

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

May 2019



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This month's front cover is Nugget Point Lighthouse in Clutha, New Zealand.

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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From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently our good friend Will Mepsted in Ontario canceled his subscription to the *Searchlight*, opting to read it online. But several months later he asked to be returned to our mailing list, with this note of explanation:

"I didn't renew the snail mail version of the *Searchlight* as I haven't financially supported the cost of it. I intended to read it online as that would keep your costs down. Problem is, I never seem to remember to do so. It is so nice to have an actual hard copy here at the house. I see it and pick it up and read it, as it sits beside my chair...BBS is still such a blessing in my life, and I know my wife Judy feels the same way...Miss you all!"

I share Will's words with you just in case you can relate to his story. We sometimes hear from readers who likewise say that they want to help us keep our printing and shipping costs down, so they cancel their subscription, thinking that they will read the *Searchlight* online. While we appreciate any and all efforts to help us be better stewards of the money with which the Lord entrusts us, we understand when such readers later ask to be reinstated to our mailing list. We know that there's just something about having a hard copy of the *Searchlight* lying around that often makes it more likely that it will be remembered and read.

On the other hand, maybe you are one of the many who canceled your subscription, and you have found that you actually *prefer* to read it on your phone or some other device. The monthly email notification that we send out when the new issue of the *Searchlight* has been posted works just fine for you. If so, that's wonderful!

But if you have canceled your subscription and find that when we are out of sight we are out of mind, don't be too shy to ask to be reinstated, even if you are like Will and feel that hard copies should be reserved for those who can afford to support us financially. As I was happy to explain to him, we've been able to send our magazine out free of charge for nearly 80 years now thanks to grace believers who love Paul's gospel and are able to support us with regular monthly contributions.

Finally, if you'd like to help insure that others continue to be blessed by the *Searchlight's* monthly message of grace, why not consider becoming one of those supporters, and remember BBS in your will or trust as well. You'll be eternally glad you did!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ricky Kurth

GOD'S STARTER HOUSE



“Jacob...lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night... and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows...And he dreamed, and...awaked out of his sleep, and...said...*this is none other than the house of God*” (Gen. 28:10-17).

And you thought your starter house was humble! At least you had a roof over your head and pleasant amenities like walls, doors, and windows. As you can see, the first house that God called home here on earth had none of those luxuries! As a result, His first houseguest slept outdoors on the ground with rocks for pillows.

God's next house was a little more substantial, but fairly small. The tabernacle that God called home among the people of Israel was nothing more than a *tent*, and could easily have been featured on the TV show *Tiny House Nation*. Especially when you consider that “the most holy place” (Ex. 26:34), a place *within* the “holy place” of the tabernacle (v. 33), was God's *actual* dwelling place. We know that the tabernacle was small enough to be a *mobile* home, for God's people carried it through the wilderness for forty years.

When God finally decided to settle down, He chose to put down roots in *Israel*, where “Solomon...built the house of the Lord in *Jerusalem*” (1 Chron. 6:32). And just like the tabernacle, Solomon's house of God had an “inner house, the most holy place” (1 Kings 7:50). Thus it was true of both the tabernacle and the temple that God's house in Israel was actually *a house-within-a-house*.

But this house-within-a-house is nothing compared to the living arrangements God has today. The physical body of every believer “is the temple of the Holy Ghost” (1 Cor. 6:19). But “the house of God” today is *also* the local church (1 Tim. 3:15), the gathering of God's people together in a local assembly. And the people of the local assembly are housed within the larger house of “the church, *which is His Body*” (Eph. 1:22,23), a church made up of *all* believers! Thus today God dwells in a house-within-a-house—*within-a-house*. Now that's a great house!

“But in a great house there are...vessels...to honour, and some to dishonour” (2 Tim. 2:20). Which are you? If your house is not in order, maybe it's time to do a little housecleaning. Our apostle Paul says, “Let us *cleanse ourselves* from all filthiness” (2 Cor. 7:1). God's starter house was pretty humble, but with a little spiritual elbow grease you can make your body a house that brings Him great glory.

—Pastor Ricky Kurth



TWO LAST DAYS

PASTOR KEVIN J. SADLER
BBS President

“The May 1984 *National Geographic* showed through color photos and drawings the swift and terrible destruction that wiped out the Roman Cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in A.D. 79. The explosion of Mount Vesuvius was so sudden, the residents were killed while in their routine: men and women were at the market, the rich in their luxurious baths, slaves at toil. They died amid volcanic ash and superheated gasses. Even family pets suffered the same quick and final fate. It takes little imagination to picture the panic of that terrible day.

“The saddest part is that these people did not have to die. Scientists confirm what ancient Roman writers record—weeks of rumblings and shakings preceded the actual explosion. Even an ominous plume of smoke was clearly visible from the mountain days before the eruption. If only they had been able to read and respond to Vesuvius’s warning!”¹

There is a day coming that will surprise and suddenly overtake the world after the Rapture (1 Thes. 5:1-3). The Apostle Paul teaches the Body of Christ about the “rumblings” that will take place in the last days prior to the end of the dispensation of grace. Only in the epistles of Paul—namely 1 and 2 Timothy (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-9,13; 4:3-4)—do we find the trends that will mark the end of this current dispensation. The Lord’s catching up of the Church, the Rapture, could take place at any time. As ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20), we have a responsibility to warn people of the terrible time that will come after the Rapture, so that by trusting Christ as Savior, they will not be tragically overcome like those at Pompeii.

The Last Days According to Prophecy

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the LAST

DAYS, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on My servants and on My hand-maidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come” (Acts 2:16-20).

There are *two* last days taught in Scripture, one for each of God’s programs—prophecy and the mystery. God has two programs to complete: His *earthly* program with Israel and His *heavenly* program with the Body of Christ.

When Peter stood up at Pentecost to speak, the people present didn’t know what was going on (Acts 2:6-13), but, by the Holy Spirit, Peter knew exactly what was happening. Prophecy was being fulfilled! The fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy about Israel’s last days had begun, and without qualification Peter proclaimed to the crowd of Jews and proselytes, “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.” He did not say, “This is somewhat similar to what Joel prophesied.” Peter states plainly, “This is that,” or this is what Joel had prophesied and that Israel’s “last days” had begun.

Peter had recently been taught for forty days by our risen Savior “of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (1:3). On the day of Pentecost, he was filled with

the Holy Spirit (2:4 cf. John 20:22). Peter had an intelligent and perfect understanding of where he stood in the program of God.

Over the years, many have pointed to this second chapter of Acts, to Pentecost, a Jewish feast day, as the *beginning* of the Church, the Body of Christ. But Peter did not say that the coming of the Holy Spirit was a sign of the *first days* of the Church, but rather a sign of the *last days* for God’s program with the nation Israel.



Miraculous signs and wonders were to accompany the last days of God’s prophetic program. According to Joel’s prophecy, these signs include the pouring out of the Spirit, the gift of prophecy, visions, dreams, wonders in the heavens above: the darkening of the sun, the moon turning into blood; and wonders in the earth beneath: blood, fire, and vapor of smoke. These things agree with what we find in the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the Book of Revelation regarding Israel’s last days.²

At Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out on Israel in accordance with prophecy, in preparation for the Time of Jacob’s Trouble and

the millennial kingdom to follow. However, the predicted wrath of the Tribulation and the glory of the earthly kingdom didn't come, because the prophetic program was interrupted.

When Israel persisted in her unbelief and rejection of her Messiah and King, even throughout the one-year period of the Holy Spirit's miraculous ministry in early Acts, all was ready for judgment to fall. When the leaders of Israel, with their own hands, stoned and killed Stephen, a man "full of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 7:55), the prophesied wrath of God would have been poured out on this world in fulfillment of the 70th week of Daniel (Dan. 9:24-27). Instead, God temporarily set aside Israel in unbelief and turned to the Gentiles.

"I say then, Have they [Israel] stumbled that they should fall [i.e., lose their position permanently]? God forbid: but rather through their fall [i.e., being temporarily set aside] salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy" (Rom. 11:11).

In boundless grace, God saved Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-8; 26:12-19)—Paul, the chief of sinners and leader of the rebellion against God's Son. Yet God called him to be "the apostle of the Gentiles" (Rom. 11:13). Christ revealed "the dispensation of the grace of God" to Paul, "which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men" (Eph. 3:2,5). Then the Lord sent Paul out to all the nations as the herald and the living

demonstration of the grace God is showing to all today.

"...there are
TWO last days,
because God has
TWO programs
to complete."

2

We now know the whole story by the completed Word of God and the revelation of the Mystery but, on the day of Pentecost, Peter did not know that God would postpone these signs, hold back the day of wrath, and usher in an unprophesied age of grace. The prophets predicted the sufferings of Christ, the Time of Jacob's Trouble, the Second Coming, and the glory of the earthly kingdom, but they knew absolutely *nothing* about the dispensation of grace or the Church, the Body of Christ. And neither did Peter on the day of Pentecost, because the Mystery was still "hid in God" (Eph. 3:9).

According to prophecy, the last days began at Pentecost, but they were temporarily interrupted by the dispensation of grace. Now this dispensation has its own last days! Thus, there are two sets of last days, because God has two programs to complete. For the subject of the last days to make sense in God's Word, a distinction must be made between the last days for Israel according to prophecy and the last days for the Body of Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery.

When the last days of grace and the Rapture of the Body of Christ take place, Israel's last days will pick up where they left off and run their course to completion. At this time, all the prophesied end times events for Israel will take place just as God has said, which includes the seven-year Tribulation with its wars, pestilences, natural disasters, and judgments, the Second Coming of Christ, the Battle of Armageddon, and the millennial kingdom.

Later, in 1 and 2 Peter, Peter explained to his countrymen in Israel, the continued absence of Christ and why He had not come back to establish His kingdom, which had been "at hand" (Matt. 10:7). He wrote that "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise" (2 Pet. 3:9), that Christ would indeed be coming again to Israel to establish His kingdom on the earth. But Peter continued by explaining that "...the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles..." (2 Pet. 3:15-16). That is, the reason for the delay of the kingdom is found in "the wisdom" given to Paul by the Lord. That wisdom is that God's program with Israel was temporarily set aside, God turned to the Gentiles, and the dispensation of grace was ushered in, a dispensation which has continued for nearly 2000 years... and counting.

After this dispensation runs its course with *its* last days and

the Rapture of the Church takes place, *all* God's promises to Israel will be fulfilled to the letter. The prophetic program will pick up where it left off with *Israel's* last days. And the next thing on God's prophetic timetable is "the day of the Lord," beginning with the seven-year Tribulation period.

The Last Days According to the Mystery

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the LATTER TIMES some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1).

When the Apostle Paul writes in his letters about the "last days" or the "latter times," he is speaking of the closing days of the current dispensation of grace. When the "last days" are mentioned *outside* of Paul's letters, it refers to the last days for Israel's program (e.g., Isa. 2:2).

The last days for Israel were prophesied, but the entire dispensation of grace is unprophesied, including its last days. This means that *no prophecy is being fulfilled today*. No current event was ever foretold in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Matthew, Luke, etc. No natural disaster, no tragedy, no war, no heavenly phenomenon in this dispensation is a fulfillment of any Bible prophecy. The terror attack of 9/11 has nothing to do with a single prophecy in your Bible. Absolutely nothing that happens today in this dispensation is found in the Book of Revelation. Revelation is *all* future; it will all take place after

the Body of Christ has been taken to heaven.

Any preacher, teacher, author, television personality, or website that attempts to equate a current event with a prophecy in your Bible is in error. When they do so, it shows that they don't know or understand the Mystery, that body of truth for the present dispensation, which God "kept secret since the world began" (Rom. 16:25). We live in an unpropheied time, unseen by the prophets of Israel.

Now, it is very possible, even likely, that God is setting the stage for the Tribulation, but none of what is happening in the world today is a direct fulfillment of any prophecy outside of Paul's letters. Thus, no tsunami, earthquake, tornado, hurricane, war,

the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Matt. 24:29). Regarding these signs of Messiah's return, Israel was taught, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

However, when Paul describes the last days of the present dispensation of grace, he refers to *trends* rather than specific signs or events. One such trend is that "some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1). But there are *no signs* given to mark that the Rapture is near and that we then should look for Christ to come to catch away His Church to heaven. Nothing whatsoever is taught in Paul's epistles as to how long this



terror attack, corrupt leader, or strife between nations is a sign that we are in the last days.

In the last days of Israel's program, there will indeed be *specific signs* preceding the second coming of Christ to earth to judge and reign. As the Lord taught His disciples in the Olivet Discourse, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and

dispensation will last or when it will be brought to a close.

Every day is a day of pure grace in which God is giving everyone an opportunity to be saved before the wrath of the Tribulation is poured out on this world. Every day is a day when Christ could come for us. We are taught to be constantly "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

The Rapture is always imminent. This makes evangelizing the lost always urgent, because we never know when grace will end and judgment will begin. The imminent hope of the Rapture is also God’s way of keeping Christ on our hearts and minds, which is key to our spiritual growth. We look for Christ, not for signs. And the daily possibility of appearing before the Lord God, the Creator, our Savior, inspires us to live for Him, pleasing the One who died for us, rose again, and is coming for us (1 Thes. 3:13).

God’s heart is huge. His long-suffering, grace, mercy, and love are so great toward sinners that, in giving all people an opportunity to be saved, this dispensation could go on another 50, 500, 5000, or 5,000,000 years. Or, according to His perfect plans and purposes, He could come in the next 5 minutes! We just don’t know.




Worse and Worse

“This know also, that in the LAST DAYS perilous times shall come” (2 Tim. 3:1).

Perhaps you’ve heard the old joke about the guy who was told, “Hey, cheer up. Things could be worse.” He later recounted, “I did as I was told. I cheered up and, sure enough, things got worse.”³ That’s what Paul taught Timothy: things will get worse and worse in the last days of the dispensation of grace.

Paul warns Timothy, “This know also,” or “I want you to understand this.” It was like Paul poking Timothy in the chest with each syllable. In the original Greek, it is in the present continuous tense, so it means, “Know this, and keep on knowing this.” In other words, we need to know and remember.

The “this” that Paul wanted Timothy to know and remember

 <p>Israel</p> <p>The “Last Days” of Israel</p>	 <p>The “Last Days” of the Dispensation of Grace</p>	 <p>Israel</p> <p>The “Last Days” of Israel</p>
<p>Pentecost (Acts 2:16-21)</p> <p>“This is that”</p> <p>Signs, Times, & Seasons</p> <p>Pouring out of the Spirit</p> <p>Temporarily interrupted...</p>	<p>1 Timothy 4:1-3</p> <p>2 Timothy 3:1-12</p> <p>“Perilous times shall come”</p> <p>Trends</p> <p>Rapture of the Body of Christ (1 Thes. 4:13-18).</p>	<p>...Last days resume</p> <p>Isa 2:2-4; Jer. 30; Zech. 14; Matt. 24; Revelation</p> <p>Signs, Times & Seasons</p> <p>Tribulation/Second Coming</p> <p>Millennial Kingdom</p>

is that, in the last days of grace, perilous times will come. Paul gives Timothy and us, the Church, a correct orientation toward the future. He teaches that things are not going to get better and better. Things will go from bad to worse, and will get worse and worse before the Lord comes.

In 2 Timothy 3:1, “the last days” refers to the last days of this age of grace, this current Mystery program. Paul is writing to us, the Body of Christ, and he teaches that “perilous” times will come and mark the last days of grace. The Greek word for “perilous” (*chalepos*) is used only one other time in the New Testament. It is used to describe two demonized men living in the caves near Gadara:

“And when He was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way” (Matt. 8:28).

These two men were possessed by demons and empowered by evil. They were wild, uncontrollable men, who broke any chains that would bind them and terrorized the region with extreme violence. The verse says they were “exceeding fierce.” “Fierce” is translated from the same Greek word as “perilous” in 2 Timothy 3:1. And thus, the last days of grace will be like these two men: wild, uncontrolled, evil, and exceeding fierce as people cast off all moral restraint.

“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters,

proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Tim. 3:2-5).

These verses sound much like what we read on the news app on our smartphones or watch on television today! Every generation




during this dispensation might claim these things as being true of its time but, with the increasing promotion, acceptance, and boldness of evil and immorality in our world currently, it's easy to see how the time we live in could be the last days too. The trends that Paul lists for us here have always been present in this world (Rom. 1:21-32), but what we're taught here is that they will *intensify* in the last days of the dispensation.

These things are not surprising to find in the world among unbelievers. However, they would be more surprising to find in the Church, among believers. Thus, I believe that people's morality will so degenerate and wickedness

will so intensify that these things will also be prevalent among believers in the last days. The word “men” in 2 Timothy 3:2 refers to mankind as a whole—in other words, all people everywhere, young and old, male and female, *believing and unbelieving*.

Nineteen different characteristics are spelled out in four verses, giving strong reasons why the closing days of this age will be perilous days. To sum them up: anything goes; there’ll be no rules, nor respect, nor restraint. Like in the days of the Judges, every man will do that which is right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25). All these trends will increase in intensity and frequency in the last days of grace.

When the Lord comes, however, in the twinkling of an eye,

we’ll leave all this behind. We don’t know for certain when He’s coming, but as we see these trends so widespread in the world today, it reminds us that every day could be the day. We need to be Rapture-ready! May we remember to warn and reach out to the unbelieving around us, who stand in danger every day of being left behind to face the terrible time to come. 

Endnotes

1. Michael Bogart, “Signs of the Times,” Preaching Today, excerpted from *Leadership*, Vol. 6, no. 4, accessed March 28, 2019, <https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/1995/october/1151.html>.
2. See Isaiah 13:9-10; 44:1-3; Ezekiel 37:14; Matthew 24:29; Luke 21:25; Revelation 6:12; 8:7-8; 9:2,17,18; 16:4; 18:9,18.
3. Usually attributed to Jerome Lester Horwitz (1903-1952), a.k.a. “Curly” Howard of the Three Stooges.



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How to Rule the Unruly

PASTOR RICKY KURTH
BBS Editor

A young man had just graduated from Bible school and wanted to be a minister. But while he was searching for a church to pastor, he was offered a temporary job as a police officer. He accepted it, thinking it might give him some good insight into human nature that would come in handy later in the ministry. As he took the police academy exam, he came to a question that asked, “What would you do to disperse an unruly crowd?” The aspiring pastor thought for a moment, then responded, “I’d take up a collection. That’ll disperse any crowd!”

Speaking of unruly people, the island of Crete where Titus was stationed (Titus 1:5) must have had its share of them, for Paul had to write him and say:

“...there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision.

“Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake” (Titus 1:10,11).

The word *unruly* means *someone who refuses to be ruled*. And since these unruly men were “specially...*of the circumcision*” (Titus 1:10), I have to believe that these “vain talkers” were talking about the same thing as those who had “turned aside unto *vain jangling*; desiring to be *teachers of the law*...” (1 Tim. 1:6,7). Vain talk about the law of Moses in the dispensation of grace is nothing more than *vain jangling* as far as God is concerned, for “we are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:15).

Don’t Take the Lord’s Law in Vain

We know that the vain talk of those vain talkers was void of any blessing for the believers in Crete, for one of the meanings of the word “vain” is *empty*. While the law was *full* of God’s blessing for the Jews

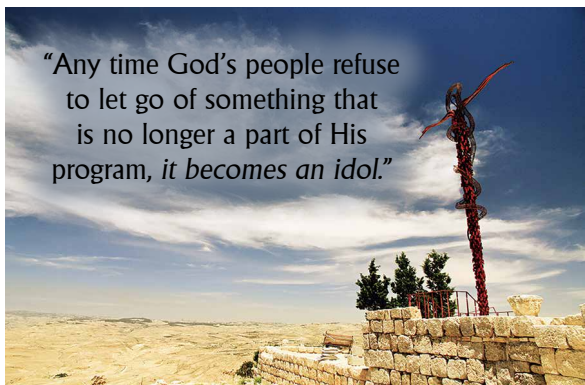
to whom He gave it, it is *empty* of God's blessing when it is imposed on members of the Body of Christ. What was once a blessing for God's people is now a curse, for Paul says that "as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse" (Gal. 3:10). That's why Paul went on to tell Titus to "avoid...strivings about the law; *for they are...vain*" (Titus 3:9).

How important is it to recognize this dispensational change? When Paul insists that teaching the law to people under grace is *vain*, I wonder if he was thinking of how Samuel used that word to warn God's people about *idolatry*, saying,

"...turn ye not aside...after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver..." (1 Sam. 12:21).

We know those "vain things" were idols, for God often associates idolatry with such "vanities" (Jer. 10:14,15; 16:19,20). This suggests that Paul called the teaching of the law "vain" because those unsaved men of the circumcision *had made an idol out of it*.

Of course! Any time God's people refuse to let go of something that is no longer a part of His program, *it becomes an idol*. Remember, Hezekiah had to destroy the brazen serpent Moses lifted up when God's people later began to worship it (2 Kings 18:4). In our own day, the gift of tongues has likewise become an idol among God's people, even though it too is no longer a part of God's program. If you don't believe me, a visit to most any Pentecostal church will find you in agreement in short order.



"Any time God's people refuse to let go of something that is no longer a part of His program, it becomes an idol."

A Non-Profit Message

Did you notice how Samuel defined the word "vain" as *something that cannot profit or deliver*? That was certainly true of idols in ancient Israel, but it is *also* true of the law in the dispensation of grace. You see, that word "deliver" is another word for *save*, as we see when we compare how Paul quoted the prophet Joel (Joel 2:32 cf. Rom. 10:13).

And that's *another* reason Paul called the teaching of the law "vain." In the dispensation of grace, the law can't profit, or deliver, or save *anyone* now that its time is past, any more than the brazen serpent could once *its* time was past. That's why Paul went on to tell Titus to "avoid...strivings about the law; *for they are unprofitable...*" (Titus 3:9).

Granted, the law *used to be able to save*. That's why David declared, "The law of the LORD is perfect, *converting the soul*" (Psa. 19:7). And that's why he added, "I hate *vain thoughts*; but *Thy law do I love*" (Psa. 119:113). Obviously the law wasn't vain when it was part of God's program! It wasn't unprofitable back then because it *could* deliver and save men's souls, when people like Zacharias and Elizabeth obeyed it blamelessly (Luke 1:6). But now people are saved by receiving Christ by the *grace* of God (Eph. 2:8), and Paul tells believers to *walk* in the same grace that saved us (Col. 2:6).

Do you see how *crucial* it is to *always* study God's Word by "rightly dividing" it (2 Tim. 2:15)? Unless you recognize the division between God's plan for Israel in time past and His plan for people living today, *you can't even be sure of the plan of salvation*, nor of "how ye ought to walk and to please God" once you are saved (1 Thes. 4:1). In time past, God's people were supposed to walk in the law (Ex. 16:4), but no longer!

So if you don't want to be an unruly Christian, like those vain talkers of the circumcision, just do what Paul tells us to do in Philippians 3:16,17:

"...let us walk by the same rule...be followers together of me."

The only way to avoid being an *unruly* Christian is to follow the "rule" of Paul's teachings of grace! The law of Moses was fine for "the house of Israel" (Acts 2:36), but not for "the house of God, *which is the church*" (1 Tim. 3:15). If you're not walking by Paul's rules of grace, *you're walking by the wrong house rules!*


Adherences Can Be Deceiving

Did you notice that Paul also called those unruly and vain talkers of the circumcision "deceivers" (Titus 1:10)? To teach that believers must adhere to the law of Moses in the dispensation of grace is to *deceive* God's people about the truth for the present age.

But before you decide to look down your nose on those Jews for doing that, did you notice that Paul says that those vain talkers were "specially" of the circumcision? That means that those deceivers weren't *all* of the circumcision. There were *Gentiles* who were deceiving people with the law as well as Jews.

If you're wondering why Gentiles would teach a law that God gave the Jews for a past dispensation, it is because Satan always makes sure that undispensational teachings are *popular*. And things that are popular are also usually very *lucrative*. So it is no surprise that Paul went on to say that these deceivers were "teaching things which they ought not, *for filthy lucre's sake*" (Titus 1:11). Even today, if you're a deceitful Gentile preacher who wants to gain a large following and build a big church that can afford to pay you a handsome salary, teaching the law of Moses is definitely the way to go!

I should add here that there are many Gentile pastors and teachers who sincerely believe that the law of Moses should be imposed on members of the Body of Christ. These sincere teachers may not be motivated by filthy lucre, but that doesn't change the fact that they are teaching a message that is "vain" and empty of God's blessing. Whether they know it or not, they are still being "unruly" in that they are inadvertently refusing to follow Paul's "rule" (Gal. 6:16) that circumcision and the law are a thing of the past (v. 15 cf. Gal. 5:3). It's true that the only reason they are deceiving people is that they themselves are deceived, but Paul still calls this "evil" (2 Tim. 3:13).

Now if you're thinking that teaching the law in the dispensation of grace isn't a serious thing, *you're not thinking like Paul*. Speaking of those "deceivers," Paul wrote, "whose mouths must be stopped!" The law of Moses may be in the Bible, *but it is not in Paul's epistles*, the part of the Bible written to people living today in the dispensation of grace. It has well been said that Satan doesn't care if you are Biblical in your teaching, as long as you aren't *dispensationally* Biblical. Let us who know Pauline truth hereby highly resolve to be both! 


Question Box

"Atheists say that God is a thug and is not moral at all... what about the story of the bear mauling kids to death just because they called someone bald? Ricky, why is such material recorded in the Word of God?"

"...Elisha...went up...and...there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said...Go up, thou bald head...And he...cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them" (2 Kings 2:22-24).

God's covenant with Israel said that He'd curse them if they didn't obey Him, with the intensity of the curses increasing if they persisted in their disobedience (Lev. 26:14-21). So we know that God's people in Elisha's day must have ignored His initial curses if He allowed wild beasts to rob them of their children (v. 22).

"Little children" go to be with the Lord when they die, so the bereaved parents of these little ones were the biggest losers. But if losing their children caused them to begin to obey God's law, it may have led to their eternal salvation. And God is always more interested in our eternal destiny than He is in allowing us to lead a trouble-free existence in this life. —Pastor Kurth



Don't Be Irrational on the *National Day of Prayer*

PASTOR PAUL M. SADLER
Past BBS President

Every year since 1952, the president of the United States has signed a proclamation encouraging all Americans to pray on the first Thursday in May. In this article, Pastor Paul M. Sadler stresses the importance of praying *rationally* and *dispensationally* on our country's National Day of Prayer.

Although the subject of prayer is woven throughout the Scriptures, it must be studied *dispensationally* to ascertain God's will. Sometime back, a Christian brother dropped us a note to express his displeasure concerning our dispensational approach. He stated: "I don't chop up the Bible like you folks are guilty of—I believe all the promises in the Book are mine!!" I graciously responded, "If that's true, beloved, then don't forget to apply all the curses in the Book when you disobey the Word of the Lord."

Theologically, a knowledge of dispensationalism saves us from feeling that the Scriptures contradict themselves. It guards against doctrinal errors, shows where we are in the history of the world, and protects us against fears and false hopes. While many clamor these days that doctrine is dead and should be buried alongside its counterpart, dispensationalism, without a proper understanding of both, one will quickly find himself out of the will of God.

Prayer, Dispensationally Considered

Which of the two following statements are *true* of your prayer life:

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matt. 21:22).

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Rom. 8:26).

Under the former dispensation of the Law, God spoke to Israel through miraculous manifestations, which were often reflected in her prayer life during the earthly ministry of Christ. She walked by faith and by *sight*. Thus, when our Lord said to His disciples, "If ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the

sea; it shall be done,” their prayer would have been answered, if they truly believed (Matt. 21:21-22). That mountain would have literally disappeared into the depths of the sea.


Shortly after the day of Pentecost, the disciples were persecuted and their lives threatened for preaching that Christ was the Messiah of Israel. Unshaken by these threats, this company of believers prayed the Lord would give them *boldness*. They besought the Lord to stretch forth His hand to heal, and that signs and wonders would be done. “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:29-31).

Why are the above responses unheard of today, and who would dare say otherwise? Why is it wrong to claim these promises today? Simple! God has changed His dealings with mankind. We are living in the dispensation of grace. Today, the heavens are *silent* in regard to outward miraculous manifestations associated with prophecy. Our prayer life reflects the grace of God. Consequently, “we walk by *faith*, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7).

On the one hand, the saints on the day of Pentecost were under the complete control of the Holy Spirit; therefore, they knew the will of God and prayed accordingly. On the other hand, we are admonished “to be filled with the Spirit,” which is a *goal* to be attained through Bible study and prayer. Since the members of the Body of Christ are not under the total control of the Spirit, “we know not what we should pray for as we ought” (Rom. 8:27). For example, is it God’s will to spare the life of an ill loved one? We have no way of knowing with any certainty. Thus, our prayer for them must close with, “as it is according to Thy will, Lord.”

Paul’s Prayer Life

“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers” (Eph. 1:15,16).

The prayers of the Apostle Paul, two of which are found here in Ephesians, serve as lighthouses for the Church, the Body of Christ. Their beacons of light help guide us through the treacherous water of life’s uncertainties. Prayer is merely *communication* with God. It’s the channel through which the finite has *access* to the infinite. If we desire to have an effective prayer life, we must follow Paul’s example. Unlike most believers today, Paul never underestimated the importance of prayer. He clearly understood that it was the source of our spiritual power in Christ. Those who shook the foundations since the apostle’s day echoed the same through the centuries by their actions. It is said that Martin Luther prayed for two hours every morning before beginning his day. If he was facing a particular busy day, he prayed for three hours! Let us echo Paul’s prayer life as well. 

GOD'S PURPOSE IN SATAN'S HINDRANCE



ROAD
CLOSED

“Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us” (1 Thes. 2:18).

God has a plan for each of our lives, a plan that is for our good and His glory. We should not forget, however, that Satan has a plan for the believer's life as well. His designs are for destroying our lives and testimony for Christ through sin, false beliefs, and poor decisions. Paul's mention of “the wiles of the devil” in Ephesians 6:11 teaches us that Satan has strategies, methods, and schemes to make us fall or run away in the spiritual battle. Satan can't take away your salvation (Col. 3:3), but he can destroy your testimony. Like a thief, he can also rob you of your joy in Christ and your assurance of salvation.

After establishing the church at Thessalonica, Paul had tried “once and again” to reconnect and visit them, but it had not worked out. The reason, Paul wrote, was that “Satan hindered us.” The Greek word for “hindered” is used of making a road impassable. In the context of athletics, it meant cutting someone off during a race. In a military context, it referred to cutting a trench in front of an advancing army to prevent the enemy's progress. Satan does the same thing in our Christian lives: he blocks the path, cuts us off in mid-stride to trip us up, or impedes our spiritual progress.

We do not know specifically what Satan did to keep Paul from going back to Thessalonica, but we do know that Paul attributed the obstruction to Satan himself. However, we see now how even Satan's hindrance was part of God's providence for Paul's life. God allowed and used Satan's opposition and brought good out of this roadblock which Paul perceived as bad. As He did with the Cross, God accomplished His own purposes, using the devil to do so.

The consequence of Paul's inability to go to Thessalonica was the writing of a letter, a letter that became part of our Bible. This letter, in turn, has resulted in glory to God and, for the past 2000 years, untold multitudes have benefited from Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians and have been blessed by its divine truths—our blessed hope of the Rapture (4:13-18), to name just one. It was because Paul faced a satanic roadblock in his life that we have 1 Thessalonians. We do well to remember this anytime we face a blocked road or barrier in life that we perceive as bad, because God can work to bring something good out of it for His glory and our blessing.

—Pastor Kevin J. Sadler

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G R A C E

Grace, Our Teacher

PASTOR WES BARTECK

Guest Writer

As we rightly divide the Word of truth according to 2 Timothy 2:15, we come to the realization that man is saved by grace through faith plus nothing in this dispensation of grace in which we are living.

“For by grace are ye saved by grace through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

“Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8,9).

Any look at grace must start at this point, and for some people, their salvation is the extent of grace in their lives. In reality, however, this is only the *beginning* of how grace works in their lives and ours.

Grace, Our Teacher

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world;

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...” (Titus 2:11-13).

God’s grace has appeared to all men, and is therefore available to all. This speaks of the provision of the means of salvation for anyone who believes the gospel for today for their salvation, but it also goes deeper than that to show that grace has a continual work in our lives once we are saved. The key is recognizing that once we are in Christ, He wants to change our lives.

Notice the subtle change between Titus 2:11 and Titus 2:12. The truth of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone has appeared to *all* men because it is clearly spelled out in His Word. In verse 12 we are reminded that grace teaches *us* which means that if you are not under grace, it cannot teach you!

The Continuing Work of Grace

Let’s begin by looking at the ways in which grace can teach us. First, the word “teach” can refer to training up a child. There are two aspects of this in the life of a believer. It can refer to the instruction of a new believer where

God begins the process of teaching them how He wants them to think and act. It is much like a parent training a child, teaching them from their experience. This can, however, also apply to any believer in the sense that there may be some areas in our lives where we are not as spiritually mature as we are in others, and grace may need to teach us as if we were a child to help us deal with those parts of our lives where we are not yet mature.

“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).

Grace wants to change our way of thinking so that we will begin to live in a way that will showcase Christ to others. We can’t do that if we continue to live as if we were not saved, although our salvation is still secure. The Apostle Paul dealt with this in the church at Corinth. They had been saved by believing the gospel of grace, but they hadn’t yet put it into practice so that others could see by their actions that they were saved. This leads us to the second way that grace teaches us.

The Chastening of Grace

Grace can also teach us by chastening us. Hebrews 12:6-7 reads,

“For whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as sons; for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not?”

I can remember when growing up that there were times when

my dad had to chasten me. It was always deserved, and was done for one of three reasons.



First, he did it because he loved me. The same is true of our chastening by grace. God does it because He loves us, and because we belong to Him.

Secondly, my dad chastened me to discipline me. Because he loved me, he wanted me to know when I was doing something wrong. This is also true when grace chastens us. It is always done out of love, never out of anger, and is done to show us where we are doing things that God has told us are wrong.

The third reason my dad did this was to correct wrong behavior. Discipline lets you know when you’ve done something wrong, but correction seeks to change the behavior from what is bad to what is good. This holds true for the chastening we receive through grace too. We can relate this back to Romans 12:2, where God wants to change our way of thinking from how we used to think to the way He wants us to think. This change of thought, then, should be reflected in our actions. Right thinking leads to right living, and that’s why grace occasionally has to chasten us.

Changes God Desires

Under Grace

The third and fourth meanings for the word “teach” in Titus 2:12 are closely related: it can mean to instruct or to teach. This involves more than just imparting knowledge as an instructor. It is meant to cause the one receiving the instruction to be better equipped to make changes needed in their lives. Again, it is similar to a parent teaching and disciplining a child, and it is done out of love first and foremost and never out of anger or threateningly. It points out what is good and helpful, and warns about what is wrong and destructive. It may mean withholding things that are greatly desired, but also means giving encouragement both by word and help when needed.

Grace Applied

Now that we have the foundation of how grace teaches those who believe, let’s consider the subjects found in these verses. They deal with two very important concepts that we need to grasp.

First, they give us a summary of Christian conduct, and secondly, they are a guide to practical Christianity. They teach us how God wants us to live after we have trusted Christ for our salvation, but the teaching of grace doesn’t do any good if we don’t take what we are learning and apply it to our lives. While instruction and knowing what God desires of us are good, He also wants us to live it out in our lives so that others can see Christ in us. Sadly, these are truths that are much neglected

today. But of course, folks have been doing so throughout history!

There are three aspects of conduct mentioned here for the believer. First, grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. Let’s explore these one at a time.

First, we may ask the question, “What is ungodliness?” Simply put, ungodliness is not taking God into account. This could be either in our thinking or actions, and it is not limited to those who are outside of the Body of Christ. When we, as believers, do things in our lives or think thoughts that don’t take God into account, we are being ungodly. There are many things that we could be involved in that would fall into this category, and the Apostle Paul reminds us of many of them throughout his epistles in passages such as Ephesians 5:3-4 and Colossians 3:5 and Colossians 3:8-9, which we will explore later in this article.

This ties in with the other thing that grace teaches us to deny worldly lusts. This happens when we don’t allow God to transform our minds, and we slip back into how we used to think, as “children of disobedience” as seen in Ephesians 4:22 and Colossians 3:6. Even though we are in Christ and He is in us, we still have the capability of thinking wrong thoughts, and acting in ways that don’t take God into account, and play into worldly lusts. It is grace that teaches us to deny these in our lives.

How to Live Under Grace

On the flip side, grace can also show us *how* to live as believers. It teaches us how to live soberly,

righteously, and godly in this present world. Once again, let's consider these one at a time.

First, grace teaches us how to live soberly. This literally means that we are to live in our right minds, which has a special meaning for us, as believers.

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16).

Because we are in Christ and He lives in us, we have the ability to think as He thinks through the teaching of grace and the power of the Holy Spirit. This involves changing our way of thinking, as stated before, from the way we used to think before we were saved to the way God wants us to think now that we are saved. As we'll see, this should also be reflected in our lives.

Secondly, grace teaches us how to live righteously. Without God it is impossible, because we have no righteousness of our own that is acceptable to God. The only righteousness that we can stand in is that credited to our account by Christ.

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

In this verse we see that God the Father made Christ who was sinless to be sin for us that we might be made righteous in the sight of God. This righteousness has two parts to it. The first is the righteousness that is imputed to us through Christ which gives us a right standing before God.

But, there is a practical side to this righteousness also. Part of what grace does in our lives

is instruct us on how to live in a way that is pleasing to God. This righteousness is applied in our lives when we take the truths that grace is teaching us, and allow the Holy Spirit to assist us in putting them into practice in our daily experience. The ultimate goal is for the way we live out our daily lives to match the standing we have in Christ. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can do this.

Lastly, grace teaches how to live godly lives. It helps us to take God into account in all that we say and do. This is not easy, because our natural tendency is to revert back to our old ways. It is only as we allow God to change us that these truths will be reflected in our lives. We see one practical application in the verses from Titus 2 also. Our lives should be lived in view of and in anticipation and expectation of the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Putting Off and Putting On

Let's look at another practical application that we can glean from Paul's writings.

“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

“For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience: in which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

“Lie not to one another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him” (Col. 3:5-10).

These verses, as well as others found in Paul’s Epistles, show us very clearly that we are to put off the old way we used to live prior to our salvation, and put on the things that are pleasing to God.

Let me give you an illustration. A fellow comes in after mowing his lawn on a hot day and decides to shower. He takes off his dirty, sweaty clothes and gets cleaned up. It wouldn’t make much sense



for him to put those same clothes on again; so instead, he puts on clean clothes. That’s exactly what God is asking us to do after we are saved. He wants us to put off the clothes of our former behavior, and put on the new clothes of our new way of life.

God gives us all we need to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit that indwells us at the moment of our salvation. When we trusted Christ, we received all of the Spirit we will ever need. Now what is needed is for the Spirit to get more of us! Each believer has the power within them to avoid committing each sin. When we

sin, we choose to do so and it grieves God and the Holy Spirit. That’s why in 1 Thessalonians 5:22 we are urged to abstain from all appearance of evil. It hurts our testimony among both the saved and the unsaved.


What grace is trying to do in our lives is to set Divine standards which God wants us to follow. His goal is to conform us to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29), and His desire is to help us move in that direction every day, and grace teaches us how God wants us to live.

God’s Help Needed

Grace not only saves us at the beginning of our walk of faith, it also disciplines, or teaches, us. God doesn’t start this work in our lives and expect us to do it on our own.

“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6).

God started this work the instant we were saved, and it is by His power within us that we can live in a way that glorifies Him. We do so as we put to death our old way of living, and allow God to renew our minds moment-by-moment toward right thinking which, in turn, leads to right living.

These are the lessons grace is trying to teach us. It takes His power within us to deny the things we used to do, and the things that we are still capable of doing, and live soberly, righteously, and godly. May we, with God’s help, commit to doing this each day of our lives. 



BBS Letter Excerpts

From Florida:

"I am a pastor of a church. I just got it! I understand the separate gospel given to Paul by our Lord Himself...I am looking forward to receiving your free monthly magazine."

From our Inbox:

"Thank you so much. I appreciate that as always. I can't begin to tell you how your teaching has strengthened my faith."

From Pennsylvania:

"I attended a Lutheran Church... yet my pastor there taught things I had a hard time with....I started to feel like my soul wasn't being fed. So I came across...Lordship Salvation and became very depressed. Something told me to check what I was hearing, that something wasn't right. That's when I found your website... My faith was restored. Not that I doubted Christ, just the messages I was hearing."

From Oregon:

"I publish a doctrinal news letter...I copied the materials which I received from you without any editing and inserted it in each...I've read the *Berean Searchlight* for many years. It has had a major role in my growth spiritually."

From our Inbox:

"Pastor, thank you for responding. I thank God for making it clear to me. My questions and doubts about it were addressed."

From Indiana:

"Sure like your weekly TV lessons!"

From Facebook:

"Good sound Bible teaching [*Transformed by Grace*]."

From Minnesota:

"I have been a 'Grace' believer for many years...I am really thrilled to learn about your television and internet outreach almost world-wide."

From Wisconsin:

"For the television ministry [Donation]. Kevin, we really, really enjoy the television programs."

From Minnesota:

"I caught the show on my DirecTV and thought it was great!"

From Georgia:

"Thanks for the article 'Justification' in the February *Berean Searchlight*. Pastor Kevin took us down the Roman Road and it is the way every sinner must come to know salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ's finished work of the cross. Keep on preaching it."

From our Inbox:

"I have been blessed to have been instructed in dispensationalism... and it has opened my eyes to amazing truths, never explained in the protestant denominations. I have read so much of Stam and Sadler and others. So-o-o good!"

From our Inbox:

"I got a copy of your book *Things That Differ* and blessedly learned a lot...I've been using it for years in Bible discussion and debate and by God's grace indeed it works."

From British Columbia:

"Ricky, we like your tract. Will you allow us to have them printed here in Canada?...then we can give out hundreds or thousands. It will help us, since our Canadian dollar is so low and shipping is so expensive. Our friend just ordered a lot of books from the Bereans, the Lord willing we will start our own dispensational church."

From our Inbox:

"Thank you Pastor Kurth. Everything is clear now for me as I reread the passage...thank you for everything, for all the teaching of grace that you shared."

From California:

"I'm reading Volume 4 of *Revelation*...It has been delightfully written and is precious to me."

From our Inbox:

"I thank God for...*Berean Bible Society* for the wonderful things you are doing to build up the Body of Christ and getting the grace message out to the world... I've not only listened to all 108 sermons on The Gospel of John at least five times or more, but also Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Titus and 1st and 2nd Timothy, as well as sermons from Pastors Kevin Sadler and his father the late Paul Sadler. I listen to them while I'm at work using my cellphone and Bluetooth while I work. When I'm finished, I listen to them again and again lol!"

From the Philippines:

"I've received your *Berean Searchlight* booklet and now I use it every Sunday school."

From Alabama:

"I am enjoying and learning right division daily, due to the *Berean Searchlight*."

From our Inbox:

"What a timeless message this *Two Minutes* is ["When Things Look Bleak" by Paul M. Sadler]! Thank you!"

From Montana:

"I just wanted you to see the ad our small group has put in a couple of local newspapers in the area." (Keep up the good work promoting your Bible study! -Ed.).

From Our Inbox:

"Good Morning, Pastor Kevin. For many years I have enjoyed reading the *Searchlight* magazine, and Pastor Ricky Kurth has been so tireless in responding to any questions I have had. In this month's issue I wanted you to know how moved I was by your article, "When Christmas Came to Egypt"...Your writing brought deep joy as you wove Old Testament, New Testament, and current events into your article in a manner that made my soul rejoice. I often view God's Word as a tapestry that is so beautifully woven. Although reading Matthew at Christmas is wonderful, the insight you added with your article made the verses come alive for me... Thank you for all that you do for so many, and know that I appreciate your efforts to bring the Word rightly divided to so many of us who are hungry for 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

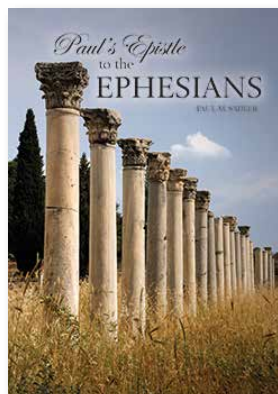
You may remember
picking flowers to
give to your mother
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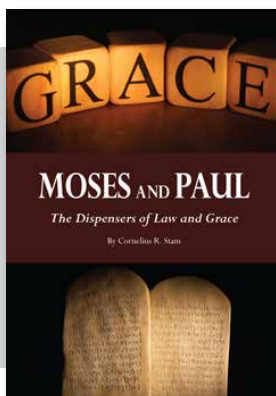
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News and Announcements

Canadian Grace Believers: If you would like to contribute financially to the ministries of the *Berean Bible Society*, we would like to encourage you to channel it through *BBS Canada*. That way John Peters, the president of BBS Canada, can issue you a receipt for tax purposes. Our Canadian address is *Berean Bible Society*, 54940 Light Lane, R.R. #1, Vienna, Ontario N0J 1Z0. Thank you for partnering with us in the most important work on the planet, the proclamation of "the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery" (Rom. 16:25).

Michigan Bible Conference: The saints at *Bitely Community Church* in Bitely, Michigan, are busy celebrating their 90th anniversary this year, but they are not too busy to host their annual summer Bible conference! Here's your chance to revel in the riches of God's grace as BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler and other speakers illuminate the Word of God by rightly dividing it. Be sure to mark August 2-4 on your day planner, and contact Pastor Ken and Regina Lyon for further information: (231) 689-1941, kenlyon1952@gmail.com.

Pastoral Opportunity: If you are a grace pastor looking for a grace church, *Friendship Congregational Bible Church* of Friendship, Wisconsin, just might be looking for you! Now that Pastor Timothy Board has taken a position with *Things To Come Mission*, this historic grace church would love to hear from you. For further information, just contact Richard Church at richard@richardchurch.com or at (608) 432-9776. In the meantime, the rest of us will keep FCBC in prayer, as well as Pastor Tim as he begins his new ministry with TCM.

A New Work in New York: Our new friend David Bower has written to say that he's trying to get a grace work started in north central New York. So if you live near Lowville, and you'd like to grow in grace and in your understanding of God's rightly divided Word, why not touch base with him? David can be reached at dbower002@twcnr.com, or at (315) 376-8105. Tell him BBS sent ya!



UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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

Bitely Bible Conference, August 2-4, Bitely, MI

BBS Regional Conference, August 23-24, Solomons, MD

Western Wisconsin Grace Conference, September 6-7, Lancaster, WI

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knowledge, but you can’t
make him think!”*

—Author Unknown

