace

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29).

"Corrupt communication" is a sin that comes from our "corrupt" old man. Ephesians 4:22 tells us to "...put off concerning the former conversation the old man, *which is corrupt*." The Greek word translated "corrupt" in verse 29 means rotten, putrid, or useless due to age. In Paul's day, the word was used to describe rotten fruit, vegetables, and other spoiled food.

Ephesians 4:29 is teaching that God doesn't want us to have the rotten speech of our old selves. Romans 3:14 tells us that the sinner's "mouth is full of cursing." We all constantly hear rotten speech and cursing around us in life, on television—nearly everywhere we go.

A few verses after Ephesians 4:29, Paul speaks in 5:4 of things that should not be named among us even once, because we are saints, ones who belong completely to God. And he addresses our speech, saying:

"Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient [proper or fitting]: but rather giving of thanks."



This verse refers to gutter talk, obscenities, godless, senseless speech which lacks thought, and vulgar, frivolous wit. Paul says that all this kind of talk is "not convenient," or not fitting; it isn't appropriate for one who belongs to God. The unbeliever speaks from the old nature of sin only, and these things naturally flow out of it. However, for a child of God with a new nature and the Holy Spirit dwelling within, this kind of talk is out of place and not compatible with us who are saints and are therefore enabled not to talk in such a manner.

“It was a hot, humid day in the middle of Kansas City. The eight-hour shift seemed especially long for the veteran bus driver. Suddenly, a young woman, apparently upset about something, let loose with a string of unforgettable, not to mention unrepeatable, words. The bus driver, looking in his overhead mirror, could sense everyone around her was embarrassed by the string of profanity. Still murmuring, the angry passenger began to disembark a few blocks later. As she stepped down, the bus driver calmly said, ‘Madam, I believe you’re leaving something behind.’ She quickly turned and snapped, ‘Oh? And what was that?’ ‘A very bad impression,’ the bus driver responded.”²

As believers, we leave a bad impression when “corrupt communication” comes from our lips, and we cast a poor reflection of the Savior to this world. God cares about our speech. He desires that our speech be controlled by the Holy Spirit and be different than the world’s. God would have our speech be filled with good things like “giving of thanks.” The “giving of thanks” is unselfish and thoughtful. This type of speech glorifies God and builds others up.

The enemy, Satan, wants our speech not to stand out, and rather be like everyone around us in this world. One thing that will cause unbelievers to pause and wonder about us is if we don’t talk like they do, or say the same things, or talk about the same subjects. We are “light in

the Lord,” and we are to “walk as children of light” (Eph. 5:8). When our speech is different, it makes us stand out as a light and a bright testimony for Christ.

“Before what proceeds from our mouths can ‘be alway with grace’ (Col. 4:6), we need to have grace in our hearts by the Word of Christ...”

In Ephesians 4:29, Paul informs us that our speech should be “good.” Ephesians 5:9 says that “the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness...” As we yield to the Spirit, grow in His Word, and pray and live by faith, the fruit of our relationship with the Lord can transform our speech into “that which is good.”

God wants our speech to be good “to the use of edifying.” God in His grace lifts us up high: “And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6). Thus, by grace our speech should edify and lift others up. A voice of grace should be encouraging.

“Dr. Larry Crabb recalls an incident in the church he attended as a young man. It was customary in this church that young men were encouraged to participate in the communion services by praying out loud. Feeling the pressure of expectation, the young Crabb (who had a problem with stuttering) stood to pray. In a terribly confused prayer, he recalls ‘thanking the Father for hanging on the cross and praising Christ for

triumphantly bringing the Spirit from the grave.’

“When he was finished, he vowed he would never again speak or pray out loud in front of a group.

“At the end of the service, not wanting to meet any of the church elders who might feel constrained to correct his theology, Crabb made for the door. Before he could get out, an older man named Jim Dunbar caught him.

“Having prepared himself for the anticipated correction, Crabb instead found himself listening to these words: ‘Larry, there’s one thing I want you to know. Whatever you do for the Lord, I’m behind you one thousand percent.’




“Crabb reflects in his book: ‘Even as I write these words, my eyes fill with tears. I have yet to tell that story to an audience without at least mildly choking. Those words were life words. They had power. They reached deep into my being.’”³

Jim Dunbar could have corrected him. He could have laid into him about the mistakes he made. But he didn’t, because the words he used were words of grace, and they ministered grace unto the hearer. Having a voice

of grace, we should encourage and build others up.

Often we let our guard down with those closest to us in life. But as we minister grace to those who hear us, we should do so especially with those who hear us the most: our spouses, children, family, friends, and our church family. We should be thankful for them and what they mean to our lives, and we ought to tell them this. We should encourage their godly pursuits and efforts in life, encourage their spiritual progress, speak to them with respect, kindness, and care, build them up, and lift them up high. We’ll never regret doing so. We’ll only regret not doing so.

As we speak with a voice of grace, may we, like Christ, have others wonder at the gracious words that come from our mouths. May we be gracious as we share the gospel with the unbelieving, always speaking with kindness, thoughtfulness, and of that which is good, and being encouraging to others around us. 

ENDNOTES

1. J. C. Macaulay and Robert H. Belton, *Personal Evangelism* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1956), Lesson 8: Qualifications of the Soul-Winner.
2. Glenn Van Ekeren, *The Speaker’s Sourcebook* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1988), as cited by Ed Delph, “Fostering a legacy of good impression,” *The Glendale Star*, June 23, 2016, www.glendalestar.com/opinion/article_2c2ae870-3727-11e6-8e48-8b9f58f49484.html
3. “Lasting Effects of Encouragement,” *Preaching Today*, submitted by Alan Wilson, Nyon, Switzerland, www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2001/march/12958.html; adapted/excerpted from Lawrence J. Crabb, Jr. and Dan B. Allender, *Encouragement: The Key to Caring* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1984).

Question Box

“Is our grace age, which Paul calls ‘this present evil world [age]’ (Gal. 1:4), worse than the time of Nimrod or what is seen in Romans 1:18-32?”

This age is evil. Every dispensation or age in man’s history has been evil. Every age has demonstrated that the heart of mankind “is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9), that people are sinners in need of the Lord. I don’t think our age is worse than the time of Nimrod or what is seen in Romans 1:18-32, but rather very similar. Romans 1:18-32 sounds like a commentary on our times! Mankind doesn’t change. Mankind has been evil, is evil, and will be evil.

News of mankind’s wickedness shouldn’t completely shock the believer. Rather, it should immediately remind us of people’s need for Christ and His salvation, and our need to be “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16). Faith in Christ brings new life and can bring transformation to people’s lives, so that they might live “in all goodness and righteousness and truth” (Eph. 5:9).

Paul calls it “this present evil world” to impress upon us the glory of our deliverance from it by Christ and His Cross. Galatians 1:4 shows us “Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might *deliver us* from this present evil world.” Knowledge of this hope is to cause us to react with thanksgiving and praise to our Savior, “To Whom be glory for ever and ever” (Gal. 1:5), and “that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again” (2 Cor. 5:15).

—Pastor Kevin Sadler



Mailroom

A full time position in our mail-room is available. If you live in the Milwaukee area or are willing to relocate, why not consider joining our ministry?

If you would like to help us “make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,” email us today at: berean@bereanbiblesociety.org, or call (262) 255-4750.

Payday *Someday*

PASTOR JOHN FREDERICKSEN

BBS Board

While our children were growing up, by God's gracious provision, our family had a small janitorial business to supplement our financial needs. We always took the children even if all they were able to do was gather the wastebaskets. One day, the girls were less than enthusiastic about their participation. So, without really thinking it through, I told them: "If you work hard with a good attitude, when you graduate high school, mom and I will buy you a car." I only promised that once but, they never forgot it, nor would they let me forget, nor allow me not to follow through on my promise.

Our Heavenly Father has a fantastic promise for every blood-bought believer. Referring to the time when we graduate from this life into eternity, 1 Corinthians 3:8 says: "...every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." With absolute certainty, we are assured the Lord will handsomely reward us for service done for the Lord Jesus Christ after salvation. Reconfirming this confidence, the Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

As we meditate on this encouraging promise, we should also comprehend one key related truth. Any reward will be proportionate to our effort in service. As stated above, everyone will be given reward "...according to his own labour" (1 Cor. 3:8). If we choose to do little or nothing for the Lord after salvation, this will be reflected in little reward received. Second Corinthians 9:6 states it this way: "...he which soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." As a high school yearbook reflects one's participation in school, or lack thereof, our records in eternity will correspond with our service and reward. That makes it important for us to busy ourselves now with activities that will matter once we reach eternity. We can serve Christ by inviting or transporting folks to church, presenting the gospel, handing out gospel tracts, serving in the church nursery, teaching the Scriptures, assisting in youth ministries, giving faithfully, doing follow-up on visitors, befriending newcomers to church, and much more. The limit on serving Christ is only our imagination and our willingness.

Don't be among the foolish who serve only self in this life. Choose to do something today to further the cause of Christ. Remember, there will be a payday someday.



BBS Letter Excerpts

From California:

“Saw you on Channel 65 out of San Francisco...You explain things so clearly. I appreciate your ministry. Enclosed is a small donation. I love everything about your program.”

From Indiana:

“Thanks for the good TV Bible teaching!!!”

From Missouri:

“Your article ‘Saint Al’ was one of the best. I passed along several copies to family and friends and will continue to pass along to others as opportunities arise. The new Bible tract, *Christmas Times*, is so timely and arrived just in time to include with Christmas cards...Please pass along to Pastor John Fredericksen that *God’s Meaning in Matthew* is just so good.”

From Kentucky:

“I just wanted to let you know I really appreciated your article ‘Christian Astrology.’”

From Michigan:

“I would like to receive *The Searchlight* publication. I just read *The Confession of Sins* by Pastor Ken Lawson, and was quite impressed.” (This article is available in booklet form. –Ed).

From our Inbox:

“I love this *Two Minutes* [“Paul Not One of the 12 Apostles”]. Spelled out so beautifully!”

From Texas:

“Pastor Kevin, Thanks for taking us with you to Corinth and Rome by way of your article ‘In the Footsteps of Paul.’ I enjoyed the tour.”

From our Inbox:

“Thank you Pastor Kurth for the truth in this article [“Are You a Man After God’s Own Heart?”]. I personally needed to hear this on this specific day and the Lord blessed me through you.”

From Michigan:

“Your letter about 1 John 1:9 couldn’t have come at a better time. I understand the verse...your answer was very helpful. Thank you so much for taking your time.”

From West Virginia:

“Thank you for all your help and encouragement over the last few years. When you’ve been shunned by the only church family you’ve known for 40 years, it’s helpful to have brothers like you who give strength to our faith and convictions to rightly divide God’s truth.”

From Louisiana:

“I thoroughly enjoy your *Two Minute* articles! I write an article for our local weekly newspaper (in the religion section). Would it be okay with you to occasionally run your article? I would of course give credit to your ministry.” (Thank you for checking with us first, but that would be great! –Ed).

From Pennsylvania:

“Pastor Kevin, I attended the *Grace Family Bible Church* conference in November. I enjoyed your message and was blessed with God’s Word rightly divided. I would like to order some more books.”

From Arizona:

“My wife and I were so glad to attend the Grace Bible Conference in Siloam Springs, Ark., while visiting from Arizona. The conference hosts and musicians did an outstanding job, and Pastor Kurth’s messages on ‘Distinctions of Grace’ were truly a blessing.”

From our Inbox:

“I argue with cults on a regular basis. I’ve been doing this for 40 years now...I don’t even try really to win them because they are 100% deceived. They are only interested in defending their teaching. I discern the exact same spirit with Dispensationalism...My discernment says that the same demon in charge of cults is working with dispensationalists.” (Pray for this brother, who finally discontinued emailing with me. –Ed).

From North Carolina:

“The Lord has been unveiling my eyes in recent years in which He has exposed my condition, that of being under tons of religious traditions. The light of dispensational truth has opened a new horizon of the Word of truth for me. I cannot thank you enough for recently sending me the long article concerning Bullingerism by O’Hair, which has opened my inner eyes further to the truth. What it has done for me is to open the Mystery of the Body of Christ in newer light and fresher life.”

From our Inbox:

“I listened to the great sermon ‘Standing Whatever the Cost’ by Pastor Kurth with interest and forwarded it to several. Already getting back responses. The treatment seemed very thorough and biblical end to end.”

From the United Kingdom:

“Thank you for your continued patience and support in the knowledge of God’s Word. In the UK we only have a few Grace believers who are widely scattered so it is much harder to support each other. In our home group we have five believers who come together for fellowship every Wednesday, but we have no established Church.” (Sounds like a church to me! May God bless and grow it! –Ed).

From Oregon:

“Other churches...say they are replacement Israel, that the Jews were cast out and they are the replacement. I am so grateful I know the truth I received first from Paul Sadler.”

From our Inbox:

“This has been a lesson for a lifetime for me. The message spoke volumes and helped me recognize why my life is in ashes and ruin. Resentments are poison. Thanks for this timely *Two Minutes* message today.”

From Minnesota:

“I learned about ‘rightly dividing’ when I was a child. I am age 91 now and have been walking with the Lord all my life. His love has sustained me even through the hard times. I live alone now, but I am not really alone. Praise God...The books and pamphlets that you publish and make available to so many are so important for spiritual growth.”



“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



C.R. Stam



Paul M. Sadler



Kevin J. Sadler

PRESIDENTS' DAY *at Berean Bible Society*

For Presidents' Day we are offering a set
of writings by BBS presidents past and present.
See the following page for details.

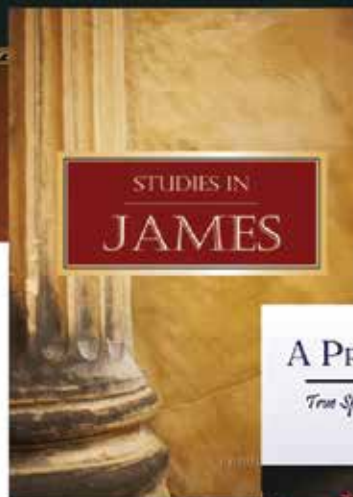
To read a short history of Berean Bible Society and our presidents,
please visit bereanbiblesociety.org/history

*Orders up to \$30, add \$4 for shipping and handling;
orders over \$30, add 15%. Please inquire for international rates.
Wisconsin residents, please add 5.6% sales tax to books and postage.

(262) 255-4750 or www.bereanbiblesociety.org

How Do You Pray?

James says, "the prayer of faith shall save the sick," (James 5:15), but Paul says, "we know not what we should pray for as we ought" (Rom. 8:26). If you're not sure how to pray, an understanding of the books of Romans and James will help you settle into all the comfort that a praying life can give.

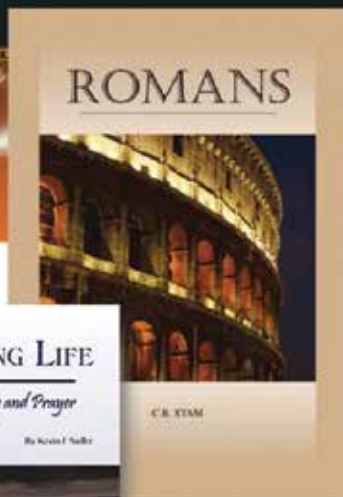


Studies in James

by Paul M. Sadler

Paperback 156 pages

(Reg. \$10.00*)

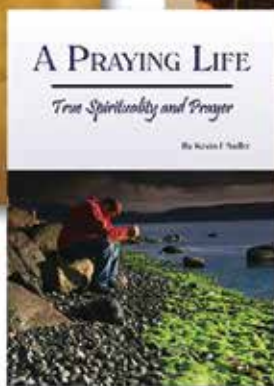


Romans

by C.R. Stam

Hardcover 452 pages

(Reg. \$16.50*)



A Praying Life

by Kevin J. Sadler

Booklet 50 pages

(Reg. \$4.00*)

Buy all three books for \$25 plus s&h* (Reg. \$30.50)

Books are sold separately at regular price.

Sale price ends February 28, 2018



News and Announcements

Transformed By Grace Update: Our TV program can now be seen on satellite television in addition to broadcast TV. DirecTV customers can find us on Channel 376, while Dish Network subscribers should tune to Channel 267. You can also be transformed by grace on Channel 117 in the Glory Star Satellite System. Just leave your television on after *Through The Bible with Les Feldick* ends on Monday at 6 p.m. EST, and you can't miss us!

You Can Help! You can actually help increase the exposure of *Transformed By Grace* in your area. Cable TV subscribers know that most communities have a public access channel where town meetings and other such civic activities can be viewed. Many of these stations allow local pastors the opportunity to present a message as well. Why not contact your provider today to ask about the possibility of presenting *Transformed By Grace* on your public access channel? This is a good way to promote your local church or Bible study group! Write or call us today for further information.

Winter Bible Conference: *Grace Bible Fellowship* of Nokomis would like to welcome you to sunny Florida for some meetings that are sure to warm your heart this February 17 & 18. Pastor Don Hosfeld has invited Pastor John Fredericksen to lead the saints in the study of God's rightly divided Word. John pastors the *Haven of Grace Bible Church* in Orlando, and is the chairman of our board of directors here at *Berean Bible Society*. For further information, contact Whitey Myers at (941) 564-6637.

Our Full Conference Schedule for 2018 will appear in our March issue. Keep an eye on our website for individual postings in the meantime, and contact us without delay if you would like to have *Berean Bible Society* president Pastor Kevin Sadler or *Berean Searchlight* editor Pastor Ricky Kurth speak at your Bible conference, or at any special meetings your church may be planning this year. The pastors and teachers on our board of directors are also available: John Fredericksen, Jeff Seekins, Ken Lawson, Dave Brown.



On the cover, *Beagle Channel lighthouse*, in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, also called the *Las Eclaires lighthouse*, is an unmanned lighthouse in the Argentinean part of the channel, which lies at the southern end of South America. It is also known as the lighthouse at the end of the world.

Bible Study Booklets

PRICE LIST

C.R. STAM

Ambassadors for Christ	\$1.00
Answer to Catholicism	2.00
Believer's Walk	2.00
Continue Thou	1.00
Early Ministry of Paul.....	2.00
Faith of Christ	1.00
Fulfillment	1.00
God's Plan of Salvation	2.00
Hope for the Bereaved	2.00
Intelligent Christianity	2.00
Is Salvation Certain?	2.00
Knowledge of the Mystery	2.00
Logic of the Plan of Salvation	2.00
Lord's Prayer	1.00
Lord's Supper.....	2.00
Love of Christ.....	1.00
Our Oneness in Christ.....	1.00
Paul the Master Builder.....	2.00
Pentecostal Signs	2.00
Power of God.....	2.00
Preaching of the Cross.....	2.00
Rapture of the Church	1.00
Rome's Greatest Blunder.....	1.00
Saul the Sinner and	
Paul the Boaster	2.00
Seven Times a Failure	2.00
Simple as Can Be	
(English or Spanish).....	1.00
Sonship	1.00
Temple of God	1.00
That Blessed Hope.....	2.00
This Is That (English or Spanish)	2.00
Unanswered Prayer	
(English or Spanish)	1.00
Unpardonable Sin	1.00

Water Baptism.....	2.00
We Know a Secret.....	2.00
When the Lord	
Became Angry	1.00
Why Was Christ Baptized?	1.00
Will There Be Tears	
in Heaven?	1.00
Writings of John.....	2.00
Your Faith in God's Word	2.00

PAUL M. SADLER

According to the Scriptures	\$2.00
Are You Secure?	2.00
Dispensationalism	3.00
Historical Beginning	
of the Church.....	3.00
Supernatural Sign Gifts.....	4.00
Trials and Temptations.....	2.00
Uncertain Trumpet of	
Water Baptism.....	2.00

KEVIN SADLER

2 Great Commissions.....	\$3.00
A Praying Life	4.00
Grieving With Hope	3.00
The Rapture vs.	
The Second Coming.....	4.00

RICKY KURTH

Discerning the Will of God.....	\$3.00
Now That I Believe	
(English or Spanish).....	3.00

OTHER AUTHORS

Bible Contrasts (Adams)	\$3.00
Confession of Sins (Lawson)	2.00
Kingdom of Heaven and the	
Body of Christ (O'Hair)	1.00

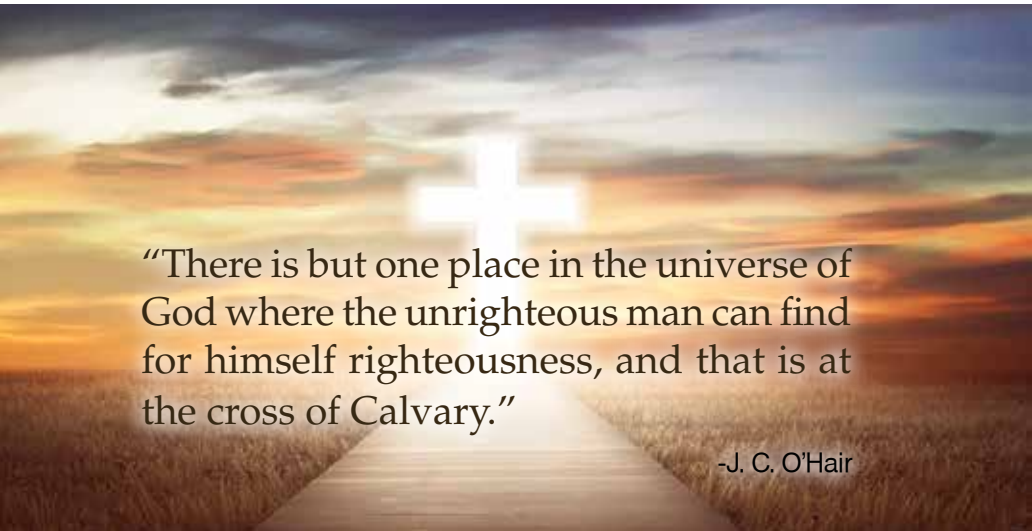
Orders up to \$30.00, please add **\$4.00** for Postage and Handling

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

Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency

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

PERIODICALS
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI
AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES

A photograph of a dirt path leading through a field of tall grass towards a large, glowing white cross in the distance. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The cross is the central focus, and the path leads the viewer's eye directly to it.

“There is but one place in the universe of
God where the unrighteous man can find
for himself righteousness, and that is at
the cross of Calvary.”

-J. C. O'Hair