

# *The* **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

March 2018



Feature Article

Two Evil Men, *by Kevin Sadler* .....5

Articles

“But God Hath Chosen the ‘Foolish Things,’” *by David Brown* .....13  
“Christ Is God” Follow-Up, *by Kevin Sadler* .....19  
Resurrect Your Christian Life! *by Ricky Kurth* .....21

Departments

2018 BBS Conference Schedule .....4  
World-Class Reconciliation.....18  
Question Box.....25  
News and Announcements .....30

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 S. 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](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org)  
E-mail: [berean@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:berean@bereanbiblesociety.org)

**The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), March 2018. Vol. 79, Number 1.**

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.



## *A Note From the President*

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are excited to announce some new and expanded opportunities that God has given to proclaim His grace through television. We wanted to make you aware of these opportunities so that you can be in prayer for them and also consider being a part of these new endeavors by your financial support.

On January 1st, *Transformed By Grace* began airing nationally on Christian Television Network (CTN) on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, after *Through the Bible* with Les Feldick. You can find CTN at the following channels: DirecTV Channel 376; DISH Network Channels 267 and 9399; and Glory Star Satellite System Channel 117. Through CTN, the program reaches 42 million U.S. households! Along with broadcasting in the United States, the Glory Star Satellite System broadcasts our program in Canada and Mexico as well. In addition, through CTN we are broadcasting on the Thaicom 5 Satellite, which reaches into significant portions of Asia, Africa, Europe, and Australia.

Along with all this, we agreed to an additional proposal from *New Day Media* for *Berean Bible Society* to have our own 24/7 streaming channel on Roku and Apple TV. Roku and Apple TV are devices for watching television by way of your internet router. If you have a newer “smart TV,” you may already have a Roku or Apple TV platform installed on your television. Our channel is currently streaming on Roku and Apple TV. Around the clock, there are videos by speakers from *Berean Bible Society*, including my messages on *Transformed By Grace*, as well as messages from the local church ministries of *Berean Searchlight* Editor Pastor Ricky Kurth and BBS Board members Pastor John Fredericksen, Pastor Jeff Seekins, and Pastor Ken Lawson. Also included is the series by my father, Paul M. Sadler, entitled *What It Means to Be a Grace Believer*. Messages by all these speakers are streaming 24 hours a day, plus individual messages are available to view on-demand. We also plan to use this channel to advertise BBS conferences, our literature, and grace churches.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider partnering with us financially in this missionary outreach to make the truth known. An increase of giving of \$5,000-\$6,000 per month would enable us to continue and maintain this new ministry. If you feel the Lord’s leading, and believe that this new branch of our ministry can make an impact for Christ and what He is doing today under grace, please consider giving or increasing your financial gifts to *Berean Bible Society*. To give specifically to our television ministry, please designate your gift towards the “Video Fund.” Above all, we covet your prayers for these steps of faith. In doing so, you truly are “helping together by prayer for us” (2 Cor. 1:11).

Grace to you,

Pastor Kevin Sadler, President

# 2018 BBS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



**Kentucky Bible Conference**, March 2-4, Alpha, KY

Pastors Kevin Sadler, John Fredericksen and Robert Nix

Contact: Jeff Bertram (606) 348-3071

**Arizona Bible Conference**, March 16-18, Sun City West, AZ

Pastor Kevin Sadler—Contact: Mark Dilley (623) 377-3071

**Northeast Ohio Bible Conference**, April 20-22, Ashtabula, OH

Pastor Kevin Sadler—Contact: David Adams (440) 992-9008

**Wisconsin Bible Conference**, May 5-6, Friendship, WI

Pastor Kevin Sadler—Contact: Tim Board (608) 403-7677

**South Central Alaska Conference**, May 26-27, Kenai, AK

Pastors Ricky Kurth, Don Webb, Ken Lyon

Contact: Josh Dennis (907) 252-8836

**50th Annual BBF Conference**, June 17-21, Tipp City, OH

Pastors Kevin Sadler, Ricky Kurth, John Fredericksen,  
Jeff Seekins, Ken Lawson, Mr. Dave Brown and others!

Contact: Tim Kenney (937) 325-9316

**Celebrate Grace Camp**, July 20-22, Montrose, CO

Pastor Kevin Sadler—Contact: David Bradford (719) 530-7201

**Bitely Bible Conference**, August 3-5, Bitely, MI

Pastor Ricky Kurth and others!—Contact: Ken Lyon (231) 689-1941

**BBS Regional Conference**, August/September, Southern Maryland

Pastor Kevin Sadler—Contact: Janna Gestner (301) 866-1616

**BBS Regional Conference**, October 5-7, Winston-Salem, NC

Pastor Kevin Sadler—Contact: Randy Foulke (919) 851-8530

**NGYC Fall Youth Retreat**, October 19-21, Gillett, WI

Pastor Kevin Sadler—Contact: Dave Green (888) 999-6492

**Grace Family Bible Church Conference**, November 3-4

Duncansville, PA—Pastor Kevin Sadler

Contact: James Zaebst (814) 696-4366

There may be changes and additions to these conferences. The BBS website and the BBS app have more comprehensive information on these conferences and will be kept up-to-date.



# Two Evil Men

From a message preached at the 2017 BBF  
Summer Conference in Tipp City, Ohio.

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER  
*President*

## The Sea Beast

**“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority” (Rev. 13:1-2).**

The “beast” is the Anti-Christ. Being called “a beast” teaches us what he will be like. He will be like a wild animal—predatory, fierce, vicious, strong, and dangerous. The “sea” in Scripture often refers to the nations of the world, as we learn from Revelation 17:15: “The waters which thou sawest...are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” In rising “up out of the sea,” we are taught that the Anti-Christ will rise up out of the nations. He will not rise up out of Israel or Jerusalem.

In Daniel 11:37, however, we find that the Anti-Christ will not

“regard the God of his fathers.” This teaches us that he will be a Jew, because the phrase “God of his fathers” is a Jewish expression (2 Kings 21:22) referring to the fathers of the Jewish nation: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Anti-Christ will be a Hebrew who comes from one of the Gentile nations. He will be the Anti-Christ, or false *Messiah*, so the Jews would never accept him or believe on him as their Messiah if he were not a son of Jacob.

The “seven heads and ten horns” of the beast refer to his power structure and alliances with kings and kingdoms in the future Tribulation (Rev. 17:9-13). The appearance of the Anti-Christ in verses 1 and 2 of Chapter 13 refer back to the Book of Daniel Chapter 7. Daniel had a dream and a vision of four beasts, representing great empires, rising up from the sea. The first was “like a **lion** [Babylon], and had eagle’s wings,” the “second, like to a **bear** [Media-Persia]...and it had three ribs in the mouth of it,” and the third “like a **leopard** [Greece], which had upon the



back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads” (Dan. 7:1-6). Daniel 7:7 says of the fourth beast that it will be “dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces...and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” This fourth beast is the Anti-Christ and his worldwide empire.

In Revelation 13, the Anti-Christ and his kingdom are seen as gathering in the symbolism of three preceding empires: Babylon the lion, Media-Persia the bear, and Greece the leopard. As Charles Swindoll states, “This symbolism suggests that the Anti-Christ of the future Tribulation will embody the sum total of all the world empires that opposed God and His people throughout history.”<sup>1</sup> The superpower of the Anti-Christ’s empire will be like all the vast wealth, splendor, glory, and military might of the ancient kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, Greece combined.

Verse 2 says about the beast, “and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.” The Anti-Christ will be empowered by Satan and given authority by him. In Christ’s temptation in the wilderness, Satan took our Lord “up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto Him, All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me” (Matt. 4:8,9). The Lord, of course, refused Satan’s offer, but the Anti-Christ will accept it, and will fall down and worship Satan.

And Satan, the dragon, will give him his power and seat and great authority over the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

### **The Assassination of the Beast**

**“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” (Rev. 13:3-4).**



One of the heads of the beast will be “as it were wounded to death.” The Greek word translated “wounded” means to be put to death by violence, to be mortally or fatally wounded. Revelation 5:6 speaks of Christ as “a Lamb as it had been *slain*.” “Slain” is translated from the exact same Greek word as for “wounded” in Revelation 13:3. Greek scholar Marvin Vincent (1834-1922) remarks, “Professor Milligan [William Milligan, D.D., well-known 19th Century commentator on the Book of Revelation] rightly observes that the statement is the counterpart of that in [Revelation 5:6], where we

read of the Lamb as though it had been slaughtered. In both cases there had been actual death, and in both revival. The one is a mocking counterpart of the other.<sup>72</sup> Be a Berean about this, but my personal belief is that the Anti-Christ will be assassinated. Revelation 17:8 lends additional credence to this:

**“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition...the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”**

The “was” here refers to the first 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation, when the beast will solve so many of the world’s problems, rise to power through politics, and bring about what appears to be world peace (Dan. 11:21; 1 Thes. 5:3). The “and is not” refers to his assassination in the middle of the Tribulation. At his death, his soul will descend into hades in the center of the earth, or “the bottomless pit.” Then, with God’s permission, he will give the world what it has always wanted: a savior other than Jesus Christ—a false savior. It is more than likely that this resurrection will occur after three days. Through the Anti-Christ, Satan will counterfeited the death, burial, and resurrection of the true Savior. We see this borne out in what the end of Revelation 17:8 says: “the beast that was [first 3 1/2 years], and is not [assassinated], and yet is [comes back from the dead].”

This catapults the Anti-Christ to an even more highly exalted earthly position. At that point, “all the world” will wonder after the beast (Rev. 13:3). Because of his seeming invulnerability

to death, he will gain worldwide acclaim, and the whole world will say, “Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” (v. 4). The implied answer to these rhetorical questions is “No one!” They will believe him

“What the Anti-Christ is to the one-world government, the False Prophet will be to the one-world religion.”

to be all-powerful, invincible, and God in flesh. It is at this point, the mid-point of the Tribulation, that the Anti-Christ rises to the point of reigning supreme in the political, military, and religious realms on the earth.

### **The Blasphemy of the Beast**

**“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven” (Rev. 13:5-6).**

As a result of the world’s adulation, and his pride, the beast opens his mouth in blasphemy against God (cf. 13:1b). Speaking of his blasphemy, Daniel 11:36 tells us, “...and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous [astonishing] things against the God of gods.” His blasphemy will not be subtle, but open and monstrous.

He will blaspheme “God” and “His name.” He will blaspheme

“His tabernacle,” or the abode of God and His throne in heaven. He will blaspheme “them that dwell in heaven,” which, in the context of Revelation, speaks of the martyrs of the Tribulation. The martyrs will be a joke to him, that they would die in the name of Jesus Christ.

The “given unto him” in verse 5 refers to “the dragon” in verse 2 who “gave him his power.” The one who gives him his mouth of blasphemy is Satan. The Anti-Christ will be the mouthpiece of Satan, voicing Satan’s absolute rage against God. Showing that God is in control, however, verse 5 reveals that all this is only going to continue for “forty and two months” or 3 1/2 years. The Anti-Christ will operate only within the time limit set by the true, sovereign Ruler of the universe.

### **The Persecution by the Beast**

**“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints” (Rev. 13:7-10).**

The Anti-Christ won’t be all talk. In his hatred for God, he wages war against the saints of God. From Satan’s hatred of the

saints, he gives unto the Anti-Christ the same hatred and murderous fury against the people of God. After posing as their protector for 3 1/2 years, the Anti-Christ will show his true colors halfway through the Tribulation. He will betray Israel and break his seven-year covenant with them (Dan. 9:27) and unleash a persecution unparalleled in history.

He will turn on the Jewish people, take over their temple, and demand that the Jews and the world worship him as God and the true Messiah. He will pursue, “overcome,” and destroy those who do not. Daniel 7:25 says he will “wear out the saints of the most High.” He will hunt down the saints of God to kill them all.

The beast’s rule and authority in that day will be “over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations” (Rev. 13:7). He will be a dictator over a global empire. He will counterfeit Christ’s worldwide kingdom reign on the earth and have one himself, but only for a time. He will have the worship of the world, of all unbelievers, “whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

This section concludes with a call for spiritual understanding: “If any man have an ear, let him hear” (v. 9). The message from verse 10 is this: let the beast do his worst and have his hour. Those who will lead you into captivity will go into captivity and those who will kill you with the sword will be killed with the sword (v. 10). Vengeance is the Lord’s; He will repay (Deut. 32:35; Rom. 12:19). God is righteous and



just. It will be captivity for captivity, torment for torment, sword for sword, and death for death, at Armageddon and forever in the Lake of Fire. The Anti-Christ and unbelievers from the Tribulation will be punished for the sins they commit against God's people. To the Tribulation saints, here the Word of God says that this is your cause for "patience" to endure it all and trust that God will repay, for God is faithful to His promises.

### The Land Beast

**"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed" (Rev. 13:11-12).**

In verses 11-18, we learn about another prominent figure of the Tribulation period. The fact that he too is called a "beast" shows that he is just as ruthless, vicious, and dangerous as the Anti-Christ. He will have the same purpose and goals as the Anti-Christ and will be his right-hand man: the False Prophet.

In this chapter, we have a sea beast and a land beast. The beast who rises out of the sea is the Anti-Christ. The beast who rises out of the earth is the False Prophet. Because the False Prophet comes from "the earth," or the land, I believe that he will rise out of the Promised Land, or the country of Israel.

He will have "two horns like a lamb." The two horns indicate

that he has authority, but since the horns do not have "crowns" like the horns in verse 1 do, it suggests that his authority is not political, but instead religious. The False Prophet will be the leader of the cultic and idolatrous worship of Babylon. What the Anti-Christ is to the one-world government, the False Prophet will be to the one-world religion.



The False Prophet is likened to "a lamb." He will be *seemingly* harmless, meek, and mild. In truth, he will be a vicious wolf in sheep's clothing. His persona will be that of a lamb but he will speak "as a dragon." Like the Anti-Christ, the False Prophet will be a mouthpiece of Satan, subtly deceiving humankind with his words. And he will exercise the same power and authority as the Anti-Christ, because both are empowered by the same source: Satan. The purpose of his power and authority will be to cause "the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast" (v. 12).

This reminds us of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. In John 16:13,14, the Lord says, "...when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself...

He shall glorify Me.” The Holy Spirit came to point people to Christ, to bear witness to Him, and to glorify Him. He still does this, at the time of this writing, under grace. In the Tribulation, the False Prophet will imitate the ministry of the Holy Spirit, pointing people to the Anti-Christ, to worship him alone.

### **Miracles and Deception**

**“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed” (Rev. 13:13-15).**

The False Prophet will perform “great wonders” by Satan’s power. He will make “fire come down from heaven on the earth.” In Job 1:16, Satan sent fire from heaven and burned up Job’s sheep and servants. This is a supernatural thing that Satan can do and has done. All the miracles the False Prophet does “in the sight of the beast,” and in support of him, is for the sole purpose to deceive, for people to believe the lie that the Anti-Christ is God in flesh and the Messiah, and that all should follow and worship only him.

The False Prophet will direct the world to “make an image to

the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live” (Rev. 13:14b). In celebration of the Anti-Christ’s resurrection after his assassination, the False Prophet proclaims that an image should be made to the Anti-Christ. It will be made in tribute to him, a statue symbolizing his deity and a call to worldwide worship of him. The world will submit willingly, and the image will be made.

God’s Word denounces idols as having mouths but being unable to speak (Psa. 115:4-8). In an astounding supernatural display of power to deceive, the False Prophet, by the power of Satan, gives life to the idol, and it even speaks!

The idol will be set up in the temple in Jerusalem. Setting up any idol is bad, but setting up a satanic idol *in God’s temple* is the ultimate blasphemy. This is the abomination of desolation (Dan. 9:27). Matthew 24:15,16 says, “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place...Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.” An idol in the temple is an *abomination* to God; it *desolates* or desecrates or makes wretched the temple of God. This will be a sign for believers in Israel to flee, because the greatest persecution of God’s people is going to begin immediately. They will need to run in order to survive in that day (Matt. 24:16-21).

Reminiscent of the days of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, when Nebuchadnezzar erected a golden statue of himself and demanded worship by all or

else be cast into the fiery furnace (Dan. 3:1-11), the False Prophet will *require* all to worship the image of the beast or “be killed.” Worship the idol or be executed will be their only options.

### **The Mark of the Beast**

**“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred three score and six” (Rev. 13:16-18).**

The False Prophet causes all to worship the image of the beast, and he causes all to receive the mark of the beast “in their right hand, or in their foreheads.” The decree is for all people, in whatever category of society: “small and great, rich and poor, free and bond.”



The primary sense of the Greek word for “mark” is that of engraving or etching, a permanent stamp or badge of servitude. In time past, tattoos or brands were commonly given to slaves and

soldiers. The mark is something that is easily seen and shown to all on the skin. The mark won’t be done unknowingly or accidentally. It will be clear to all. All will see it or all will not see it.

The beast’s mark on the forehead or right hand will signify that that person is loyal to Anti-Christ. Refusing the mark will demonstrate faith in Jesus Christ. At no other time in history will the identity of true believers in Christ be so clear. This mark will be used by the False Prophet and the Anti-Christ to identify believers in Christ, making it easier to find and kill them all.

There will be dire practical consequences in daily living if a person does not take the mark. The worldwide decree will be that one cannot buy or sell without the mark of the beast, the name of the beast, or the number of his name on the right hand or forehead.

The temptation for all in that day will be to take the mark so as to be able to buy and sell food and other necessities. Believers will need to overcome (Rev. 3:5), abide in Christ (John 15:1-6), and “endure unto the end” of the Tribulation (Matt. 24:13) in order to be saved out of this horrific time. Above all, they must not take the mark, because whoever takes the mark in that day will immediately be marked for the Lake of Fire. Revelation 14:9-11 teaches us, when that day comes,

**“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone...And the smoke**

**of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever....”**

The “number of his name” is given to us in Revelation 13:18: “Six hundred three score and six.” The exclamation, “Here is wisdom,” is a warning to those alive in that day: Be wise. You need to recognize what is happening and be wise never to take this number, which we all know to be 666.



Six is “the number of a man” (v. 18). Man was created on the sixth day, his average height is six feet, God’s workweek for him is six days, and when he dies he is buried six feet deep. Seven is God’s number, the number of perfection and fullness in Scripture. Man’s number is six, which is short of perfection, as is mankind, all of whom fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

Angels around the throne of God continually say, “Holy, holy, holy,” Revelation 4:8 says. “Holy” repeated three times stresses God’s perfect, triune holiness and being set apart and being greater than all. Repeating the number 6 three times emphasizes man and his self-supposed greatness. Man loves to make a god out of himself and his own thoughts.

As for how it ends for these two evil men, they will both be completely crushed at the Battle

of Armageddon. Both will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. They will be its first two inhabitants and will be tormented there forever and ever. From Revelation 19:20 we learn,

**“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”**

God has information about the Anti-Christ in His Word for a reason. First and foremost, it’s for the people in the future to be able to identify who he is, having the Scripture to identify him. Second, it comforts us to know that God knows the future and that He is in control. And having a solid understanding about the Anti-Christ from God’s Word allows us to answer people’s questions about him and correct people’s misunderstandings.

We, the Body of Christ, will not know who the Anti-Christ is while we are on earth. We are delivered “from the wrath to come” (1 Thes. 1:10). Anti-Christ will be revealed *after* our catching away to heaven at the Rapture. Praise the Lord for our hope in Him!



## ENDNOTES

1. Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll’s New Testament Insights—Insights on Revelation* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2011), p. 179.
2. Marvin R. Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume II—The Writings of John* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980), p. 527.



# “But God Hath Chosen the ‘Foolish Things’”

DAVE BROWN

BBS Board

There are times when *representatives* are needed. They may be needed by our government, an organization, a school, or a company. The representatives must be carefully chosen, because they will stand for us, and they will act for us. Therefore choosing the right representative is a very important decision. They need to make a good impression for us. They should be the biggest, the brightest, the strongest, the most eloquent, witty, and charming, so that they make the very best impression for us. Of course, we would never want to be like the Corinthians in our quest for representatives.

The Corinthian church had numerous problems to be dealt with. Intellectual pride and respecting of persons were among the problems. Corinth was a city near Athens, only 45 miles away. When the Corinthians looked to the east, they could see the Parthenon on top of the Acropolis of Athens. It stood as a symbol of preeminence, superiority, and notability. With this constant reminder, and the influence of the Greek's emphasis on philosophy and wisdom,

the believers at Corinth placed a high value on worldly wisdom, knowledge, philosophy and honored the educated, the mighty, and the noble. In this passage, Paul points out the error of their ways in their thinking. He presents the spiritual viewpoint concerning these things. He presented God's viewpoint.

Paul had a personal concern for the Corinthians. The Corinthians were Paul's children in the faith. First Corinthians 4:15 says, “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.” It was Paul who preached to them Christ crucified for their sins. It was the clear and simple gospel that they believed for their salvation. Paul was their spiritual father in the faith. He had a heartfelt desire to see them be fruitful in the church.

**“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:**

**“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath**

chosen the *weak things* of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

**“And *base things* of the world, and *things which are despised*, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:**

**“That no flesh should glory in His presence.**

**“But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**

**“That according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (1 Cor. 1:26-31).**

Our only value is in Christ. Christ is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. These are the things that count not only in this life but also in eternity.

In light of this passage we have four goals.

1. Analyze in detail one Scriptural example of this concept and see if it holds true.
2. List a number of other examples in Scripture.
3. Answer the question, *Why* has God chosen the foolish, the weak, and the base things?
4. Make application to our lives.

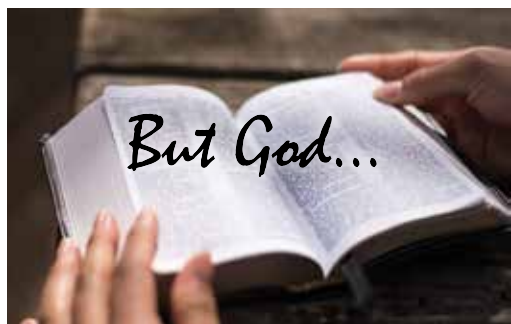
### **GOAL 1: A DETAILED EXAMPLE**

#### **“For You See”**

“For ye see your calling...” (v. 26). In other words, take a look around at your assembly and see who makes up the body of believers. Why it’s just ordinary people! So, who is it that God is going to use to carry out His will? Just ordinary, everyday-type people, saved people, like you and me.

Those are the people God is going to use to carry out His will in this world in which we live. God could have chosen the wise. He could have chosen the mighty. He could have chosen the noble. *But God* has chosen the foolish, the weak, the base, and the despised to carry out His will.

To carry out His will, we must understand what it is. What is God’s will? First Timothy 2:4 says, “Who [i.e. God] will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the [full] knowledge of the truth.” That is the epignosis, which is the *full* knowledge of the mystery. We know it to be God’s will that people understand the body of truth known as the mystery which was committed to the Apostle Paul. In addition Ephesians 2:10 states, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” So it is God’s desire that all men get saved, that they understand the mystery, and that they do good works.



First Corinthians 1:27 starts with these words, “*but God* hath chosen the foolish things...” Aren’t those great words for us to hear—“*but God?*” Because of those wonderful words, “*but God,*” you



and I can be used of God. Can God use the others? Yes. There may be some wise, mighty, and noble people in your church. They are needed too, but not as many. God didn't say not "any" one else, but not "many." God has made gracious provision for all of us to be used of Him.

### **"Things"**

"But God has chosen" these things (v. 27). *What are these "things" that God has chosen?* How do we know if these things are people or inanimate objects? The word "but" indicates these *things* are being contrasted with verse 26, which says not many "wise men" are called. Not many mighty. Mighty what? Mighty men! Not many noble. Noble what? Noble men. He is talking about *people*. He is talking about *men, women, boys, and girls*. Men, women, boys, and girls who are *not wise, not mighty, and not noble*. In other words, they are pretty ordinary.

### **"But God"**

Man likes (and the Corinthians liked) the wise, the mighty, and the noble in the world in their endeavors, *but God* likes to use the foolish, the weak, the base, and the despised. Who has God chosen to use? There is man's logical choice and there is God's logical choice. They are different.

Three different classes of people are identified. They are listed as the *wise, mighty, and noble*. What is meant by wise, mighty, and noble? They might be best defined as being the opposite of what they are being contrasted with. They are the opposite of the

foolish, weak, base, and despised people of verses 27-28.



**"There is man's logical choice and there is God's logical choice."**

An example of these characteristics can be found in Acts 3-4. It is a passage that uses these very terms. It contains examples of the different classes of people God has chosen to use and not use. Look for the different classes or categories of people as you read the passage. Peter and John heal a certain man lame from his mother's womb. He is more than 40 years old.

**"Then Peter said, silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.**

**"And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.**

**"And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:6-8).**

**"And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,**

**"And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were**

of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

**“And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?”**

**“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,**

**“If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the *impotent man*, by what means he is made whole;**

**“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of *Jesus Christ* of Nazareth, whom *ye crucified*, whom God raised from the dead, even by *Him* doth this man stand here before you whole.**

**“This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.**

**“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

**“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were *unlearned and ignorant men*, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:5-13).**

Notice the four different classes of people: Peter and John, the healed man, the elders, the scribes, the high priest *plus* his kindred, and Christ. (Compare these to 1 Cor. 1:27).

### **“Foolish Things”**

**“But God hath chosen the foolish” (1 Cor. 1:27).**

The Greek word for foolish is spelled *m-o-r-o-s*. Notice how close

it is to our English word “moron.” Vine’s Expository Dictionary uses the words: dull, sluggish, stupid. Strong’s Concordance uses the words: dull, stupid, blockhead. This passage did not use the word *foolish*, but notice Peter and John were described as “unlearned and ignorant men.” In the world’s eyes they were not wise but considered fools (ignorant and unlearned Acts 4:13). Whereas, Israel’s rulers, elders, scribes, Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas were the ones passing judgment, those who would be considered the wise. *Which people did God use? Peter and John, who were considered morons, being unlearned and ignorant men.*

### **“Unlearned and Ignorant Men”**

Unlearned is translated from the Greek word *a-grammatos* which is the opposite of *grammatos*. You can see that this is where we get our English word for grammar, referring to letters, writing, learning, and education, as used in our reference to grammar school. An example of the use of *grammatos* is found in Acts 26:24.



**“And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad” (Acts 26:24).**

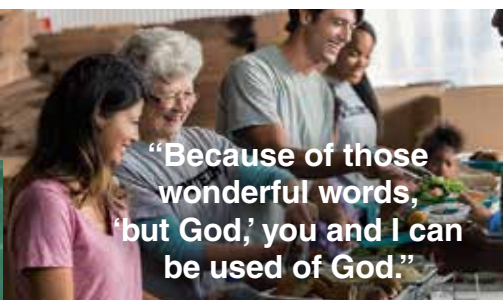
Paul was highly educated (*grammatus*). On the other hand, Peter and John were *uneducated* (*agrammatus*). Peter and John were also described as “ignorant.” The Greek word for ignorant is *i-d-i-o-t-e-s*.

Peter and John were considered *uneducated idiots*. In the eyes of the world they were *foolish*. In the eyes of the world the rulers, elders, scribes, and High priest and his kindred were considered wise.

“But God” sees them differently. The wise leaders of Israel, viewed Peter and John as unlearned and ignorant men—but *God*—chose to use the lives of these men to carry out His purpose to His glory.

**“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool [let him recognize how little he knows], that he may be wise.**

**“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...” (1 Cor. 3:18,19).**



You are truly wise when you recognize how little you know.

Does that mean that God cannot use intelligent, well-educated people? Intelligent, well-educated people can be used of God if they humbly recognize how little they know in God’s universe. The people who acknowledge that

they don’t know it all, that they know almost nothing compared to God, *can be used of God in a mighty way*.

Remember when God adjusted Job’s perspective? “Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?...Where was thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou has understanding” (Job 38:2,4). That set Job straight pretty quick.

So in Acts 3-4, it was those *who were said to have been unlearned and ignorant men* (a.k.a. uneducated idiots) that were used of God to bring God glory.

### **“The Weak Things”**

The word “weak” (1 Cor. 1:27) can be translated impotent or feeble. The man who was healed and *brought glory to God* was an *impotent* man without strength.

**“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...**

**“If the foot shall say, because I am not the hand, I am not of the body” (1 Cor. 12:13,15,16).**

**“Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more *feeble*, are necessary:**


**“And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness” (1 Cor. 12:22,23).**

In Acts 3-4, it was the weak, impotent, and feeble that were used to serve and glorify God.

Consider three Greek words that are related to the Greek word for “base things.” The first Greek word is *genos*. Related English words include generation and genealogy. In the New

Testament it is translated “kind,” “kindred,” and “offspring.” In Acts 4:6, it referred to the kindred of the high priest. The Apostle Paul warned Timothy “neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies” (1 Tim. 1:4). To whom someone was related did not impress God.

The second Greek word is *agenes*, meaning without genealogy, without kin or kindred, low born, without family, race, reputation, and of unknown descent. First Corinthians 1:28 uses this word for the *base* things of the world.

The third Greek word is *eugenes*. *Eu* means pleasant, well, or good. In English we see that in the words eulogize (to speak well of) or euphoria (to feel good). *Eugenes* means “well born” or “high in rank.” It is the same word used to describe the Bereans (Acts 17:11) who were considered noble. First Corinthians 1:26 points out that not many noble are called. In Acts 3-4, *it was not the kindred, noble, well born, or those with genealogies, but the base, the low born* that were used to serve and glorify God. 

## World-Class Reconciliation

The Apostle Paul, referring to the crucifixion, declares 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” (2 Cor. 5:19).

How could He have shown sinners more conclusively that He desires their good than by imputing their sins to Christ and telling them that He is not imputing their trespasses unto them? Their trespasses will be imputed to them, of course, if they reject God’s provision of salvation through Christ, but for the present it is a wonderful fact that we can go to any sinner and say on the authority of God’s written Word: “Your sins have been paid for; God is not holding them against you. Will you accept His love and receive Christ as your Savior?” —C. R. Stam



# “CHRIST IS GOD”

## Follow Up

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER

BBS President

The short article that I wrote, entitled “Christ Is God,” on page 15 of the December 2017 *Searchlight*, generated quite a few responses. Many of you have had personal dealings with Jehovah’s Witnesses. I enjoyed the interaction from those who contacted me with their advice and recommendations. Several offered passages of Scripture to use in showing Christ’s Deity, and it was recommended to me to use the Book of Revelation because it is very important to Jehovah’s Witnesses. For example, one of my favorite techniques begins by showing how the “Alpha and Omega” is God in Revelation 1:8 and Revelation 21:6-7:

**“I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, THE ALMIGHTY” (1:8).**

**“I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I WILL BE HIS GOD, and he shall be My son” (21:6-7).**

Having established that the Alpha and Omega is Jehovah God, we point out that He is called “the First and the Last” in Revelation 22:13:

**“I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”**

Then going back to Revelation 1:17-18, here is what we read about the First and the Last:

**“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the First and the Last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore....”**

Then you can ask the question, “If the First and the Last is God, when did Jehovah die? When did God die and come back to life again?”



Out of all the responses I received, one phone call that really struck me was from a brother in Christ who was formerly a Jehovah's Witness but is now a grace believer. Knowing firsthand of the false teachings in which they are ensnared, he has a deep desire for them to come to Christ. He said that what he's come to realize from his own personal experience is that it does little good to try to convince Jehovah's Witnesses that Christ is God. He came to this belief by Luke 10:22:

**"All things are delivered to Me of my Father: and no man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him."**

When Jehovah's Witnesses attempt to argue with him about the Trinity or Christ's Deity, he said that he takes them to this verse in Luke first, and then he steers the conversation away from this topic toward other things such as receiving the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9). He then proceeds to share the gospel of grace with them. By trusting the good news that Christ the Savior died for their sins and rose again, and then receiving the Holy Spirit, they then can see and understand by the Holy Spirit that Christ is God.

I thought this was great advice! As 1 Corinthians 2:14 teaches us,

**"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."**



# Northeast Ohio BIBLE CONFERENCE



**DATES:** April 20-22, 2018

**LOCATION:** *First Grace Gospel Church*  
5730 Adams Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Kevin Sadler  
*Berean Bible Society President*

For directions and additional  
information, please contact:

Pastor David Adams at:  
440-992-9008 or 440-997-8191





# Resurrect Your Christian Life!

(An excerpt from *Rightly Divided*  
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions.)

PASTOR RICKY KURTH  
Editor

At this season of the year, pastors talk a lot about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. But very few of them will tell their congregations how to *attain* to His resurrection. The Apostle Paul felt that this was so important he sought to attain it *by any means possible*.

***“If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead” (Phil. 3:11).***

But what does it mean to “attain unto the resurrection of the dead?” Those who teach that a believer can lose his salvation use this verse to say, “See, even the great apostle Paul wasn’t sure he would attain the resurrection that will come after we die and go to Heaven.” But this notion is easy to dismiss with a quick glance at the verse that follows, which says,

***“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after...” (v. 12).***

If Paul were saying he hoped to attain the resurrection that would come after he died, would he have had to say that he hadn’t yet attained it while he was still

alive? Of course not! But if he’s not talking about *that* resurrection, what resurrection was he hoping to attain?

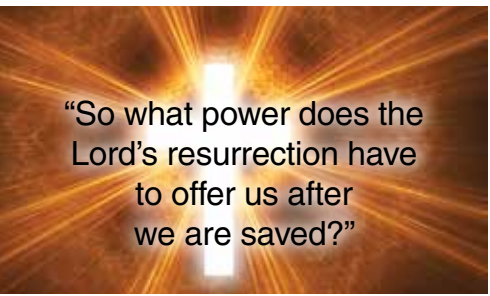
Well, if we back up in this passage just a couple of verses, we see that Paul wasn’t hoping to attain the resurrection that would come at the Rapture. The context had to do with his desire to live the resurrection life *before he died!* In verse 10 we find Paul expressing what he desired for himself *in this life*:

***“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection...If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead” (Phil. 3:10,11).***

As you can see, in the context, Paul wasn’t talking about attaining the resurrection that would come after he died. He was talking about attaining *the power* of Christ’s resurrection *now, in this life*.

To understand what Paul meant by that, we must first understand what he meant when he said he desired to know the Lord. After all, he’d already known the Lord for thirty years! He got to

know Him the day he was saved. But now he wanted to know the Lord *more*.



“So what power does the Lord’s resurrection have to offer us after we are saved?”

And the same thing applies when he said he wanted to know the power of His resurrection. He had come to know the power of Christ’s resurrection when he was saved, as had the Romans, to whom he wrote, “Jesus our Lord... was delivered for our offences, *and was raised again for our justification*” (Rom. 4:24,25). Paul was justified by the power of the Lord’s resurrection, just as the Romans were. But once he was saved, he wanted to know *more* of that resurrection power—and so should we!

### **More Power to You**

So what power does the Lord’s resurrection have to offer us after we are saved? Well, for one thing, it gives us the power *not to sin*. That’s a power you didn’t have before you were saved, for before you were saved *everything you did was sin*. That might sound like a startling thing to say, but I don’t know how else to interpret Solomon’s words in Proverbs 21:4:

**“An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.”**

How can plowing a field be considered a sin? After all, God

commands us to work for a living (Ex. 20:9), and in light of that command, it would seem that when a farmer plows his field it would be *obedience* to God, not a sin against Him. But the fact is, *nothing* an unsaved man does pleases God. Speaking on behalf of his unsaved countrymen, Isaiah declared, “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isa. 64:6).

But once you are saved, the resurrection of Christ gives you the power not to sin. When a saved man plows his field, God considers it an act of obedience to His command to work for a living, not sin. *That’s* the power that the resurrection of Christ gives us once we are saved, and that was a power that Paul wanted to know more and more!

Christ’s resurrection also gives you the power *to serve the Lord*, another ability you did not possess before you were saved, as these men learned the hard way:

**“Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?”**

**“And then will I profess unto them, *I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity*” (Matt. 7:22,23).**

These are men who *thought* they were serving the Lord in doing those wonderful works, but because they weren’t saved, *their service was iniquity*. But when you serve the Lord after you are saved, the resurrection of Christ gives you the power for the things you do to be *counted* as serving the Lord, and *not* as iniquity. And

Paul certainly wanted to experience more of *that* kind of power as well.

And that's what living the resurrection life is all about. I mean, isn't it true that after you rise from the dead you won't sin any more? Of course! And aren't you going to spend all your time serving the Lord when that day comes? The Apostle John thought so! (Rev. 22:3). Well, if you're never going to sin after you rise from the dead, and you're always going to serve the Lord, would you call living like that now, in this life, *living the resurrection life*? Wouldn't you like to attain that kind of life now? Paul did too! And in the context, *that's what he meant* when he said he wanted to "attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

### What's the Catch?

While you probably answered "yes" when I asked if you would like to attain that kind of life now, are you willing to attain it "by any means?" Before you answer, remember that "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus *shall suffer persecution*" (2 Tim. 3:12). That means if you're going to say you want to know more of the power of Christ's resurrection, more of the power to sin less and serve the Lord more, you'd better be willing to say you want to know more of what it means to suffer for the Lord. Paul knew that's what it meant to say that, for he went on in this passage to add,

**"That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings..." (Phil. 3:10).**

Now, if you think about it, this is an astounding statement for

Paul to make. I mean, he had already come to know *plenty* of the Lord's sufferings! He chronicled an incredible list of them some years earlier (2 Cor. 11:23-27) and had no doubt added to that remarkable list in the years since. How amazing, then, to hear him say that he yearned to know *more* of "the fellowship of His sufferings."

If you're not sure why Paul calls suffering for the Lord a "fellowship," consider that the apostle says he suffered the things he suffered to "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ" (Col. 1:24). Now, the Lord didn't leave behind anything that needed to be suffered to *pay for our sins*, of course. But what other sufferings could Paul have had in mind?

To answer, I like to compare what Richard Nixon said when he retired from politics after losing the 1960 election to John F. Kennedy. Addressing the press who had hounded him during his political life, he said, "You won't have Nixon to kick around any more." In the same way, after the Lord rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, the world didn't have *Him* to kick around any more, so they directed all their persecution *toward His people*.

And that's the *only* kind of suffering that Christ left behind, the persecution that He was no longer here to suffer. And that's why Paul calls it "the *fellowship* of His sufferings." They are *His* sufferings. He's just not here to suffer them any more. So when we suffer them for Him, we share these sufferings with Him "in fellowship" (cf. Lev. 6:2).

There's also an *additional* reason why our sufferings are called the fellowship of His sufferings. We are members of the Body of Christ, a body of which Christ is the Head (Col. 1:18). In your



physical body, when your foot hurts, *your head feels the pain*. And that's how it works in the Body of Christ as well. As the Head of the Body, the Lord Jesus Christ feels the pain of everything you suffer for Him. No wonder

Paul calls it the fellowship of His sufferings!

Now, your "old man," the old nature you inherited from Adam, doesn't *like* to suffer for *any* reason, especially for the Lord. So for you to want more of the fellowship of Christ's sufferings, you're going to have to *die to self*. Paul understood this. That's why he went on to say,

**"That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death" (Phil. 3:10).**

What does it mean to be made conformable unto the Lord's death? Well, isn't death the wages of sin? (Rom. 6:23). What does that tell you about *the Lord's* death? It tells you that it was a death that *He didn't have to die*. He was no sinner, so He had every right *not* to die. But He *surrendered* His right in order to die for our sins.


In the same way, you have every right not to have to suffer for the Lord. There's no law that says you

have to suffer for Christ now that you are saved. But if you want to live the resurrection life now, in this life, you have to *give up* your right not to suffer in order to enter into the fellowship of His sufferings. That's how we are made conformable unto the death of the One who didn't have to die.

Living the resurrection life is actually *the reason God saved us*, as Paul went on to say in our text:

**"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:11,12).**

Don't you just love that word *apprehended*? When you are watching the news, who do they always say the police "apprehended?" The bad guys! Saul of Tarsus was certainly a bad guy, but the Lord apprehended him on Damascus Road.

But in God's eyes, you were a bad guy too before you were saved. You might not have been as bad as Saul of Tarsus, but since everything you did as an unbeliever was sin, you were just as big a fugitive from the justice of God as he was. But the Lord apprehended you, just as He apprehended Paul, *that you might apprehend that for which the Lord apprehended you!* The express purpose for which the Lord saved you was so that you might attain unto the resurrection of the dead *now*, in this life. Like Paul, none of us have yet attained unto that perfection. But like Paul, I hope you're following after that worthiest of all spiritual goals! 

## Question Box


*“What does Paul mean when he says that he was the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles ‘that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost (Rom. 15:16)?”*

Under the Law, the Gentiles *couldn't* offer themselves up as an offering that would be “acceptable” unto God as Paul tells us to do (Rom. 12:1,2). But now we are “sanctified” or *set apart to God* by the Holy Spirit—that is, by the *Word* of the Spirit, the words the Spirit teaches *in His Word* (1 Cor. 2:13). In His *rightly divided* Word, He teaches in Paul's epistles that the grace of God is now available to Gentiles as well as to Jews. Paul told the Ephesian elders,

**“...the word of His grace...is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).**

See the connection? The Jews were sanctified, and so their sacrifices were acceptable to God, and now *we too* are sanctified by “the word of His grace” that the Spirit presents in His Word through the Apostle Paul. So when the Macedonians “gave their own selves to the Lord,” they were able to do this “by the will of God” (2 Cor. 8:5). They couldn't have done that under the Law, for God wouldn't have accepted their offering. But under grace, “the offering up of the Gentiles” is “acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.”

—Pastor Kurth



**One life**—your life—can make a difference. When God parted the waters of the Red Sea, how many did He call to lead His deliverance? One man: Moses! When the chosen people of God were faced with extinction at the hand of Haman, how many made a difference? One woman: Esther! When the murderous Athaliah sought to destroy all the royal seed through which the Redeemer would come, how many stood in her way? One woman: Jehosheba! When God made known the secret counsel of His will that was hidden from ages and generations past, how many did he initially call to make known the riches of His grace? One man: Paul! One solitary life yielded to God's purpose can make a difference.—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



# BBS Letter Excerpts

## From Wisconsin:

"Pastor Sadler, we are so happy that you put *Transformed by Grace* on YouTube. We could not get it on TV in Bowler...I have sent the info to all my Grace friends. Your messages are very moving and easy to understand."

## From Georgia:

"When you first announced the new TV series we did not have it. By chance I discovered it on DirecTV Monday evening at 6 p.m. I jumped in joy stumbling onto that!...you may put that DirecTV info out at the head of your *Two Minutes* daily letter for a week or so. I bet it would grab thousands of new viewers. I spread the news to 20 friends today." (Thanks, we did! -Ed).

## From Alabama:

"What a thrill it was when I heard a Bible teacher on TV as I was in another room, and realized he was a Pauline grace believer and then to see it was Brother Sadler!...You...led me to my study group in Rogersville. It has grown from about seven to about fourteen!...I was blessed to get to attend a conference in Tennessee a few years back with Brother Fredricksen and was blessed to talk with Brother Paul Sadler a couple of years back!"

## From Washington:

"Thank you for your recent letter of encouragement to me, it really helped. I guess I didn't fully realize the depth of God's grace."

## From Indiana:

"I am enjoying and learning from your excellent review of your trip 'In the Footsteps of Paul.' It has been very well edited with each picture well-chosen and placed. Thanks for sharing and to all who made it possible."

## From Portugal:

"There are some grace churches in the northern part of Portugal, thanks to some brethren that came to know some of Pastor Stam's writings about 40 years ago. It caused some divisions, because the vast majority here in Portugal don't rightly divide, but we grace churches continue to teach Paul's gospel...Many years ago I started to listen to all of the audio messages available on the BBS site, and it was a true blessing to hear your messages on Galatians and Philipppians."

## From Pennsylvania:

"The prophecy/mystery chart that appears on pages 14 and 15 of the November *Searchlight* is simply outstanding! This illustration is, in fact, so outstanding that it would be quite shameful to allow it to make only a one-time appearance. Perhaps the *Searchlight* editors could print this two-page illustration at least once every year." (We printed it in a tract called *Basic Distinctions between Prophecy and the Mystery*. -Ed).

## From Facebook:

"Yay!!! So happy to be able to view [*Transformed By Grace*] on DirecTV. Thank you."



### From Tennessee:

"I just discovered your site late in 2017, and received my first issue of *Searchlight* in November 2017...I am using the *Searchlight* as a teaching aid during Sunday School, as our ladies' class works through the book of Acts this semester, and found the article on Paul's journey through Corinth a great help as I prepare for this week's lesson."

### From Iowa:

"I loved Paul Sadler's opening article in the October issue on 'Break With Tradition!'"

### From Nigeria:

"Reading *Things That Differ* and *Moses and Paul*...is just like I'm in Bible college. I am really grateful for your being there for me, the Lord has used you in so many ways in my life and in my ministerial work last year."

### From Washington:

"I finished *Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions* on the 26th and wanted to say, 'Thank you!' I hope you are able to put together more of your insight into print in short order...time well spent in this endeavor!"

### From our Inbox:

"Thank you for your timely response and for the breakdown of Romans 2:12,13. Nice to know that when you're having difficulty understanding a Bible verse, there is somewhere to reach out to. *Berean Bible Society*, you are appreciated!"

### From Florida:

"Your analysis of this matter of the unpardonable sin surely seems to explain it!"

### From North Carolina:

"I am again reading *Redemption—A Dispensational Review*, by C.O. Criggs, for the third time. It is one of my favorite books!" (Wish we had more of these, but they are out of print. —Ed).

### From Iowa:

"The resources you provide have been of a wonderful value to me. I lead two Bible study groups, one...at a local nursing home and another...for a non-denominational group. Without your help...I would be without leadership tools. I was asked to lead it after our prior leader went to be with the Lord."

### From our Inbox:

"Sorry, I cannot help you. You should find a different job, as you only teach what you imagine, not what the Bible says...The Lord told me the Rapture will take place near the end of May 2038."

### From Arizona:

"An inmate on one of my units is inquiring to see if you provide donations to Chaplain's offices of your *Berean Searchlight* periodical for inmate use. I would welcome this information as well." (We are helping this chaplain with a dozen *Searchlights* a month, thanks to the support of our readers. —Ed).

### From Delaware:

"Thank you for your fine magazine!"

### From Wisconsin:

"I listened to one of your lessons twice the last few days ('Preach the Word') and of course your level of study and experience certainly shows. I will be listening more."

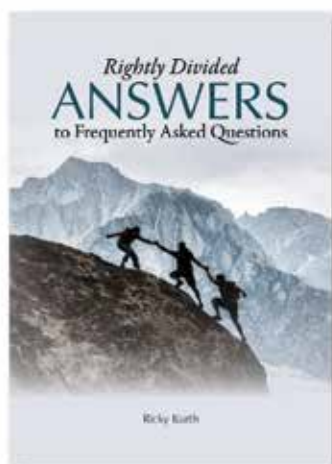


"These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."  
—Acts 17:11



# You Can't Reap Unless You Sow!

"He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly" (II Cor. 9:6), so be sure to plant our latest books in the hearts of you friends and loved ones!

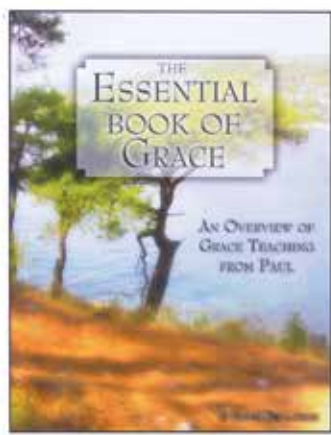


## Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

*by Ricky Kurth*

Paperback 248 pages

**Special Price: \$8.00** plus s&h\*  
(Reg. \$10.00)



## The Essential Book of Grace

*by Ken Lawson*

Paperback 57 pages


**Price: \$6.00** plus s&h\*

**SPECIAL PRICE ENDS MARCH 31, 2018**

\*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](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org)**



**Available Now!**  
**24 episodes on DVD**

# Transformed by Grace

TV Program Ministry of BBS

**New!** Watch the **BBS Network** online at [bereanbiblesociety.org](http://bereanbiblesociety.org).  
Our network is available on Roku and AppleTV, also.

No internet access? The program airs on satellite and antenna TV.  
Please call or write for the latest TV program information.

## Episodes 1-12

- 1 Unity in Christ
- 2 One Body in Christ
- 3 The Apostle of Grace
- 4 The Gifts of Christ
- 5 Differing Gifts
- 6 Everybody's a Somebody in the Body of Christ
- 7 The Fullness of Christ
- 8 You Have Not So Learned Christ
- 9 The Rapture vs. The Second Coming
- 10 The Rapture vs. The Second Coming (Part 2)
- 11 Put on the New Man
- 12 Eternal Security in Christ

## Episodes 13-24

- 13 Walk in the Love of Christ
- 14 Walk as Light in Christ
- 15 Walk Carefully in Christ
- 16 Spirit-Filled in Christ
- 17 Transformed by the Resurrection
- 18 God's Original Design for Marriage
- 19 God's Plan for the Wife
- 20 God's Plan for the Husband
- 21 God's Will for Children
- 22 God's Will for Fathers
- 23 God's Will for Employees and Employers
- 24 The Power of His Might

**Set of 12 Episodes on DVD (1-12 or 13-24)**

**Set Price: \$24.00 plus s&h\***

*Also sold individually (One 30-minute episode per DVD)*

**Individual Price: \$2.50 each plus s&h\***

Plant these messages in the hearts of your friends  
and loved ones, water the seed with prayer,  
and God will give the increase! (I Cor. 3:6)



# News and Announcements

**Our TV Program Keeps Transforming!** *Transformed By Grace* videos are now being posted to our website! Just click on the “Watch Online” link at the top of our home page and you’re in business. You can also view our programs on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/BibleStudyTime](http://www.youtube.com/BibleStudyTime). New videos are being added weekly, so if you don’t have DirecTV, DISH, Roku, Apple TV, or a broadcast antenna, we’ve still got you covered with transforming grace!

**Arizona Bible Conference:** C’mon, admit it. Where would you rather be March 16-18, where you live or in the suburbs of Phoenix? Why not make plans to join the brethren at the *West Valley Grace Fellowship* in Sun City West as they welcome BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler into their warm Arizona embrace. Host pastor Mark Dillely will be happy to talk you out of all the reasons why you think you can’t come! Just contact him at [jjdster@gmail.com](mailto:jjdster@gmail.com) or (623) 377-3071.

**Wisconsin Bible Conference:** The saints of *Friendship Congregational Bible Church* know that there is no better way to shake off the shackles of winter’s cabin fever than to host a Bible conference! BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler has agreed to help by bringing the meat of the Word to this spiritual barbeque. Host pastor Tim Board is saving a seat for you, so let him know you’re coming by contacting him at: [pastortboard@gmail.com](mailto:pastortboard@gmail.com), or (608) 403-7677. Come May 5,6, Friendship, Wisconsin, is the place to be!

**Colorado Pastoral Opportunity:** A group of grace believers in northern Colorado are endeavoring to establish a local grace church and are looking for a man of God to lead it. If your heart burns to “make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,” and you live in the area or are willing to relocate, just contact Jim Welker at: [jim.welker@s2info.com](mailto:jim.welker@s2info.com).

**New Ohio Church Startup:** Our new friends Mike and Debbie Darby would like to get a grace work started in Lancaster. If you would like to help, he would love to hear from you: (740) 652-5557, or [michaeldarby48@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeldarby48@yahoo.com). If you feel as strongly about God’s rightly divided Word as they do, I know you’ll want to be part of what God is doing in Fairfield County.



The stretch of coast on Lake Superior became known as “the Shipwreck Coast.” On November 10, 1975, the SS Edmund Fitzgerald sank during a violent storm in Lake Superior about 17 miles northeast of *Crisp Point Lighthouse* that is pictured on the front of this month’s issue..



# MEDIA PRICE LIST

(This is only a partial price list,  
for a full price list please see our  
website or contact BBS.)

## DVDs

The Miracles of Calvary .....	\$15.00
What it Means to Be .....	
A Grace Believer .....	15.00
Transformed by Grace (1 episode) ....	2.50
Transformed by Grace (pkg. 12) .....	24.00

## USB Drive

USB Drive (423 Messages) .....	\$15.00
--------------------------------	---------

## PowerPoint Download

Rapture vs. Second Coming .....	\$8.00
---------------------------------	--------

## E-books

Acts Volume 1 .....	\$9.00
Acts Volume 2 .....	9.00
Exploring the Unsearchable .....	
Riches of Christ .....	9.00
Growing In God's Grace .....	5.00
Memoirs of Cornelius R. Stam .....	9.00
Moses and Paul .....	5.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians .....	9.00
Paul's Epistle to the Philippians .....	9.00
Revelation Volume 1 .....	9.00
Revelation Volume 2 .....	9.00
Revelation Volume 3 .....	9.00
Studies in James .....	6.00
Things that Differ .....	8.00
Two Minutes with the Bible .....	8.00
Two-Fold Purpose of God .....	5.00

## Audio Books on CD

Exploring the Unsearchable .....	
Riches of Christ .....	\$21.00
Studies in James .....	15.00
Life and Letters of Peter .....	27.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians .....	45.00
The Triumph of His Grace .....	24.00

The Two-Fold Purpose of God .....	6.00
Things That Differ .....	27.00
Moses and Paul .....	6.00
True Spirituality .....	18.00
No Other Doctrine .....	15.00
The Lord's Supper .....	9.00

## Bible Time Messages by C.R. Stam on CD

Apostolic Authority .....	\$12.00
Author's Choice .....	24.00
Christmas .....	18.00
Colossians .....	24.00
1 Corinthians Volume 1 .....	27.00
1 Corinthians Volume 2 .....	27.00
2 Corinthians Volume 1 .....	24.00
2 Corinthians Volume 2 .....	24.00
Ephesians .....	33.00
Galatians Volume 1 .....	21.00
Galatians Volume 2 .....	21.00
Lord's Return .....	6.00
Metaphors of Paul .....	6.00
Philippians .....	21.00
Pauline Apostleship .....	18.00
Rapture .....	21.00
Romans Volume 1 .....	36.00
Romans Volume 2 .....	33.00
Salvation Volume 1 .....	36.00
Salvation Volume 2 .....	33.00
Sermon on the Mount .....	15.00
1 Timothy .....	21.00
2 Timothy .....	24.00
Titus .....	9.00
Thessalonians .....	27.00
True Spirituality .....	18.00

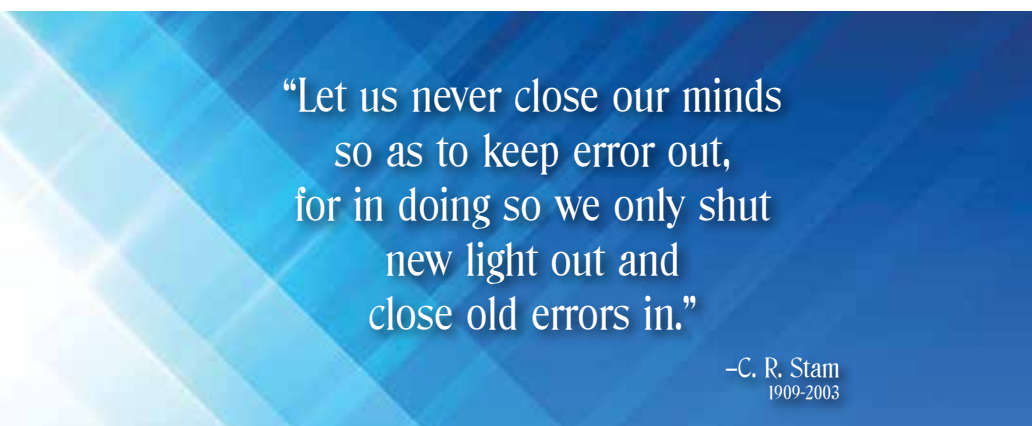
Orders up to \$30.00, please add **\$4.00** for Postage and Handling

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



“Let us never close our minds  
so as to keep error out,  
for in doing so we only shut  
new light out and  
close old errors in.”

—C. R. Stam  
1909-2003