

# *The* **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

August 2020



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*This month’s cover features the Old Point Loma Lighthouse in San Diego, California.*

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,

Some of my favorite accounts in Scripture are those who attempted to run away from God. Many years ago, after preaching a message on the prodigal son, it reached for my heart when I saw that father running out to welcome his wayward, runaway son home, knowing that the father is a picture of God the Father. I called my message “The Parable of the Loving Father,” because it is the father Christ lifts up in this beautiful parable.

I have always been fascinated by the story of Onesimus. Onesimus ran away from a believing master—Philemon—but then ran straight into the greatest evangelist of all time—the Apostle Paul—and was gloriously saved from his sins. You find the gospel of the grace of God put into action in a practical way in the Book of Philemon: a runaway slave under the penalty of death (Onesimus), having what he owed put to the account of another (Paul), being received by his gracious master (Philemon).

Jonah has always made me shake my head in disbelief at his hard-heartedness toward the nations and that a prophet could actually think he could run from the Lord. Then the Lord taught me how we, too, in the Church, have thoughts about wanting people groups of other beliefs, such as Muslims, to be judged by God instead of saved. And how often do we, like Jonah, run away from God’s clear direction and will for our lives? Too often.

Elijah just had his spectacular victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, and in *the very next chapter* Jezebel threatened him by her gods that she would kill him the next day. Elijah just exposed Jezebel’s gods as fake, but her threat sent him into a tailspin in which fear overwhelmed his faith and he ran a long ways away. It’s relatable though, because fear often overwhelms our faith and we run away.

John Mark failed in the ministry and ran away from Paul and Barnabas on the mission field, but then he had a remarkable comeback because he didn’t give up. It’s encouraging to know that the Lord uses imperfect people and can bring much fruit from our service as we remain faithful to Him.

Each of these accounts are examined in my book, *Runaways*. On page 29, you can find the book advertised at a special price this month. If you’d like, you can also find information about purchasing the DVD series, “Runaways,” from *Transformed by Grace* to go with the book. Consider getting an extra copy of *Runaways* to give to someone you know who might be running from the Lord.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President





# Hope Abandoned

**H**ope is a word the meaning of which must be determined by the context in which it is used. In Acts 27:20, Luke records the events of the storm that caught the ship on which Paul was being transported to Rome. Because of the fury of the storm, Luke says, “all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.” Some individuals have used this verse to imply there can come a time in one’s life when he has passed all chance of receiving God’s forgiveness. But this passage isn’t talking about *spiritual* salvation. Rather, Luke is saying the passengers had lost all hope of the ship withstanding the fury of the storm. They thought they would never walk upon dry land again.

What a contrast is seen between those whose hope was in their own strength and Paul, whose hope was in his God. The majority of those on board this ship were pagan idolaters. When they came to the end of their own abilities, they had nothing upon which to trust. The contrast is seen in Paul’s attitude. Paul knew he was a member of God’s redeemed company of believers. He knew his God was able to deliver him, and the ship’s company, from the storm.

Because of his steadfast faith in God’s ability and truthfulness, Paul, although a prisoner of Rome, was able to restore the passengers’ hope and encourage them that no one would lose his life. Paul was able to do this by assuring these passengers that his God had sent an angel to assure him that everyone on the ship would be delivered from death in the sea (Acts 27:23). When the truth of this revelation had come to pass, these people knew Paul served the true God of creation.

Let us be encouraged in the hope we have in Christ Jesus, for He is the One who has saved us, and nothing can separate us from His love (Rom. 8:38,39).  
—by Pastor Marvin Duncan

(Longtime grace believers may remember Pastor Duncan with the same fondness with which we here at BBS remember him. He pastored a number of churches, including *Community Bible Church* of Filer, Idaho, and *Berean Grace Church* of Genoa City, Wisconsin. The messages he taught at your editor’s home church when I was just a teen are a favorite memory of mine. He is now with the Lord, but if you never met him, I promise to introduce you to him someday! —Pastor Kurth)





# YOU'VE GOT TO STAND FOR SOMETHING!

PASTOR RICKY KURTH

*Berean Searchlight Editor*

(The first of a series of messages preached at the 50th annual Bible conference of the *Berean Bible Fellowship* to honor the stand they took for Paul's gospel in 1968. We share it with you in our 80th year to commemorate the stand Pastor C. R. Stam took in 1940 when he began publishing the *Searchlight*.)

Back in 1990, entertainer Bob Hope was busy gathering a group of other entertainers to put on a USO show for our troops stationed in the Persian Gulf for *Operation Desert Shield*. At that same time, country singer Aaron Tippin was on the radio singing a song called, "You've Got to Stand for Something, or You'll Fall for Anything." Hearing it, Bob realized it would be the perfect song for those brave men who were standing *firm* in the face of Saddam Hussein's infamous "million man army," so he invited Aaron to join the tour.

History proved him right, for I can vividly remember seeing a news clip of the hoots and hollers Aaron got when he sang that song to the troops. He really struck a chord with those men who had *taken a stand* in the desert to defend the line our president had drawn in the sand.

Back in 1968, some grace pastors took a similar stand *to defend Paul's gospel* in the face of the doctrinal declension that had

arisen in the grace movement. And the stand that those good soldiers of Jesus Christ took when they formed the *Berean Bible Fellowship* reminds me of the words of that song. You see, if you don't stand for Pauline truth, you'll fall for just about anything, because Paul's gospel is the answer to just about everything!

And the stand they took fifty years ago *also* reminds me of the question God asked Job in order to give him a sense of His greatness:

**"Where wast thou when I... shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth...And said, *Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further...?*" (Job 38:4-11).**

Six thousand years ago God drew a line in the sand of the beaches of the world, and said to the mighty oceans, "*Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further!*" And fifty years ago, the grace pastors who founded the BBF said to the apostasy in the grace movement, "*Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further!*" They drew a line

in the sand and for the past fifty years they and the men who followed after them have faithfully *stood their ground* and *defended* it, overcoming every challenge to the truth that Satan has raised, weathering every storm that has arisen.

And I can think of no finer way to honor those founding pastors, and the God they served, *and the truth they preserved*, than by NOT talking about the men themselves, but rather by teaching *a Bible study* featuring some of the faithful men who came before them in the pages of God's Word. Men of God who took a stand for Him and His truth—sometimes in the face of overwhelming odds, often standing *alone* in the face of those overwhelming odds. Ordinary men who did some *extraordinary* things.

### Enoch's Stand

Men like the man we read about in Genesis 5:21,22:

**“...Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years....”**

Enoch took a stand for the Lord when he decided to walk with God. And if you think that was an easy stand for him to take, you're probably forgetting that he lived right before the Flood. You know. In the years when the world was *so desperately wicked* that God had to wipe the human race out and start all over again with Noah. Choosing to walk with God was an *extraordinary* thing to do in those days!

Do you ever hear Christians complain, “It's so *hard* to walk with God these days, the world is so much more *evil* than it used to be”? When you hear that, *think of Enoch*, and remember that any stand that you yourself hope to take for Paul's gospel must *begin* with a consistent walk with God. It must start with a stand that you yourself have to take to deny ungodliness in the face of an ungodly world.

You see, these messages aren't just going to be about the faithful men we see in the Bible, or even the faithful men who founded the BBF. They're going to be about the stand I hope to inspire *you* to take for God and His truth.

If you are thinking that it's too late to start walking with God at your age, notice that Enoch didn't *start* walking with God *until he was 65 years old!* That means for the first 65 years of his life he evidently walked in *ungodliness* instead.



**“...if you don't stand for Pauline truth, you'll fall for just about anything....”**

But it also means there came a day when he drew a line in the sand and said to the ungodliness in his life, “Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further.*” So I don't care how long you've walked in ungodliness, or lived selfishly for yourself instead of living for the

Lord, *it is never too late* to take a stand for Him. Just ask Enoch!

In our next reference we see *another* man who took a stand for God:

**“...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Gen. 6:9).**

### Noah's Stand

Did you notice that Noah wasn't perfect in his *conduct*? He was perfect *in his generations*. When God announced that the seed of the woman would crush Satan's head (Gen. 3:15), the devil tried to *corrupt* her seed by having his fallen angels cohabit with women (Gen. 6:1-4) in an attempt to corrupt the line of Christ. The demonic race that resulted from those unholy unions were said to be “giants.” But Noah's family drew a line in the sand and said to that Satanic corruption, “Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further!*”

Of course, now that Christ has been born, the devil is no longer trying to corrupt the seed of the woman. Today he's attempting to corrupt *Paul's gospel*. And fifty years ago, when the founders of the BBF drew a line in the sand and said to the corruption that had arisen in the grace movement, “Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further,*” do you really think Satan *gave up on* trying to corrupt Paul's gospel? If you've known Pauline truth for very long, you know by experience that *he's still at it*, and that there is still a need for men of God to stand firm in the face of apostasy.

So if you're a grace pastor who's thinking of corrupting the grace message, or watering it down, or making it what you perceive to be more palatable to your hearers in any other way because you deem it to be unpopular—well, I'm not going to lie to you. You'll probably go further in life than faithful grace pastors. Speaking of giants, you may even grow a giant *church*.

But if *Berean Bible Society* founder Pastor C. R. Stam were still alive, he'd remind you of one of his favorite verses: “buy the truth, *and sell it not*” (Prov. 23:23). It's easy to be a sellout. It may *cost you* to stand for the truth. *But who cares what it costs?* Pastor Stam and the rest of BBF's founders didn't, *and neither should you*.

You see, Aaron Tippin's song is about how his dad always stood for what was right. One of the lines says, “We mighta been better off, or owned a bigger house. If Daddy'd done more givin' in, or a little more backin' down. But we always had plenty, just living his advice: Whatever you do today you'll have to sleep with tonight.” Well, as a grace pastor, whatever you do in the ministry in this life, you're going to have to live with *for all eternity*. So draw a line in the sand of your heart and say to those thoughts of corrupting Paul's gospel, “Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further!*”

And if you're a grace pastor who's grown *tired* of standing for Paul's gospel—tired of not seeing the results that others get who *don't* stand for it—may I remind



you that Noah wasn't just an ark-builder? He was also "a preacher of righteousness" (2 Pet. 2:5), a preacher who preached for 120 years (Gen. 6:3)—*with no converts!* Not a single soul on the face of the earth joined him and his family in the ark.

You say, "Well, he probably didn't get discouraged because he was preaching what God told him to preach," and I'd agree. But if you're a grace pastor, *so are you*—if you're maintaining your stand for Pauline truth, that is, and not selling out!

But I'll go you one further. I don't think Noah even *expected* any converts. Did you notice that Peter didn't call him a preacher of the gospel? He called him "a preacher of righteousness." God didn't send him to offer *salvation* to that demonic race. He just told him to preach righteousness to them—to tell those giants that they were about to be *righteously judged of God*.

It's kind of like the message God gave Jonah to preach when He told him,

**"...go unto Nineveh...and preach unto it...Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:2,4).**

Do you see any gospel—any *good news*—in that message? Jonah didn't tell the citizens of Nineveh they'd be overthrown *unless they repented*. He just preached the coming of the righteous judgment of God. The difference is that the people of Nineveh weren't made up of the seed of fallen angels, and they *did* repent.

But just imagine poor Noah preaching for 120 years *with no response!* Do you think he might have gotten a little weary in well doing—a little *discouraged* maybe? Well, the next time you get discouraged as a grace pastor, thinking that nobody wants to hear the grace message, just do what Noah had to do and say to that discouragement, "Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further!*"

### Abraham's Stand

Sometimes taking a stand for God and His truth will cost you in a way that it cost Abraham. "The Lord had said unto Abram,

**"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee" (Gen. 12:1).**

Abraham's family were a bunch of *idolaters* (Josh. 24:2). So when God called him to go to the promised land, He told him to leave his family behind. That means taking a stand for God *cost him his family!* You see, standing for the truth involves standing *apart* from those who *don't* stand for it—even when those who don't are *your loved ones!*



That was certainly the case for those grace pastors who took

that stand in 1968. The ones from whom they separated when they took their stand weren't a bunch of faceless, nameless nobodies. They were oftentimes members of their families and friends—*dear* friends, *lifelong* friends with whom they had fellowshiped for years if not decades.

Taking a stand for the truth may cost you in the same way, and you're sure to have moments of regret if it does. But when those moments start ganging up on you, *steel your resolve* and do what Abraham must have done and say to those regrets, "Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further!*"

But now, as you probably remember, Abraham wasn't perfect in his stand for God. While traveling through the land of the giants,

**"Abraham said of Sarah his wife, *She is my sister*: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah" (Gen. 20:2).**

Abraham was afraid the king would kill him to get his beautiful wife, so he just decided to share her. But that king was *also* the seed of those fallen angels. You see, after God wiped the giants out with the Flood, Satan raised up *another* crop of giants "after that" (Gen. 6:4). And if that king had slept with Sarah, it would have corrupted the line of Christ.

That means when Abraham lied about his wife he endangered *the genealogy of the Messiah*, and in so doing *endangered the souls of all mankind*. If God hadn't intervened, we'd all be without a Savior.

I point all this out to remind you that *you're not perfect either*.

Maybe you've made mistakes in *your* stand for God, just as Abraham did. Maybe even *serious* mistakes that endangered the cause of Pauline truth for which you stand. The good news is that God doesn't expect you to be perfect any more than He expected it of Abraham. And if He could use Abraham after the shameful way he treated his wife, I guarantee He can still use *you*.

So don't let past mistakes keep you from standing for the truth. When thoughts arise that suggest that your past renders you unworthy to stand for the Lord, just say to those thoughts, "Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further!*"

### **Moses' Stand**

Moses began to take *his* stand for God when he attempted to mediate a fight between two Jews (Ex. 2:13). But how'd that work out for him? They rejected his offer to mediate their dispute and tacitly threatened to expose him as a murderer (v. 14).

Did you ever have something like that happen to you? Maybe you tried to settle a quarrel between two grace brethren, or took a stand for what's right in some other area of your life, and had it just *explode in your face*? If that happens, I hope you won't react as Moses did. He ran away from God for forty years! Forty years of his life were *wasted*, just because standing for what's right didn't work out the way he'd hoped.

Maybe it *has* happened to you, and you *did* run from God, and now you're finding it hard to find your way back to serving Him.

Can you imagine how hard it was for Moses *after forty years*? Maybe you haven't wasted that much time, but no matter how many years you've lost for the Lord, do you know what you should say to all that spiritual waste in your life? "Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further!*"

### Joshua and Caleb's Stand

Now if you want to talk about men who took a stand, how about Joshua and Caleb? What did God say to them about the giants who lived in the promised land?

**"Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it" (Lev. 20:24).**

But when Moses sent men to spy out the land, what did ten of those twelve spies tell him?

**"...we be not able to go up against the people; for they are... giants" (Num. 13:27-33).**

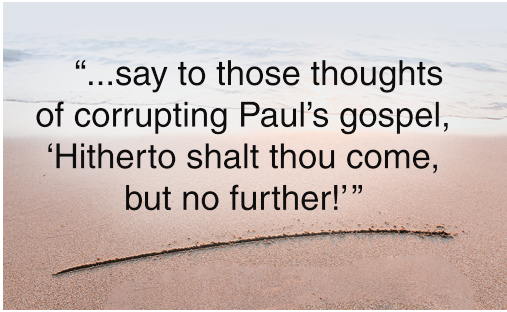
But what did Joshua and Caleb say to their countrymen about that?

**"...rebel not...neither fear ye the people of the land...the LORD is with us" (Num. 14:9).**

In the face of that unbelief, Joshua and Caleb *took a stand*, choosing to stand on God's promise that they *would* inherit the land!

Now most of the time when preachers preach about those two faithful men, they tell you that you can beat the giants in *your* life by just being faithful. They promise that faithfulness will even enable you to conquer obstacles as huge as *cancer*, or *poverty*, or whatever other giant challenges you face in life.

But faithfulness stems from *faith*, and faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). And God didn't say in His Word that members of the Body of Christ will slay the giant of cancer, or vanquish the giant of poverty. So you can't point to a verse that says you will, as Joshua and Caleb could point to God's promise that they would possess the land. So for you to say you will conquer giants like that isn't *faith*, it's *presumption*.



**"...say to those thoughts of corrupting Paul's gospel, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further!'"**

God plans to conquer *your* giants *differently*. After talking about the giants of "tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword" (Rom. 8:35), Paul went on to assure us that "in all these things we are *more than conquerors* through Him that loved us" (v. 37). You see, God's plan isn't for you to merely *conquer* your giants. He plans to make you *more* than a mere conqueror *by letting your giants conquer you*.

"How's that work?" Well, don't forget Paul prefaced God's promise to make us more than conquerors with the words, "we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter" (v. 36). That's a reference to what Isaiah said about the Lord as He hung on Calvary's cross, and how...



**“He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter...” (Isa. 53:7).**

### **Christ’s Stand**

Was Christ a conqueror on the cross? Before you answer, let me ask you: Did He come down off the cross and *whoop up on* the religious “giants” who nailed Him there? He could have conquered them if He wanted to. Instead He became *more* than a conqueror *by letting those giants conquer Him* by taking His life. He didn’t rest on any promise to save Him from His giant religious foes. Instead, He rested on God’s promise to raise Him from the dead after His enemies conquered Him (Psa. 16:10). He was even “glad” that those religious giants killed Him (v. 9), and He tells us *why* He was glad when He prayed,

**“Thou wilt shew Me the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore” (v. 11).**

The Lord was able to gladly endure the giants who so viciously opposed Him because He knew that someday He would sit at God’s right hand—and so will you! In fact, Paul says *you’re as good as there* (Eph. 2:6). With glory like that in your future, you can gladly tell your giants, “Go ahead and run me over, then back the truck up *and run me over again*. No matter what you do to me, my Savior is keeping a seat warm for me at the right hand of God!”

That’s the reason Paul cites Isaiah’s words about the Lord in

telling us that we can be more than conquerors through Him. If we look at our giants in the way that He looked at His, we can be as glad as He was about having to face them!

This explains why Paul himself was glad when he asked the Lord to slay *his* giant—his giant thorn in the flesh—and He answered,

**“My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities...for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Cor. 12:8-10).**

If Paul had his druthers, *he druther be sick than well*, for he knew the Lord’s power was *released* in his suffering, just as the power of salvation was released in the Lord’s suffering for us on the cross. So just as Christ was “glad” that His enemies conquered Him, Paul suffered his giant thorn in the flesh “gladly.”

“What kind of power is released in our suffering?” The power to overcome the discouragement that comes when you *forget* that God’s strength is made perfect in your weakness! And the power of your testimony for the Lord is made perfect as well. When you not only *don’t gripe* about your infirmities, when you “*take pleasure*” in them instead, that’s a testimony that literally *screams* to unbelievers that you have something they don’t have!

### **Your Stand**

And if you can’t take pleasure in *that*, you need to adjust your

priorities. I'm talking about manning up *and taking a stand in life*, and being the man of God that He has called you to be. Learn to "endure hardness; as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3).

Aaron Tippin's song ends with these lines:

"Now I know that things are different than they were in Daddy's day. But I still believe what makes a man really hasn't changed." And I know that things are different today than they were in Bible days. They are even different than they were back in 1968 when those men of God took a stand for Paul's

gospel. But what makes a man of God really hasn't changed. You've *still* got to stand for the truth of Paul's gospel, or you too will fall for anything!

So "quit you like men, *be strong!*" (1 Cor. 16:13). There are untold thousands of believers who are falling for the kind of presumption that passes for faith these days. It's time that grace believers everywhere stood up to *all* such errors, and to any and all declension from the truth, and said, "Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further!*"

(To be continued)



# Transformed by Grace

## Regional Conference-Chicago

### Saturday, September 19, 2020

**CANCELLED**

Sheraton Lisle Naperville, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois

Speakers: Pastor Kevin Sadler, with Pastor Ricky Kurth

Contact: Pastor Jim Tollar at 262-255-4750 or  
businessmanager@bereanbiblesociety.org

# A God-Honoring Church

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER  
BBS President



**“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure” (2 Thes. 1:3-4).**

Local churches can be proud of different things. Some are proud of their modern building, cushioned pews, or stained-glass windows. Others boast in their varied programs for all ages and needs. Some churches tout their music ministry: their pipe organ, praise team, or large choir. There are churches who glory in their wealth, impressive numbers, or their many pastors and leaders. Other churches take pride in their ceremonies and traditions.

In 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, by God the Holy Spirit, Paul shows us a church that is worthy to thank God for and in which to glory. What was it that made the Thessalonian church a God-honoring assembly?

- Was it their building? No, we don’t know that they had one.
- Was it their programs? No, they didn’t know what programs were.
- Was it their wealth? No, they were poor.
- Was it their size? No, they were a small assembly.
- Was it their leaders? No, we don’t even know who they were.
- Was it their success in changing society? No, they were persecuted.

Without all these things by which the modern church measures success, how could this be a significant church? What was it that made Paul and his co-laborers so thankful for them that they boasted about this one church to other churches? 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 reveals God’s criteria, His standards for a church that is to be gloried in and honored.

## Growing Faith

Paul wrote, “We are bound to thank God always for you.” Being “bound” meant that Paul, Silas, and Timothy were under a deep



obligation. It wasn't something they chose to do or not to do. This was something that *had to* be done. Then Paul added, "as it is meet," or as it is fitting. In other words, it was also the right and proper thing to do to give unceasing thanks to God for them. He gave thanks to God for this local church because they had grown spiritually through God's life, power, and working in their lives by His grace (Phil. 2:13). Therefore, Paul, Silas, and Timothy had no choice and were obligated to give thanks to God for them.

Paul gave thanks for this local church "because that your faith groweth exceedingly." A church's measure for success in ministry must be set by God's standard. In God's eyes, a church that glorifies Him is a church where faith in Him is growing exceedingly.

Our faith increases exceedingly by growing in His Word exceedingly. Romans 10:17 reminds us, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Our faith is based on the Word of God. For faith to grow, the Word must be heard. When God's Word is the primary focus of a local assembly—where it is preached, taught, and applied rightly divided—faith can and will grow exceedingly among its members.

The Thessalonians' faith was growing beyond what Paul hoped for or ever expected. The term "groweth exceedingly" means to increase beyond measure. The initial seed of faith that sprouted when the Thessalonians trusted Christ as their Savior had shot up quickly and now was exploding with spiritual growth and fruit.



The Christian life begins with faith, trusting that Christ died for our sins and rose again (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Eph. 2:8-9). From that point forward, we live the same way we were saved: by grace through faith in Christ (Col. 2:6). God wants our faith in Christ to grow exceedingly by knowing, trusting, and living out His Word rightly divided. A local church in which faith grows exceedingly is a God-honoring church.

### **Abounding Love**

Paul also gave thanks for this local church "because...the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth." In God's eyes, a church that glorifies Him is a church where His love flows unhindered through every member toward every member. Faith in Christ and love toward others should drive everything a church does.

It is sad that, in many churches, the people can't wait to get away from each other, and they don't know each other. By the Spirit's fruit

of love, however, our movement is to be “*toward* each other,” not away from each other. The Thessalonian church deeply, sincerely cared for and looked out for one another. “Every one” of them in the church knew and abounded in love for each other.

“Charity” (2 Thes. 1:3) is God’s *agape* love. It’s that humble, selfless love of action which sacrificially puts the needs of others before our own. The word translated as “aboundeth” means to superabound, to increase abundantly. Many have boundaries of how far they might go to show love to someone. But our love is to be like Christ’s love: limitless, unconditional, and without partiality.


Neither faith nor love is something we fully attain or ever do enough. We must never stop growing in our faith or increasing in our love. There is always room to grow in our faith, and there are always people who need Christ’s love. And when love abounds in a local church, it is a God-honoring church.

### Enduring Patience

Paul gloried in this church “for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure.” The church is hated by the world. Persecutions and tribulations go hand-in-hand with the church living in enemy territory (2 Tim. 3:12). The teaching of the Thessalonian epistles is that members of the Body of Christ will have tribulations during the dispensation of grace (1 Thes. 3:4), but we will not go through the seven-year Tribulation (1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9).

As a result of the Thessalonians reacting to adversity with “patience and faith,” Paul wrote, “we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God.” Paul didn’t glory in the outward accomplishments and successes of the church, but instead what the Lord was doing *in* them. He gloried in the church’s exceeding faith, abounding love, and patience in trials. Paul saw beyond the external to the godly character and spiritual maturity that was being developed in them by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul gloried in their “patience,” or steadfastness and cheerful endurance. They patiently and bravely endured persecution for their faith. Their hope hadn’t died. They were still looking ahead and looking up. They refused to bend or back down from their faith in Christ and were faithfully standing for the truth.

The Thessalonian church was a church to glory in and be thankful for. It was not the kind of church that is popular with the world or that wins the favor of the world by its glitz, compromise, and size. It was a church that grew in faith in Christ, abounded in the love of Christ, and endured the world’s persecution with courage and faithfulness to Christ. That was a God-honoring church then, as such a church would be today. 

# Question Box

*"Where do babies go when they die?"*

**"Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it" (Deut. 1:39).**

In this passage, Moses is recalling Israel's refusal to enter the Promised Land because of their fear and lack of faith in God. God punished the Israelites by having that generation die in the wilderness over a forty year period. The Promised Land is Israel's hope; it is her heaven to be established on the earth (Deut. 11:21). Notice that God allowed the children of the unbelieving generation into the Promised Land, "which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil." The children who had no knowledge of good and evil and had not partaken in Israel's unbelief were spared, and they obtained the privilege of entering the Promised Land which their unbelieving parents had forfeited. This is a principle I believe is true today under grace, that God allows children in His heaven, who have no knowledge of good and evil and are before the age that they can trust Christ as their Savior.

The Scriptures call children who die "innocents" (Jer. 19:4-5). The Hebrew word translated as "innocents" means guiltless, to be taken to court and found not guilty. This does not mean that children are not fallen. It does not mean that they are not born into sin or have a sin nature. It does mean that God treats them mercifully as innocent. As such, by grace and the blood of Christ, babies are safe and God allows the innocents into His heaven when they die.

**"And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (2 Sam. 12:22-23).**

When David's son from his sin with Bathsheba was ill, David fasted and wept in his sorrow. After the baby died, David rose up, worshipped the Lord, and ate (2 Sam. 12:20). He explained to his servants the reason why was that "I shall go to him." David had confident anticipation and the joyful hope of a reunion with his son. For believing parents who have lost babies to death, there is the certain hope of meeting them in heaven one day.

—Pastor Kevin Sadler



# Too Stressed to Be Blessed?



PASTOR RICKY KURTH  
Berean Searchlight Editor

It stopped me dead in my tracks.

At the height of the pandemic my wife was watching the news, and as I passed through the room, I heard some expert being interviewed about the coronavirus. She said, “If you’re not stressed by all of this, *there’s something wrong with you!*” Her words stopped me cold, for I remember thinking, “No, if you’re not stressed by all this, *there’s something right with you!*”

You see, the apostle Paul says we should “rejoice in the Lord *always*” and “be careful” (or *full of care*) “for nothing,” but rather *pray* about “every thing” (Phil. 4:4-6). If you can do that, he promises that “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (v. 7).

The reason we can always rejoice in Christ is that “God...hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places—in Christ” (Eph. 1:3), and those immutable blessings cannot be altered by circumstances. They stand *impervious* in the face of any and all of the unsettling things that can happen in our lives. That’s what enabled Paul to offer us “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding.”

The trick to *experiencing* that peace, however, is found in *remembering* how blessed we are. That’s why Paul *reminds* us of our blessings by opening all his letters with the words “grace” and “peace.” If you can keep all that God has done for you by His grace in mind, you can have the peace that He designed His grace to give you. And that’s why Paul’s words to the Philippians always make me think of the interdispensational principle set forth in Isaiah 26:3, where the prophet prayed,

**“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.”**

If you’d like to enjoy the “perfect” peace that the prophet mentions here, you have to learn to keep your mind “stayed” on the God of whom Isaiah *went on* to say,

**“Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for Thou also hast wrought all our works in us” (v. 12).**

God has ordained “all our works” *in us too*. But the only way we can experience the perfect peace that God’s Word can empower us to have is to be “stayed” on Him—as stayed as the mighty oceans are “stayed” from overwhelming our shores by the power of God’s Word (Job 38:8-11). If your mind is as stayed on the Word of God as the seven seas are, God can keep turmoil and unrest from encroaching on your peace as effectively as He keeps the oceans from encroaching on the continents.

You see, His grace has given us “peace with God” (Rom. 5:1), so that’s our standing with Him. And “when He giveth quietness, *who then can make trouble?*” (Job 34:29). If you can learn to “stand” in the unassailable tranquility that “grace” like that gives us (Rom. 5:2), you can experience “the peace of God” that Paul says is available to us all in Philippians 4:5-7.


Of course, only *believers* can enjoy peace like this. The peace of unbelievers is always dependent on their circumstances. If their circumstances are calm, they have peace. If their circumstances are in turmoil, either personally or in the world about them, they know nothing but unrest. No wonder the Lord told His disciples,

**“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: *not as the world giveth*, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, and neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).**

That’s why Paul told the Colossians to “let the peace of God rule in your hearts” (Col. 3:15). God’s peace is never daunted by *His* circumstances, even though the current circumstances of the world He created are sure to vex His holiness in ways that we can’t even begin to fathom. If you let that kind of peace rule *your* heart as it does His, then pandemics will roll off of you like water off a duck’s back, along with any other challenge to faith that the world, the flesh, or the devil can conjure up.

So “acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace” and “thereby good shall come unto thee” (Job 22:21). In times like we just endured with the Covid-19 virus, even many believers felt too stressed to be blessed. But in reality, we are “too blessed to be stressed,” as a popular Christian saying has expressed so well. “The Lord of Peace Himself” is willing to “give you peace always by all means” (2 Thes. 3:16), but you have to be willing to always “rejoice” in your blessings to *maintain* that peace.

So in times of turmoil, remember to keep God’s reassuring words in mind: “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psa. 46:10). That’s the very definition of being “careful” or *full of care* “for nothing.” It is the exact nature of being spiritually minded, and “to be spiritually minded is life and *peace*” (Rom. 8:6).

In short: if you’re not stressed in times of turmoil, there’s something *right* with you, not wrong! 



# Biblical Mathematics

We are not to add to the Bible  
Nor subtract from it  
But to rightly divide it.

When you rightly divide  
It all adds up  
Nothing can subtract  
From His multiplied grace.

—Anonymous

Sent to us by Donald Rutherford, Colorado

## SPOTLIGHT on Grace Churches

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

1427 W Main St.  
Tipp City, OH 45371  
[www.cbctipp.com](http://www.cbctipp.com)

**Senior Pastor:** Pastor Jeff Seekins  
**Assoc. Youth Pastor:** Pastor Georges Craesmeyer

#### Meeting Times:

Sunday: 9:30am Bible Hour/10:30am Morning Worship  
Sunday: 6:00pm Sr. Youth/Wednesday: 6:00pm Jr. Youth  
Wednesday: 6:30pm Bible Study/Women's Bible Study

The stated purpose of *Community Bible Church* is to promote the worship of God through the preaching of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ at home and abroad; trusting that as a result, sinners shall be saved and believers edified. We endeavor to present everyone we encounter perfect in Christ (Col. 1:28)! We share Christ with everyone coming through our doors for Sunday and Wednesday services, youth group, Vacation Bible School, and various outreaches within the community.

**Contact: (937) 667-2710 or [cbctipp@gmail.com](mailto:cbctipp@gmail.com)**





# Western Wisconsin Special Meetings

September 12, 2020

**Location:** Grant County Farm Bureau  
9755 Hwy 61, Lancaster, Wisconsin

**Speaker:** Pastor Kevin Sadler, *BBS President*

For directions or more information contact:  
Jack Trumm (608) 794-2410 or Mel Flogel (608) 348-7574

# ENGLAND

## *Special Meetings*

October 24-25, 2020

**Location:** Arrow Village Hall, Alcester, UK

**Speaker:** Pastor Kevin Sadler, BBS President

**Contact:** Marcus Emerson at +44 789 762982  
or ggm-uk@outlook.com

*Plan now for a wonderful time around  
God's Word across the pond!*





# Reaching God's Worst Enemies

PAT KILGO

*Things To Come Mission, SE Asia*

**D**oes God have enemies? Of course He does!

*C'mon, you say, God doesn't have enemies. We're living under grace!*

Indeed, but living under grace just means that God is offering all of His enemies (enemies that once included you and me) a free chance at reconciliation based on the atoning merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. It doesn't mean that God has changed the way He feels about sin or sinners. Do you remember how the Apostle Paul began his great exposition of God's justification of sinners? He writes in Romans 1:18a "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...."

So, then, who are God's enemies? While this might be a "thorny" theological issue for some, there is one group of people, Biblically speaking, that God literally hates—a class of people so repugnant that God erased whole civilizations of them from the earth: idolaters.

The first commandment sets the tone concerning idolatry: "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or

any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God" (Ex. 20:3-5a).

Speaking about the idolatrous Canaanites, God said "I abhorred them" (Lev. 20:23). In Leviticus 26, where God repeatedly warns Israel to avoid idolatry, He also warned them about the *consequences* of idolatry, saying, "I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and My soul shall abhor you" (Lev. 26:30). After some Jews fell into idolatry, Deuteronomy 32:19 says,

**"When the LORD saw it, He abhorred them, because of the provoking of His sons, and of His daughters."**

That sounds like hatred to me!

Even a casual reader of the Old Testament notices the large volume of verses against idolatry. In fact, other than the glory of God, mankind's idolatry is probably the dominant theme of the Old Testament. God was a hair's breath away from wiping

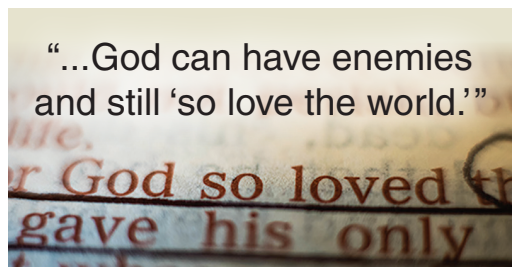
out Israel and starting over with Moses because of idolatry (Ex. 32:10). Later, Joshua added an addendum to Moses' law book condemning it again (Josh. 24:14-28)! God's measuring stick for a king's success was simple—the degree of their tolerance for idolatry (2 Kings 16:2-4, 18:4, and dozens of others). Why did Israel and Judah cease to be nations? You guessed it—idolatry (2 Kings 17:7-23).

Here is a simple definition of idolatry: *The purposeful designation of deity to something that is not God.* Idolatry is serious because only God is God—nothing and no one else can be—and if we lift something up as greater than or equal to God, then we are idolaters.

I once had a colleague who had written a popular textbook that was frequently used in his field of study. A website had posted the contents of his textbook for free with no attribution of my friend's name. "I don't care about the money, but this is my material and I want the credit for it," my friend explained as we discussed the legal action he was taking to rectify the situation. This must be how our Creator feels when His majesty is shared with another. He did the work of creation and He alone deserves the credit!

Still today more than a quarter of the world's population practices idolatry in religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and "Chinese religion" which is a form of animistic ancestor worship (and this figure doesn't include certain segments of Christendom whose adherents pray to saints and icons).

Where I live in Southeast Asia, idolatry is everywhere, literally on almost every street corner. Most homes have a family altar where prayers and food are offered to ancestors in hopes of receiving favor and blessings. Ornate temples with expensive idols line the streets, and street corners have small "spirit houses" which range in sizes from as small as bird-houses to as large as doghouses. Incense is burned, food is left for ancestors, and people stop to offer prayers for blessing. I recently walked two miles to our church from my home and counted 61 of these structures along the way!



While God can have enemies and still "so love the world" (John 3:16), Christians are forbidden from hating idolaters or anyone else. Today we are encouraged to love idolaters and be Christ's ambassadors to them. But reaching idolaters for Christ is an entirely different undertaking than reaching other unbelievers.

For instance, with Muslims you at least have some common starting points—one God, Jesus, Mary, some of the Scriptures, and other common denominators. With idol worshippers of any religion, we have no such luxury. There are few if any points in common, and to make it worse, most idolaters are from Eastern

cultures, meaning that Westerners don't even share the same cultural values! If you choose traditional evangelism methods, idolaters will stare back at you with a blank expression, unable to relate to your conceptions, ignorant about ideas such as sin, guilt, atonement, and salvation.

The Apostle Paul faced the exact same problem as he traveled through the idolatrous Roman Empire and ministered the gospel to Gentiles. Towns such as Ephesus and Corinth were famous for their idolatry and the grievous sins associated with it. Paul, a former Pharisee, was unlikely to have studied evangelism methods for idolaters as a youth, but he learned quickly that the one-size-fits-all approach would not work.

The Bible records two sermons that Paul gave directly to idolaters, and they are vastly different from his other recorded sermons because he contextualized to his audience. The first is recorded in Acts 14, where the people are so impressed with Paul and Barnabas that they proclaimed, "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men" (Acts 14:11). Paul corrected them as follows:

**"...Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:**

**"Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.**

**"Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons,**

**filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:15-17).**

The second sermon was delivered in Athens, where Paul's "spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry." When given the chance to speak on Mars Hill, Paul said:

**"...Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.**

**"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you.**

**"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;**

**"Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed any thing, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;**

**"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;**

**"That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us:**

**"For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring.**

**"Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.**

**"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:**

**“Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead” (Acts 17:22b-31).**

What can we learn from Paul’s evangelism approach to idolaters? What commonalities do the two sermons have that we can use in our own evangelism efforts?

There are six elements common to the two sermons that deserve our consideration. In some cases, it may not be clear why these elements are highlighted, but we can trust that God’s Word will never steer us wrong. Consider these commonalities in Paul’s two sermons:

**1. The Creator God**—In both sermons God appeals to a fact that is innate within all of us—we are created beings (Rom. 1:20). In fact, this Creator “made heaven and earth” and “the world and all things therein.” God “giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.” Therefore, Paul argues, “He is Lord of heaven and earth.” When dealing with an idolater, always start with creation! To most idolaters, the origins of everything are a murky subject for which they have no good answers. In fact, they are often encouraged by their religions not to even think about it! But your origins matter, because “the potter hath power over the clay” (Rom. 9:21). Idolaters are often very receptive to creation teachings, especially in story form. You know the

story, so just start “in the beginning!”

**2. The Oneness of Humanity**

With phrases such as “we also are men of like passions with you” and “He has made from one blood every nation,” Paul appeals to the unity we all have as creatures made by God. A prevalent belief among idolaters is that the religion you adopt ought to be relative to your background, race, people group, family heritage, where you live, etc. But the fact is that we all have the same nature! If we had different natures, we might rightly conclude that there were many creators. However, the oneness of our human nature points to the One True Creator God, and He alone is worthy of our devotion.

**3. The Engaged God**—Paul teaches idolaters that God is personal, and that He engages with mankind. The Lord gives rain from heaven, fruitful seasons, and fills our heart with gladness. He is not an “UNKNOWN GOD” but is rather a divine being with a relationship to His creation. You don’t have to “feel for Him” as if He is unknowable—He is “not far from every one of us.” This is in stark contrast to the beliefs of the average idolater, who is terrified of the spirit world, and believes that divine forces are too far removed from us to ever want to be good to us (without some enticements!). Paul, instead, teaches that



God knows them, and that He desires to be known among them.

#### 4. **Not Overtly Christian—**

Notice that there is no mention of Jesus by name, and no mention of the cross, sacrifice, salvation, or forgiveness. These doctrines are so ingrained in Christians that we feel like failures if we don't expound on these during a gospel presentation. But we must remember that most idolaters have no concept of these ideas, and that rushing into a lengthy dissection of Jesus' atonement with them is usually met with blank stares. With idolaters, prepare yourself to play the "long game" and consider it a small victory when one says to you "We will hear thee again of this matter" (Acts 17:32b). Missionaries in Buddhist countries like Thailand will tell you that it takes many years, sometimes decades, before people steeped in idolatry even consider the One True God. Conversion doesn't often happen quickly, so settle in for the long haul!


#### 5. **The Appointed Day of Judgment—**

Idolaters need to know that God "hath appointed a day" when "walking in your own ways" will be brought under the righteous microscope of "that man" (Jesus, though He is not named). Most idolaters fear the after-life judgment. Much of their religious devotion is centered on appeasing the wrath of the

spirits and softening their upcoming judgments. Paul tells them that judgment will be righteous and fair. It will happen once, not perpetually into an infinite time as many idolaters believe.

#### 6. **Turn From Useless Things**

Paul's admonishment is that true divinity is not "like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device," and that statues, trinkets, and other items of worship represent "vanities" when compared to the living God. I once rode with a taxi driver who had a small idol affixed to his dashboard. "Where did you get that statue?" I asked him. "From a store," he replied. "You mean that somebody made this statue?" I retorted, to which he said "Yes, of course!" I then asked him a simple question: "Have you ever considered praying to the One who made *you*?" Unfortunately, this logic was lost on him, another victim of Satan's religious blindness.

Being ambassadors for Christ means representing Him to all the peoples of the world, even idolaters. To be sure, it takes a lot of patience, and there are many disappointments, obstacles, and setbacks along the way. May we always emulate the Apostle Paul as we reach out to God's enemies, and let us pray that one day idolaters of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues will utter those most anticipated words: "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9,10). 

# BBS Letter Excerpts



## **From Georgia:**

"My husband and I so appreciate your teaching of the Scriptures rightly divided. What a huge difference it makes in understanding our Bible!"

## **From Connecticut:**

"I've been a 'Grace' believer since 1984 and have never looked back. I grew up in an Independent Baptist Church that was Scofield dispensational, but until I came into BBS's materials, I never knew there were different schools of thought within the dispensational scheme of interpretation. When I read Stam and Baker, it all made sense to me, and it's been very liberating."

## **From our Inbox:**

"My uncle once told me that a Pastor named Stam of the Bereans 'had it right,' and he taught me what it meant to rightly divide the Word. I've been at it ever since then....He was a blessing in my life, and he taught me daily about the Apostle Paul. I owe him more than I could ever repay."

## **From Missouri:**

"Your namesake of 'Berean' drew me to you. I crossed paths early in my Christian walk with a wolf behind the pulpit...I was misled...taught a man's truth, not God's. After going through a 3+ year abandonment of Christianity, I came back. By then I was aware of Acts 17:10,11. Since then I have sought out the truth in God's Word by rightly dividing His Word, and BBS strengthens that resolve."

## **From our Inbox:**

"Enjoying watching *Transformed by Grace* on Roku. Keep up the good work!"

## **From Wisconsin:**

"Enclosed is a gift...we recently found your program *Transformed by Grace* on the Ion Plus channel and really enjoy the teaching!"

## **From Minnesota:**

"We are so thankful to receive your message on antenna TV here near Morris each Monday on Ion TV. We are so blessed with the assurance of grace, and God's wisdom in these uncertain times."

## **From Georgia:**

"I really appreciate Pastor Kevin's insightful messages on DirecTV and his perspective on rightly dividing Scripture. Only recently have I begun to understand this since I never heard it taught in over 50 years of being a church member and Bible student. It's an eye-opener to me, and I can more clearly see God's plan and purpose for me."

## **From Minnesota:**

"I love BBS and all that you stand for. After finding your website about six years ago while getting information from Les Feldick's site, I was hooked....When you were elected as president, Pastor Kevin, I had thoughts of how will you fill your father's shoes. I am greatly pleased that you are doing a wonderful job."

### From Wisconsin:

"Thank you for printing the *Transformed by Grace* business cards. They are so handy! I include them in my bill payments and leave them on restaurant tables with our tip." (A generous tip usually helps! -Ed.).

### From Wisconsin:

"Thank you Pastor Kurth! Reading through these papers has given me inspiration for how to go about introducing people to rightly dividing the Word."

### From our Inbox:

"Your answer certainly helps! It actually opens a door of clarifications about the grace of God referred to by Peter. Thanks a lot indeed."

### From Pennsylvania:

"Thanks for your response to my question! Yes that does help a lot! I've been a Christian over 20 years but recently over the past 3-4 years have really begun to understand dispensationalism and the mysteries that the Lord revealed to Paul and it has brought clearer understanding to me of how I can live in Christ to bring fruits to God. Please pray for me to continue to press on and lovingly lead our home church into this truth."

### From Facebook:

"So much comfort when you rightly divide God's Word!! Thanks Pastor!!" (A response to the May President's Note).

### From New Jersey:

"I wanted to tell you how incredibly blessed I feel, how incredibly thankful I am, for your MP3 studies on John's gospel. Thirty-three down, only seventy-five to go!"

### From our Inbox:

"A wonderful booklet that comes each month. Have learned a lot from it. Thank you *Berean Bible Society* for all your hard work."

### From Michigan:

"*Two Minutes With the Bible* has always reminded me that the answers, the reasons for all our troubles, are found in the teachings of Jesus and His servant Paul. Without these daily reminders, I would certainly stray from the path.... And your letters are the daily push I need...Your messages are getting through to at least me."

### From Washington:

"The *Two Minutes* article ['You Can't Get By with This'] was really good! I never quite heard it spelled out the way the writer did and it was excellent!"

### From Texas:

"Please send me a copy of *Key To Understanding Scripture*....Ever since my neighbor/brother and I discussed this, I have begun reading the Word in a different light. In some way it has expanded my thinking and understanding....Scripture makes a little more sense."

### From Ohio:

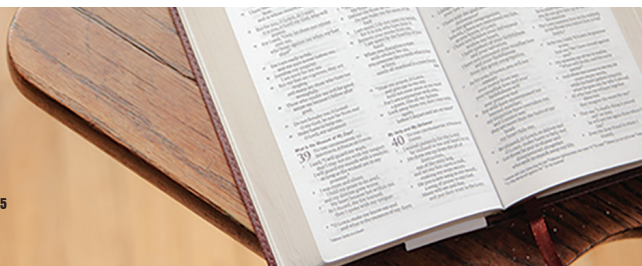
"We can't seem to find a true grace church. Our greatest comfort other than the Bible is the *Searchlight* and your program."

### From North Carolina:

"Thank you for your ministry, and for keeping your resources affordable." (Thank our faithful contributors. Without them we'd have to charge more. -Ed.).

**"Study to show thyself  
approved unto God,  
a workman that needeth not to  
be ashamed, rightly dividing  
the Word of truth."**

—2 Timothy 2:15





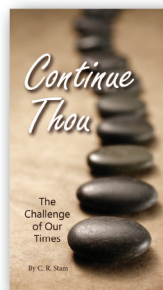
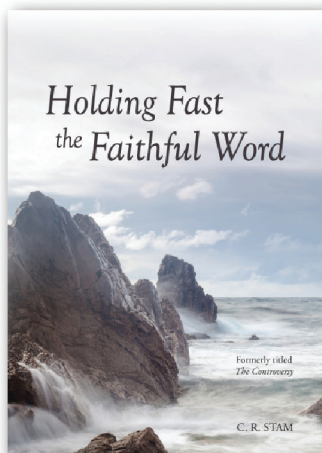
# Holding Fast the Faithful Word

If Pastor Kurth's article "You've Got To Stand For Something" charged your spiritual batteries, you may want to order *Holding Fast the Faithful Word* to see how BBS founder Pastor Cornelius R. Stam stood for the truth, and encouraged others to take their stand in his booklet *Continue Thou*.

**Special  
Set Price:  
\$9.00**

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the Faithful Word  
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by C.R. Stam  
Booklet

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Transformed by Grace Series

# Runaways



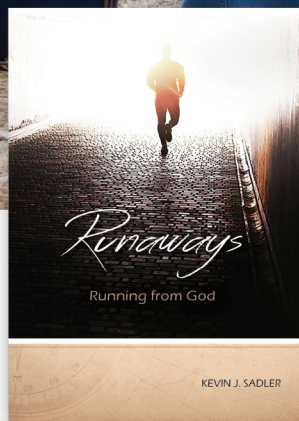
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# News *and* Announcements

**Unsurpassed Podcasts!** Our *Transformed by Grace* television broadcast is now a podcast! That's right, audio versions of past TBG programs are now being released in podcast form. You can subscribe by using Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, or your favorite podcast app. *Transformed By Grace* podcasts will also be available on our website, and posted to Facebook every Wednesday. Don't miss out on this newest way to let God's grace transform your life. Subscribe today!

**West Virginia Conference:** There's no better way to release all that pent-up covid cabin fever than to get together with other newly liberated grace believers to hear the liberating message of grace! So follow West Virginia's "country roads" to Martinsburg's *Comfort Inn Aikens Center*, where you'll hear BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler expound the riches of God's grace. To learn more about this August 14, 15 event, contact Bart Dobers at (240) 587-8458, or at [dobersb@hotmail.com](mailto:dobersb@hotmail.com).

**Grace Bible Fellowship Special Meetings:** Hey, as long as the president of BBS is in town, you might as well ask him to speak at your church! That's why GBF Pastor Brent Biller invited Pastor Kevin Sadler to address his Ridgeley congregation on August 16th. So tack this date on to your plans to attend the West Virginia conference, and you won't miss this additional chance to meet the gracious man you see on *Transformed by Grace*. To learn more, contact Pastor Biller at (304) 726-4063, or at [brentbiller@atlanticbb.net](mailto:brentbiller@atlanticbb.net).

**Alaska Conference:** If you've had enough of social distancing, our good friends Josh and Marcia Dennis would like to introduce you to the sociable saints of *Day of Grace Bible Fellowship*. This year's August 15th conference in Homer will feature some prequel meetings in Wasilla on the 14th, as well as a bonus opportunity to hear conference speaker Pastor Ricky Kurth at the Homer church's Sunday night service on the 16th. So unless you're allergic to scenery that includes mountains that dwarf the clouds, contact Josh at [jdennis1201@gmail.com](mailto:jdennis1201@gmail.com), or at (907) 299-5298 for further information about this conference that was postponed from May 16th.



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**Bitely Bible Conference**, July 31-August 3, Bitely, MI

**West Virginia Conferences**, August 14-15 & 16, Martinsburg/Ridgeley, WV

**Wisconsin Bible Conference**, September 12, Lancaster, WI

**Transformed By Grace Conference**, September 19, Chicago, IL



# Tracts & Teaching Materials

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—E.W. Bullinger

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