

The BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

June 2019



Feature Article

Can a Believer Lose His Salvation? *by Ricky Kurth*5

Articles

A Father’s Day Challenge, *by Kevin Sadler*13

The Danger of the Occult, *by Kevin Sadler*19

Evidence for the Pre-Tribulational Rapture, *by Ken Lawson*.....21

Departments

Conformed to the Image of His Son.....4

Question Box.....17

Copycat.....18

News and Announcements30

This month’s cover is Thomas Point Lighthouse in the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland.

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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A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

My daughter, Katelyn, graduates from high school this month. Life goes very quickly! I can remember the day Katie was born as if it was yesterday. I always tease her that I also remember that on the night she was born there was a memorable NFL football game called “the Monday Night Miracle.” In truth, however, Katelyn was the miracle on that Monday to us. My wife, Jessica, and I have watched Katelyn grow and mature from a newborn baby into a young woman. She has also grown and matured in her faith over the years since she trusted Christ.

Spiritual growth is God’s will for each of our lives. The Corinthians lack of spiritual growth puzzled and frustrated the Apostle Paul. They were remaining babes in Christ, although they had been saved for many years. At that point, after all those years, they still could only be fed the milk of the Word, and not the meat (1 Cor. 3:1,2).

God sets the highest goal for our spiritual growth: “to be conformed to the image of His Son,” the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29). By this, God teaches us that He never wants us to stop growing. We will never reach God’s goal on this side of glory. Not until the Rapture will each of us be “a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).

The materials we have available at *Berean Bible Society* are for helping the believer’s spiritual growth. Often we are asked what we recommend for newer believers as an introduction to the Word, rightly divided. Here is a list of the works we recommend:

- *Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ* (hardcover), by Paul M. Sadler
- *Moses and Paul* (paperback), by C. R. Stam
- *The Twofold Purpose of God* (paperback), by C. R. Stam
- *Growing in God’s Grace* (paperback), by John Fredericksen
- *Now That I Believe* (booklet), by Ricky Kurth
- *Understanding Your Bible* (booklet), by Kevin J. Sadler
- *What It Means to Be a Grace Believer* (DVDs), by Paul M. Sadler

From there, we recommend books that are more in-depth to aid believers as they grow in grace: *Things That Differ* (Stam), *Acts, Dispensationally Considered* (Stam), and *Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians* (P. Sadler). Daily devotional books are also outstanding in assisting the spiritual growth of the believer. We sell two of these types of books: *Two Minutes with the Bible* (Stam) and *Daily Transformation* (Fredericksen). You can order any of these works through our website, or by giving us a call at 262-255-4750.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin Sadler, President

CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON

Some golden daybreak the trump is going to sound and the dead in Christ shall rise, and we who are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Then, "we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..." (2 Cor. 5:10,11).

When I stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ
And He shows me His plan for me;
The plan of my life as it might have been
Had He had His way, and I see

How I blocked Him here and checked Him there
And I would not yield my will,
Shall I see grief in my Savior's eyes;
Grief though He loves me still?

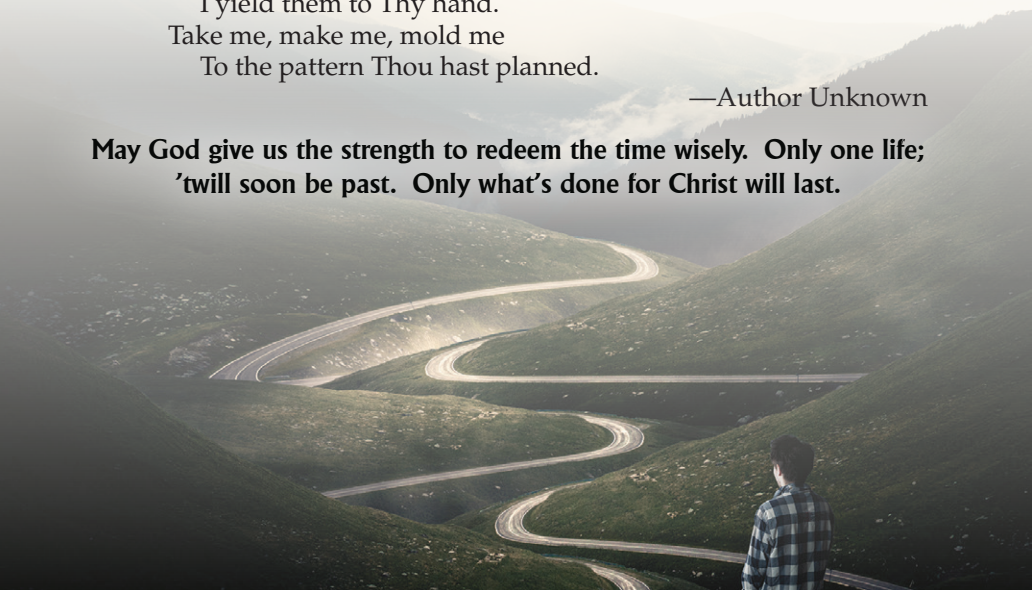
Oh, He'd have me rich, and I stand there poor,
Stripped of all but His grace,
While my memory runs like a hunted thing
Down the paths I can't retrace.

Then my desolate heart will well-nigh break
With tears that I cannot shed.
I'll cover my face with my empty hands
And bow my uncrowned head.

No! Lord of the years that are left to me
I yield them to Thy hand.
Take me, make me, mold me
To the pattern Thou hast planned.

—Author Unknown

**May God give us the strength to redeem the time wisely. Only one life;
'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.**



Can A Believer Lose His Salvation?

PASTOR RICKY KURTH

Berean Searchlight Editor



Did you hear about the man who said, “I lost my job as a bank teller on my very first day. A woman asked me to check her balance, so I tipped her over.” And then there was the man who exclaimed, “I had a terrible day. My mother-in-law got hit by a bus, and I lost my job as a bus driver.”

Well, as difficult as it is to lose a job, it is an infinitely more serious thing to lose your salvation. Thankfully, there are lots of verses in the Bible that teach “once saved, always saved,” including Romans 8:35-39.

But there are *also* many verses that sound like they are saying a believer *can* lose his salvation, including our first text. After speaking of God in 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul went on to say:

“We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain” (2 Cor. 6:1).

What does it mean to receive God’s grace in vain? Well, as all true Christians know, people are *saved* by the grace of God, as Paul explained to the Ephesians:

“For by grace are ye saved 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).

There are also *other* verses that teach that salvation is by grace (Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:5). So when you read a verse like our text in 2 Corinthians 6:1, a verse that says you can receive God’s grace “in vain,” it makes it sound like you can be saved by God’s grace, but then *lose* your salvation by sinning too much, or by sinning too badly.

But do you know what Paul said to the Romans about receiving God’s grace?

“...they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ...” (Rom. 5:17).

Here I need to point out that “they which receive *abundance* of grace” are not some elite group. *All* who are saved by God’s grace have received abundance of grace. God is not chintzy with His grace, and all who receive it *also* receive

“the gift of righteousness.” And because of that, Paul says that all who receive God’s grace “shall” reign in life—no ifs, ands or buts about it!

So what then does it mean to receive God’s grace *in vain*? Well, the only reliable way to interpret the Bible is by comparing Scripture with Scripture (1 Cor. 2:13), and there’s *another* verse that talks about receiving God’s grace in vain. So let’s let this other verse interpret our text. Comparing himself to the 12 apostles, Paul told the Corinthians,

“...by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace which was bestowed upon me was *not* in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all...” (1 Cor. 15:10).

Paul says that he *didn’t* receive God’s grace in vain, he *labored* for the Lord instead. That means that receiving God’s grace in vain means receiving it and then *not* laboring for Him.

Ever Wonder Why God Saved You?

You see, the reason God saved you by His grace wasn’t so you could sit on your hands or twiddle your thumbs doing nothing while waiting for the Rapture. The reason God saved you was so you could *labor* for Him.

It may sound strange to say, but God is *not* what we call “an equal opportunity employer.” If you’re not saved, He won’t let you work for Him! Now if you or I were to refuse to hire someone on the basis of religion, we’d find ourselves in trouble with the law. But God only hires Christians to enter *His* workforce!

And God’s workforce is a service to which every Christian should aspire to enter, for the only proper response to being saved by God’s grace without works is to work for Him to show your appreciation for being saved by His grace! Isn’t that what Paul went on to tell the Ephesians?

“For by grace are ye saved... not of works...For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *unto* good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:8-10).

When God saved you by His grace, He made you a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). But Ephesians 2:10 says that the reason God “created” you a new creature was to do good works for Him. So if you *don’t* labor for Him by doing good works, then you have received His grace in vain. You received His grace, but didn’t do anything with it.



If I give you a car, I give you the power to go places. But if you never go anywhere, you’ve received that car in vain. In the same way, grace gives you the power to labor for the Lord. But if you’ve received the power to labor for the Lord, and you never do anything with it, you have received it in vain.

Many years ago, the National Library Association had a clever television advertising campaign slogan that I've never forgotten. It said, "If you do not read, you are not better off than someone who cannot read." Well, if you do not labor for the Lord now that you are saved, you're no better off than an unsaved person who *cannot* labor for Him—at least you're no better off as far as serving the Lord is concerned.

The bottom line is that receiving God's grace in vain has *nothing* to do with getting saved by grace and then losing your salvation because you sinned too much or too badly. It has to do with receiving God's grace and not letting it work in your life by laboring for the Lord.

A Matter of Life and Death

The next verse we want to consider that makes it sound like a Christian can lose his salvation is,

"...if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die..." (Rom. 8:13).

Now if you're not sure what Paul means by "the flesh," your flesh is the part of you that wants to do sinful things. After mentioning several sinful things in Romans 13:13, Paul went on to say,

"...make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (v. 14).

As you can see, your flesh is the part of you that not only *wants* to do sinful things, it *lusts* to do sinful things.

Did you hear about the Christian man who quit drinking, but who one day felt the need for just one drink? In the face of this temptation, he prayed, "Lord, if you want me to have just one

drink, let there be a parking spot right in front of the bar." And sure enough, his eighth time around the block, there it was!

That's an example of *making* provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. If you have a drinking problem, making *no* provision for the flesh would mean taking the long way home from work instead of the short way home, if the short way takes you past your favorite watering hole.

But if the flesh is the part of you that makes you want to do evil, what's Paul mean when he tells saved believers, "If ye live after the flesh, *ye shall die*"? Some say it means that if a Christian lives after the flesh and does evil that he'll die *eternally* by losing his salvation.

But later on in *that same 8th chapter of Romans* Paul issued the thunderous declaration *that nothing can separate us from God's love* (8:35-39). So either this master logician who was writing under the inspiration of the Spirit of God contradicted himself in the very same chapter, or there is some other explanation for Romans 8:13—and there is!

Die A Slow Death

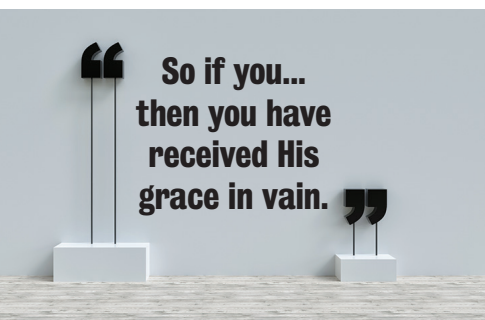
First of all, Paul means that if you live after the flesh, you'll die *physically*. Have you ever wondered what Paul meant when he wrote,

"Children, obey your parents... that...thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3).

Christians often ask what the connection might be between obeying your parents when you are a child and living a long life. But if you don't learn to obey your

parents when you are growing up, you're not likely to obey *the law* when you become an adult. And if you don't obey the law, you might get shot while robbing a liquor store, or die in the electric chair for killing someone. And even if you never get *caught* committing a crime, you'll always be looking over your shoulder, worrying that you're *about* to be apprehended for crimes you've committed in the past. And that can cause stress, and stress can cause high blood pressure, heart attacks, and a host of other illnesses that will shorten your life here on the earth.

So yeah, sowing to the flesh will cause you to die a little physically every day, and fulfill the apostle's words in Ephesians 6:1-3.



But there are *other* kinds of death in the Bible other than *physical* death. Here it may help to pause and *define* death. Death is *not* the cessation of existence, as is often thought to be the case. Speaking of Rachel, Moses wrote, **"...it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died)..."** (Gen. 35:18).

When it comes your turn to die, your soul will *depart* from your body, "and the spirit shall return

unto God who gave it" (Eccl. 12:7). But that means that the Biblical definition of death is *separation*. When you die physically, your soul and spirit are separated from your body.

Spiritual Death

But the Bible *also* speaks about a *spiritual* kind of death. Paul wrote,

"God, who is rich in mercy... when we were dead *in sins*, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" (Eph. 2:4,5).

When you were unsaved, you were spiritually dead *in your sins*, and needed God to quicken you by saving you from being dead in your sins.

What's it *mean* to be "dead in sins"? Well, if someone who is *physically* dead is someone whose soul and spirit have been separated from his body, then someone who is *spiritually* dead is someone whose soul and spirit are separated *from God*. That's the spiritual condition of all unsaved people. And that explains what Paul meant when he wrote,

"...walk not as other Gentiles walk...being alienated from the life of God..." (Eph. 4:17,18).

The "other" Gentiles that Paul had in mind here were *unsaved* Gentiles, and he described them as "being alienated from the life of God." That's the spiritual condition of all unbelievers: separated from God, alienated from His life. And if you are alienated from life, *you're dead*.

And if you die in that spiritually dead condition, you will have to die *again*, and go to a place that the Apostle John called,

“...the lake of fire. This is the second death” (Rev. 20:14).

The “second death” is also a separation. It is the separation of a man’s soul from the life of God *for all eternity in the lake of fire.*

The Death of Your Christian Experience

But when Paul says, “if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die,” he has still *another* kind of death in mind. I call it “Christian death.” You may be saved and unable to be separated from God’s love, but sin will have a *deadening* effect in your life. And if it goes on too long, all of your spiritual vital signs will *flatline*, and you’ll show absolutely no evidence of spiritual life. You’ll be like the woman of whom Paul wrote,

“...she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth” (1 Tim. 5:6).

If you find yourself in a condition like that, you won’t be separated from God, but you may *feel* like you are separated from Him.

The only good thing about Christian death is that it is a death from which you can raise yourself, as Paul exhorted the Ephesians:

“Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead...” (Eph. 5:14).

Christian death isn’t permanent. It’s more like *sleeping*. It’s a death from which you can wake yourself by doing what Paul told the Corinthians to do:

“Awake to righteousness, and sin not...” (1 Cor. 15:34).

All you have to do to save yourself from Christian death is stop doing what is wrong and start doing what’s right!

But now, there is a way you can *avoid* Christian death in the

first place. It’s found in the rest of Romans 8:13:

“...if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom. 8:13).

Now that’s not talking about obtaining eternal life by mortifying the deeds of the flesh. We’ve already seen that you can’t get eternal life by being good (Eph. 2:8,9). This is talking about the *opposite* of Christian death. It’s talking about living the Christian life—and I mean *really* living the Christian life. Living it up, spiritually speaking!

Think about it. If the beginning of Romans 8:13 is about being *spiritually dead* while you live, then the contrast found in the end of the verse must be about being *spiritually alive* while you live. That is, if living after the flesh causes the death of your Christian experience, then mortifying the deeds of the flesh must mean to give life to your Christian experience. Paul is talking about living your Christian life to the fullest, on the very highest plane imaginable. If you don’t believe that mortifying the deeds of the flesh will accomplish this in your life, try it and see! What have you got to lose?

The Eruption of Corruption

The last verse we want to consider that sounds like you can lose your salvation is,

“...he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption...” (Gal. 6:8).

Now you probably know what Paul means by sowing and reaping. Those are agricultural terms,

the Bible's words for planting and harvesting.

But if you are not sure what it means to sow *to the flesh*, that's just a different way of expressing what Paul wrote in Romans 8:13 about *living* after the flesh. There the apostle wrote that living after the flesh brings death. Here he says it brings *corruption*, and some say that the corruption a believer will reap for sowing to the flesh is a loss of salvation.

But if nothing can separate a believer from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39), then there must be some other explanation for that word corruption in this context—and there is.

In Scripture, the word “corruption” is associated with *decay*. It is often used to refer to the decay of a *dead body*. When Job was so sick he felt like he would die, he wrote,

“...the grave is mine house...I have said to corruption, Thou art my father: to the worm, Thou art my mother...” (Job 17:13,14).

Physical bodies *corrupt* in the grave, and maggots feast upon them. Do you see the connection between the word *corruption* and a rotting, decaying, physical body?



We see it again in something Jonah said. Contrary to popular opinion, God didn't keep Jonah

alive in the whale. He let him die and raised him from the dead to make him a true type of Christ (Matt.12:40).¹ That's why after God raised him from the dead, he said,

“...the weeds were wrapped about my head...yet hast Thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God” (Jonah 2:5,6).

After three days in the gastric juices found in the whale's stomach, Jonah's body had begun to corrupt.

We see this definition of the word *corruption* again when Paul talked about the body of a deceased believer that we plant in the ground, saying,

“...it is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption” (1 Cor. 15:42).

Did you ever hear the old joke: What is the great composer Beethoven doing in his grave? Decomposing! That's the meaning of the word *corrupt*. Corruption is the decomposing of the *component* parts of a dead human body, the dissolution of its elements.

Spiritual Corruption

But if physical corruption refers to the breakdown of the component parts of a physical body, then the spiritual corruption that comes from sowing to the flesh must refer to the breakdown of the component parts of the Christian life. We saw in Romans 8:13 that if you live after the flesh you'll die the death of your Christian experience. Well, corruption is what *follows* that death, the breakdown of the elements of your Christian life.

If you're not sure what the elements of your Christian life are,

Paul describes some of them in Galatians 5:22:

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...”

If you sow to the flesh, your “love” will start to break down. The carnal Corinthians were famous for sowing to the flesh, and Paul had to write an entire chapter about love to them (1 Cor. 13). And did they sound like a very *joyful* bunch? Obviously, their “joy” had *also* begun to break down.

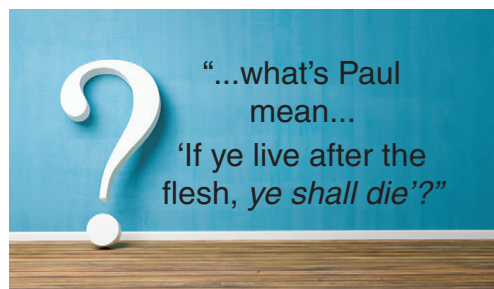
If you sow to the flesh, your “peace” will begin to corrupt as well. You’ll start to feel *uneasy* about the way you are living. Some even get to the point where they doubt their salvation, and lose the peace that God wants us to enjoy. Additionally, the Corinthians certainly weren’t very “longsuffering.” They were taking one another to court (1 Cor. 6), and needed to take Paul’s advice to “suffer yourselves to be defrauded” instead (1 Cor. 6:7).

Sowing to the flesh will break down the rest of the fruit of the Spirit as well, and that will corrupt your *testimony* before the world. And your testimony is *another* component part of your Christian life. And when it starts to break down, we make Christianity smell bad to the world.

Perhaps you’ve seen television murder mystery dramas where a body must be exhumed in order to solve the case. At such times, the law enforcement officials who open the casket are often seen gagging, vomiting, and fainting. This is because when a body dies and begins to corrupt, it starts to smell. When the Lord went

to raise Lazarus from the dead, they told him,

“...Lord, by this time *he stinketh*: for he hath been dead four days” (John 11:39).



Did you ever hear someone say, “It smells like something died in here!” Well, if you sow to the flesh, and reap the corruption of your spiritual life, that’s how your Christian life starts to smell! And the longer it goes on, the more abhorrent and repellent the stench becomes.

Don’t Raise a Stink!

And losing your testimony will lead to the breakdown of your effectiveness in sharing Christianity with others. And that’s still *another* component part of your Christian life. We are to be living our lives in such a way that *attracts* others to Christ, not repels them. The corruption of our Christian life can only cause it to *stink*, and cause others to run from the Lord holding their noses, as it were.

Sowing to the flesh will affect all of those areas of your spiritual life and more—but it *won’t* affect your salvation. That’s because your salvation doesn’t depend on what you do or don’t do, it depends on what Christ did for you on the cross of Calvary.

Of course, if you don't *care* about your love, your joy, your peace, your testimony, or your effectiveness as a Christian witness, you can go around stinking up your spiritual life if you want to. But what you should do instead is found in the *rest* of Galatians 6:8:

"...he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

If you live your life for the Spirit of God, instead of living it for your flesh, you'll reap everlasting life.

Now I know that sounds like Paul is saying that if you are good, you'll reap salvation in the next life. But we've already seen that this verse isn't about the next life. It's about reaping what we sow in *this* life.

So how do we reap everlasting life in this life? Well, Paul gives us an example in...

(Continued in Pastor Kurth's upcoming book, *More Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*).

1. For more information about this, see the May, 2006 issue of the *Berean Searchlight*, pages 17-22.

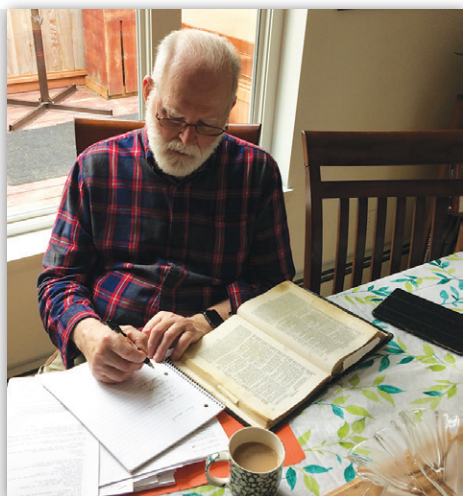
A Faithful Man is *Home*

After Pastor Jeff Farrell led me to the Lord in 1970, I watched him lead Don Webb to Christ a short time later. Within a few months, we were both enrolled in Pastor Farrell's pastor training program, each of us longing to give our lives to the Lord in the ministry of His rightly divided Word.

A few years later, it was Don who gave me the only compliment I never forgot. After hearing me speak one day, he said, "You are apt to teach," quoting Paul's words in 1 Timothy 3:2. I considered it high praise, for *his* aptitude for teaching was obvious to everyone. It is evident in his book *Basic Bible Doctrines*, a classic work on the fundamentals of our faith. His aptitude made him a popular speaker at Bible conferences, and enabled him to be greatly used of God to teach His Word throughout his life.

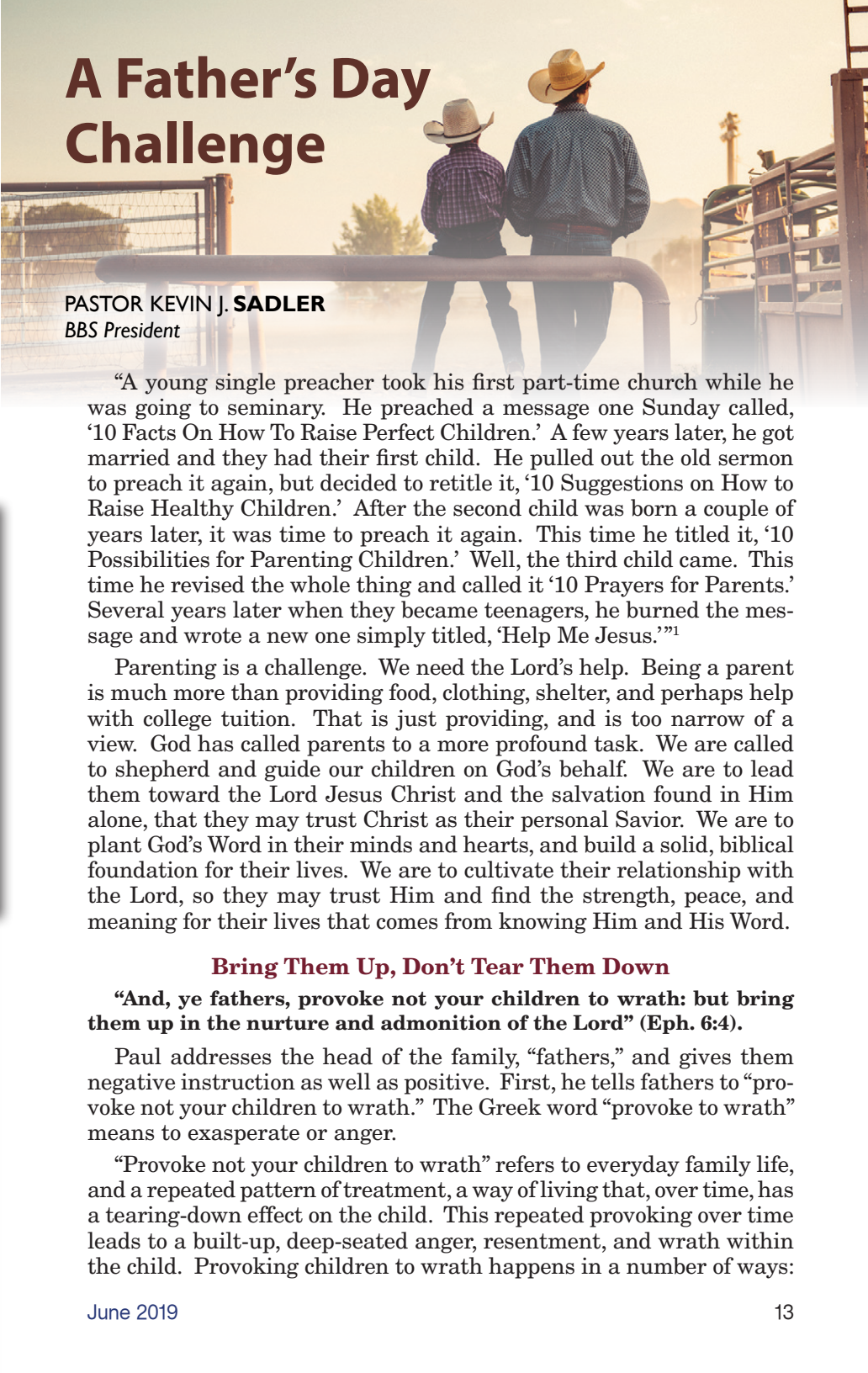
But I was able to witness Don's true greatness last year when we both spoke at a Bible conference in Kenai, Alaska. After one of the meetings I heard a visitor tell him that he had been insensitive to the heartache that a visitor to the conference had expressed the previous day. I was about to jump to his defense, when I heard Don say, "You're right, I could have been more sensitive to her pain." The humility he showed that day is just one example of how grace was more than a doctrine to Don, it was a way of life. A life that I will sorely miss, but one that I will rejoice in again someday, thanks to the Savior who gave His life for us both.

—Pastor Ricky Kurth



A Father's Day Challenge

PASTOR KEVIN J. SADLER
BBS President

A photograph of a father and son standing on a metal fence, looking out at a sunset. The father is on the right, wearing a light-colored plaid shirt and a tan cowboy hat. The son is on the left, wearing a dark plaid shirt and a tan cowboy hat. The background shows a hazy landscape with trees and a fence under a warm, orange sky.

“A young single preacher took his first part-time church while he was going to seminary. He preached a message one Sunday called, ‘10 Facts On How To Raise Perfect Children.’ A few years later, he got married and they had their first child. He pulled out the old sermon to preach it again, but decided to retitle it, ‘10 Suggestions on How to Raise Healthy Children.’ After the second child was born a couple of years later, it was time to preach it again. This time he titled it, ‘10 Possibilities for Parenting Children.’ Well, the third child came. This time he revised the whole thing and called it ‘10 Prayers for Parents.’ Several years later when they became teenagers, he burned the message and wrote a new one simply titled, ‘Help Me Jesus.’”¹

Parenting is a challenge. We need the Lord’s help. Being a parent is much more than providing food, clothing, shelter, and perhaps help with college tuition. That is just providing, and is too narrow of a view. God has called parents to a more profound task. We are called to shepherd and guide our children on God’s behalf. We are to lead them toward the Lord Jesus Christ and the salvation found in Him alone, that they may trust Christ as their personal Savior. We are to plant God’s Word in their minds and hearts, and build a solid, biblical foundation for their lives. We are to cultivate their relationship with the Lord, so they may trust Him and find the strength, peace, and meaning for their lives that comes from knowing Him and His Word.

Bring Them Up, Don’t Tear Them Down

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

Paul addresses the head of the family, “fathers,” and gives them negative instruction as well as positive. First, he tells fathers to “provoke not your children to wrath.” The Greek word “provoke to wrath” means to exasperate or anger.

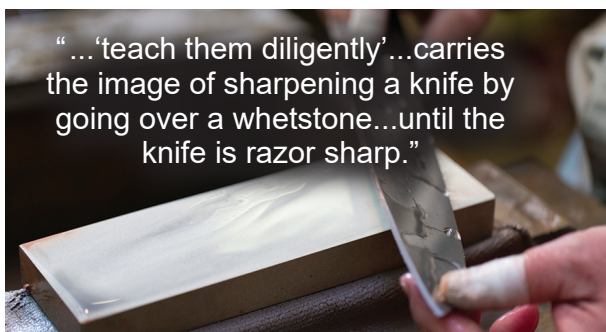
“Provoke not your children to wrath” refers to everyday family life, and a repeated pattern of treatment, a way of living that, over time, has a tearing-down effect on the child. This repeated provoking over time leads to a built-up, deep-seated anger, resentment, and wrath within the child. Provoking children to wrath happens in a number of ways:

constant criticism, discouragement, unreasonable demands, severity, neglect, favoritism, inconsistency, breaking promises, faultfinding, sarcasm, overreacting, failing to sacrifice for them, etc.

Instead of provoking their children to wrath, God wants fathers to provide their children with a loving, nurturing, and godly home. God wants fathers to bring their children up, not tear them down.

This verse demonstrates that the *father* has the primary responsibility before God to raise his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The father is to be the spiritual leader of the home. God wants children to learn from their father's example of what it means to love the Lord and to live for Him.

“One startling bit of research conducted by the Christian Business Men’s Committee found the following: When the father is an active believer, there is about a seventy-five percent likelihood that the children will also become active believers. But if only the mother is a believer, this likelihood is dramatically reduced to fifteen percent.”²



“...‘teach them diligently’...carries the image of sharpening a knife by going over a whetstone...until the knife is razor sharp.”

The key to the wise rearing of children is that it’s to be in “the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Parenting and training children is not to be carried out in our own wisdom, or by the many opinions of the world, but according to the teaching and guidance of God’s Word. *The Lord* is to be our children’s Teacher. And fathers are to look to Him, and use His Word to raise their families. As we do so, we will mold our children, not into our image, but into Christ’s. This is what is truly best for our children.

Putting the Lord First

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart” (Deut. 6:4-6).

Imparting God’s truth to children, begins with the parents. Before Israel was to teach their children diligently about the Lord (v. 7), Moses wrote, “These words...shall be in *thine heart*.” Moses’s instruction to the parents was, “Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all *thine* heart, and with all *thy* soul, and with all *thy* might.” Thus, we learn that, if we first want our children to love the Lord, we need to love the Lord.

“Gospel musician Hilding Halverson told of overhearing a conversation between his son and two other little boys. The youngsters were

bragging about their dads. One boy said proudly, ‘My dad knows the mayor of our town!’ Another said, ‘So, my dad knows the governor of our state!’ Halverson’s son then came up with this touching comment, ‘That’s nothing—my dad knows God!’ Upon hearing this, Halverson quickly slipped away to his room and with tears in his eyes said, ‘O God, I pray that my boy will always be able to say, ‘My dad knows God.’”³

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 charges parents in Israel to pass down their faith and love for the Lord to their children. The principle teaches us that fathers must prioritize their relationship with the Lord, putting the Lord first in their lives. That growing relationship, and the truth and love that then resides in their hearts, is what God wants fathers to pass on to their children.

Teaching and Talking

“And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates” (Deut. 6:7-9).

“*Thou* shalt teach them,” God’s Word says to parents. It is a serious mistake to think that Biblical training is the duty of the Sunday school or a Christian schoolteacher. The local church is involved in Christian education, but it is meant only to supplement what is done in the home. Moses saw the home as the primary delivery system for the passing of God’s truth from generation to generation.

Parents are the greatest influence of all on children. The deepest spiritual impact on children takes place as fathers and mothers faithfully teach them God’s Word, and it dramatically increases the likelihood of their trusting Christ as Savior. Teaching them can be done by simply reading the Bible together and talking about it, or using children’s materials such as our *Growing Up In Grace* lessons. It’s important to remember though that God’s truth is learned most effectively and powerfully by young ones in the loving environment of a home where knowing God is the top priority.

The Hebrew word translated “teach them diligently” (v. 7) literally means to sharpen, point or pierce. It carries the image of sharpening a knife by going over a whetstone again and again until the knife is razor sharp. God’s Word must be repeatedly taught and reviewed in order to sharpen children in the truth.

God’s command to “teach them diligently” was to be carried out, however, in the context of normal, everyday life. The instruction is simply to talk about spiritual things with children and to do so just like talking of anything else in the home. The word “talk” (v. 7) doesn’t mean a formal proclamation or lecture, but rather just having a conversation. You don’t lecture. You don’t get out the pulpit and

whiteboard. You just talk about it. The idea is just an easygoing, natural flow of conversation.

God wants spiritual things and His Word to fit naturally into the regular dialogue and lifestyle of the home. Teaching and training in the home is to be mainly centered around everyday life. Parents teach their children God's Word and validate it in the context of daily living. In doing so, we should look for and capitalize on spontaneous, teachable moments. We should ask God for these teachable moments. The Lord often drew from ordinary life in order to illustrate the truth, using birds, flowers, coins, and sheep. And when a Scripture verse is applied to or associated with a real-life experience, that verse will likely become forever part of that child.

We are to talk about spiritual things with our children "when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Whether at night when you lie down or in the morning when you rise up, whether sitting at home or walking outside, whenever, wherever, whatever you are doing, we are to take advantage of opportunities to talk about the Lord with our children. We don't preach at them. We simply strive to reach their hearts by making God real to them, and showing how God relates to everyday life and what He means to our lives.

"And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and...as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates" (vv. 8,9). The principle here is for God and His Word to be central in a family's life. The Lord is to be at the forefront in our homes. God wants our homes so full of His Word and the acknowledgement of Him that our children can't help but think of Him.

One winter day in the Colorado wilderness, a man found it necessary to go see a neighbor who was ill, and lived beyond a steep and rugged mountain. The man climbed the dangerous trail for some time through the drifted snow, not realizing that his little boy had been following him. Suddenly, as he was trudging and struggling through the deep snow, he heard a young voice behind him call out, "*Be careful, Daddy, I'm walking in your steps!*"⁴ Our children are walking in our steps and, as fathers, we should take great care in how we live, in the kind of example we are to them, and that we raise them "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."



1. Jim Drake, "The 'S' Word: Parents And Children," Sermon Central, May 9, 2007, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/the-s-word-parents-and-children-jim-drake-sermon-on-parenting-106395?page=1&wc=800>.
2. "7 Characteristics of a Great Father," City Central Church, June 20, 2017, <https://citycentral.org/blog/7-characteristics-good-father>.
3. "Devout Fathers, Preaching.com, accessed May 7, 2019, <https://www.preaching.com/sermon-illustrations/devout-fathers/>.
4. Source Unknown.

BBS REGIONAL CONFERENCE—MARYLAND

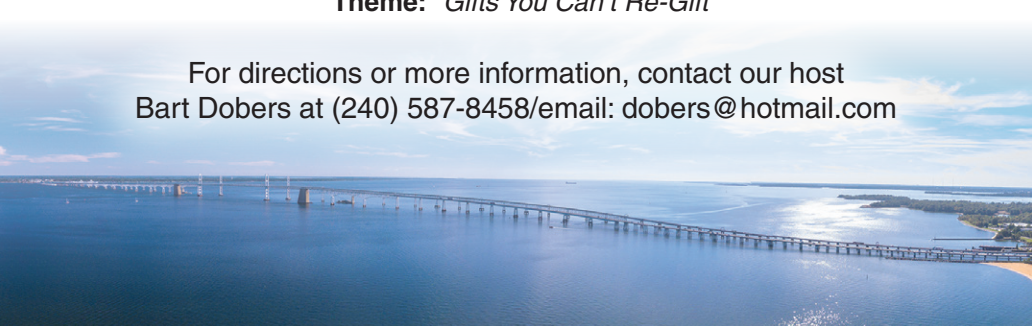
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Bart Dobers at (240) 587-8458/email: dobers@hotmail.com



Question Box

"Was the centurion in Matthew 27:54 saved?"

In his day, sinners had to believe "that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" to have eternal life (John 20:31), and that's what he confessed—but only after he "saw the earthquake, and those things that were done" after the Lord's death. So if he believed on Christ, he may have believed like the ones who "believed...*when they saw the miracles which He did*" (John 2:23), the ones to whom the Lord would not commit Himself (v. 24).

Additionally, "Jesus is the Christ" was the Lord's message *to the Jews* (Matt. 15:24). Gentiles were required to bless Abraham's seed to be saved (Gen. 12:1-3), like the centurion who built the Jews a synagogue (Luke 7:5). So the centurion at the cross would have had to add works like that to his faith to be saved (cf. Matt. 25:31-46).

—Pastor Kurth



Copycat

It has been said that “imitation is the greatest form of flattery.” In my younger years, I would imitate the professional baseball players I saw on television, copying their batting stances or pitching motions. I wanted to play profes-

sional baseball as a young boy, and I thought by imitating my favorite players, I could achieve that goal.

Did you know the Apostle Paul tells believers to imitate God? In Ephesians 5:1 it states, “*be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children.*” To be a follower of God means to imitate Him. How can a believer do this? This may seem to be too lofty of a goal, but it is possible as the believer walks in the new man “*which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*” (Eph. 4:24).

Since the believer can walk in the “new man,” (Eph. 4:24) it is possible for him/her to imitate God by walking “in love” (Eph. 5:2). Love is a decision. It is doing what is best for someone, even if that person does not know it. The Lord Jesus Christ showed us this love by making Himself of no reputation, taking on the form of a servant, and being made in the likeness of men, He humbled Himself and was obedient unto the death of the cross (Phil. 2:7,8). He paid the full price for your sins on that cross. Believe the good news and trust Him for your salvation today (Eph. 2:8,9). Then... you CAN imitate God, by allowing His Word to work through your life as you love others as Christ loved us (Col. 3:16,17; Eph. 5:1,2).

—Pastor Jim Tollar



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The Danger of the OCCULT

PASTOR KEVIN J. SADLER
BBS President

“Joe Gutierrez tells five stories from his 42 years as a steelworker in the book, *The Heat: Steelworkers’ Lives and Legends*. In one story, called ‘Snow Danced in August,’ he describes a scene of silvery dust flakes that frequently floated to the floor in an area of the mill where steel strips rolled over pads in a tall cooling tower. For years, workers and visitors alike flocked to the sight, which was especially picturesque at night.

“Then they discovered the dust was asbestos. ‘Everybody breathed it,’ wrote Gutierrez. He now suffers from the slow, choking grip of asbestosis, as do many plant workers.

“Who am I? I’m everybody. Can’t walk too far now. I get tired real fast and it hurts when I breathe, sometimes. And to think we used to fight over that job.’

“How many things in our culture resemble the silver flakes in that steel mill? Enchanting but deadly.”¹

The practice of the occult is one of the things in our culture that resemble the silver flakes in that steel mill. For many, there is a constant temptation to dabble in it. Reading horoscopes is thought to be a harmless, innocent activity. A survey once estimated that more than 50 million Americans read their horoscopes every day to see what they should do or what they should expect that day. Horoscopes are readily available. They can be found online easily. A daily horoscope is found in nearly every newspaper across the country.

The occult comes in many different forms: fortune-telling, tarot cards, palmistry, numerology, astrology, séances, rune stones, the I ching, ouija boards, and tea leaves. You can easily find places of business dedicated to these things. Shows featuring mediums are on television now. Witchcraft, satanism, and spiritism are practiced openly.


The English term *occult* comes from the Latin verb *occultus*, which refers to hidden or concealed things. As we use the word today, it refers to dealings with the spirit realm. The Scripture forbids any participation in the occult. Paul, our apostle, warns the Body of Christ

about practicing idolatry, worshipping the creation and false gods, and having “fellowship with devils” (1 Cor. 10:19,20). The stern warnings to Israel in the Mosaic Law teach us what God thinks about astrology and the occult, and that is enough for us to know that we need to avoid these things.

“Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves...Lest ye corrupt yourselves...And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them...” (Deut. 4:15,16,19).

“There shall not be found among you any one...that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD...” (Deut. 18:10-12).

What many consider an innocent activity is an abomination in the eyes of God. Consulting mediums, tarot cards, horoscopes, palmists, etc., belittles God. Doing so is to say, “I believe that God is either unable or unwilling to tell me all that is good for me to know.” In essence, it demonstrates the belief that God lacks the love or goodness to guide me, so I will take matters into my own hands.

For our own good, the people of God should shun the evil snare of all practices of the occult. All that we need to know about the future or the supernatural realm comes through the Word of God. By faith, we take our stand on the sufficiency of the revelation of God’s Word. And we trust the One who is with us each step of our journey through life, guiding, caring, and helping us all the way. 

1. “Deceptive Appeal,” Preaching Today, October 2001, excerpted from “Steelworkers Break the Mold,” Chicago Tribune, June 2001, <https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2001/october/13312.html>.

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EVIDENCE FOR THE PRE-TRIBULATIONAL

Rapture of the Church

PASTOR KEN LAWSON

BBS Board Member

The appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ for His Church is one of the best attested revelations in all of Paul's writings. Paul intended for this to be a purifying expectation, and a comfort to those who are suffering. However, in recent years this blessed hope has been attacked from all sides as either a misunderstanding emanating from the dispensationalists, or as a misguided illusion that has gained an audience among those who refuse to consider church history and tradition.

It has been well said that the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church to heaven was the last truth recovered from the Bible by teachers who championed dispensational truth, and now, after a period of popularity, it is becoming the first recovered truth that is losing support among believers. Whether it is currently popular or supported by church history is immaterial in the end. The issue is: Is it correct according to the Scriptures rightly divided? In this short article, we will review in a concise form some of the most

convincing scriptural reasons why we believe that the Rapture of the Church will happen before the coming Tribulation.

The Rapture of the Church is a distinctive Pauline truth.

We do not read of the Rapture outside of Paul's epistles. Paul taught by revelation that the Church, the Body of Christ, is a mystery (or secret) unknown to men of previous ages (Eph. 3:1-6; Col. 1:25-27). The Rapture is the blessed hope of this Church, and the final act of God for our dispensation. Therefore it cannot be a part of Israel's program of prophecy outlined by the Old Testament prophets. Since those prophets foretold of the Tribulation (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21), the Body of Christ cannot be there without violating its distinctive character as a new creation separate and distinct from Israel (Eph. 2:14-17). Anyone who puts the Church through any part of the Tribulation must deal with the incongruity of a secret church participating in a prophesied era. Some pre-tribulationists have

unwittingly weakened their position by claiming the Rapture was revealed by Christ in the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24-25), which is most assuredly an integral part of Israel's prophetic program. Mid-Acts dispensationalism greatly strengthens the Pre-Tribulation position. Where you begin the Church determines where you end it! It began with God's revelation to Paul after Israel's fall in unbelief, and will end before God resumes His dealings with her as a nation.

Paul tells us that the Church has been delivered from the wrath to come (1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9; Rom. 5:9). The wrath of God covers the beginning, middle, and end of the Tribulation, as well as the Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 1:10; 6:16-17; 19:11-21; 2 Thes. 1:7-10; Isa. 63:1-6).

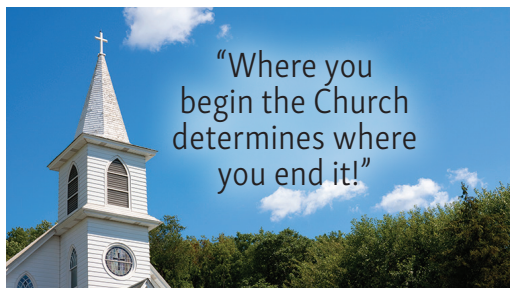
The Dispensation of Grace ends before the Tribulation begins. It is impossible to execute a program of grace and a program of judgment at the same time. They are mutually exclusive.

A. There are different gospels proclaimed: *Grace*—Acts 20:24; Romans 3:24 and *Kingdom*—Matthew 24:14.

If the Church were in the Tribulation, we could not obey Paul's command to fight against evil principalities and powers in heavenly places since they will have been cast down to earth (Rev. 12:7-9; Eph. 6:12).

B. There are different programs involved. Under grace, God is working a program of reconciliation

(2 Cor. 5:18-21). He is withholding judgment to administer His grace (Rom. 5:20-21). Compare Psalm 2 with Acts 7.



“Where you begin the Church determines where you end it!”

The Seventieth Week of Daniel pertains to Israel, not the Body of Christ (Dan. 9:24-27; Jer. 30:7). This should be a weighty argument for dispensationalists, who make a stark distinction between Israel and the Church. The great object of Satanic attack during the last half of the Tribulation is the remnant of Israel, not the Body of Christ (Rev. 12:9-12). The two witnesses and the 144,000 will be the chief actors for God during this time. These are all Jewish (Rev. 7:1-8; 11:3-12).

Finally, it is the remnant of Israel who will be waiting for Christ's return after the Tribulation, not the Church (Mal. 3:16-18; Ezek. 20:33-38; 37:11-28; Zech. 13:8-9; 12:10-14). The Gentiles who are saved during the Tribulation come to a knowledge of Christ through Israel's testimony, not the witness of the Body of Christ.

Paul spoke as though the Rapture was imminent, that is, as far as we know, it could happen at any time. Paul

himself expected to be raptured, but knew the Tribulation had not begun (1 Thes. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:51).

Members of the Body of Christ are never warned or prepared to go through the Tribulation. This omission is especially telling considering that Christ in His ministry to the Jews both warns and prepares them to go through it (see Matthew 10, 24, and 25; Mark 13; Luke 21).

None of the Second Coming passages mention the Rapture of believers being caught up in the clouds of the air. We can check out the Old Testament and see many prophecies of Christ's Second Coming to Israel and the nations to bring in the Davidic Kingdom on earth, but none of them refer to the revelation of 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. This is also true of the Gospels, the Circumcision Epistles, and the Book of Revelation.



The Last Days of Israel's prophetic program and the Last Days of the Body of Christ do not match. Jesus warned the Jews of His day to look for signs that would herald His coming (Luke 21:20-27). "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). They were not to begin looking for the coming of the Lord until these signs began to appear. In contrast, Paul gives no signs, only spiritual and moral trends that could be descriptive of any place in church history (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 4:3-4). As Pastor J. C. O'Hair used to say, "We are not looking for the signs of the times, because this is not the time for the signs."

The Relation of Church and Government—Members of the Body of Christ are told to be subject to governmental authorities and pray for them (Rom. 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Tim. 2:1-4). This will be out of place in the Tribulation, as the government will be under the control of Satan and the Beast (Rev. 13:4).

The Necessity of an Interval—After the Rapture, the Judgment Seat of Christ must take place before believers enter the kingdom (Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:9; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 4:5). This meeting in the air is not to determine salvation or damnation, but reward or loss of reward for the believers. The interval of at least seven years between the Rapture and the Second Coming seems adequate to accommodate the many millions of saints for the "Bema Seat." This would require a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

The argument of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18—The Thessalonians were well schooled in God's prophetic program (1 Thes.

5:1-3). If they believed, or if it was Paul's intent to teach, that the living members of the Body of Christ would go through the Tribulation before being "caught up," they should have rejoiced for their "dead in Christ" rather than mourned. After all, they were with the Lord, and had missed the persecution of the Man of Sin and the wrath of Satan. Instead, they were confused about the details of the Rapture (not the day of the Lord), and received instruction to comfort one another that they would all participate in the Rapture together, and so miss this terrible time of trouble.

The argument of 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3—"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

This passage presents three prophetic phrases: A. the times and seasons (Acts 1:7); B. the day of the Lord (Zeph. 1:14-18); and C. a thief in the night (Matt. 24:43; Rev. 3:3). These three have to do exclusively with Israel's prophetic program not the Mystery of the Body of Christ or the dispensation of grace. These are set off from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 by the word "But" (verse 1) which shows the dis-relationship between these three and the Rapture. Paul taught by contrast.

According to the passage, the announcement of "peace and

safety" happens before the day of the Lord. If the day of the Lord refers only to the Second Coming of Christ after the Tribulation (as post-tribulationists say it does), then it will have them saying "peace and safety" at the end of the Tribulation while in the midst of the Battle of Armageddon. Something is awry here! Since the Tribulation gets worse in judgment (with the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven vials of God's wrath), no one will be able to say peace and safety then. Therefore the Rapture must come before the Tribulation.

The argument of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7—Paul pleaded with the believers not to be "shaken" or "troubled" by false reports that they were in the day of the Lord. Such pleading he made in virtue of "the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto him." Again, Paul's purpose was one of comfort and encouragement. They would not be subject to the day of God's wrath, because of the expectation of Christ's coming. At this point, most post-tribulationists again make a sharp distinction between the Tribulation and the day of the Lord. The Tribulation (they say) is the wrath of men, the wrath of Antichrist, and the wrath of Satan, while the day of the Lord comes afterward and is the wrath of God.

The trouble with the Thessalonians was that while they were bravely enduring persecutions and tribulations (2 Thes. 1:4), the enemy had confused them with these false reports that they had actually entered the time of the

Lord's vengeance upon the world. Now if the distinction between the time of Tribulation and the day of the Lord was as stark as post-tribulationists insist that it is, there would have been no better opportunity to have clarified the issue than right here.

Here are the facts:

A. The Thessalonian Christians knew they were being persecuted by the unbelievers.

B. They thought this could be the day of the Lord.

C. This was contrary to what Paul taught them previously.

D. Paul had not changed his teaching on this.

E. He made no attempt to correct the error by instructing them that they could not be in the day of the Lord's wrath since they were being persecuted by men (the wrath of men).

F. Instead, he referred them to his original teaching while among them. Before the day of the Lord, there must be:


1. *A falling away* (KJV)—Greek-*hee apostasia*, literally *the departure*, not just from Bible doctrine but the departure of the Church to heaven via the Rapture (2 Thes. 2:1; 1 Thes. 4:15-18).


2. *Man of Sin revealed*—This revelation will occur when "the prince that shall come"

shall make a covenant with Israel for one week of years (Dan. 9:26-27). Since the wise will be able to identify the Antichrist at the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Week, it necessitates a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

3. *The removal of the Restrainer*—The expression "what withholdeth" is neuter, but its masculine equivalent is v. 7, "until *He* be taken out of the way." This is undoubtedly the Holy Spirit in the Church at the Rapture.

We have seen that the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church is well supported by Paul's teaching in a variety of different ways. This truth is more than just academic, or one in which we have been armed to win arguments. It should also make an impact on our faith and life as Christians.

If it is really true that Christ could appear to us at any moment, how does that affect your attitude toward the work of Christ in your particular ministry? Does that give you a desire to be about the Master's business seeing that the time could be short? Do you hold to the teaching of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church? Wonderful! Now does that truth hold you? 



"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:15-17).



BBS Letter Excerpts

From our Inbox:

“Ever since I started reading Pastor C. R. Stam, it has unlocked for me a deeper understanding of the gospel of grace (Rom. 16:25 & 1 Cor. 2:7) and rightly dividing the Word of God. In my Christian living, it has changed how I worship our living God in spirit and in truth, and it gave me a peace of mind and change of my heart as well.”

From Pennsylvania:

“Your site...helped me steer clear of all the nonsense that struck fear in me...I had a rough childhood...I had thoughts of, ‘I have to do good works? What good works? How many? For whom? Where? How do I know if they were good enough? Did I do enough? Are they every day?’ I was horrified. I heard James 2 so many times I wanted to hide under a rock and die...Knowing my salvation is not about my performance, but what Christ did alone, has changed my life.”

From Montana:

“Another great program today, Pastor Kevin. I would like to order several copies to give away.”

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“Don’t give up the program. People need the truth.” (Thank you for your gift, it will help us keep *Transformed By Grace* going strong! –Ed.).

From Facebook:

“So enjoy this program! [*Transformed by Grace*].”

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“I wouldn’t share today’s *Two Minutes* for anything [“A Memorial of Calvary”]. Ya’ll know the power of your words, you should really be more aware of things you post!”

From New Jersey:

“In the past three weeks, I have been able to receive Pastor Sadler’s video programs. I absolutely like the way he is presenting them. He speaks slowly and clearly, and his anecdotes are memorable for me. He explains situations in a way I can easily comprehend.”

From British Columbia:

“After reading ‘Justification’ by Kevin Sadler, I was so impressed that I’ll be making about six copies to send and give to friends and family.”

From North Carolina:

“Much of our learning, after reading *Things That Differ*, came from the teaching of the dedicated men at BBS. We are thankful for each one there, including those in the office.”

From Minnesota:

"Thank you so much for sending the *Searchlight* to me...I pray for you daily, making it a part of my devotions."

From Florida:

"Thank you for this article! It is perhaps the best exposition on these verses I have ever read."

From Arizona:

"Hey Ricky, thanks for a great conference! I have sent the messages to three people already, and have advised them to print out the lecture notes or they will be flipping through the Bible a lot!" (I loved my first visit to Pastor Mark Dilley's church, *West Valley Grace Fellowship!* –Ed.).

From Ontario:

"Wow. You have clearly answered my questions!"

From our Inbox:

"Thank you very much for answering my question Pastor Ricky. I contacted five other grace pastors and asked them the same question, and you are the only one who has responded." (Grace pastors are busier than the proverbial one-armed paper hanger! –Ed.).

From Illinois:

"I began to reread [*Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*]....You drop some excellent knowledge. An example...Man, that makes so much sense! Your book is short, but not a quick read. Like the Bereans you force me to search the Scriptures....The book is solid...I have garnered much wisdom from you...You are a big influence on my faith, and I thank you for that."

From our Inbox:

"I have just finished the fourth volume of Revelation. All four in the series are well done."

From West Virginia:

"Thank you for sending the publication to prisoners in West Virginia. We pray for you often."

From our Inbox:

"I had been struggling with the flesh/sin problem for quite some time....I was confused and troubled... but I was determined to find the answer...and...I found Paul Sadler's *What It Means to Be a Grace Believer* on Youtube. It was that video series that opened my understanding to the Bible itself...also started his Mystery series....It is awesome to know my place in the Bible, and how to rightly divide the Bible, has made more sense to me now than all the 20+ years I have been reading the Bible."

From our Inbox:

"Super [*Two Minutes*] message here! ["Our Manifest Destiny"]."

From the Netherlands:

"I am a grace believer since 2007, and learn a lot from BBS and others. I live in the north of the Netherlands. We do not have grace churches here....I try to make contact with other believers concerning the Grace doctrine. People do not want to study according to 2 Timothy 2:15. Unknown makes unloved!"

From British Columbia:

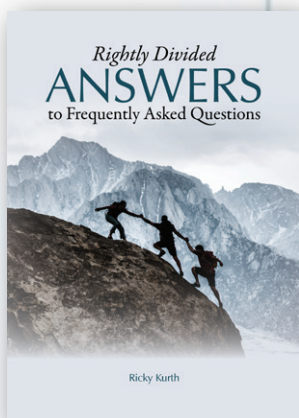
"I was so blessed receiving all your *Searchlights* for this year. I want to repay you for postage, because it's the best reading material I receive."



"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

Any More Questions?

Pastor Kurth's book addressing common questions was so well received, he is writing another. His article in this month's issue is just one of the answers that this new volume will feature. Although the second book won't be ready until early next year, the first is available now at a special price. Save even more when you buy five or more copies to give to others.



Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

by Ricky Kurth

Paperback 248 pages

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

Buy 5 or more copies: \$7.50 each plus s&h*

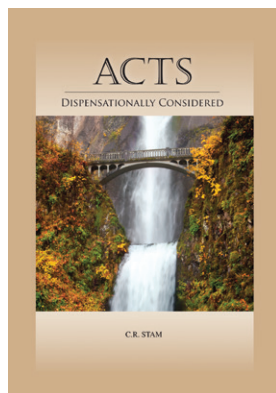
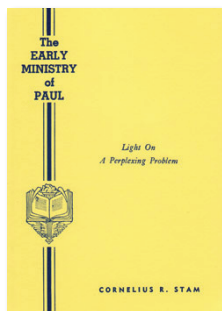
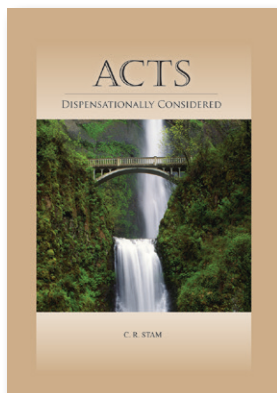
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Wisconsin residents, please add 5.6% sales tax to books and postage.

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

Israel's Fleeting Opportunity

This month's *Berean Bible Fellowship* conference focuses on Acts 1-7. Although God offered Christ and His kingdom to Israel, their opportunity to accept Him was fleeing! As the offer was put on hold through unbelief, God revealed the mystery to the Apostle Paul. To help you grasp this pivotal phase, we're offering Pastor Stam's complete set of Acts commentaries. Get your set before this offer ends, and we'll include his booklet *The Early Ministry of Paul* for free!



Get this booklet free
when you buy the Acts set!
While supplies last.

Acts, Dispensationally Considered Volumes I and II

by C.R. Stam

Hardcover Vol. I: 560 pages Vol. II: 472 pages

Set Price: \$38.00 plus s&h*

Also sold separately

Acts Vol. I or Vol. II: \$21.50 each*

The Early Ministry of Paul: \$2.00 each*

Special Offers End
June 30, 2019





News and Announcements

If you are blessed by our *Transformed By Grace* television program, it would help us know how to focus our resources if you let us know how you watch. *Transformed By Grace* can be seen on DirecTV and Dish, as well as on Roku and Apple TV. Others study with us over ION antenna TV, while Chicagoland viewers catch us on WJYS broadcast TV. Don't wait to tune in to find we're not there to let us know which venue is transforming *you* by God's grace!

Western Wisconsin Grace Conference: Who says all the grace believers are in eastern Wisconsin? Certainly not our good friends Jack Trumm and Mel Fogel! They challenged BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler to "go west, young man!" and he was up for the challenge! So if you've been watching *Transformed By Grace* and want to hear Pastor Kevin teach God's rightly divided Word up close and personal, call Jack (608) 794-2410, or Mel (608) 348-7574. They'll tell you that come September 6-7, the *Grant County Farm Bureau* in Lancaster is the place to be!

Postal Woes: Lately we've heard from quite a few people asking about the status of their literature order. While we are usually able to process orders here at BBS within three business days, it seems the post office is taking longer than ever to deliver them. So when placing an order online, please allow up to two weeks for delivery. If you'd like to expedite your order, please call us at (262) 255-4750 to ask that we send it via USPS Priority Mail for an additional charge.

Celebrate Grace Camp: Summer is upon us, and that means it's time to celebrate grace—and I'm talking about with a whole camp full of others! CGC will once again be held at the *Mountain Top Retreat* in Montrose, Colorado, and this year's speaker is Tracy Lesan, a contributing writer to the *Searchlight*. Camp founders Jerry and Judy Worthly will be there, even though they've handed the reigns over to our good friends David and Danette Bradford. So be sure to set July 19-21 aside, and make your celebration reservation at dx2pluspm@zoho.com, or at (719) 530-7201.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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

BBS Regional Conference, September 20-22, Kalispell, MT

Bible Study Booklets

PRICE LIST

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

C.R. STAM

Ambassadors for Christ	\$1.00
Answer to Catholicism	2.00
Believer's Walk	2.00
Continue Thou	1.00
Early Ministry of Paul	2.00
Faith of Christ	1.00
Fulfillment	1.00
God's Plan of Salvation	2.00
Hope for the Bereaved	2.00
Intelligent Christianity	2.00
Is Salvation Certain?	2.00
Knowledge of the Mystery	2.00
Logic of the Plan of Salvation	2.00
Lord's Prayer	1.00
Lord's Supper	2.00
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Our Oneness in Christ	1.00
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Pentecostal Signs	2.00
Power of God	2.00
Preaching of the Cross	2.00
Rapture of the Church	1.00
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Paul the Boaster	2.00
Seven Times a Failure	2.00
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(English or Spanish)	1.00
Sonship	1.00
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This Is That (English or Spanish)	2.00
Unanswered Prayer (English/Spanish) ...	1.00
Unpardonable Sin	1.00
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We Know a Secret	2.00
When the Lord Became Angry	1.00

Why Was Christ Baptized?	1.00
Will There Be Tears in Heaven?	1.00
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Your Faith in God's Word	2.00

PAUL M. SADLER

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

KEVIN SADLER

2 Great Commissions	\$3.00
A Praying Life	4.00
Everybody's a Somebody	
in the Body of Christ	3.00
Grieving With Hope	3.00
Saved From What?	3.00
The Rapture vs. the Second Coming ...	4.00
Understanding Your Bible	3.00
What Must I Do To Be Saved?	3.00

RICKY KURTH

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

OTHER AUTHORS

Bible Contrasts (Adams)	\$3.00
Confession of Sins (Lawson)	2.00
Pentecost, Was it the	
Birthday of the Church? (Lawson)	2.00
Kingdom of Heaven and the	
Body of Christ (O'Hair)	1.00

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

Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency

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"God's Church is not made up of 'good people' who have never fallen into sin. It is rather made up of sinners, SAVED BY GRACE, through the infinite payment made for sin by Christ on Calvary's cross."

—C. R. Stam

