

The
BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

March 2019



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This month's front cover is the Europa Point Lighthouse, in the Territory of Gibraltar.

The Purpose of the Berean Bible Society is to help you understand and enjoy the Bible. The Mission of BBS is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the whole counsel of God according to the revelation of the Mystery. Our Goals are to evangelize the lost, to educate the saved in "rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15), to energize the Christian life, and to encourage the local church.

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You can reach us at:

BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY
N112 W17761 Mequon Road
PO Box 756
Germantown, WI 53022

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

Internet: www.bereanbiblesociety.org

E-mail: berean@bereanbiblesociety.org

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A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you might have seen in the January *Berean Searchlight*, we advertised a “January Clearance” of seven items we were giving away for free to those willing to pay \$5.00 for the shipping and handling. We were thankful for the good response to this special. As you can see from the picture below, orders for the “January Clearance” and *Revelation Volume 4* have been so plentiful as to create a tower of orders in our mailroom. Filling these orders has made room in our warehouse for the following 2019 reprints and new works.

Three books are currently at the printer. *Holding Fast the Faithful Word* has been out of stock for the last few years but has been requested by many during that time. This book is a fascinating historical record of Pastor C. R. Stam’s correspondence with prominent Bible teachers of his day. It demonstrates how Pastor Stam stood strong for the truth and desired others to see it.

We were getting very low on *Things That Differ* by C. R. Stam. Year in and year out, this book is our best seller. This work, more than any other at BBS, has been used of the Lord to help others see God’s truth for today, which, as this book teaches, is found through understanding Paul’s unique apostleship and message.

The Twofold Purpose of God is also one of our more popular works. It is an 80-page book in which Pastor Stam contrasts God’s twofold purpose of prophecy and the mystery regarding the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and second coming of Christ.

Three booklets are now back from the printer. *Unanswered Prayer* is now sporting a new cover. This 24-page booklet is a personal testimony by Pastor Stam explaining how God’s prayer instructions and promises have changed for the dispensation of grace. Two new booklets from episodes of *Transformed by Grace* are now in stock: *Saved From What?* and *Understanding Your Bible*. To give you an idea of their content, we printed excerpts from these two booklets on pages 13-19. To place an order for them, please see page 28.

I’m also pleased to announce that during 2019, Pastor Ricky Kurth will be working on a second volume of *Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*. Lord willing, we will have it in stock early next year. Please consider giving to our “Literature Fund” to help BBS with the costs of printing these works, old and new.



Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kevin Sadler, President



A Monday Morning Testimony

On a recent Monday morning, I had two hours of very unpleasant dental work done. As I sat there, I began grumbling to myself that it was not my idea of the best way to start a workweek.

After arriving at BBS, I was only in the office for ten minutes when Christine, our receptionist, buzzed my office on the intercom and said that there was someone on the phone and that this was a call I definitely wanted to take. I took the call (with half my face still numb), the woman on the phone said that she had been watching *Transformed by Grace* in Chicago, Illinois. After sharing a little of her background, she said, “I want to know how to be saved.” I told her that this was the most important truth anyone could want to know, and I walked her through the simple gospel message.

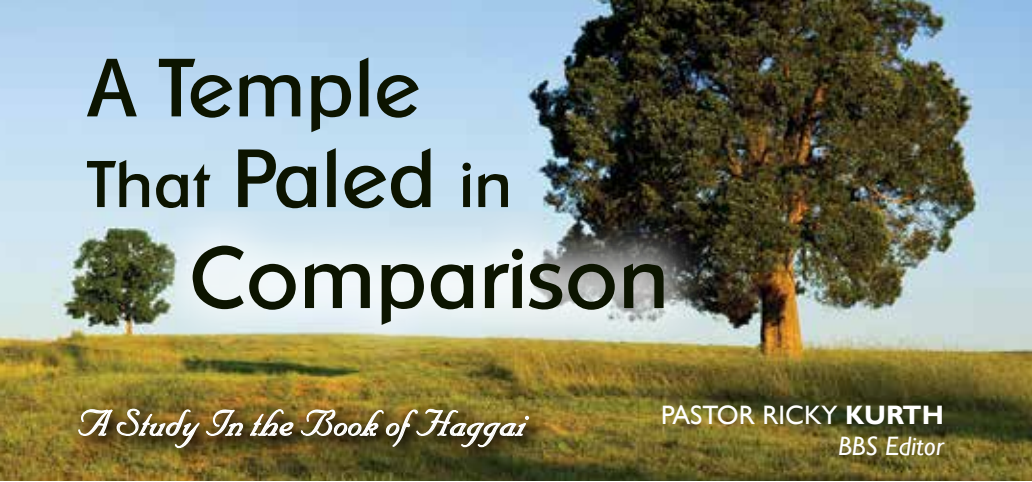
Following this, I asked her, “Would you like to trust Christ as your Savior right now?” She responded, “Well, that’s why I called.” I told her that I would pray first and then she could pray. She prayed a beautiful prayer from the heart stating that she believed that Christ died for her sins and rose again, and she thanked the Lord for saving her from all her sins.

After she finished praying, I told her that heaven just exploded in rejoicing for her salvation, and that today was now her second birthday, the day she was spiritually born again into the family of God. She responded, “I’m going to write this date down!” I took down her address and sent her Pastor Kurth’s booklet for new believers, *Now That I Believe*, as well as a Bible, writing the date in it that she was saved by the grace of God. This Monday morning went from the pain of a dentist’s chair to the joy and the privilege of leading someone to the Lord.

After I excitedly told all our staff about it, Christine remarked that she had been receiving numerous calls from Chicago that morning in response to *Transformed by Grace* on WJYS, the most recent addition to our station roster, where we began broadcasting this past October. People were asking for more information about our ministry, and some signed up to receive the *Berean Searchlight*.

Thanks to those of you who have been praying for [*Transformed by Grace*](#) and supporting it financially. The Lord is working, and we are seeing spiritual fruit. This ministry outreach is a team effort and, to me, this one phone call exemplifies how everything that has been done for the TV program is worth it. It’s what ministry is all about.

—Pastor Kevin Sadler



A Temple That Paled in Comparison

A Study In the Book of Haggai

PASTOR RICKY KURTH
BBS Editor

Did you hear about the Sunday School teacher who asked her class, “Where was Solomon’s temple located?” One smart-alec little boy replied, “On the side of his head!”

Speaking of Solomon’s temple, after it was destroyed and the Jews began to rebuild it, people naturally compared it to the *original* temple. And when they did, they concluded that the new temple could not compare with the former one:

“Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? *is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?*” (Hag. 2:3).

It had been more than 70 years since Solomon’s temple had been destroyed, but there were still some who were left in Israel who could remember its glory. Solomon was the richest man in the world, and he had built a *magnificent* temple. By contrast, the Jews in Haggai’s day did not have the wealth or resources to build a comparable structure. So even though their temple was the best that their humble resources could muster, it paled in comparison.

Even when the new temple’s foundation was laid years earlier,

“...many of the...*ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice...*” (Ezra 3:12).

Those who were old enough to remember Solomon’s temple could tell from the size of the new temple’s foundation that God’s new house was going to be *much smaller*. The fact that they “wept” shows they were very *discouraged* about it, and discouragement can severely hamper the Lord’s work!

So if *you’re* discouraged that your grace church isn’t very big, or that the grace movement isn’t as large as many other fellowships, you might want to pay close attention to how God *responded* to this discouragement among His people.

An Earlier Source of Discouragement

But before we look at God’s solution to their despair, we need to point out that God’s people had just gotten over *another* reason for discouragement. After the

new foundation was laid in Ezra 3, some troublemakers convinced the king of Persia to order that further work on the temple cease and desist (Ezra 4). I'm sure God's people found *that* discouraging as well!

But God dealt with their discouragement by raising up *another* prophet named Zechariah to help Haggai encourage His people (Ezra 5:1,2). And speaking of the king's cease and desist order, Zechariah wrote,

“Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain” (Zech. 4:7).

The “mountain” here represents the kingdom of Persia. Mountains in Scripture are often types of kingdoms. Someday “the lion shall eat straw like the bull-ock” in the kingdom of heaven on earth (Isa. 65:25), but in explaining when that will happen, God didn't say it would happen in His holy *kingdom*. He said it would happen in “My holy *mountain*.”

And the mountain in Zechariah 4:7 was the kingdom of Persia, the nation that had brought the work on the temple to an abrupt halt with the order of her king. God vowed that the mountain of this kingdom would *become a plain* before Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah (Hag. 1:1); that is, that he would *flatten* this king's resistance—and *he did*.

But Governor Zerubbabel didn't do it by resuming work on the temple *in defiance* of the king's cease and desist order. He flattened it by pointing out that a *previous* king had ordered that the temple be *built* (Ezra 5:13). That meant that no subsequent king had any

legal right to countermand the previous king's law, for “the law of the Medes and Persians...*altereth not*” (Dan. 6:8). Once the new king of Persia checked the previous king's order that the temple be built (Ezra 6:1-5), repealed the cease and desist order, and enforced the original law ordering that it be built (v. 6-14). And suddenly, the mountain of Persia's resistance became a plain before Zerubbabel!

The Definition of Grace

And so it was that when God's people in Haggai's day had no power in themselves to overturn the king's cease and desist order, *God had done it for them*. He did it by means of Israel's governor, who obeyed God's command in His Word not to resist the government, choosing rather to work within the constraints of the government to resist a law that oppressed God's people. May we always remember to do the same!

But that's why in speaking of the feeble might and power of His people, Zechariah added that the king's order would be overturned,

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain” (Zech. 4:6,7).

Zerubbabel could not have toppled the king's order by his *own* might or power. God's Spirit had to get the job done, working through His Word. That explains why Zechariah went on to say of Zerubbabel,

“...and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, *Grace, grace* unto it” (Zech. 4:7).

What’s that all about? Well, the word “headstone” in the Bible refers to the cornerstone of a building (Psa. 118:22 cf. Matt. 21:42). The headstone here in Zechariah’s prophecy was the cornerstone of the foundation of the new temple. When the prophet predicted that Zerubbabel would “bring forth” the headstone of the foundation, he was saying the king would bring it forth *into a temple* and complete the work.



“So if you’re discouraged that your grace church isn’t very big...”

But how would shouting “grace” to the headstone of the foundation bring it forth into a temple? Well, we have a clue with that word “shoutings.” When the foundation was laid,

“...they sang...in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD...And...shouted with a great shout...because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid...many shouted aloud for joy...the people shouted with a loud shout...” (Ezra 3:11-13).

It was their shouts of praise and thanksgiving that would bring the foundation headstone forth into a temple, *not* their

shouts of protest against the king’s cease and desist order! They are called shouts of *grace* because one of the *definitions* of grace is God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Something to Shout About!

The walls of Jericho came down when God’s people *shouted* at them (Josh. 6:5,10,16,20) because they were shouting *grace* to those massive walls in obedience to the Word that God gave them through Joshua. They were saying, “God, you’re going to have to do for us what we can’t do for ourselves.” The walls of Jericho fell down “flat” (Josh. 6:20), they became a *plain*, by shoutings of grace. And the mountain of opposition to the rebuilding of the temple, posed by the king’s cease and desist order, was *also* leveled flat by shoutings of grace.

And whatever mountain is standing in *your* way in life, the way to *flatten it*, the way to *level it into a plain*, is to shout *grace* unto it, by remembering that God’s Word to us through Paul says that His grace is sufficient for all our needs (2 Cor. 12:7-9). We don’t have the strength to overcome life’s mountains any more than Joshua or Zerubbabel did, but the grace of God can help us get over the highest hills of opposition that life can raise.

After predicting the leveling of that mountain, Zechariah went on to prophesy that the temple would be rebuilt, saying,

“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it...” (Zech. 4:9).

I'm sure God's people found *that* prophecy of God's Word *very* encouraging!

The Solution to the Diminution

But for the work on the temple to be completed, God was going to have to overcome the lingering discouragement that His people were feeling over the diminished size of the temple. That's why Zechariah went on to say,

“For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice...” (Zech. 4:10).

Here God predicted that all who despised the size of the new temple would soon be rejoicing, for He knew His people would follow the advice that Haggai gave in the next verse in our text. After getting His people to admit that the new temple paled in comparison to the old one in their eyes (Hag. 2:3), *God told them what to do about it:*

“Yet now be strong, O Zerubabel...and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land...and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts” (Hag. 2:4).

As you can see, *God* wasn't discouraged about the size of the new temple's foundation, and He told His people not to be either. Instead of being *discouraged*, He told them to *be strong*, from the governor, to the priest, right on down to the people, *and they'd get the job done.*

You see, the secret to overcoming discouragement in the Lord's work *is to just get to work serving the Lord*, and leave the rest

to Him. That was good advice for the Jews who were building the temple, and it is good advice for us today as well! Remember, we're building the temple of *this* dispensation, “the church, which is His Body” (Eph. 1:22,23), and it's just as easy for God's people today to get discouraged as it was back then. But if we stay strong and just *work*, from our spiritual leaders on down to our people, we too can be sure that God will build His temple *through us*, just as He did through His people in Haggai's day.

Who Owns the Land of Israel?

Did you notice that God called the people of Israel “the people of the land” (Hag. 2:4)? That's a phrase that appears 52 times in the Bible, and it is talking about *the land of Canaan*. And I don't have to tell you that nowadays there is a lot of very heated discussion about *which* people own that land. Jews and Arabs have been fighting over it for some 4,000 years now! But there is no question *in God's mind* who that land belongs to, for God promised it to Abraham and his seed “for an *everlasting* possession” (Gen. 17:8).

But when God first told Abraham to go to this land, he took his sweet time about it (Gen. 12:1-4).¹ By the time he got there, Satan had already filled the land with *his* people (Gen. 12:6). And for some reason, Moses called *them* “the people of the land” *three times* (Gen. 23:7-13). Didn't he know God had promised that land to Israel?

Well, yes, of course he did. But he *also* knew that the Canaanites had what we call “squatter’s rights,” property rights that are recognized throughout the world even today. *Uslegal.com* defines them as “a legal allowance to use the property of another in the absence of an attempt by the owner to force eviction.” God knew it wasn’t good for the land to remain unoccupied (cf. Ex. 23:28,29), so He recognized the squatter’s rights of the Canaanites, and that’s why He inspired Moses to call *them* “the people of the land.”



But when Joshua led Abraham’s seed into Canaan, *he served an eviction notice* to the Canaanites, and God *enforced* His promise to give that land to the people of Israel. From that time forward *they* were known as “the people of the land.”² That lasted until they were carried away captive into Babylon, when God allowed *more squatters* to take up residence in the land in their absence.

We know that God recognized the rights of these *new squatters* as well, for when the Jews returned to the land from Babylon, the Bible calls *them* “the people of the land” (Ezra 4:4; 10:2,11). That means that God once again recognized the rights of squatters

to rule the land of Israel, just as He recognized their right to rule over the Jews themselves during “the times of the Gentiles.”³

It’s Still Israel’s Land

Now don’t get me wrong, that land still *belongs* to Israel. God promised it to Abraham and his seed “for ever” (Gen. 13:15). But that is *not* a promise that God is *enforcing* today, in the dispensation of grace, any more than He’s enforcing His promise to have Abraham’s seed rule the world. The reason for this is that the people of Israel today are *not His people* (Hos. 1:9). But when the Lord returns after the Tribulation to set up the kingdom of heaven on earth, Israel will again be God’s people (Hos. 1:10), and He will enforce His promise to have them rule the world, and He will also enforce His promise to give them that land as well.

In the meantime, don’t get sidetracked into all that fussing about who that land belongs to *today*. Instead of being concerned with who owns the Jews’ *land*, be concerned with who owns their *souls*. That’s what your apostle Paul was concerned with (Rom. 10:1). It was *not* his “heart’s desire” that the Jews possess *their land*; it was his heart’s desire “and prayer to God” that they possess *salvation*. That’s how we should pray as well!

If you are thinking, “If all that’s so, why did Haggai call *the Jews* ‘the people of the land’ (Hag. 2:4) at a time when Ezra gave that name to *the Gentiles* (Ezra. 4:4; 10:2,11)?” The answer is that Haggai was just reminding the

Jews that they were the *true* owners of the land, despite the current occupation of the squatters, and so they had every right to build a temple on the land.

In addition, this passage is a type of the kingdom of heaven on earth, when Israel will again *be* the people of the land. We know this because Haggai made this prophecy “in the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month” (Hag. 2:1). That was the last day of the feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:39), also known as “the feast of ingathering” (Ex. 23:16). God told His people to observe this feast “in the end of the year, *when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.*” This feast was a type of the kingdom because it was Israel’s *last* feast, just like the kingdom is the last event on their program.

And the kingdom will *begin* when “the Son of man...shall send His angels...and they shall *gather together His elect from the four winds*” (Matt. 24:30,31), as portrayed by the feast of ingathering, and as typified in the date given here in Haggai. And since this passage is a type of the kingdom, God naturally referred to the Jews as “the people of the land,” for they will again *be* the people of the land in that day.

The Strong Silent Type

Now when God told the Jews to “be strong” (Hag. 2:4) in the face of their discouragement over the size of their temple (v. 3), he was telling them to have the kind of strength Abraham had when God told him he would have a son when he was 100 years old,

and his wife was 90. Speaking of Abraham, Paul said,

“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith...being fully persuaded that, *what He had promised, He was able also to perform*” (Rom. 4:20,21).

You could have told Abraham all day long to “be strong,” and he would never have been able to muster up the kind of strength he would need to father a child. He needed the strength of *faith* to believe that God would perform what He promised him in His Word. That is *always* what God means when he says to “be strong.” After Joshua led Israel across the Jordan River into Canaan, God told him,

“*Be strong...for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them*” (Josh. 1:6).

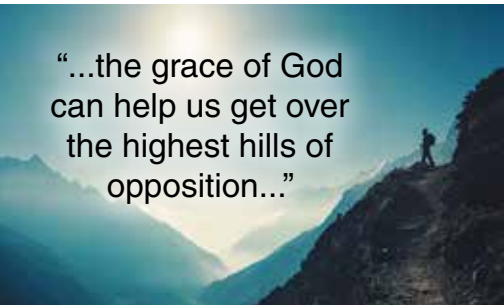
You could have told Joshua all day long to “be strong,” and he would never have been able to muster up the strength needed to bring down the walls of Jericho! He needed to be strong *in faith* that God could do what He promised him in His Word.

And that’s the kind of strength God’s people would need in Haggai’s day as well. Strong faith in God’s promise to them that, as He told them, “I am with you.”

God Is with You

Now the reason God gave them this assurance is that it probably didn’t *seem* like God was with them when they saw how humble a temple their meager resources were allowing them to build for

Him. That's why God didn't say to them, "You can tell I am with you by the results of your service for Me." He rather told them,



"...the grace of God can help us get over the highest hills of opposition..."

"I am with you...according to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt..." (Hag. 2:4,5).

In the covenant of the Law, God had told them, "I will dwell among the children of Israel" (Ex. 29:45). That's where they needed to look for assurance that God was with them, *in His Word*, and *not* in the humble results of their faithful work for the Lord.

And that is where *you* need to look for this assurance as well. It has *never* been a good idea for God's people to look to the results of their faithfulness to see if God was with them. Stephen said,

"...the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him" (Acts 7:9).

If you know the story of Joseph, you know that *his* faithfulness was rewarded when his brethren threw him into a hole in the ground *and sold him into slavery*. It sure didn't *seem* like God was with him, *but God says He was*. And if you know the story, you know God brought forth a great deliverance for His people through Joseph's faithfulness.

So when you find yourself discouraged in the Lord's work despite *your* faithfulness, as God's people in Haggai's day did, don't be wondering if God is with you. That's what many believers do when their faithful service for the Lord doesn't seem to be amounting to much, as was also true in Haggai's day. *Look to His Word* and you'll *know* that He is with you.

God's Miracles Are Not with You

Now there was *another* reason they needed assurance that God was with them. It was the same reason Gideon needed it:

"...the angel of the LORD...said unto him, *The LORD is with thee...* And Gideon said unto Him, *Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all the miracles which our fathers told us of...the LORD hath forsaken us...*" (Judges 6:12,13).

Gideon too felt that the Lord wasn't with him despite his faithfulness, for it had "befallen" him and the rest of God's people to become slaves to the Midianites. But he *also* questioned whether the Lord was with him because he wasn't seeing the *miracles* he knew God had performed for His people in the past.

And both of these obstacles to faith were present in Haggai's day. The humble results of their faithfulness and the lack of God's miracles made them question whether He was truly with them. That's why God said, "My spirit remaineth among you" (Hag. 2:5). The temple they were faithfully

erecting might be humble, and the miracles might be gone, but God *gave them His Word* that His Spirit remained. The mighty God who dwelt in Solomon's magnificent temple was going to faithfully dwell in their humble dwelling as well. God wasn't going anywhere.


Is there anything you can learn from all this? Just because a mountain of opposition has befallen *you* doesn't mean God isn't with you. Just because your faithful efforts for the Lord aren't amounting to much in your eyes doesn't mean they are amounting to little in *His* eyes. And just because He's not doing miracles in your life doesn't mean His Spirit doesn't remain with you. So don't be discouraged, just *be strong* and *get to work* in building "the church, which is His Body" (Eph. 1:22,23).

If Haggai's countrymen had thought it through, they would have known better than to worry about the size of their temple.

After all, their God used to live in a *tabernacle*, a humble *tent*! Why would they think He would mind living in a smaller temple? And just because your church isn't a very big temple, or the grace movement is not as grand as other movements, doesn't mean that God's Spirit doesn't remain among us. So don't despise the day of small things, just get to work and make the small thing of His church bigger!

1. The word "had" in Genesis 12:1 indicates that God had told Abraham to go to the land many years prior to his arrival in the land in Genesis 12.

2. See II Kings 11:14,18,19,20; 15:5; 16:15; 21:24; 23:30,35; 24:14; 25:3,19; II Chron. 23:13,20,21; 26:21; 33:25; 36:1.

3. The times of the Gentiles are the times when Gentiles rule the world instead of Jews, as God intended (Deut. 28:13). They began when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Israel and will continue until the Lord returns (Luke 21:24). At that time God will restore rulership of the world to Israel, and enforce His promise to give the land to the *true* people of Israel, the *believers* among Abraham's seed. 

Arizona Bible Conference

March 22-24, 2019

Speaker: Pastor Ricky Kurth, BBS Editor

Theme: "Grace Distinctives"

Location: *West Valley Grace Fellowship*
114465 R H Johnson Boulevard
Sun City West, Arizona

For questions or additional information, please contact:
Pastor Mark Dillely at jjdster@gmail.com, 623-377-3071 or
Jim Humphrey at jhumph783@gmail.com, 623-466-7636



Saved From WHAT?

PASTOR KEVIN **SADLER**
BBS President

An excerpt from Pastor Kevin Sadler's new booklet, based on episode 58 of *Transformed by Grace*. To order this booklet, see page 28.

The Bible talks about salvation and people being saved. But what does it mean by this? What are we saved from? *Saved* and *salvation* are words that speak of deliverance or rescue, and the natural question should be *saved from what?*

When the Bible speaks about being saved, it is talking about being saved from Hell, from an eternity of conscious suffering and torment in the Lake of Fire. God desires to save you from Hell, from the eternal Lake of Fire. The message of Scripture is that salvation is a rescue, a rescue from a real place called Hell.

This is important for us to remember as we think about the lost and unbelieving, and as we live with gratitude in realizing the horrors of what we have been saved from. The single greatest way we can show love and concern for others is to share the gospel with them. We are seeking to meet their greatest need, and to warn them and show them the One Who will rescue them out of the eternal fires of Hell if they just believe the gospel.

The Bible is a Book of warning about Hell. It's wrong to ignore this message in God's Word. We should warn others as the Bible warns about the Lake of Fire....

Revelation 20:15: "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

The sentence of the second death will be passed on all unbelievers from all ages at the Great White Throne Judgment. The Lake of Fire is the final destination of the unsaved. The Apostle Paul writes that the unbelieving will "be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thes. 1:9).

The Lake of Fire is a place of punishment, everlasting destruction, and separation from the presence of the Lord. The horror of separation from God is seen in the life of Cain. When Cain was punished by the Lord for murdering his brother Abel,

“Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day...and from Thy face shall I be hid” (Gen. 4:13-14).

This is a mild version of what happens to the lost in Hell. They are driven from the Lord, hidden from His face eternally, forsaken and separated forever from His presence. And being separated from His blessings and goodness will cause their punishment to be greater than they can bear. Separation from God and His goodness is a horror unimaginable in our minds.

Revelation 21:8: “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

The lost in Hell will spend eternity in the midst of *pure evil*, among the wicked and basest of people in Hell. They will spend eternity with killers and murderers, the sexually immoral, rapists, sorcerers, revolting, hateful, depraved, malicious people. They will also live eternally among evil demons, Satan, the Beast, the False Prophet, and all the horrors and fears that go with living in their presence eternally.

Unbelievers will spend eternity in the midst of complete evil and wickedness forever. They will not experience anything good. The blessings of God in this life that are often taken for granted, they'll never experience again: family, food, light, comfort, home, laughter, rest.

The Bible presents Hell as a *real place* where all the unbelieving suffer the wrath of God for all eternity. And Hell never changes; it never improves. Hell is not chastisement; it's everlasting *punishment*. There is no way out of it. Whoever goes to Hell, stays in Hell....

Hell is described as a lake made up “of fire burning with brimstone” (Rev. 19:20). When you put a log in a fireplace, you do it quickly. When you touch a hot pan, it hurts. The lost will burn in scorching fire, in horrific torment, experiencing unrelenting pain.

Mark 9:43-45 says that the fire will never be quenched. It is an unquenchable fire that cannot nor will not be put out, and burns forever. It is described as a “furnace of fire” (Matt. 13:42,50), a furnace that causes relentless, suffocating, tormenting heat.



Christ warned, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell" (Matt. 10:28). Hell is a place of spiritual and bodily destruction. There is no fellowship in Hell. No parties in Hell. No community, no companionship, no relationships in Hell. Hell will be filled with people personally demolished and destroyed by emotional and spiritual pain and physical agony. Every individual will be completely entrenched in his/her own anguish. It will be utter loneliness and sorrow. Solitary, personal suffering forever is the picture we get of the Lake of Fire from Scripture.

*"The morning never comes in Hell,
and it will never come."*

"Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 22:13).

Christ teaches that Hell is a place of "*outer darkness*." Jude 1:13 says, "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the *blackness of darkness* for ever." The Lake of Fire will be a place of utter darkness, blackness of darkness, fearsome darkness.

The morning never comes in Hell, and it will never come. The light never goes on. The sun never comes up. There's never a breakthrough. There will be only infinite ages of endless hopelessness, darkness, futility, and despair in a state totally separated from God.

Matthew 22:13 also teaches, "there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Crying, weeping, wailing, shrieking will be heard among those in Hell. The condemned will intensely moan, cry, and sob inconsolably. They will cry and wail for help, but no help will ever come.

They will gnash and grind their teeth out of their intense pain. This gnashing of teeth also speaks of their *regret*. Out of their emotional anguish, they will eternally, continually gnash their teeth because of their deep remorse.


You burn dinner, you forget your anniversary, you have a bad work day, or you get a bad haircut, and so you gnash your teeth and it

bothers you, but you get another chance. You know there's a next time to do better and do it differently. For the lost in Hell, though, they'll remember how they had the opportunity to be saved, but they rejected Christ. They will know there is no next time. There is no hope nor anticipation of doing it differently next time around. This eternal regret will cause them deep pain, and their gnashing of their teeth will never, ever, stop....

There are many roads to Hell, but there is only one way to escape it. And it's by "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," the Lord Jesus Christ. East or west, north or south, rich or poor, ancient or modern, the problem is the same, and the solution is the same. The problem is sin. The Solution is Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:21-26).

We are dead in our sins. We are heading for Hell. But there is a Savior, a Rescuer, a Deliverer, Who died on the Cross to save us from eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire. Just trusting that Christ died for your sins and rose again saves you from Hell (1 Cor. 15:1-4). By grace through faith, as a free gift (Eph. 2:8-9), He gives us eternal life and a home in Heaven forever.

Where is your soul going when you die? Are you prepared? Have you trusted Christ? If you haven't, don't delay. Do this right now.

For those who have believed, may the truth about Hell motivate us to talk to our loved ones and family and friends, and anyone and everyone, about Christ and the gospel of grace that saves from Hell, so they may believe and be saved before it's too late. 

Mississippi

March 16-17, 2019

BIBLE

CONFERENCE

Speakers:

Pastor Kevin Sadler, BBS President
Pastor John Smith, *Grace Bible Ministry Church*

Location:

Grace Bible Ministry Church
144 South Thomas St. Suite 102
Tupelo, Mississippi

For directions and additional information, please contact:
Pastor John Smith at gracebibleministry@att.net or 662-706-4086

Understanding Your BIBLE

PASTOR KEVIN **SADLER**
BBS President

An excerpt from Pastor Kevin Sadler's new booklet, based on episode 38 of
Transformed by Grace. To order this booklet, see page 28.

It's been rightly said that "Every promise in God's Word is true, but **I** not every promise is meant for you." We must rightly divide the Word to understand what promises are meant for us. The Bible says what it means, and means what it says, *to whom it was written*. And we need to rightly divide the Word to know and understand what's written directly to us.

Rightly dividing the Word does *not* mean that we reject part of the Bible, nor that we pick and choose what we like or dislike. It means to understand Scripture in light of its context, and in light of to whom it was written. It means to recognize that, while all the Bible is for us, for our learning and profit and edification, the Bible is not all written directly to us nor about us. Some parts of the Bible God addressed to someone else, the nation Israel. And others He wrote specifically to us, to Gentiles, or the nations, under Grace.

There are principles, truths, examples, and lessons to be learned and applied throughout all Scripture, but it's not all written specifically to us or for us to live by. The Bible is like mail that God addressed to the people He was speaking to at a given time. And rightly dividing the Word of truth means to *check the address*. For example, James 1:1 says,

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad."

Is this you? No! The Book of James was written to Israel in the past, to the Jews who had been dispersed from Jerusalem and Israel as a result of the persecution at that time. It also pertains to future, scattered Israel after the Church is caught away to heaven in the Rapture. But the Book of James *is* for our learning and profit. And like many truths from other dispensations, it has principles which are horizontal and are true at all times across all dispensations. And in James we find this. For example:

“The trying of your faith worketh patience” (1:3).

“The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity” (3:6).

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up” (4:10).

These things are true for all, and at any time. They are horizontal truths. *But James is not addressed to us.* And so James has vertical truths which are true just for that program and for the nation Israel. They are not for us today, such as:

“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil...And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up” (5:14,15).

“...ask of God...and it shall be given him” (1:5).

“...by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (2:24).

These things are for Israel under their kingdom (law—faith plus works) program. They’ll be true for those living in the Tribulation and Kingdom.

But when we turn to the epistles of Paul, he tells us,

“I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles” (2 Tim. 1:11).

Paul is “the apostle of the Gentiles” (Rom. 11:13), and when Paul is writing or teaching in God’s Word, he’s teaching, not Israel under the law, but instead Gentiles, members of Christ’s Body under grace. That’s us! The key to understanding Scripture is to recognize that the letters of Paul

“The key to understanding Scripture is to recognize that the letters of Paul are our mail...”



are *our mail*, and that they provide the Church, the Body of Christ, of today with our instructions that we are to live by directly in this present age of Grace.

Paul’s epistles are our writings to be lived by and applied by the Church, the Body of Christ, in this present age. As C. I. Scofield rightly wrote, “In his [Paul’s] writings alone we find the doctrine, position, walk, and destiny of the Church.”

The truth of salvation by grace through faith alone comes from Paul’s writings. In contrast to James, Paul wrote,

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness” (Rom. 4:5).

Paul says salvation is by faith alone today, not by faith plus works as James says. Bible teachers do some interesting gymnastics trying

to reconcile what James says with what Paul says. But you don't need to if you just *rightly divide the Word*.

James and Paul both say what they mean and mean what they say to whom they are writing. For salvation under God's dealing with Israel under the law, it is true: "by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." For salvation under God's dealings with the Body of Christ under grace, it is true that "to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."


Paul tells us that salvation is by grace through faith alone in Christ's finished work. This also carries over to truth directly applicable for our walk, position, and future hope. It all comes from Paul's letters. Paul's writings are written directly to us, Jew and Gentile alike, in this dispensation of grace.

With this basis of understanding, we then go to the rest of Scripture and take the literal interpretation of it, and interpret it in light of the teaching in the epistles of Paul. And we can draw application and principles from all of the Bible, and apply them to our life as they coincide and do not contradict Paul's writings and teachings for today.

"A man asked his wife what she'd like for her birthday. 'I'd love to be six again,' she replied. On the morning of her birthday, he got her up bright and early and off they went to a local theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park: the Death Slide, the Screaming Loop, the Wall of Fear—everything there was!...Five hours later she staggered out of the theme park, her head reeling and her stomach



upside down. Right to a McDonald's they went, where her husband ordered her a Big Mac along with extra fries and a refreshing chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie—the latest Star Wars epic, and hot dogs, popcorn, Pepsi Cola and M&M's. What a fabulous adventure! Finally she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed. He leaned over and lovingly asked, 'Well, dear, what was it like being six again?' One eye opened. '...I meant my dress size!'"¹

Not exactly what she had in mind! And when it comes to God's Word, many misunderstand what God has in mind for us. Many allow tradition or philosophy to blind them. Many read preconceived ideas into Scripture. Many spiritualize what's taught concretely. But mainly because God's Word is not rightly divided, it is often misinterpreted and misunderstood. 

1. "3 Top Jokes about Married Couples; I'd Love to Be Six Again." <https://www.crossmap.com/news/3-top-jokes-about-husbands-and-wives-in-marriage.html>.



Redeeming the Time

A timely reminder as we set our clocks ahead for Daylight Savings Time.

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16).

Time is a very precious commodity—here one minute, gone the next! It is said that Jonathan Edwards wrote in his diary at the age of twenty: “Resolved, never to lose one moment of time, but improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.” If we were to paraphrase “redeeming the time,” it would probably come out something like this: “Making wise use of the opportunities we are given.” This, of course, transcends every area of our Christian experience.

We must take advantage of the opportunities which come our way to tell others about the Mystery. You would be amazed at the number who have written us to share how their search for the truth came to an end when one of our “grace people” opened Paul’s gospel to them. The letters usually go something like this: “I *sensed* there was something more, but I just couldn’t put my finger on it until I heard the Word, rightly divided!” We tend to rationalize that our Christian friends are so entrenched in denominationalism that they would never receive this message, even if we did tell them. This may be true, but how many opportunities have been passed by due to our reluctance to open our mouth *boldly* to make known the Mystery?

Perhaps we need to write these words anew on the tablets of our hearts:

“Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15,16).

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel... that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” (Eph. 6:18-20).

“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time, Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” —Pastor Paul M. Sadler

How to Judge Angels

DAVE STEWART
Contributing Writer

A grace believer once told me about the time he and his wife went down to their local Walmart to pick out a pair of folding lawn chairs. You know the kind that you pack up and take with you on picnics and to the kids' soccer games. Having carefully considered all the options, they had whittled their choices down to two. While one brand seemed to have a sturdier frame, the other boasted a higher quality of seat material. After much agonizing, and way too many choruses of "What do you think? I don't know. What do you think?" his wife rolled her eyes and said playfully, "And we're gonna judge angels?"

The decisions in our own lives can be challenging enough, but the thought of being a judge, of making decisions for someone else, can seem even more daunting. Add to that, that the "someone else" we will be judging will be angels, and the prospect becomes overwhelming. But that's exactly what our apostle tells us we'll be called upon to do.

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?... Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" (1 Cor. 6:2,3).

THE SAINTS SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD

In the passage above, Paul begins with the general statement, "the saints" shall judge the world, and then moves to the specific, "we" shall judge angels. The divine vision for the world to come is one of sainted governance ministered by God through the believing nation of Israel.

"And He shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness" (Psa. 9:8).

"...Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed Me... ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matt. 19:28).

"...they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:6).

What a day of rejoicing, when not only will God's people, Israel, be redeemed at last, but the whole

world will be governed in righteousness through them.

WE SHALL JUDGE ANGELS

In that world to come, while the saints of Israel are reigning over the earth, we, the Body of Christ, will be busy presiding over heavenly places.

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe...Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion” (Eph. 1:19-21).

“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6).

And so Paul’s saying will come to pass; the saints shall judge the world, and we shall judge angels.

WHY DO ANGELS NEED JUDGES?

The great American founding father, James Madison, famously wrote, “If men were angels, no government would be necessary.”¹ While we understand the point he was trying to make, and with all due respect to the founding fathers, this statement is Scripturally incorrect. The fact that elect angels have no sin does in no way strip them of their individuality or independence of mind. As much as we might like to imagine otherwise, a lack of sin does not guarantee a lack of disagreement. Or put another way, angels still argue.

In 1 Kings chapter 22 the prophet, Micaiah, gives us a rare


glimpse into the heavenly courtroom of God. The issue at hand is how Ahab, the king of Israel, might be persuaded to go to war at his own peril. Let’s listen in...

“I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right hand and on His left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so” (1 Kings 22:19-22).

Here we find a great angelic debate. The mission has been laid out by God, and “all the host of heaven” have their input as to how it should be done, “one on this manner, and another on that.” The angels do not divide into two camps with the elect angels unified on one side and the fallen angels on the other, but each angel has his own opinion, and those opinions differ. Of course, in eternity, the fallen angels will have been disposed of and only the holy angels will remain, but still each with his own unique perspectives.

Notice too, that the question of the debate is not whether the angels will fulfill God’s will, but rather, on which way of fulfilling God’s will is best. Even so, when we judge the elect angels, it will

not be a judgment between right and wrong, between good and evil, but between the good, the better, and the best way to glorify God. Or as Paul puts it, we will need to “approve things that are excellent.”



“Grace! Finally, a dispensation fit for angels.”

“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent” (Phil. 1:9,10).

Love, guided by knowledge and judgment, enables the grace believer to choose, not just the right thing, but the most excellent thing. Under grace, the issues of life are not a matter of legality versus illegality, but of choosing the better thing, and wherever possible, the perfect thing.

“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not” (1 Cor. 10:23).

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2).

Unlike the judges of men, the questions we will be called upon to consider will not be matters of the law, but of distinguishing the good from the acceptable, and the acceptable from the perfect.

As Paul declares in Romans 12:2 quoted above, these are not the ways of this world, but are other-worldly truths enacted from a mind transformed and renewed by the grace of God. So the truths of grace are exactly the tools we will need to be competent and faithful judges of angels.

THE CONVENIENCE OF SIN

When you and I hear a dispute or a disagreement between two people, it is our immediate instinct to judge. Which person do I agree with? Which side should I take? Unfortunately, it is often our instinct as well to justify our decision by attributing some ulterior motive to the person with whom we disagree. We think to ourselves, “Oh, he’s just saying that because...” The fact that men are sinners provides us with a convenient excuse not to consider a matter thoroughly and thoughtfully. We jump to a conclusion on one side and then assure ourselves that there must be some hidden agenda behind the other side.

But angels are not men. We won’t have the convenience of assuming deception or sinful motives when we judge between them. The elect angels will be, to us anyway, entirely new creatures, perfect and righteous before God. And we will need to deal with them as such. Thankfully, the truths of grace already equip us to do just that.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away;

behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

When we live our lives by the grace of God, we never assume evil of our brethren, for “charity...thinketh no evil” (1 Cor. 13:4,5). Grace teaches us to see one another as new creatures. Old things are passed away, BEHOLD (look, see), all things are become new.

So when you see a brother or sister in Christ, do you see a new creature, or do you still assume evil of that person? Wife, when you see your saved husband; Husband, when you see your saved wife, do you see a new creature? Have old things passed away or do you cling to the memory of things they may have done in the flesh? God is not clinging to those memories and neither should we. Grace teaches us differently. Grace prepares us to judge angels.

THE ANGELS ARE PREPARING

Just as those principalities and powers in heavenly places will be new creatures to us, we also are new creatures to them. Never before has God created a body of people so perfectly equipped, not only to dwell among them, but to guide and to govern their service. The angels observe us today, paying close attention, as a student gives attendance to his instructor.

“To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:10,11).

The host of heaven is, at this moment, preparing itself for our arrival. They are learning all they can about the new creatures God has ordained to reign in the glorious liberty of the ages to come (Rom. 8:19-23). They had seen the Law of Moses and how it was suited to govern the earthly lives of men. But it could never provide a governance fitted to their own lives. They had heard the grand and glorious promises made to those earthly creatures, but where did they themselves fit into the eternal purpose of God? What was His plan for them?




It was only as the mystery was unveiled to the Apostle Paul that the angels themselves began to understand. Only as this new rule of grace was revealed to men could those spirit creatures in heavenly places begin to make out the part of God’s plan that would be suited to their own existence. After thousands of years watching God struggle with men, for men, a new dispensation emerged. Grace! Finally, a dispensation fit for angels.

The throngs of heaven are taking notes as we speak, preparing themselves to serve under the glorious manifestation of the

sons of God. As they learn from us, we too would do well to take a lesson from them. This is a time of preparation, of training for things to come, and the semester will only last so long. As we grow and live according to God's Word rightly divided, by the knowledge and practice of His grace, we are preparing to serve in heavenly places. Even as the law was preparing Israel to govern the world of men, the grace of God is

training you and me to be competent, righteous, and gracious governors of the angelic host.

So how will you and I fulfill our high calling? How can we possibly be equipped to judge angels? By the truths of God's grace. Learn them, live them, and be fit for an eternity guiding those heavenly powers into that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 

1. *The Federalist Papers* #51.

Question Box

"If the 12 didn't know the Lord had to die (Luke 18:31-34), why did they ask for the sign of His coming (Matt. 24:3)?"

The Lord had often told them that He would have to die (Matt. 16:21; 17:22,23; 26:2), but evidently it was hard for them to believe that someone who could calm a storm and raise the dead could Himself die.

It is tempting to say that they eventually figured it out, but hours before His death Peter tried to prevent Him from even being arrested (John 18:10). Even after His resurrection, some of the disciples indicated they *still* didn't know He had to die when they lamented that His death had dashed their hopes that He was their Christ (Luke 24:13-21).

So I believe that while they didn't know He had to die, they at least knew He had to go away. He had often spoken of leaving them (Matt. 23:39; John 14:2,3,28; 16:7), although they weren't sure what He meant by that either (John 16:16-18). He had compared Himself to "a man taking a far journey" (Mark 13:34-37), so when they found it hard to believe He could die, they perhaps chose to believe He would just be going on a trip. But even the 12 who were closest to Him didn't know *where* He was going (John 14:5).

But while they didn't know where He was going, they knew He would come again, for He had mentioned His coming often (Matt. 10:23; 16:27,28; 24:27,30,37,39,44; 25:13,31). This prompted them to ask Him, "What shall be the sign of Thy coming?" (Matt. 24:3).

—Pastor Kurth



BBS Letter Excerpts

From North Carolina:

“Have enjoyed Kevin Sadler’s teaching on *Transformed by Grace* on CTN on Dish. The dispensational, rightly dividing teaching has been very helpful...Never heard a Sunday morning sermon like it.”

From Florida:

“[Regarding *Transformed by Grace*]. Honored, delighted, thankful, touched, moved, inspired, grateful, appreciative, trustworthy, kind, sincere, compassionate, truthful, considerate, reliable, humorous, non-judgmental. Dear Kevin Sadler... thank you so much.”

From Missouri:

“Regarding *The Cat’s Out of the Bag* article, when you said ‘God is not up all night pacing floors even though the weight of the world is on His shoulders.’ I had never thought about that and am now making an effort to not let anything disturb my peace either!” (Attagirl! –Ed).

From West Virginia:

“I ran into a copy of the *Berean Searchlight*, and I would like to receive it every month. I’m also ordering from it a book called *Things That Differ*.”

From Florida:

“Thank you so very much for your kindness in sending me the recent letter answering many of my questions. You are a kind brother in Christ, as was your father.”

From Missouri:

“I appreciate so much all that you provide through your ministry. Kevin Sadler’s *When Christmas Came to Egypt* was just outstanding. May our Lord and Savior continue to bless all that you do at BBS.”

From Minnesota:

“Will a new version of *Daily Transformation* by John Fredericksen be available?...I’m on my second go-round and have found it to be such a tremendous blessing...Thanks! You’re actually my church home, since I am unable to attend a weekly service.” (Pastor Fredericksen is busy with other writing projects that I know you’ll enjoy just as much! –Ed).

From Indiana:

“Please send me two copies of *Revelation IV*. This series has been an eye opener for me while reading and studying God’s Word.”

From Colorado:

“I just finished reading your book *Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*. You did an excellent job dealing with questions and objections we grace believers are often asked...Can you send the *Searchlight* articles you reference in the book?”

From Florida:

“I started reading your literature about two and a half years ago, and to this day, I’ve still found nothing to make me look elsewhere. My only plea to you is *never stop!*”

From our Inbox:

“This *Two Minutes* [“In What Sense Did Christ Atone?” by Paul M. Sadler]...helped me to understand the meaning of blood sacrifice, which I’ve never understood before! Now I see the light! It had me delve into the meanings and differences between atonement, forgiveness, and redemption. Thank you, I’m so glad I subscribed so many years ago!”

From Nova Scotia:

“I just finished your Searchlight article *A Guide to Godliness* and WOW WOW WOW, what a fantastic piece of writing. I understand things a LOT better than I did before and appreciate SO MUCH you penning this for us out here...We love you! Beautiful!”

From Facebook:

“Wonderful faithful group of people. Gave us a super tour of the building. Loved it and all the materials they produce. Pastor Stam would be proud of you all.”

From Alabama:

“Ricky, great job [on the MP3 messages on the Acts 28 position]...Bravo, you are the BBS teacher for the people, for all of us...I totally agree...You broke this down very well...Thank God you teach the basic truths.” (Well, I’m a pretty basic guy! –Ed).

From Wyoming:

“It is amazing how BBS has grown in its mission to promote Bible study and reach the non-believer. It gives me a special joy to be able to give a small monthly donation to help with advancing technology...I have long recognized your careful use of contributions received.”

From our Inbox:

“I have been meeting with Jehovah’s Witnesses...I read your online article written by W. Edward Bedore and want to say thank you for making it available. It is an excellent read! My beliefs align with the *Berean Bible Society*.”

From Wisconsin:

“We enjoy the *Searchlight*, all because of a class taught by Dave Brown.” (Dave is on our BBS Board of Directors! –Ed).

From Maryland:

“Thank you so much for coming to the East Coast and teaching us the Word, rightly divided. We all gained in many ways. We met fellow Bereans. We encouraged one another... some people came who never heard this message before. How amazing is our Lord to bring everything together. We enjoyed your family very much. We plan on attending the next conference if at all possible. The messages help us in our walk with our Savior.”

From our Inbox:

“Thank you so much for this article! [“Everybody’s a Somebody in the Body of Christ”]...I often question what would an Almighty God want with a pipsqueak like me? A gnat among gnats?! But reading this I feel blessed to have been given a life that can last forever and receive God’s blessings through the ages to come!”

From Minnesota:

“Thank you for the daily [*Two Minutes*] inspirations. These books I am ordering will help me to explain, in simple terms, what it means to be a grace believer, the mystery, and rightly dividing the Word.”



“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



Spring Forward

As we set our clocks forward this month for daylight savings time, it's also time to announce two new booklets and a time-honored favorite that is back in print.

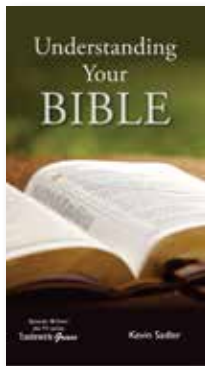
New booklets!

Based on episodes of our TV program, *Transformed by Grace*

Understanding Your Bible

by Kevin J. Sadler

Price: \$3.00 plus s&h*



Saved from What?

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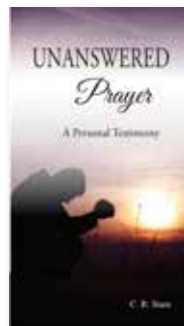
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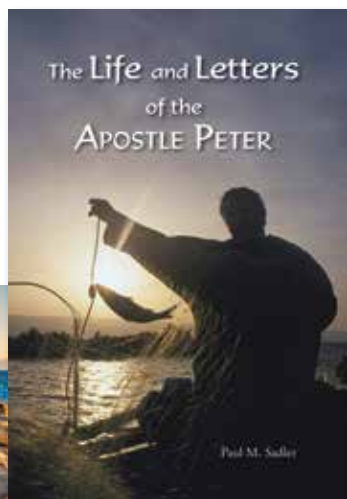
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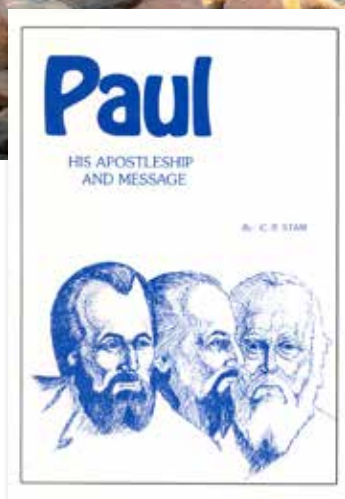


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News *and* Announcements

Montana Bible Conference: A BBS Regional Meeting is scheduled for September 20-22 in Kalispell, Montana. We're mentioning this a tad early so that you can keep this conference in mind as you plan this year's vacation. This popular tourist destination has a lot to offer any grace believer who might want to combine a Bible conference with things like sight-seeing in nearby Glacier National Park. To learn all about your opportunity to hear BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler rightly divide the Word, contact Martha Olechowski at (406) 407-8135, or at marthaaole@icloud.com.

Ohio Bible Conference: The saints of *First Grace Gospel Church* of Ashtabula, Ohio, plan to welcome *Berean Searchlight* editor Pastor Ricky Kurth to the warm and friendly confines of their historic grace church this May 3-5. There's no better way to observe Cinco de Mayo than by getting in sync with the unique apostleship and message of Paul, something conference host Pastor David Adams has been faithfully helping people do for many decades. Contact him for further information at (440) 992-9008.

Pastor James T. Penney was unexpectedly called home on December 22nd after Christmas shopping with his mother that morning. Jim learned the grace message from his uncle Mitch Hanek, who attended your editor's church. He was taking classes at *Berean Bible Institute* when he was called to pastor *Falls Bible Church* of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. He went on to shepherd the flock there for a number of years. Please keep Jim's wife Tricia and his mother Georgianne in prayer, for one of the ways that God is "the God of all comfort" is through His people.

"This is a test." That's how those tests by the *Emergency Broadcast System* used to begin, remember? They would go on to add, "Had this been an actual emergency, you would have been instructed where to tune..." Well, when we said that Paul healed by his shadow and Peter healed with his handkerchief on page 20 of the February *Searchlight*, that was only a test to see how sharp you are. Had that been an actual mistake on our part, we would have owned up to it. At least that's our story and we're sticking to it!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Tupelo Bible Conference, March 16-17, Tupelo, MS

Phoenix Bible Conference, March 22-24, Sun City West, AZ

Best of Israel Tour, May 7-16

BBF Summer Conference, June 16-20, Tipp City, OH



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-C. R. Stam (1909-2003)