

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

April 2018



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The lighthouse on this month’s front cover is located in Westerhever, Germany.

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.

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The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), April 2018. Vol. 79, Number 2.

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,

Volume 4 of our commentary on the Book of Revelation is under way! The thought of this project has been in the back of my mind constantly. I have been determined to fulfill my promise to my father to finish the series, knowing that these commentaries on Revelation have been such a blessing to so many. Finding the time to work on it has been the challenge! In February, however, I found time in my schedule where I was able to block off twelve days to start the work on Volume 4. At the BBS Board's advice, I sequestered myself so I could work on the book without interruption. I found a nice spot to study in a "Quiet Room" at a local library. It has a nice big desk, a bright light, and even a coffee pot nearby.



During my first couple days of study, I organized my father's writings on Revelation 20-22. While organizing, I found that my dad had written about 10,000 words for the final volume. The other books in the series ranged from 50,000 to 60,000 words. Thus, I understood that my job was to expand his work on the volume, which my dad told me I would need to do.

One day as I was looking through a filing cabinet in my office, I saw all my dad's old sermons from the years of his pulpit ministry and pastorates. I saw a folder for "Revelation" and found his sermon notes for Revelation 20-22. I am keeping these notes in front of me as I am studying and writing. One example for how these notes have helped me is that I became convinced as I studied Revelation 20:7-9 that the Battle of Gog and Magog *after* the Millennium did not match the description of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38-39, which more accurately portrays the Battle of Armageddon *before* the Millennium. After I came to a settled conclusion on it, since my dad had not written anything about this, I paused and wondered if I was reflecting what he believed on this matter. I looked at his sermon notes and found this line: "This battle in Revelation 20 is not the same as in Ezekiel 38 and 39." That was very reassuring.

During my initial study, I was able to complete three chapters of the book. I plan to write eight chapters in all to cover the final three chapters of Revelation. We're off to a good start. Please don't hold us too rigidly to this rough estimate but, Lord willing, my plan is to finish writing the book by September so we can offer it for sale on December 1st, of this year.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kevin Sadler, President

Was Paul One of the Twelve?

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PASTOR FLOYDBAKER

(Pastor Baker was one of the founding fathers of the *Berean Bible Fellowship*. For details about BBF's 50th Anniversary conference see page 20.)

“And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles” (Acts 1:26).

Quoting from the writings of a well-known Bible teacher concerning our portion of Scripture, he writes, “If we had time to go on and examine this chapter, we would see that the disciples elected another apostle. Matthias never was intended to be an apostle, even though they prayed over it as if to sanctify the whole activity. The twelfth apostle was Paul.” Still another writes, “This ‘blunder’ was all an ‘invention’ and ‘engineered’ by Peter and the other apostles in a vain attempt to install Matthias, instead of Paul, in the place of Judas.” How sad that men will go to such lengths to discredit Peter and the others in order to defend their own position of beginning the Body of Christ on the day of Pentecost.

Were the Eleven out of the will of God? Note what the Scriptures say. In Acts 1:26 we read, “and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.” In Acts 2:14 it is stated, “But Peter standing up with the eleven....” We read Paul’s own testimony on this matter in 1 Corinthians 15:5, concerning the risen Lord, “And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the Twelve.” In verse 8 Paul declares, “Last of all He was seen of me also, as one born out of due time.” God’s Word is very clear on the matter. Matthias and not Paul was the twelfth apostle.

Why was it needful for the number twelve to be completed again? In Matthew 19:26-30, we note that there will be **TWELVE THRONES** in the regeneration. In Revelation 21:14 it is stated, “And the wall of the city had **TWELVE FOUNDATIONS**, and in them the names of the **TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE LAMB**.” It is Matthias who will be part of God’s future program for Israel and not Paul. Paul belongs to the **HEAVENLIES!**



The FOUNDATION for Preaching

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
President

(From a message preached at the 2017 BBF Fall Conference in Burkesville, KY)

In his book *Has Christianity Failed You?*, Ravi Zacharias recounts a list of lives he has seen changed by the gospel of the grace of God and the truth of the literal, bodily resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, lives that could not have been changed by any other means: “During the course of nearly 40 years, I have traveled to virtually every continent and seen or heard some of the most amazing testimonies of God’s intervention in the most extreme circumstances. I have seen hardened criminals touched by the message of Jesus Christ and their hearts turned toward good in a way that no amount of rehabilitation could have accomplished. I have seen ardent followers of radical belief systems turned from being violent, brutal terrorists to becoming mild, tenderhearted followers of Jesus Christ. I have seen nations where the gospel, banned and silenced by governments, has nevertheless conquered the ethos and mind-set of an entire culture...I have also been in the Middle East and marveled at the commitment of young

people who have risked their lives to attend a Bible study....

“The British author A. N. Wilson, who only a few years ago was known for his scathing attacks on Christianity...celebrated Easter [in 2009] at a church with a group of other church members, proclaiming that the story of the Jesus of the Gospels is the only story that makes sense out of life and its challenges. [Wilson said], ‘My own return to faith has surprised none more than myself...My belief has come about in large measure because of the lives and examples of people I have known—not the famous, not saints, but friends and relations who have lived, and faced death, in light of the resurrection story, or in the quiet acceptance that they have a future after they die.’”¹

The resurrection of Christ gives us that quiet acceptance and assurance of a future and life beyond the grave. In 1 Corinthians 15:5-11, we read of the eyewitnesses who saw Christ after He rose again, and we see the impact of the Resurrection in transforming

people's lives. The Resurrection had a profound effect on each of the people mentioned in this passage. And the resurrection of Christ continues to impact hearts and change the lives of those who believe.

He Was Seen of Peter

“And that He was seen of Cephas...” (1 Cor. 15:5).

Notice the four-fold repetition of “He was seen” in 1 Corinthians 15:5-8. Christ appeared to individual people and to groups of people and they saw Him, and knew Him, and knew He had risen from the dead. “He was seen” with their own eyes.

Paul states that the risen Christ “was seen of Cephas,” or Peter. We are not told the exact time or location for this appearance. According to the Gospels, we know it was sometime after His appearance to Mary Magdalene to whom He appeared first (Mark 16:9). A short time later, though, the Lord showed Himself alive to the two on the road to Emmaus, and Luke 24:33,34 tells us what these two did afterwards:

“And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.”

When these two arrived in Jerusalem that evening and found the disciples, before they could speak to tell the disciples about the Lord appearing to them, the disciples began saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon!” The Lord appeared to Peter, most likely in Jerusalem

during the afternoon of Resurrection Day.

It was a private meeting, just Peter and the Lord. Peter was hurting at the time. He had denied his Lord in that black night before the Crucifixion. Three times Peter had insisted that he did not know Him, and he did so with curses and oaths and in anger. After the third denial, “the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter” (Luke 22:61). That look by the Lord undoubtedly stayed with Peter. You can imagine how Peter must have been feeling for three long days after the crucifixion when he was suffering from guilt and remorse over his denials.

I think it is for that reason that the Lord appeared to him privately. Christ did not appear to Peter because he deserved to see Him the most, but more so that Peter *needed* to see Him the most. The Lord found him in his brokenness, in his heartbreak, in his hatred of himself, in his awful sense of guilt, and the Lord showed Himself alive personally to Peter to comfort him. In that appearance to Peter, we see the beauty of Christ's forgiving love and grace. We can all be thankful for this. We all need it.

Also, because of Peter's role as a leader among the apostles, the Lord appeared to him personally, for Peter would lead the twelve in being witnesses of Christ's resurrection. Post-resurrection, Peter became a different man: he powerfully and fearlessly proclaimed the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:22-24,29-32; 3:12-19).

He Was Seen of the Twelve

“And that He was seen...then of the twelve” (1 Cor. 15:5).

Here Paul refers to several appearances that our Lord made to the twelve apostles. On resurrection evening, the Lord appeared to the disciples as they were gathered fearfully together without Thomas present (John 20:19-25). A week later, He appeared to them with Thomas present (John 20:26-29). Later, He appeared to seven of the twelve by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-14).

Take note here how Matthias is numbered with “the twelve” in 1 Corinthians 15:5. These three appearances occurred *before* Matthias was officially installed as the twelfth apostle, replacing Judas Iscariot. Christ was seen of the “twelve” after His resurrection and before His ascension—after Judas killed himself and before Matthias was selected in Acts 1, when there would have still been only *eleven* apostles.

Luke 24:33 tells us that the two from Emmaus went to the disciples in the upper room “and found the eleven gathered together, *and them that were with them.*” I believe Matthias was there with the eleven at that time.

In any case, here in 1 Corinthians 15:5, the Holy Spirit, who knows all things, considers Matthias one of the twelve before his official appointment in Acts 1. This confirms that Matthias was present for at least one of the risen Lord’s first two appearances to “the twelve,” and that it was the will of God for Matthias to be the twelfth apostle of the Kingdom. This also teaches how Paul was never meant to be one of the twelve! He had his own unique calling and apostleship, as the apostle of the Gentiles for the

dispensation of the grace of God (Rom. 11:13; Eph. 3:1-8).



Prior to the twelve seeing the resurrected Christ, “the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews” (John 20:19). It’s been rightly said about the disciples at that time that “These guys were so chicken we could call the Upper Room a henhouse.”² However, after the resurrected Lord appeared to them, they boldly, bravely, and openly proclaimed that Christ was risen. Acts 4:33 says of these changed men, “And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” The only explanation for the transformation in the lives of the apostles is that Christ is indeed risen from the dead.

He Was Seen of Over 500 Brethren

“After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep” (1 Cor. 15:6).

These 500 people were *Jewish* “brethren.” This appearance most likely took place in Galilee. In Matthew 28:10, the Lord said to the women at the tomb, “Be not afraid: go tell My brethren that

they go into Galilee, and there shall they see Me.” Obeying this instruction, “Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them” (v. 16). I think the 500 probably saw the Lord there on a mountainside in Galilee.

Regardless of when and where, remarkably, at the same time and the same place, it is recorded that *500 witnesses* saw Christ alive after His resurrection. Now, I have never heard of a trial that had over 500 witnesses. To put this in perspective, if each of these 500 people were called to the witness stand in a court of law, one by one, to be questioned and cross-examined for just 15 minutes each, and we went around the clock without taking a break, it would take from breakfast on Monday until dinner on Saturday to hear them all. After listening to more than 125 straight hours of eyewitness testimony of 500 people all saying the same thing, no one could walk away unconvinced. That’s how strong the case is for the resurrection of Christ!



When Paul wrote this letter, it was about 25 years after the crucifixion and resurrection. Most of the 500 who saw the Lord after He was risen were still alive, Paul tells us, but some had “fallen asleep,” or had died. The skeptics

at Corinth could have tracked down and visited some of these witnesses, and heard firsthand from them about seeing Christ after He rose again. What Paul is telling the Corinthians is, “You don’t have to believe that Christ was raised from the dead just because I say it; there are several hundred people still living who saw Him alive. You can go ask them yourselves if you want to!”

He Was Seen of James and All the Apostles

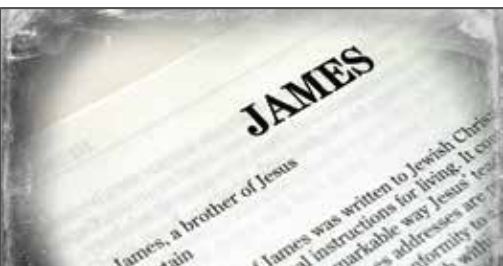
“After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles” (1 Cor. 15:7).

Christ also appeared to James, His half-brother (Gal. 1:19). This is the only record we have of the Lord appearing to the 500 brethren and to James. James was the son of Joseph and Mary, as is confirmed in Matthew 13:55: “Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not His mother called Mary? and His brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?”

First Corinthians 15:5-6 has to do with the Lord appearing to *believers*, to “brethren.” In the cases of James and Paul, however, we see that the Lord also appeared to *unbelievers*. During the Lord’s earthly ministry, “For neither did His brethren [or brothers] believe in Him” (John 7:5). Like his other brothers, James did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah or the Son of God. After the risen Christ appeared to him though he believed and became a powerful witness to His resurrection. He was a witness right out of Christ’s family.

We do not know when Christ appeared to him. It would have

been fascinating to have been a fly on the wall and heard what He said and how He revealed Himself alive to His brother. It is this James who wrote the Epistle of James, and in that letter you see how reverently he refers to the Lord Jesus. James calls Him “the Lord” (James 4:10), “the Lord of Glory” (2:1), and calls himself “a servant...of the Lord Jesus Christ” (1:1). As the program for Israel began to diminish and Peter’s authority waned, James even became the head of the Jewish Kingdom church in Jerusalem. James, who before was a skeptic and unbeliever, had been totally transformed, and was solidly and firmly a believer in Christ and His resurrection from the dead.



The Lord “was seen of James; *then of all the apostles*” (1 Cor. 15:7). These apostles are linked with James, the leader of the Jerusalem church. The twelve primary apostles of the Kingdom have already been mentioned in respect to the risen Lord appearing to them. Thus, these “apostles” that Christ appeared to after James are secondary Kingdom apostles, men who were called apostles but were not of the twelve apostles. James was the head of this group of secondary apostles. Sometime during His 40-day, post-resurrection ministry, Christ showed

Himself alive to these men, and they were used by the Lord to spread Israel’s commission (Matt. 28:18-20) and to be witnesses of His resurrection.

He Was Seen of Paul

“And last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed” (1 Cor. 15:8-11).

Paul next gives his own personal testimony. He tells the Body of Christ what the resurrection meant in his own life and adds his own firsthand witness to the other eyewitness accounts of the resurrection. Paul’s life is perhaps the greatest testimony to the life-changing power of the resurrection of Christ.

Paul’s witness is an apologetic unto itself; it brings a new level of objectivity. Some critic might say, “Well, of course, Jesus’s followers fabricated the resurrection. They wanted so badly for it to be true that they created and invented the story.” Paul, however, definitely was not someone who was a follower of Christ. He hated Christ. He was the leader of the opposition against Him. He not only did not believe, he persecuted those who did believe in Christ and in His resurrection, and had them put to death (Acts 26:9-11).

But Paul wrote, “He was seen of me also.” Earlier in this same epistle, Paul wrote, “Am I not an apostle? am I not free? *have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?*” (1 Cor. 9:1). Paul saw Christ on the road to Damascus, when he got slammed to the dirt and the blazing, glorious, resurrected Christ appeared to him and spoke to him (Acts 9:1-9), and Paul believed in Christ and His resurrection. He had no reason to invent this.



“All of us in the Body of Christ can echo Paul’s words that ‘by the grace of God I am what I am.’”

Paul adds that he was “as one born out of due time.” The Greek word translated “born out of due time” refers to a premature birth, one born ahead of schedule, or even miscarried. Regarding “due time,” Deuteronomy 32:29,35 reads, “O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!... To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide *in due time*: for the day of their calamity is at hand.”

“Due time” in Scripture connotes judgment and calamity. This passage in Deuteronomy ultimately points forward to the latter end of Israel’s program in the Tribulation, and the judgment and calamity that will take place in that day (cf. Deut. 32:42). This is the “due time” that Paul is referring to in 1 Corinthians 15:8.

Pastor Don Webb wrote this in his work, *Basic Bible Doctrines*: “The meaning of Paul being ‘born out of due time’ had to do with God *aborting* him from a path of rebellion and destruction that would have led only to judgment—for both him and the nation Israel. The ‘due time’ was that of *judgment*, and Paul’s salvation represented God intervening with a dispensation of grace.”³

The “due” time of Israel’s calamity was at hand after the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:51-60). Instead, God intervened and appeared to Paul and saved him on the Damascus Road, and Paul was born out of due time, born ahead of and out of the scheduled judgment of the Tribulation, and God instead, using Paul, ushered in a dispensation of grace “which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God” (Eph. 3:9).

Paul states that he was “the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle” (1 Cor. 15:9). He felt unfit for ministry as an apostle because of his vicious persecution of “the [Kingdom] church of God.” When Paul says things like this about his persecution of believers, you know he had memories in his mind of the people he arrested, tortured, and had put to death. He saw those people in his mind and it broke his heart. This made Paul feel unfit and not qualified to bear the title of an apostle. Therefore, he verbally bows and buries himself in the dust, recognizing and acknowledging that he was the least of the apostles and not worthy to be called one.

Paul could not forget that for which he had been forgiven, and

it continually reminded him that “by the grace of God I am what I am” (v. 10). Paul understood very well the miracle of God’s grace. Paul knew he didn’t deserve any of what God had done for him in saving him and using his life. It is always by the grace of God that we are what we are in the Christian life. All of us in the Body of Christ can echo Paul’s words that “by the grace of God I am what I am.”

Many feel that they’ve lost the right to be used of God. They might have fouled up their life, made a poor choice and messed up everything, so they wonder, “How can God use me?” Paul’s testimony is the great encouragement that, no matter what has happened in our lives, God can still use us by His grace.

In verse 9, Paul talks about what he *was*. In contrast, in verse 10, he talks about what he *is*. The resurrection of Christ is what made the difference between what he was and what he had become. Paul went from an anti-believer, anti-Christ, violent, hateful persecutor to a soft-hearted, loving, go-for-broke apostle, sharing the gospel of the grace of God and that Christ is risen all over the world. No reasonable explanation is plausible other than the fact that Christ rose again and showed Himself alive to Paul. This radically and permanently changed the course of Paul’s life.

The grace of God cut Paul off from his old life and made him a new man in Christ. It changed him from the old Saul of Tarsus into a new man, the Apostle Paul, a man who wrote thirteen books of the Bible, evangelized and founded churches all over the

ancient world, and was the most remarkable missionary that ever lived.

God’s grace put Paul under the deepest desire to serve the Christ who saved him, and he labored tirelessly. Paul wrote, “His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all” (v. 10). Paul labored vigorously out of love and gratitude toward the One Who rescued him. When Paul says he “labored more abundantly *than they all*,” he means more abundantly than just the twelve; he is referring to *all* the other eyewitnesses in this context: Peter, the rest of the twelve, the 500 brethren, James, and all the other apostles. Out of his gratitude for God’s grace, he outworked *all of them put together* in getting the message out about Christ’s resurrection.

Paul’s salvation was by the grace of God, and God’s grace worked in and through Paul as he served the Lord. He gave God and His grace all the credit. Paul wrote, “yet not I...” He did not boast in his own spirituality or power; instead he recognized that it was all due to “the grace of God which was with me.” This was where Paul’s zeal and enablement came from: the grace of God. The same can be true in our lives as we make ourselves available to the Lord and allow the grace of God to touch our hearts, as we lean hard on God by faith to give us His strength by grace to be lived out through us as we passionately live, serve, and work for Him. As it was for Paul, the grace of God and the resurrection of Christ can shift the course of our lives.

“All we believe hinges on the resurrection.”


Because He lives, we know that nothing done for Him is ever in vain (1 Cor. 15:58).

In verse 11 we read, “Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.” The “they” is the eyewitnesses: Peter, the twelve, James, all the other apostles. What did they preach? What did the Corinthians believe? *The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ*. Paul and the twelve all preached the resurrection. Here’s an interesting fact for you: In the book of Acts, the death of Christ is mentioned 22 times, but the resurrection of Christ is mentioned *145 times*.

Paul and the twelve all preached the resurrection, but they did not preach the same gospel. The twelve preached the gospel of the Kingdom, and Paul preached the gospel of the grace of God. But the resurrection of Christ is central and foundational to both. Without it, both gospels and programs of God collapse. Paul preached Christ’s resurrection in light of the revelation of the Mystery, that He is our risen Head of the Body of Christ, exalted far above all, carrying out a heavenly ministry today (Eph. 1:19-23). Peter and the rest of the twelve preached Christ’s resurrection in light of prophecy, that He is the risen King who will establish His kingdom of heaven and reign on the earth one day (Acts 2:29-32).

All we believe hinges on the resurrection. If Christ is not risen, our faith is empty and we are yet in our sins (1 Cor. 15:17).

If we are in our sins, we are all going to hell. We have no hope. If Christ is not risen, He is not Israel’s Messiah, He is not their King, He is not the Savior, and He is not our Head. Paul says in verse 14, “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain....” Preaching would be a waste of time if Christ is not risen. In fact, it would be foolish, silly, pointless, and a joke.

But “He was seen!” “He was seen!” “He was seen!” “He was seen!” “But now is Christ risen from the dead...” (1 Cor. 15:20). And so the foundation for preaching is Christ, risen from the dead, victorious over sin and death. We preach Christ our living Savior, Who has taken away all our sins, Who is the only Savior, the only way to God, and Lord over all. Because Christ is risen, our faith is *not* vain, what we do for Christ is *not* in vain, and preaching is *not* in vain; it is real, it has meaning, we have hope, we have a message, and we have good news to make known. The whole foundation for preaching and ministry and our faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. *And He lives!* 

ENDNOTES

1. “Ravi Zacharias Says, ‘Changed Lives Show the Truth of Christ.’” Preaching Today, accessed March 2, 2018, <http://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2011/april/1041811.html>; excerpted from Ravi Zacharias, *Has Christianity Failed You?* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2010), pp. 105-107.
2. Max Lucado, *Life Lessons with Max Lucado—Book of John* (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson: 2007), p. 106.
3. Donald Webb, *Basic Bible Doctrines* (West Lafayette, Indiana: Day of Grace Ministries, Inc., 1996), p. 300.

“But God Hath Chosen the FOOLISH THINGS”

(continued from last month)



DAVE BROWN

BBS Board

The Greek word for *despised*, as in “despised things,” is also translated as “bring to nought” in 1 Corinthians 1:28. The Greek word is *exoutheneo* (*ex*–out, *outheneo*–nobody). It is to make somebody out to be a nobody. People do that to someone they despise. They make someone to be of no account. They treat people with contempt. They make somebody a nobody or mock.

An example of a group of despised people were the publicans. They were tax collectors, particularly the Jewish ones, who collected taxes from the Jews and turned it over to the Romans. They were hated and classed with sinners, harlots, and Gentiles.

“And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and DESPISED others:

“Two men went into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican [tax collector].

“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

“I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

“And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Luke 18:9-14).

Who does God exalt? The despised or those who do the despising? The despised.

You may remember another publican named Zacchaeus, who was the chief among the publicans. The Lord went to abide at his house (Luke 19:5).

Acts 4:11, refers to Christ as the stone that was *set at nought*. That phrase is also the word *despised*. Who did God use? The builders (that would be the kindred who were not base) or CHRIST who was set at nought? It was Christ who was used.

“For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a STUMBLINGBLOCK, and unto the

Greeks FOOLISHNESS” (1 Cor 1:22-23).

The Jews were looking for a powerful leader, and the Greeks weren't interested in a carpenter's words.

It was not *a kindred-noble somebody*, but the *despised (CHRIST) who was made a nobody*—who was used to carry out the Father's will. It was Christ.

Our first point was to look at a detailed example of this concept that God has chosen the foolish things, the weak things, the things that are despised, and the base things.

When we considered Acts 3-4, whom did God use to demonstrate His glory? Did God use the wise, the mighty, and the noble who were not base (elders, scribes, and priests)? NO. Did God use the foolish (unlearned, ignorant)? YES (Peter and John). Did God use the WEAK (impotent), feeble? YES (the lame man). Did God use someone despised, one treated as a nobody, a no-account person who was treated with contempt (set at nought)? YES (Christ). Can God use the wise, mighty, and noble? According to 1 Corinthians 1:26, yes, but not many are called (to be used).

The Apostle Paul was an example that God can also use the noble and educated. Paul was also wise enough to say in Philipians 3:7-8,

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted LOSS for Christ.

“Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have

suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but DUNG, that I may win Christ.”

GOAL 2: *List other examples of people God has used.*

Jesus was born in a manger. The first people who God chose to tell did not include the king of Jerusalem, nor the elders, nor the scribes, nor the Pharisees. They were shepherds.



Two characteristics of shepherds were humilty and faithfulness. Concerning humility, shepherding may not have been the highest-paying job around. It may not have been the most prestigious. Shepherding may have been a job more commonly held by young people. Concerning faithfulness, the shepherds the angels spoke to were apparently faithfully working the night shift. They were on duty being faithful.

Similarly, we are to be faithfully on duty.

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:1,2).

The following list includes some other examples of people God has used. See if you can recall these.

EXAMPLES

A lad gave up his five barley loaves and two fish. How did God use that? He fed 5,000 people.

Paul's sister's son. How did God use him? He saved Paul's life when he notified the chief captain of a plan to murder Paul.

Which youthful person brought Paul books, parchments, and a cloak when he was in prison? Timothy. How did God use timid Timothy? Paul told Timothy to "Let no man despise thy youth." God used Timothy to pastor the church at Ephesus.

A little maid was used to get her master to see Elisha to be cured of his leprosy. God used a little slave girl to influence a Syrian General (Naaman) to humble himself to go to Elisha, a prophet of Israel, and wash seven times in Israel's river Jordan to be cured of leprosy, and to recognize that Israel's God is the only true God (2 Kings 5:1-14).

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—what good testimony did they have in Babylon? After they survived the fiery furnace, Nebuchadnezzar ordered respect to be given to their God (Dan. 3:28-29).

Various teenagers were called of God: Jeremiah, Daniel, David, and Joseph.

Who became king of Judah at age eight? Josiah.

Who denied Christ three times, yet is the writer of two books of the Bible? Peter.

Who was the nephew of Barnabas, who turned back from a journey with Paul but later was profitable? John Mark.

What boy did God use to bring down Goliath? Little David.

Who was not eloquent, but was slow of speech and tongue? Moses, who God used to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

Which couples bore children when they were too old to bear children? Abraham and Sarah, Zacharias and Elizabeth.

Which judge who was very fearful of the Midianites was used to defeat them? Gideon.

Who was the harlot that God used to help the Israelites defeat Jericho? Rahab.

How did God use the Samaritan woman? She became evangelistic.

Who ran from God, yet God used him to cause repentance in the Gentile city of Nineveh? Jonah.

Who was base, had a thorn in the flesh, had contemptible speech, and weak bodily presence? The Apostle Paul.

What animal did God have speak to a man? A donkey spoke to Balaam so he spoke the words of the Lord.

Which dead man did God use? Lazarus.

GOAL 3: Answer the question of why God has chosen the things that He has chosen.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord.

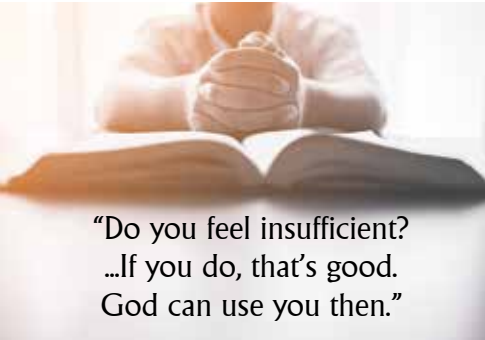
"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8,9).

In the scheme of things, we know very little.

"...to confound the wise...to confound the things [i.e. people] which are mighty...to bring to

nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in His presence” (1 Cor 1:27-29).

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out...For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory for ever. Amen” (Rom. 11:33-36).



“Do you feel insufficient?
...If you do, that’s good.
God can use you then.”

When God uses us with our imperfections and weaknesses, the glory goes to Him.

Remember that after Paul was caught up to the third heaven he was given a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet him, lest he should be exalted above measure (2 Cor. 12:7). Paul pleaded with the Lord for it to be removed. God responded to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9, “*And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*”

We are reminded in Philippians 4:13, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*”

You and I are but vessels for our Lord’s use. We are like cracked pots. Let His light shine through the cracks. When God uses a cracked pot, He gets all the glory.

When God uses the NOTs, He brings 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 1:29-31).

When God uses you and me (the foolish, weak, base, despised), He gets the glory.

GOAL 4: Answer the question of how this applies to our lives.

Do you feel insufficient? Unqualified? Weak? Unusable? If you do, that’s good. God can use you then. It has been said, “God doesn’t call the equipped. He equips the called.”

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13).

Who is God going to use today? Tomorrow? And next year (if He tarries)? To carry on the ministry? To lead people to Christ? To teach the grace message? The clear, unadulterated Word of God rightly divided. To do good works?

God uses the foolish, the weak, the base, the despised, the “nots.” Due to God’s gracious intervention and provision—you and I can be used of Him.

The world would do it differently, **BUT GOD** has made it so anyone can be used of Him. You can be used as a channel of blessing to others.

Isn’t it wonderful to know that you don’t need to be strong and mighty?

You don't need to be wise. You don't need to be noble.

You can be classified by the world as foolish, weak, base, despised, the NOTS or nobodies. *These are the very people God has chosen to use.*

You see the wise, mighty, and noble can get proud, haughty, and boastful. They can become useless.

What is God looking for? God is looking for a willing heart.

God is looking for people to use. Are you willing to yield your life to Him? Willing to be devoted to Him? Willing to serve Him?


The Apostle Paul had tremendous credentials. Philippians 3:7, *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."*

Aren't you glad you don't have to be smart to be SOMEONE to be

used of God? God will use young and old, men and women, boys and girls. You can't be too old nor too young.

God will use talented or not, intelligent or not, photogenic or not, big or small, strong or weak, charismatic or not, educated or not. God will use imperfect people of all ages and genders. He has chosen to use everyday people of the world. God will use fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children, students, employees, employers, and others.

Would you like to say yes to God today? Would you like to be used of God?

If you will let Him use you, He will. God would like to use you in a new and wonderful way. It has been said: Your greatest ability is your availability. I invite you to say yes to Him now. 



MAILBAG EXTRA

"I just finished... *Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*...I took my time reading it, even reread a few chapters, and I just can't seem to argue with any of it. I'm trying but I

can't...This book does a really good job of explaining stuff, especially to simple-minded folks like me...You can take your time and absorb it topic by topic, verse by verse. One of the things that jumped out at me...is the placement of the NT books. They're not in chronological order. Paul's epistles are right smack dab in the middle, then it goes back to prophecy and matches up with the first part of the NT almost identically....The chapters on the sign gifts make SO much sense! Those were some of my favorites. I have quite a few Pentecostal friends—one even tried to teach me to speak in tongues over the phone. I hope to share those parts with them...Another thing this book did was reassure me that the Rapture will happen *before* the Tribulation. I always believed that, but I have a lot of friends who don't agree, or aren't sure, and I'm more convinced than ever!"

Question Box

“How could the Lord say that His body was broken for us if other verses say that none of His bones were broken?”

Speaking of the bread that the Lord broke at the last supper (1 Cor. 11:23), Paul said,

“...He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you...” (v. 24).

As the Lord broke the loaf of bread for the apostles to share, He used the broken bread to illustrate how His body would be broken for them on the cross. But speaking of the soldiers who crucified Him, John said:

“...they brake not His legs...that the Scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of Him shall not be broken” (John 19:33,36).

John was quoting Psalm 34:20. We also know that the cross was a type of the Passover (1 Cor. 5:7), and speaking of the Passover lamb, God told Moses, “neither shall ye break a bone thereof” (Ex. 12:46 cf. Num. 9:12). So how could the Lord say His body was broken for us?

Well, a body can be broken without breaking any bones. None of Job’s bones were broken, but he spoke of how God “breaketh me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds” (Job 9:17 cf. 16:14), a breaking which included the breaking of his skin (7:5). Other verses speak of the breaking of a body’s teeth (Psa. 3:7; Pr. 25:19; Lam. 3:16; Psa. 58:6), its heart (Eccl. 12:6) and other parts (Lev. 21:20). The “blood and water” that flowed from the Lord’s pierced side indicate His heart was broken, for the heart rests in a saline sac. So there is no contradiction between John 19:36 and 1 Corinthians 11:24. —Pastor Kurth

WISCONSIN BIBLE CONFERENCE

Dates: May 5-6, 2018

Location: *Friendship Congregational Bible Church*
100 Adams Street, Friendship, Wisconsin

Theme: *“What’s So Amazing About Grace?”*

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Sadler, President BBS

Contact: Pastor Tim Board (608) 403-7677
or email pastortboard@gmail.com





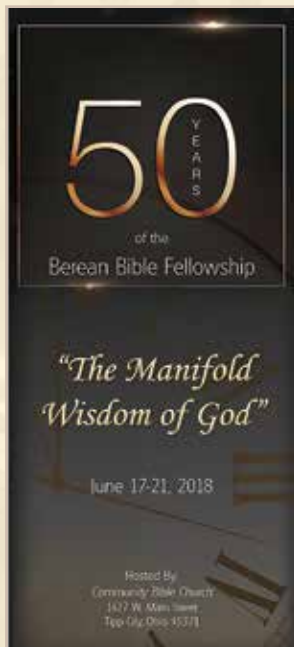
WORN OUT PAGES

When we rightly divide the Word of truth, we learn that Paul's epistles are written directly to us, the Church, the Body of Christ. The letters of Paul are the commands and will of Christ for His Church in this current dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:2). Our Bibles should reflect our belief. What you will often find with Bibles used by grace believers is that the pages for the letters of Paul are worn or even falling out. It's easy to find Paul's epistles because they are either bulging out or you can see the wear on the edge of the pages from turning there so often.

We are to read, study, learn, and declare "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27), knowing that all the Bible is "written for our learning" (Rom. 15:4), but not all the Bible is written to us for our direct instruction and obedience. If you have a Bible that looks like the Bible pictured above, which is one of my father's old Bibles, know that this is pleasing to the Lord. It shows you are following and living by God's will for this dispensation of grace. And a well-worn Bible, especially with the pages of Paul's letters worn out, can lead to a well-lived life. It is God-honoring to have a Bible that shows the wear on Paul's epistles!

—Pastor Kevin Sadler

50th Annual BBF Conference!



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

Dates: June 17-21, 2018

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

Bible Hour Teacher: Pastor Ricky Kurth

For many years BBF's summer conference has focused on expounding a different Pauline epistle each year. To mark this milestone anniversary, the speakers for 2018 will address all thirteen of our apostle's letters in an inclusive way that is sure to give you a better understanding of each epistle as a whole.

BBF is preparing a video presentation to mark its semi-centennial, and you can be a part of it by sending your old photos of past conferences to bereanbiblefellow68@gmail.com, or to PO Box 224 Sheboygan, WI 53082. Testimonies of your warmest memories of conferences past are welcome!

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROGRAMS

- Teenagers: Every morning 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Children: Every morning 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- Nursery 7:45 a.m. to Noon—6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
- College/Career Meeting: Sunday night

(If you plan to attend the BBF Conference *with your children*, Terry Wilkinson needs to hear from you. Please let her know by June 1, so her team can purchase the right amount of supplies for the right age groups. You can contact Terry at: 715-839-1207, or at joyous_praise@yahoo.com, or fill out the online form at www.bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com).

CONTACT:

Conference Coordinator: Tim Kenney at (937) 325-9316
Host Church: *Community Bible Church* (937) 667-2710/www.cbctipp.com

To request a brochure please contact BBF at (920) 287-3142 or bereanbiblefellow68@gmail.com.

For more information about accommodations, get a lunch menu to prepay for meals, and many other details, just go to the *Berean Bible Fellowship* website: bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com.

A Stirring Remembrance

PASTOR RICKY KURTH

Editor

Many years ago my young daughter and I were standing in the cafeteria line at *Northern Grace Youth Camp* when she noticed a sign on the door of the kitchen's walk-in freezer. It read, "In memory of Paul Beyer." When she asked what that meant, I explained that it meant that someone had died. Her eyes got really big and she asked, "In the freezer?"

In Paul's second epistle to Timothy, no one had died, but something was dying *inside of Timothy*, and there was something about that which Paul wanted to put him "in memory of":

"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands" (2 Tim. 1:6).

In the early days of the dispensation of grace, God gave miraculous spiritual gifts to members of the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 7:7). But by the time Paul wrote II Timothy, his last epistle, these spiritual gifts had begun to fade away, just as he predicted

they would (1 Cor. 13:8-10). For instance, we know that the gift of *healing* had ceased because Paul could no longer heal people as he did in the early days of the age of grace (Acts 19:11,12; 20:9-12 cf. 1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20). And whatever gift *Timothy* had, *it too* must have been fading, for Paul tells him to *stir it up*.

Timothy's Gift

Now to determine what Timothy's gift was, and why he needed to stir it up, it helps to notice that our text begins with a "wherefore." That means Timothy's gift must have had something to do with the young man's "tears" that Paul just mentioned (2 Tim. 1:4). These tears indicate that Timothy was a timid man, so tears were something that came to him naturally—*especially* when the going got tough. And we know that the going *had* gotten tough, for Paul went on to speak to him about his "spirit of fear" (v. 7). Timothy was obviously being *persecuted* for his faith, causing him to shed *tears of fear*.

But many years earlier, when Paul ordained Timothy to the ministry, the apostle had put his hands on him and had given him a supernatural gift that helped him *overcome* his natural fear and *overpower* his tears. I personally believe Timothy was given the gift of *apostle* (1 Cor. 12:28), a gift that gave this timid young man a supernatural *boldness* that he would sorely need to withstand persecution.

I believe this because the Apostle Paul showed this same miraculous, apostolic boldness right after the Lord commissioned *him* to be an apostle (Acts 9:29; 13:46; 14:3; 19:8). But as Paul's gift of apostleship began to fade, he had to ask the Ephesians to *pray* that he would be bold (Eph. 6:19,20). Similarly, once *Timothy's* gift began to fade, Paul had to tell him to *stir up* the boldness that he needed to overcome "the spirit of fear" that was returning to him.

Who You Callin' an Apostle?

Now don't get confused by this gift of apostleship. Paul was *the* apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13), but there were other men who served with him as apostles in a secondary sense. For instance, Paul reminded the Thessalonians that he and Silas, who was with Paul when he founded the church in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-4), could have burdened them financially "*as the apostles of Christ*" (1 Thes. 2:6). It is clear from this verse that Paul considered Silas to be an apostle. And it is clear from Ephesians 4:11,12 that God gave these "apostles" to the church to help with the work of the ministry

until the Bible was complete (v. 13 cf. 1 Cor. 13:8-10).

"...Timothy's gift must have had something to do with the young man's 'tears'..."



I should add that when I say *Paul's* gift of apostleship faded away, that didn't mean he stopped being the apostle of the Gentiles. He still held *the office* of an apostle, he just no longer had a miraculous spiritual *gift* of apostleship. This is similar to how God *also* gave the early church men who had the miraculous gifts of "evangelists...pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:11). While men today no longer have a supernatural *gift* to empower them to these ministries, there are men who still hold *the office* of evangelist, pastor, and teacher.

How Do You Expect Me to Do That?

But now we have to figure out *how* Paul expected Timothy to stir up the gift that had given him such boldness in the past. If you're wondering why you should *care* how he did it, remember that God wants *you* to be just as bold for the Lord as Timothy's gift made him! And now that God is no longer enabling men with a supernatural *gift* to give them boldness, you will have to employ the same method Timothy used if you want to stir up boldness in *your* heart.

In the Bible, God stirred men up *using His Word*. For instance, seventy years after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Israel's temple,

“The LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation... The LORD God of heaven hath... charged me to build Him an house at Jerusalem” (Ezra 1:1,2).

Now, there's no evidence that God stirred up the spirit of Cyrus by speaking to him aloud. Instead, the way He stirred his spirit to rebuild the temple was by *predicting* he would rebuild the temple more than *a hundred years earlier*, even predicting *his name* (Isa. 44:28). When Cyrus became king, the Jews no doubt showed him Isaiah's ancient prophecy, and the king figured that if Israel's God knew that he would be king a century in advance that He must be the *true* God, and he'd probably better do what the Word of the true God says! So, in other words, God stirred up the spirit of Cyrus *with His Word*.

Stirred, Not Shaken

And that's how Paul expected Timothy to stir up *his* spirit as well. He expected him to look to God's Word to help him deal with his “spirit of fear.” Remember, God gave men spiritual gifts “to profit” them (1 Cor. 12:7), but now that the Bible is complete, Paul says that “*all Scripture...is profitable*” for us (2 Tim. 3:16). This means that now that God is no longer giving a spiritual gift that can make men bold for the Lord, we must all look to *the Scriptures* to find the boldness we need to serve Him, just as Timothy did when his gift began to fade away.

This is why Paul had just reminded Timothy that he had *learned* the Scriptures from his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5). He expected the young man to draw upon his familiarity with God's Word to stir up a spirit of boldness within himself. Do you think maybe he could have learned a thing or two about boldness from reading how David boldly stood toe to toe with Goliath before rocking him to sleep?



In addition to drawing boldness from the Old Testament Scriptures that Timothy learned from his mother and grandmother, Paul's epistle to the Ephesians was already in circulation, and as the pastor of that church (1 Tim. 1:3), Timothy surely had a copy of that letter. In it, Paul talked about how he was “an ambassador” for Christ, and how “*therein* I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” (Eph. 6:20). Well, Timothy was *also* an ambassador for Christ, as we all are (2 Cor. 5:20), so Paul's words would surely remind him that *he too* ought to speak boldly for the Lord. When it comes to serving the Lord, being stirred with boldness is much better than being shaken with fear!

A Pastor's Job

If you are finding it hard to muster up the boldness that Timothy found in God's Word, your pastor can help! It is a grace pastor's job to challenge you to *get stirred up*, as Paul challenged Timothy. Peter wrote to his Jewish readers,

"...I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them..."


"Yea, I think it meet...to stir you up by putting you in remembrance" (2 Pet. 1:12,13).

Notice that Peter says that *they already knew* the things he was telling them; they just needed to get stirred up about them! You may know the Word of God well, but that's no reason to stay home from church, for the pastor can help you *get stirred up* about the things you know! This is so important that Peter said it again in his epistle:

"I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and us the apostles..." (2 Pet. 3:1,2).

Pastors, the only way to get God's people stirred up about the things of the Lord is to faithfully remind them of the words which were spoken by the prophets and apostles *in the Word of God*. There is no other alternate source of spiritual power in all of God's creation, so do *not* neglect the teaching and preaching of the Word. It is your only hope of building up the saints "over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God" (Acts 20:28).

It's Time to Get Stirred Up!

In closing, if your spiritual life has stalled and it is causing you to go "stir crazy," just modify that old recipe of "add water and stir" by adding *the water of the Word of God* to your spiritual life (Eph. 5:26), both at home and at church. If that doesn't stir you up for the Lord, nothing will! If your heart literally *aches* to live a vibrant spiritual life, diligent study of the Word of Almighty God is the *only* way to achieve it. 

South Central Alaska CONFERENCE

Dates: May 25-26, 2018

Location: 44175 Kalifornsky Beach Road
Soldotna, AK 99669

Speakers: Pastor Ricky Kurth, Pastor Ken Lyon, and Pastor Don Webb

Contact: Josh Dennis (907) 252-8836 or jdennis1201@gmail.com

*Plan now for a wonderful time around God's Word
in a breathtaking setting!*

Earth Day



This April 22, the world about us will once again observe what is called “Earth Day,” a day in which people are encouraged to pause and consider our duty to treat the world that God has given us responsibly and with respect. But God’s people know that there is coming a *new* earth day. As your editor I’d like to share what former BBS president Pastor Paul M. Sadler had to say about that day.

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:1,2).

With the abolition of sin and the curse, it may well be that the new heaven and new earth will be open to one another. While we will possess a heavenly citizenship throughout eternity, in all likelihood we will have access to the earth and the New Jerusalem as members of the family of God. We will never tire of the splendor of the crystal city as it shimmers like a diamond in the bright sunlight. But heaven is our home! It is here that God is going to show us the exceeding riches of His kindness in the ages to come. The cares of this life may at times seem greater than we can bear, but they work for us “a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17). Nothing compares with what lies ahead for those who love Him....

In regard to the earthly program of God, John says to his hearers, “His servants shall serve Him” in the New Jerusalem. The heavenly message given to us from Paul reveals this: “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him” (2 Cor. 5:8,9). We, too, are going to be serving the Lord throughout eternity to the praise of His glory in Christ Jesus. We are not told exactly what we will be doing, but whatever the task, we will perform it happily as unto the Lord, knowing that it is for our ultimate good and His glory.

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



BBS Letter Excerpts

From New Jersey:

“I have been able to receive Pastor Kevin Sadler’s video programs, and I absolutely like the way he is presenting them. He speaks slowly and clearly and his anecdotes are memorable for me. He explains situations in a way I can easily comprehend. Keep up the wonderful work...I have increased my donation to BBS.”

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 Montana:

“I’m praising God for the great blessing of your television outreach... This is a big answer to us stranded grace believers in Montana.”

From Texas:

“I recently discovered your TV program and love it. As usual, I look forward daily to *Two Minutes With the Bible*. It’s time I help support those that benefit me so greatly.”

From Pennsylvania:

“I appreciated the photos and articles of Pastor Sadler’s Grecian and Roman visits.”

From Florida:

“*Rightly Divided Answers* is a ‘hit’ here, Pastor! I had ordered two copies so that I could give one as a 21st-birthday gift to a granddaughter who is going into the ministry of a Mega-Charismatic-type church... I am reading it myself and have had many ‘Aha’ moments.”

From Oklahoma:

“The December *Searchlight* offered a four-book special on commentaries...great resources for Sunday school preparation. As an afterthought, I requested your new book, *Rightly Divided Answers*. Needless to say, it was the first of the books I picked up, and I have not put it down yet! It is too good not to share with the fellow ‘workmen’ of the Bible study group I have the privilege to attend. Please forward 12 copies.”

From Florida:

“I just finished *Rightly Divided Answers*. Bravo!...It gave me more than a couple ‘Yeah! That’s what I see too!’ moments...The wonderful thing about the book is that you face tough issues head-on and unwaveringly.”

From Arkansas:

“This will help much. My Sunday Bible Class is studying this and I told them I would research and get what I could on the subject. I had found several articles on the subject but none of them really satisfied me. Your article in the *Searchlight* hit just right for me.”

From our Inbox:

“Today’s *Two Minutes* was a very comforting message to me. I have just recently lost my wife to cancer, and it is so comforting to me to know that she is safely in the arms of our Savior.”

From Minnesota:

“...the Bible rightly divided...has answered all the questions I have had concerning all the so-called contradictions that were in the Scriptures... When is Pastor Paul Sadler’s final commentary on Revelation being released?” (We had to change our plan to have it out last December to focus on our TV ministry, but watch for it this December. –Ed).

From our Inbox:

“Thank you for helping me better understand, and the Scripture references. I’ve been led to a church with a Dispensationalist view...I am in the process of learning this view, and your website has been a big help.”

From the Philippines:

“I have been active in listening to your audio lessons and downloading a bulk of them...Thank you so much for the study on Pastoral Epistles... It helps a lot....You have been my on-line teacher since my college days...I always love your enthusiasm...And the things I learned from you I also teach in the church I am in right now.”

From our Inbox:

“When I started reading your messages, I could not remain the same. I really grew spiritually, and your messages solved some of my sinful habits...and now I am a better person because of your messages.”

From Florida:

“I am sending my echo for Echo Month!...Monthly I look forward to your *Searchlight*...I then pass on my book to other followers of Jesus...I am going to...go to several of your Bible conferences. I...want to hear Pastor Kevin preach. I have read his articles, but I want to listen to him share God’s Word.”

From Colorado:

“I’ve been receiving the *Berean Searchlight* since the 1980s, and have ordered a library of books concerning the Word, rightly divided...I...have been studying diligently. I have also conducted Bible studies...and have had some success.”

From Florida:

“Your article ‘Thank God for His People!’—what a blessing that was to my inner man!”

From California:

“I really do praise our Savior for a pastor in our modern times...taking the time to answer my question...I haven’t yet received any other publications from ya’ll’s ministry, but if they are as packed with Biblical truth as your letter, and in the one booklet I happened to come upon...then I am looking forward with great anticipation to receiving any material your ministry sends.”

From Facebook:

“Love BBS. Spreading the Word rightly divided.”

From Maryland:

“Thank you for all your wonderful items. Bless you and all the people who work for this great witness...to a lost world.”



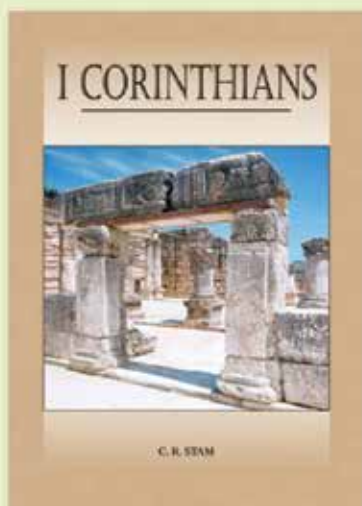
“These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
—Acts 17:11

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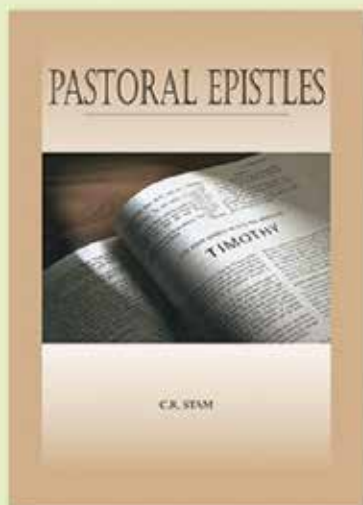
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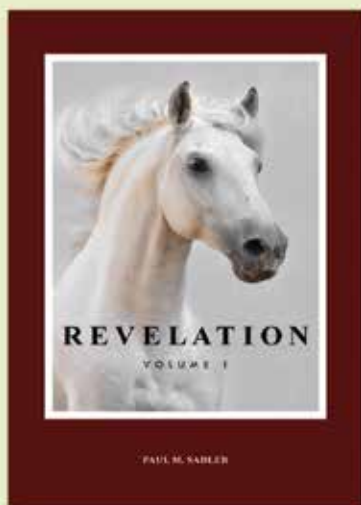
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Some of the most sorrowful words we have to say here at BBS are the ones we have to say when someone orders one of our publications and we have to tell them it is "out of print." But some of the most *joyful* words we get to say come when we get to announce that something is "back in print!" This month our joy is full, for *both* these titles are *back in print*...

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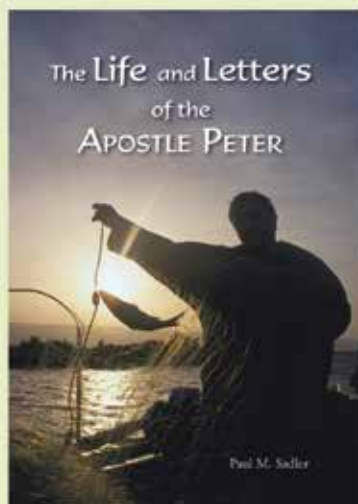
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News and Announcements

Internet Radio Initiative: Recently our good friend Carlton Shull called to tell us about a new opportunity to advance the grace message. An internet site known as www.bransongospelradio.com presents gospel music and Christian talk shows during the week, but they were looking for Bible teaching programs to fill their Sunday schedule. Carlton told them about *Berean Bible Society*, and they now feature BBS pastors and teachers every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. CST, and then again later that night at 2 a.m.

New Phone App Feature: If you enjoy the video Bible study messages that are featured on our website, you can now access these studies on your phone! If you have our BBS app, just click on the “More” link and then click again on “BBS Network” and you’re up and running. The next time you have to wait to see the doctor, take a pass on the dated worldly magazines on his rack and take the opportunity to grow in grace instead!

Ohio Bible Conference: Every year around this time, Pastor David Adams reinforces the solid Bible teaching he presents all year long by hosting a Bible conference. This year BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler will be doing the reinforcing, so come April 20-22, *First Grace Gospel Church* of Ashtabula is the place to be! If you don’t believe me, just ask Pastor Adams at (440) 992-9008.

New Virginia Church Startup: Our new friend Derrick Stewart has known the grace message long enough to know he has a responsibility to get it out to others! If you live within driving distance of his home in Roanoke, and would like to help get a grace work started in your area, he can be reached at (540) 632-1707, or at derrick.stewart@gmail.com.

Pastoral Opportunity: If you are a pastor looking for a church, *Massillon Calvary Chapel* of Massillon, Ohio, just might be looking for you! We mentioned this a year and a half ago, so if you had to pass on this opportunity back then for some reason, why not touch base with them now? Just contact Sean Richards at sjrich889@outlook.com.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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

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

South Central Alaska Conference, May 25-26, Soldotna, AK

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



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“...lay up for yourselves **treasures** in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal” (Matt. 6:20).

