

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

February 2021



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This month’s cover features Mangiabarche situated in Calasetta, Sardinia, Italy.

The **Purpose** of the *Berean Bible Society* is to help you understand, enjoy, and apply 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 transformation of the Christian life, and to *encourage* the local church.

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A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

February 21, 1996, was my first day at *Berean Bible Society*. It's hard to believe that it's been 25 years already. I remember my first day like it was yesterday.

About two years before that, I was living in Chicagoland and having supper with my parents. My father was talking about the upcoming move of BBS headquarters to Wisconsin. He stated that the typesetter at the time, Dick Hunt, was going to retire and not move north with BBS. Then, very forthright, my dad asked me if I would like to be the next typesetter for BBS after the move. I had been working in retail at a hardware store for a few years, but I didn't see it as a lifelong occupation. And years prior, I had prayed for the Lord to take my life and to use it for Him. Therefore, when my dad asked, I responded, "Sure."

My first day on the job was the first day BBS was open for business in our new building in Germantown, Wisconsin, where we've been ever since. I did not have experience in typesetting, so Dick Hunt came up to Wisconsin that first week and trained me on the job. BBS was making the transition to computers at the time, so Brother Dick still did some things the old-school way rather than using a computer for all the typesetting. Thus, I learned about the cutting and pasting of text and using a light table for text and picture alignment. To "cut" and "paste" are just computer commands nowadays, but they were things that were literally done with text on paper in the past. Right away, I enjoyed the work and I enjoyed working in the ministry.

For my first 20 years, I worked as the typesetter/graphic designer. After working at BBS for almost 20 years to the day, due to my father's serious heart condition, I was formally installed as president on February 12, 2016. The plan was for my father to train me as president, but this did not take place because my father went home to be with the Lord on March 31st. However, as I now look at things in hindsight and by faith, I've come to realize that I was learning and being trained over a 20-year period as I observed my father's godly and gracious way of leading the Lord's work at BBS.

The old saying goes, "If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life." I have experienced this by serving the Lord here at *Berean Bible Society* for the last 25 years. And, Lord willing, you might have to put up with me for another 25 years!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President

A hand holding a USB drive next to a blue office telephone.

A TESTIMONY ON TV

In Acts 16:16-28, we read of Paul and Silas running into some trouble in the city of Philippi. They were imprisoned for the “crime” of casting out an evil spirit from a damsel and now *“her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone.”* Though they were unjustly jailed, their good **testimony** for the Lord was witnessed by all the prisoners and the jailkeeper as they prayed and sang praises to God.

Shortly thereafter, an earthquake miraculously opened all the doors of the prison and loosed the prisoners’ bands. Now, the jailor was ready to kill himself because in those days escaped prisoners meant certain death! But the Apostle Paul *“cried with a loud voice”* to the jailor not to harm himself, as he and the other prisoners did not escape. The testimony of Paul and Silas during this time caused the jailor to ask the most important question anyone can ask, *“What must I do to be saved?”*

At Berean Bible Society, we are thankful for the **testimony** of our weekly television show, *Transformed by Grace*. Our show is seen weekly by many thousands all over the USA, helping believers grow in their understanding of God’s Word through the lens of the mystery program. But it serves another purpose, as testimony, or a witness to the **unsaved!**

Back in December of 2020, we received a phone call from a woman who wanted someone in our office to pray with her husband. He wanted to trust in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ! Like the Philippian jailor, he was asking, what must I do to be saved? The answer was simple. I had the opportunity to speak with him, and I asked if he believed that Christ died for him, was buried, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:1-4). He said he already believed that blessed truth, so I informed him he was already saved! By the end of our conversation and time of prayer, he had the hope (earnest expectation) of his heavenly home.

We thank the Lord for the opportunity to use TV as an avenue to present the gospel and teach Scripture. We also want to thank all of you, our faithful supporters, who pray and give towards the continuation of this vital video ministry.

—Pastor Jim Tollar, *BBS Business Manager*



The Unpardonable Sin

PASTOR KEVIN J. **SADLER**

BBS President

One pastor told the following true story: “When I served as pastor of a church in North Alabama during the early 1980s, there was an usher in our church named John. He was a sweet man who was always present in his regular spot to greet people and hand out bulletins, but John was a very troubled man. On several occasions, I met with him, and he began to weep as he told me that during World War II he had done something he thought was so evil that he was certain he had committed the unforgivable sin.

“I tried to help him by telling him God could forgive every sin except the sin of unbelief, but that didn’t change his mind. John never told me what he had done, but he was convinced he never would go to heaven. He attended church and served the Lord faithfully. His family was active in the church, and his children were talented singers; but he was tormented with the belief that he had committed the unpardonable sin and never would make it to heaven.”¹

That man is not alone. Many people have the same fear and live in dread that they might

have committed such a sin and that there’s no hope for them to be saved. Perhaps you have wondered if somewhere along the line you blasphemed the Holy Spirit, and it lingers in your thinking that you may never be forgiven for it.

There are a lot of ideas as to what the unpardonable sin is. Some think it is murder, suicide, adultery, or other forms of sexual immorality. Others believe it has to do with thinking or saying horrible, blasphemous things against God, that it’s something like hating God or shaking your fist at God and cursing Him.

What is the unpardonable sin? To that question we ask, what does the Bible say? That should always be our first question, because God’s Word is our first and final authority in all matters of faith and practice. And when we rightly divide the Word of truth, the answer to the question of the unpardonable sin becomes clear.

The Context

“Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but

the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come” (Matt. 12:31,32).

What is often called the unpardonable sin is based on this portion of Scripture and its parallel passages in the other Gospels (Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:10). To understand what the Lord meant, His words need to be interpreted by both their immediate context and their dispensational context.

In the immediate context, we learn about a miracle that Christ performed, which prompted opposition from the Pharisees who were present that day. Matthew 12:22-24 records that a demon-possessed man who was “blind, and dumb” was brought to the Lord. Being the Son of God and Israel’s Messiah, the Lord had authority over both the supernatural realm and the physical realm. Therefore, He very simply cast out the demon and healed the man so that he could see and speak. This amazed the people who saw the miracle, and they wondered out loud, “Is not this the son of David?” (v. 23), meaning Israel’s long-promised Messiah and King. Hearing the crowd say this, Christ’s enemies reacted:

“But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils” (v. 24).

This should have been a moment of rejoicing over the healing of the man who had just been

freed from the demon and could speak and see. Instead, the unbelieving Pharisees were infuriated. They could not deny the miracle, so they tried to explain it away by calling it evil. They would not allow themselves to believe the possibility that Jesus of Nazareth was the King, the Son of David, so they attributed the miracle to another ruler, claiming that the Lord did it by the power of Beelzebub the prince of the devils, which is Satan. The Lord, in turn, addressed their unbelief and this accusation, telling them,

“And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?” (v. 26).

Their accusation of Christ casting out demons by the power of Satan made no sense, because Satan would be working against himself by relinquishing control of someone in his clutches and repairing the damage he had done to the man. The Lord advanced His wise argument a step further when he asked,

“Or else, how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house” (v. 29).



In this verse, the “strong man” is Satan. His “house” is the sphere in which he holds sway, which is the world, because Satan

is “the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4). “His goods” are his demons and their evil works. Christ is the One who came from heaven and entered the world, the strong man’s house, and bound the strong man, and plundered his goods and cast out a demon.

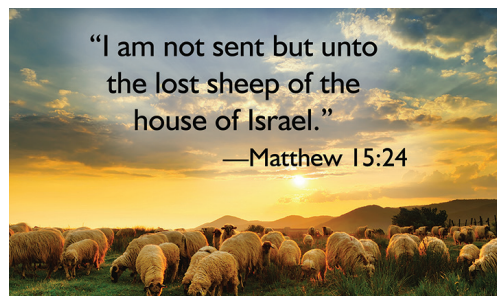
Right before their eyes, Christ had just freed this man from the grip and bondage of Satan. Christ did not perform this miracle in the power of Satan. Christ is not subject to him. Therefore, the logical conclusion is that Christ is greater and more powerful than the strong man, Satan, because Christ is God, and He demonstrated it by casting out one of Satan’s demons.

Then the Lord issued the stern warning of the unforgivable sin to these Pharisees who did not believe in Him and were opposed to Him: “Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.”

We need to note to whom the Lord is speaking. First, He is specifically addressing Israel’s unbelieving religious leaders. Accusing Christ of being in league with Satan and casting out a demon in the power of Satan was sin and blasphemy by these religious leaders. Blasphemy is something that is done or said against God. By declaring that what they had just accused Him of was blasphemy, Christ affirmed His Deity, that He is God Almighty.

Second, in the overall sense, in the Gospel records, Christ is speaking to Israel. This is made obvious a few chapters later where the Lord said, “I am not

sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matt. 15:24). In Romans 15:8, Paul wrote, “Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision [the Jews] for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto



the fathers.” Christ was sent to and ministered to Israel. In the Gospels, during the Lord’s earthly ministry, you find Him ministering the truth of God and confirming the promises made to the fathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—according to the law, Israel’s covenants, and prophecy.

That’s important to keep in mind whenever you read and study Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, because we are Gentiles under grace, not Israel under the law. In the Gospels, there are promises of blessing and punishment made to Israel that are not for us today under grace, such as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and the unpardonable sin.

Rejection of the Father and the Son

Christ taught that “all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men” (Matt. 12:31). In other words, these Pharisees could still believe that He was the Son of David and Israel’s Messiah and their sin and blasphemy

could be forgiven. “But,” Christ pointed out, “the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men” (v. 31b).

The Holy Spirit had not yet been given (Matt. 3:11; John 7:39; 16:7-8,13). The Holy Spirit was later sent by Christ on the day of Pentecost after Christ’s ascension to heaven. When Christ warned Israel’s religious leaders about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, it was because the Holy Spirit was soon to descend and come to Israel to give them their last opportunity to repent as a nation. It was when the Spirit was sent *to Israel* that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven unto men.

For emphasis, the Lord reiterated that “whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him” (Matt. 12:32). This double warning by Christ was a warning of love and concern. Christ loves the world, and though these religious leaders had made this wicked accusation and spoken a word against Him, He told them that they could be forgiven of it. But He also warned them, out of love, that there was coming a day when their blasphemy and speaking against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven.

The Lord’s teaching that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit was unforgivable was not because the Holy Spirit is greater than God the Father or greater than God the Son, but because God the Holy Spirit arrived *later* than the Father and the Son. The Spirit’s ministry was later, or *after* the

Father’s ministry to Israel, and *after* the Son’s earthly ministry to Israel.

Throughout Old Testament times, Israel rejected and resisted God the Father. They did this through their unbelief and pervasive idolatry. They did not trust and obey the law of God, and we see this by how they reaped the curses of disobedience to His law. Not only that, but Israel killed the prophets that the Father sent to them to turn them back to Him. Israel also rejected the Father when they desired a king to rule over them like all the other nations. In 1 Samuel 8:7 we read, “And the LORD said unto Samuel, Harken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, *but they have rejected Me*, that I should not reign over them.”

Yet, in love and mercy, God the Father sent His Son to Israel. In the Gospels, we learn how the Son labored, performed miracles, and taught Israel that she might receive Him as her Messiah and trust the gospel of the kingdom and be saved from her sins. However, when we consider this account in Matthew 12, we see that the religious leaders were rejecting God the Son and who He was, even accusing Him of performing miracles in the power of Satan. And the leaders’ rejection of Christ led to having Him crucified. The Lord told His disciples, “The Son of man must suffer many things, *and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes*, and be slain, and be raised the third day” (Luke 9:22).

Nonetheless, on the cross, the Lord prayed in amazing mercy,

“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Their sin and blasphemy against Christ was forgiven by the Father in answer to the Son’s prayer. The reason is that the crucifying of God’s Son was a sin of ignorance.

A Presumptuous Sin

The Lord prayed for His Father to forgive Israel of His Son’s crucifixion because “they know not what they do.” Later, Peter told Israel, “And now, brethren, I wot [know] that through *ignorance* ye did it, as did also your rulers” (Acts 3:17). Under the law, there were sacrifices and offerings for sins of ignorance, and God made a provision for their forgiveness. However, for willful sins of presumption there was no provision for forgiveness.

Sins of ignorance — a provision could be made for their forgiveness.

Sins of presumption — no provision for forgiveness.



“But the soul that doeth ought [or sins] presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken His commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him” (Num. 15:30-31).

“Presumptuously” means with a high hand. To sin presumptuously is a bold, defiant act of transgression against the fullest evidence, and in spite of divine authority. This kind of conduct in Israel disrespected God, because it treated His commands as needless and unreasonable and as if His judgment wasn’t to be feared or regarded as authoritative. Under the law, that person was condemned to be cut off from Israel and to bear full responsibility for the iniquity, never to be forgiven.

This describes Israel’s sin after the Holy Spirit was sent to her. They sinned with a high hand. It was an act of transgression against the fullest evidence. The Holy Spirit bore witness to Christ’s resurrection and identity as Israel’s Messiah, and He did so with undeniable proof and power. Further, by the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit through the apostles, the Spirit brought the Word of the Lord to Israel and glorified God’s Son. God did not let Israel continue in her ignorance. He had Peter, by the Spirit, confront them with the truth that they had “denied the Holy One and the Just...And killed the Prince of life, Whom God hath raised from the dead” (Acts 3:14-15).

Thus Israel was no longer ignorant of what they had done in crucifying their Messiah. In response to the Holy Spirit’s ministry, many in the nation despised the Word of the Lord. By rejecting the Spirit’s ministry and message, those in Israel knowingly and willfully sinned against and blasphemed the Spirit. And for this, there was no forgiveness.

Rejection of the Holy Spirit

In the Old Testament, Israel rejected God the Father. In the Gospel records, they rejected God the Son. In early Acts, Israel rejected God the Holy Spirit. By blaspheming the Spirit in deliberate rebellion, they completed their rejection of the Godhead in totality. The Holy Spirit was their



last chance to repent, believe, and be saved. That's why blaspheming the third Person of the Trinity was unforgivable.

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) and then worked mightily in Israel with signs and wonders. Those signs and wonders, done in the name of Jesus Christ, confronted Israel and its leaders with overwhelming proof of Christ's resurrection and Messiahship (Acts 3:6-21). Israel's continued rejection of Christ was inexcusable in light of the Spirit's ministry. Rather than heed the pleadings of the Spirit-filled apostles, the religious leaders ignored them and initiated a persecution against them in which they were threatened (Acts 4:17-21), imprisoned (Acts 5:17-18), and beaten (Acts 5:40-42).

Israel's rejection of the Holy Spirit reached its zenith in Acts 7, when Stephen confronted their sin and unbelief. Stephen was "a

man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 6:5). He stood before the Sanhedrin, Israel's ruling religious body, and challenged them about their willful rejection of Christ, their refusal to open their hearts, and their guilt of resisting the Holy Spirit:

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, YE DO ALWAYS RESIST THE HOLY GHOST: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of Whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers" (Acts 7:51-52).

In a rage, these men then ran upon Stephen, seized him, dragged him outside the city gates, and stoned him to death. These religious leaders committed the exact unpardonable sin that Christ warned them about. Israel's leaders had been presented with overwhelming evidence that Jesus Christ was alive and was both Lord and Christ.

The religious leaders blasphemed the Spirit by their rejection of His miraculous, powerful ministry in pointing Israel to Christ, by their refusal to accept the witness of the Holy Spirit as to who Jesus Christ was, and by their murder of Stephen. By stoning Stephen with wicked hands, in that time and place, at that moment of history, Israel's religious leaders crossed a line they could never uncross. They sealed their fate. Their sin was unpardonable because it represented a decisive, national rejection of Jesus Christ as the Messiah of Israel, despite the testimony of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

As Stephen was being stoned, in a prayer similar to that of his Savior, “he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge” (Acts 7:60). However, this prayer for forgiveness of the nation was *not* granted by the Father because it was not a sin of ignorance. It was a willful, presumptuous sin. They *knew* what they were doing. At this point, Israel as a whole had rejected God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

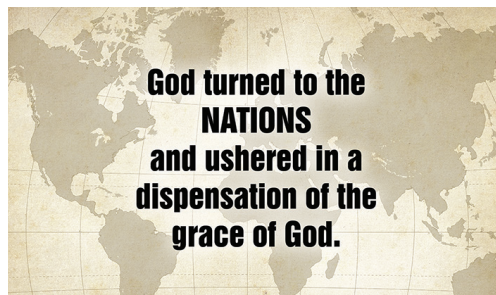
God dealt with His chosen *people* as a *nation*. When the majority of Israel obeyed, God blessed them, including the disobedient among them. When the majority were disobedient, God punished them, including the faithful believers in their midst. And so it is at this point that Israel fell. On the prophetic timeline, it was time to purge Israel and the world of unbelief through the events of Daniel’s 70th week, or the seven-year Tribulation. Instead of pouring out His wrath though, God ushered in a previously hidden dispensation of the grace of God in which grace reigns and in which grace is greater than *all* our sin.

Grace Reigns Today

“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 5:20-21).

Romans 5:20-21 is the solution for the anxiety that the unpardonable sin has brought to many. “Sin abounded” when

Christ had been crucified and, after His resurrection, the Spirit’s ministry demonstrated powerfully that Christ was risen from the dead and was Israel’s Messiah—and yet, Christ’s enemies and Israel’s leaders willfully stood by what they had done and they stoned Stephen. Rather than the stoning of Stephen resulting in the seven-year Tribulation, God temporarily suspended His program with Israel, and “grace did much more abound” when God turned to the nations and ushered in the dispensation of the grace of God.



We live under a different program now, different from the program that was suspended because of the unpardonable sin. The unpardonable sin cannot be committed under grace. That warning from Christ was for Israel and her religious leaders. Its dispensational context was that of Israel’s prophetic program and the coming of the Holy Spirit to Israel. It had to do with Israel’s rejection of Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit to Israel. The unpardonable sin does not apply to us today, nor has it applied to anyone since the stoning of Stephen. God has rendered it impossible to commit this sin today because His program changed from Israel to the Body

of Christ. Thus, when we rightly divide God's Word, the unforgivable sin does not need to strike fear in our hearts.

By rightly dividing the Word, we understand that today we are under grace. And under grace, grace reigns supreme. Grace triumphs over all our sin. When Paul wrote that "grace did much more abound," it means that grace hyper-abounds, superabounds, abounds beyond measure. In other words, we're not talking about normal, regular, everyday grace here. This is grace that the world has never seen before, because we are in the dispensation of grace in which grace reigns conspicuously.

Grace superabounds over any TYPE of sin that a person commits today. No matter what sin it is, it makes no difference; grace abounds over it and it can be forgiven. Murder, suicide, blasphemy, hating God, adultery, drunkenness, etc.—all sin is forgiven in Christ when one trusts Christ as personal Savior.

Grace superabounds over any AMOUNT of sin a person commits. You cannot sin too much to be saved by the grace of God. No person is beyond the reach of God's grace. Anyone can be saved by grace through faith in Christ.

God's superabounding grace freely gives those who believe "eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:21). The warning of the unpardonable sin does not in any way need to cause us to worry or doubt, because God's Word to the Body of Christ today tells us,


"In Whom [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the

forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7).

"And you, being dead in your sins...hath He quickened [made alive] together with Him, having forgiven you ALL trespasses" (Col. 2:13).


We are forgiven all our sins, past, present, and future, the moment we trust that Christ died for our sins and rose again. Christ's precious blood washes away all our sins the moment we believe. To be perfectly clear though, those who do not believe do not have their sins forgiven; eventually, they will die in their sins and will be condemned to eternal, conscious torment in hell.

No one today needs to fear committing the unpardonable sin which the Lord warned about in His earthly ministry for three reasons: first, the unforgivable sin was a warning given to Israel and her leaders; second, God's program has changed; third, today there is no sin that cannot be forgiven by God's superabounding grace through faith in Christ Jesus and there is no sin that could ever cause God to take away our salvation.

As the old hymn of the faith proclaims—and we each should sing it out with all our heart—"Wonderful grace of Jesus, / greater than all my sin; / how shall my tongue describe it, / where shall its praise begin? / Taking away my burden, / setting my spirit free, / for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me."² 

1. David O. Dykes, "What is the Unforgivable Sin?" Preaching.com, accessed January 8, 2021, <https://www.preaching.com/sermons/what-is-the-unforgivable-sin/>.

2. Haldor Lillenas, "Wonderful Grace of Jesus," Hymnary.org, accessed January 8, 2021, https://hymnary.org/text/wonderful_grace_of_Jesus.



WHAT DO YOU CALL A NEARSIGHTED DINOSAUR?

PASTOR RICKY KURTH
Berean Searchlight Editor

A Doyouthinkhesaurus, of course!

Speaking of things that we are not sure were seen, did you ever wonder why Paul wrote:

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11).

Christians often ask about this verse. They know that God’s saving grace got around to a lot of people in Paul’s day, but they *also* know that it hadn’t “appeared to all men” *on earth*. So what did Paul mean?

Well, to begin with, we know that

“The heavens declare the glory of God...day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard*” (Psa. 19:1-3).

The stars can be seen by “all men” on earth, and every night they *speak* and send out a message *to everyone on the planet*, a message that says there is an all-powerful Creator who brought those innumerable stars into existence. But just knowing there is a God isn’t enough to save anyone, for even devils believe that (James 2:19). So how could Paul say that *the grace of God that brings salvation* had appeared to all men?

The solution to our puzzle is that the phrase “all men” doesn’t always mean *every man on the planet*. When the Lord told the twelve apostles, “ye shall be hated of *all men* for My name’s sake” (Matt. 10:22), He didn’t mean they’d be hated of *other believers*! He meant they’d be hated by *all unbelievers*, a prediction that will come true in the Tribulation that will follow the Rapture.

That tells us that the phrase “all men” must always be interpreted by its context. Sometimes it means *all kinds of men*, as when Paul

said, “I am made all things *to all men*” (1 Cor. 9:22), and then spoke of men who were “under the law” and *others* who were “without law.” We see this definition for “all men” again when Paul later said that he chose to “give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles” so as to “please *all men*” (1 Cor. 10:32,33).

And it is different *kinds* of men that Paul had in mind in the context of Titus 2:11 as well. Under his ministry, God’s saving grace had evidently appeared to the “aged men” (2:2) in Crete where Titus was stationed (1:5), as well as to the “aged women” (2:3), the “young women” (v. 4), the “young men” (v. 6) and even “servants” (v. 9). God’s grace had obviously appeared to *all* those kinds of men, and saved all who responded to it in faith.

Now that, in and of itself, was nothing new. The men who preached salvation before Paul never had to stop and ask, “Are you a master or a servant?” before telling someone how to be saved, and they didn’t exclude men or women of any age. However, before God raised up Paul, they *did* have to ask if a man was a Jew or a Gentile, for before Paul was made an apostle, the grace of God that brought salvation could only appear to *Jewish* men. Even the Lord Himself was “not sent but unto the lost sheep *of the house of Israel*” (Matt. 15:24), and He told the twelve apostles to “go not into the way of the Gentiles” to preach the gospel of salvation because, as He told a Gentile woman, “salvation is of the Jews” (Matt. 10:5; John 4:22). And we know that didn’t change at Pentecost, for Peter declared that God raised Christ from the dead “to be...a Saviour...to give repentance *to Israel*, and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31).

But when God saved Paul and commissioned him to go “unto *all men*” (Acts 22:15), we know that *here* the phrase “all men” included Jews and Gentiles, for later he said that he obeyed that commission by preaching “*first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem*, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles...” (Acts 26:20).

And when we apply this definition of “all men” to our text in Titus 2:11, that’s when we are introduced to something that *was* new, for no one before Paul could say,

“There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him” (Rom. 10:12).

And that’s how Paul could say that the grace of God that bringeth salvation had appeared to “all men.” Before he was made an apostle, Gentiles who wanted to be saved had to hear about God’s saving grace from the Jews to whom it had appeared.

If you’re thankful it appeared *to you*, why not thank God for His saving grace, and then tell someone about it. You’ll both be eternally glad you did.



Following Paul as He Followed CHRIST



From the booklet "A Biblical Life."

DR. W. EDWARD BEDORE
Contributing Writer

FOLLOWING PAUL

In "*rightly dividing the Word of Truth*" it is imperative to acknowledge the distinctive revelation given to the Apostle Paul concerning the Grace of God and the Body of Christ. It is in Paul's letters that we find the details of the hope, practice, position, and doctrine of the Church. Those who understand and love the wonderful message of the Dispensation of the Grace of God as revealed through the Apostle Paul take seriously his admonition to "*be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ*" (1 Cor. 11:1).

WHAT DID PAUL MEAN, FOLLOW ME?

Obviously Paul was not trying to draw believers away from following the Lord Jesus Christ. The last part of I Corinthians 11:1 says "*even as I also am of Christ.*" The idea put forth is that believers are to note Paul's example and to do likewise.

The doctrine concerning the Body of Christ that is found in Paul's letters is vital to understanding what God is doing today. Salvation by grace through faith, the believer's heavenly calling, justification, sanctification, and the blessed hope are just a few of the subjects that are exclusively dealt with in Paul's letters. These wonderful truths alone are enough to bring untold joy to the heart of every believer.

Most who consider themselves to be "*grace believers*" claim to be followers of Paul. That is, they embrace his letters as God's revealed truth concerning the Body of Christ, and the Dispensation of the Grace of God that is in effect today. In other words, they follow Paul in doctrine.

IS DOCTRINE ENOUGH?

The Scriptures make it abundantly clear that Paul received special revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. "*But I certify you brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ*" (Gal. 1:11-12 cf. 2 Cor. 12:1-7; Eph. 3:1-5;

Col. 1:14-17). While it is important that we pay particular attention to Paul's doctrine and the revelation of the mystery, following him embraces much more. First, we must not ignore the rest of the Bible, and the great doctrines that form the bedrock upon which Paul laid down the foundational teachings about Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church which is His Body. Second, we must not ignore what is taught in Paul's letters concerning what it means for the believer to walk pleasing to the Lord.

To put 1 Corinthians 11:1 into context we must look at the last three verses of chapter 10. *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many that they may be saved. Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ"* (1 Cor. 10:31-11:1). Following Paul through this passage of Scripture takes us beyond the bounds of doctrinal agreement and into the realm of service to others on behalf of Christ.

PAUL'S EXAMPLE

If we desire to follow Paul as he followed Christ, we must take a careful look at his example as it is laid out for us in Scripture. Even a casual reading through the Book of Acts should impress upon any believer the fact of Paul's zeal for his Lord and his determination to proclaim the Gospel of the Grace of God at any cost. No threat of violence, no lack of resources, nor lack of support could deter him. In the eleventh chapter of 2 Corinthians we find a list of trying experiences that the Apostle Paul had gone through up to that point (see 2 Cor. 11:23-27). It is interesting to notice that there are several incidents listed here that are not mentioned in the Book of Acts. Second Corinthians was written about AD 56, at least two years before his arrest in Jerusalem. This means that the shipwreck of Acts 27 was at least the fourth that Paul was involved in. This alone would cause most to give up the quest and retire to a safer and less harrowing endeavor. But not the Apostle Paul, whose resolve was to press on regardless of the hardships.

Paul provided the list of 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 in defense of his God-given apostleship and commission to preach the Gospel of Grace. This defense was against the charge that he was not a true apostle and a challenge to the false gospel that was being proclaimed by his accusers. He declared that those who were bringing charges against him were false apostles who had appointed themselves as apostles and whose work was to deceive by preaching another Jesus, a different spirit, and a different gospel (see 2 Cor. 11:1-4,12-15).

In verse 23 Paul asks the question: *"Are they ministers of Christ?"* In answering his own question, Paul declares that his labor in the ministry of the gospel far surpassed their efforts. He then listed the

hardships, physical trials, and difficulties that he had willingly endured on behalf of his Lord for the profit of those who so desperately needed to hear the truth.

Paul had been scourged with whips, beaten with rods, frequently thrown into prison, was often in danger of death, stoned, shipwrecked, had made many hard journeys, was in almost constant danger from bandits while traveling whether in the cities or in the countryside. While having these constant dangers and threats always present, the Apostle Paul pressed on in weariness and the pain of toil. In carrying out his ministry, he often went without sleep, food and drink, proper clothing, and protection from the elements (2 Cor. 11:23-27).

“As we reflect on the things that Paul had suffered...we should ask the question, WHY?”

WHY



PAUL'S MOTIVATION

As we reflect on the things that Paul had suffered in some 20 years of ministry, we should ask the question, WHY? Why did Paul continue on? Paul's statement in the next chapter reveals his attitude or mind-set. Writing to the church at Corinth he said, *"And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you"* (2 Cor. 12:15).

For the sake of the Corinthians, Paul was willing to spend, that is to give, whatever it would take to minister to the benefit of the Corinthian believers. This included physical labor to support his ministry when needed as well as any material resources that he might have had. He was also willing to be spent on their behalf. To be spent, drained of all resources, to be used up, to give even his own life is the meaning here. Paul's attitude was one of love, a love that the world knows nothing of. It is a real and lasting love. It was that love that is shed abroad in the hearts of believers by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). It is the kind of love that is demonstrated by the sacrifice of self (Rom. 5:8).

COMPELLING LOVE

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if One died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:14,15). Simply put, Paul is saying that because of the great love with which Christ has loved us, every believer's life should be given over to do His will according to His purpose. This, in fact, is the underlying theme of Paul's letters. Romans 12:1 reads, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* These words are given not only in the light of the preceding chapters of 9, 10, and 11, which



explain the why and wherefore of Israel's temporary spiritual blindness and why the Dispensation of Grace is now in effect, but also in regards to chapters 5 through 8. The following verses testify to this fact: *"...the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts"* (Rom. 5:5); *"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8); *"...all*

things work together for good to them that love God..." (Rom. 8:28); *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us...nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Rom. 8:35-39). Yes, Jesus Christ's great love for us should compel us to serve Him as it compelled the Apostle Paul. Jesus Christ's love for us should be manifest in our love for others.

OUR COMMISSION


As ministers of reconciliation, we are charged with the responsibility of carrying the Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ Jesus to a world of lost sinners boldly proclaiming *"the revelation of the mystery"* as given through the Apostle Paul (Rom. 16:25-27; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Eph. 3:8-11). To carry out this commission, some must be willing to go and others must be willing to send them (Rom. 10:14-15). But all must be willing to strive together for the faith of the gospel (Phil. 1:27). That is, to stand for the truth of God's Word and to defend Paul's God-given Gospel of Grace.

Paul's ministry was one of missionary activity. If we are going to follow Paul, obviously we must be missionary minded. A mission work can be anywhere from our own community to foreign lands, but it is "work" wherever it takes place. A work of love, an effort motivated by the compelling love of Jesus Christ! A work that can only be carried out in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. To walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25) is to walk by faith.

THE FULL EXTENT OF FOLLOWING PAUL'S EXAMPLE

"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church" (1 Cor. 4:16-17). Paul wrote these words in defense of the doctrine he taught. He was admonishing the Corinthian church to follow his teaching. But notice that it went beyond just learning doctrine to include Paul's ways, or

what he did in light of doctrine. Here, as well as in chapter eleven verse one, where he says: *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”* he is specifically speaking of the practice and manner of life that his doctrine should produce in the believer.

It is important to notice that Paul’s exhortation to follow (or imitate) him as he followed (imitated) Christ is given immediately after he gave a discourse on Christian liberty (see 1 Cor. 8-10). Throughout his letters, the Apostle teaches that through faith in Christ the believer is set free from the bondage of sin and is now at liberty to serve God. He is released from the control of the flesh that, by faith, he might be filled with the Spirit. 



THE DOOR

In October of 2017, our family visited the *Ark Encounter* in Williamstown, Kentucky. We toured the impressive full-size ark. Of all the things we saw, what I appreciated most was the door.

When God gave the instructions for the building of the ark, He told Noah to put one door in the side of the ark: “the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof” (Gen. 6:16).

The ark is a picture of Christ. Being in the ark, Noah and his family were safe from the judgment of the worldwide flood. Likewise, being in Christ, we are safe from the ultimate judgment of the lake of fire. He is the “Ark” that delivers us from the judgment of God for eternity.

The door of the ark is a type of Christ as well. He is the door by Whom we enter into salvation. As the Lord taught Israel in His earthly ministry, and is a truth for us in the Body of Christ too, “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...” (John 10:9).

The way of salvation in Noah’s day was the wooden ark with its single door, and the way of eternal salvation today is by the wooden cross upon which Christ died. And as the ark had only a single door, so it is that Christ is the one way, the only way to eternal safety. —Kevin Sadler





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Aim to Please

PASTOR RICKY KURTH

Berean Searchlight Editor



A wealthy man had a servant who just wasn't working out. The man was slower than a dusty turtle. So one day his master told him, "Unless your work picks up, I'm going to have to get another servant." The servant replied, "That'd be awesome! I could use a little help around here."

In Bible days the Roman Empire was *filled* with servants and masters, many of whom were saved and attended the churches the Apostle Paul had established. This led him to write to young Pastor Titus, saying,

"Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again" (Titus 2:9).

This advice was probably much needed in Pauline churches like the ones in Crete where Titus was stationed (Titus 1:5), for servants who knew Pauline doctrine were sure to know that "in Christ... *there is neither bond nor free*" (Gal. 3:26-28). If you were a servant who got saved in those days, wouldn't you think that this meant you didn't have to obey your master any longer?

The problem with that kind of thinking is that Paul *went on* to say that in Christ "there is *neither male nor female*" (v. 28). Well, if the fact that there is neither bond nor free in Christ means servants don't have to obey their masters, then the fact that there is also neither male nor female in Christ would mean wives don't have to obey their husbands. And if wives stop obeying their husbands, the very fabric of society begins to unravel—as we are seeing in our own day, when such disobedience runs rampant.

And God is not in the business of overturning society. God is in the business of *making society better* by reinforcing respect for authority in *all* areas of life. That's why Paul exhorts wives to be subject to their husbands (Eph. 5:24), children to obey their parents (6:1), and all of us to obey the law of whatever land in which we live (Rom. 13:1-7; Titus 3:1).

Now in saying these things, Paul was not implying that servants were somehow *inferior* to their masters, or that wives were inferior to their husbands. When

the Lord Jesus was twelve years old (Luke 2:42), He was “subject” unto His parents (v. 51), but He was not inferior to them. If anything, He was *superior* to them. Joseph and Mary were godly people, but they were still sinners, and He was God in the flesh! So obeying them didn’t mean He was inferior to them. It just showed that He knew that God tells children to “honour thy father and thy mother” (Ex. 20:12). And Paul likewise didn’t mean to imply that servants were inferior to their masters if they obeyed his command to “be obedient to them that are your masters” (Eph. 6:5), and “please them well in all things” (Titus 2:9).

Now to please someone well means to just *delight* them. We know this to be the case, for God the Father predicted that the Lord Jesus would be a man “in whom My soul *delighteth*” (Isa. 42:1). But in quoting that verse, the Holy Spirit translated the word “delighteth” as “*well pleased*” (Matt. 12:18; Mark 1:11). So in saying that servants should please their masters well, Paul was saying they should go above and beyond the call of duty in just *obeying* them. He was saying a servant should make himself someone who is *an absolute delight* to his master.

And don’t forget, this is not all dry, dusty advice for people of a bygone era. What Paul says to servants is advice that we can apply to *employees* in our own day. If you are gainfully employed, you should be obedient to your boss, of course. But if you want to be Pauline

and go above and beyond the call of duty, why not try to make yourself *a sheer delight* to your employer? Christians who serve the boss like that bring joy to the drudgery of everyday life at work. Just think of what would happen if *all* of God’s people were to adopt this godly attitude. Imagine the testimony that this would be to how Christianity can brighten the world *in every area of life*.

When Paul adds that servants should serve their masters by “not answering again,” that’s a Bible phrase that only appears here, so we can’t define it by comparing Scripture with Scripture, the only safe way to interpret God’s Word (1 Cor. 2:13). But as the Coasters sang many years ago, when parents tell children what to do and hear any “yakety yak” in response, parents usually say, “Don’t talk back!” And that’s what Paul was telling servants to do: obey their masters *with no backtalk*. Nothing is *less* delightful to a master than a servant who gives him lip! So why not determine here and now that you will please your boss well in all things instead.

Paul gave some *additional* instructions for servants when he told them to obey their masters,

“Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity” (Titus 2:10).

Did you hear about the man who got caught stealing a calendar from the office where he worked? He got 12 months!

If you’re wondering why I’m talking about *stealing*, it is because the word “purloining” *means* stealing, but it refers to

a very specific *kind* of stealing. Webster's Online Dictionary defines it as: "to appropriate wrongfully...often by a breach of trust." When a man robs a bank with a gun, that's stealing. But when a bank employee embezzles a bank's money, that's purloining, for banks *trust* their employees to handle their money honestly.

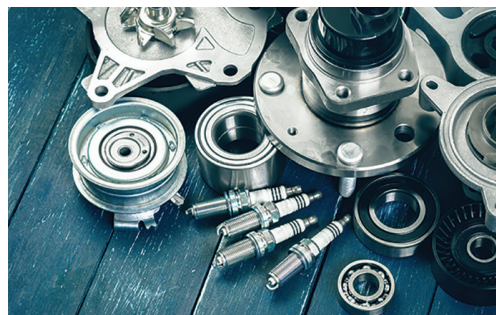
Masters in Bible days often trusted their servants with their money—often with *all* their money, as when Potiphar made Joseph the "overseer over...all that he had" (Gen. 39:1-6). A man in a trusted position like that could easily rob his master blind. Lesser Bible servants were often trusted with just enough money to buy something at the market. If such a man told his master that an item cost 100 shekels and it only cost 90, he could easily pocket 10 shekels and his master would never be the wiser.

While the word "purloining" doesn't *always* refer to stealing something by a breach of trust, we know that it does in Titus 2:10, for Paul says that servants should be: "not purloining, *but shewing all good fidelity.*" That's a word that means *faithfulness*. The Marine Corps motto is *Semper Fi*, which is short for *Semper Fidelis*—"Always Faithful." When I was a boy, my mom had a "hi-fi" in our living room. For you young people reading this, that's what we called a record player back in my day. Of course, you'll have to ask your parents what a record player is!

But the manufacturers called their product a *hi-fi* because they

claimed the sound you heard coming from it was *highly faithful* to the sound the musicians produced in the recording studio on the day the record was made. They claimed that their device made the record sound *exactly* like the original music. So in saying that servants shouldn't be purloining, "but shewing all good fidelity," Paul was saying that if a master trusted a servant with 100 shekels, he should give his master his item and the *exact* change, with no purloining.

While we don't have masters and servants today, plenty of purloining goes on in the workplace! Employees bring home all kinds of things from work. Years ago, Johnny Cash sang a funny song called "One Piece At a Time." It featured an employee at GM's Cadillac plant who couldn't afford a Caddy so he proceeded to



steal one by taking a part home now and then. One of the lines of the song says, "I've never considered myself a thief, but GM wouldn't miss just one little piece, especially if I strung it out over several years."

Well, you might not consider yourself a thief for purloining, *but you are one*, and it's not funny. A

recent study showed that purloiners steal *50 billion dollars' worth* of things from their employers *every year*. Compare that to the losses sustained by thieves who steal the old-fashioned way, by breaking and entering, or by robbing people at gunpoint—a comparatively paltry 14 billion dollars' worth. So as tempting as it is to think that the company won't miss just one little piece, all those little pieces add up!



And there are other ways of stealing from your employer. Another recent study says that the average employee steals 4.5 hours of *time* from his boss *every week*, while ostensibly working a 40-hour week. That adds up to 6 weeks per year, *per employee*, costing companies hundreds of billions of dollars.

Now I know that it's easy to think, "But my boss doesn't pay me enough, so *I'm just evening the score.*" But if that's how you feel about this issue, consider that servants in Paul's day were *slaves*. If anyone had a score to settle, it was men who weren't getting paid *anything* for their labor! But Paul tells even *them* not to be guilty of purloining.

So if you're stealing from your employer, *knock it off*, and show him all good fidelity instead. That way you'll be Pauline in practice, and not just in doctrine!


Finally, Paul told Titus *why* servants should stop purloining when he added, "that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things" (Titus 2:10). The word "adorn" means *beautify*, as when "a bride *adorneth* herself with her jewels" (Isa. 61:10). When a servant aimed to please his master by obeying him without sass or purloining, it made the doctrine of God look *beautiful*.

But here we have to ask *which* doctrine of God he had in mind. After all, God has a lot of doctrines! But when Paul specifies that servants can adorn "the doctrine of God our Saviour," that narrows it down to God's doctrine of *salvation*, for that phrase is associated with the doctrine of salvation (1 Tim. 2:3,4; Titus 1:2,3; 3:3-5). So Paul is saying that when saved servants obeyed Paul's instructions to them, they adorned the doctrine of salvation by *beautifying* it.

If you're not sure *how* they did that, consider that if servants began to *disobey* their masters after getting saved, it would have made the doctrine of salvation look *bad*. People would have rightly thought, "If that's what getting saved does to a servant, then the God who saved him must be in favor of the breakdown of society." When servants *obeyed* their masters instead, it *adorned* the doctrine of salvation.

So *that's* the reason Paul told servants to obey their masters—not because they deserved it, for oftentimes they didn't—something many employees today know to be true about their bosses—but only because it made God's doctrine of salvation into *a thing of beauty*. In Paul's day people could say, "If Christianity can make *even a slave* want to be a sheer delight to his master, *it*

must be the most powerful religion in the world. It must be the religion of the true God."

So if you want to adorn the doctrine of God "in *all* things," you might want to consider following the instructions that Paul gives to employees in these verses. If you do, you'll be as Pauline at work as you are at church—and you'll be eternally glad you did. 

Question Box

"My grandson and I were talking about all the thieves that steal packages from people's porches, and that made me think of Exodus 22:2,3. Can you explain those verses?"

"If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him. If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him; for he should make full restitution...."

If you killed a man back then, *your* blood had to be shed for him (Gen. 9:6). But there were Biblical exceptions, such as in cases of manslaughter (Num. 35:9-11). Another exception arose if a homeowner killed a thief he found "breaking" into his home in the dark of night. That's considered "justifiable homicide" even in our own day, for you don't know if a midnight intruder is there to merely steal your possessions, or if he came to kill you, rape your wife, or kidnap your children.

But if a thief broke into a Hebrew's home and dropped some form of incriminating identification while robbing him, and he hunted him down and killed him after "the sun be risen upon him" the next day, that's different. In such a case, the homeowner's blood "*shall* be shed for him," for that was an act of vengeance, not justice, and vengeance belongs to the Lord (Rom. 12:19). In a case like that, justice was *supposed* to be served by forcing the man to make "restitution" of what he stole instead.

—Pastor Kurth

BBS Letter Excerpts



From Colorado:

"The December *Searchlight* was a lights-out good edition. They're all good, but this one (cover-to-cover) really lifted me out of the 2020 doldrums."

From the Philippines:

"I am a Baptist preacher here in the Philippines, and I have just been introduced to a deeper study about dispensationalism. And as I was browsing the internet I came across this site and was thrilled to have some of my questions answered. Will you please subscribe me to the *Berean Searchlight* for more spiritual learning?"

From our Inbox:

"That is the best clarification of the meaning of 'saint' that I've ever heard....I had it all wrong, even though I knew better. It's all about Christ and His finished work on the cross. Saving this chapter of *Two Minutes* ['It's No Contest!']."

From Maine:

"This order is for my son, a federal inmate....These books are all that he asked for, for Christmas and his birthday."

From Montana:

"Thank you for all the material you publish and the help you have been to several people here. We have people coming to our home on Sunday mornings to listen to Kevin Sadler's DVD's on *Transformed By Grace*."

From our Inbox:

"Thank you Pastor....you really help me understand the Bible more crystal clearly with each answered question....When more questions come, I have your confidence!"

From Arizona:

"Please send my thanks to John Fredericksen and Don Webb for their books *Growing in God's Grace* and *Basic Bible Doctrines*. What a 'wow!' moment these books gave me and others here at the prison. After 11 long years in prison, I am on the firmest foundation that I've ever been on."

From West Virginia:

"On Monday the 4th of August, I caught your *Transformed by Grace* TV program. You taught on when and why the miraculous sign gifts ceased. Your explanation of this topic was the most thorough and complete exposition I've ever heard on this. I had to write you and tell you that, Pastor Kevin, for it greatly blessed me....Tell Pastor Kurth hello for me, as I enjoy his lessons as well. I wasn't sure that anyone could fill C. R. Stam's shoes or Paul Sadler's, but after reading your articles and hearing you teach, as well as Ricky's, I'd say you both are fitting well in those big shoes."

From Hawaii:

"I praise our Lord for all ya'll allow Him to do through you in getting His grace message to all the world." (Are "y'all" from the southern part of Hawaii? -Ed.).

From our Inbox:

"Terrific article on how to be saved! Thank you for sharing this with us. We will be sure to share it with our daughter and her fiancé. We would love to contribute to the *Berean Bible Society*. Is there an address that we can mail in a donation or a website that we can use for online donations?"

From Florida:

"Wow, this *Two Minutes* ['Aged Women Teachers'] is a keeper that I need to read and reread and reread!!"

From North Carolina:

"My September echo: My sister and her husband introduced me to the *Berean Searchlight* over 25 years ago. It has been a great source of encouragement and clarification on a number of points of the grace message. I'm especially grateful for the *Searchlight* in recent years as I no longer have a Pauline grace church nearby to attend."

From Michigan:

"Thank you for using some of your valuable time to help me with a question I asked you last May....My intense study of Hebrews is now finished...and my thoughts and conclusions were greatly influenced by your work. It means a lot to me that you would see fit to help me as you did."

From our Inbox:

"I recently finished listening to your audio sermons on Philippians and have now started on your sermons on John. Thanks for posting them!"

From Minnesota:

"Wow! What a stern message ['The Spirit of Faith']...but I guess we need it."

From Oklahoma:

"My pastor....always had a table of resources 'free for the taking' at the back of the church. Copies of the *Berean Searchlight* were a staple there when I was growing up. My husband and I now...receive *The Berean Searchlight* magazine at our home. It is such a blessing to us."

From Wisconsin:

"We are so THANKFUL for *Transformed By Grace!* What a great blessing it has been to our hearts. Thank you for rightly dividing the Word and making Scripture so easy to understand. Thanks for keeping us encouraged in these crazy times. We also appreciate Pastor Kevin's jokes!" (So you're the ones! —Ed.).

From South Africa:

"Your sermons and writings, which we access mainly through *Berean Bible Society*, have been an indescribable blessing to us. We marvel at how God is using you to teach and encourage us at the southern tip of another continent...We only recently listened to your 'What to do if there is not a nearby grace church?' message, so this was both a tremendous encouragement and confirmation to us."

From Connecticut:

"My entire family loves the *Searchlight*. We are so grateful for all you do!"

From Florida:

"Thank you for the *Berean Searchlight*. It is life-giving."

From Arkansas:

"Thank you for your faithfulness to God's Word across the years."

Be a Berean

"These 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

STEPS TO GETTING MORE BBS ON **Roku**

- 1 Press the **Home** button  on your Roku remote.



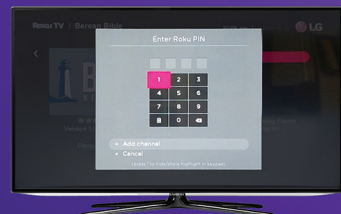
- 2 Scroll up or down and select **Streaming Channels** to open the Channel Store. Scroll down and select **Search Channels** then type in "Berean Bible".



- 3 The channel is **FREE** so after tapping **OK** on the channel, you simply select **Add Channel** to install the channel on your Roku device.



If you have set up a PIN number on your Roku account, you will be asked to provide the PIN before downloading. If you have NOT set up a pin, skip this step.



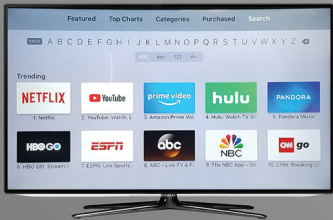
- 4 After adding the Berean Bible Society Channel, it will be in the list of channels under **Home** on the main screen. Scroll down, it will have been added to the bottom of the list of channels.

STEPS TO GETTING MORE BBS ON

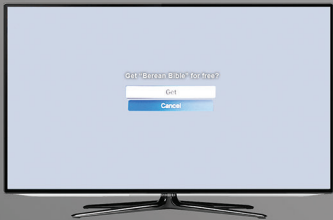
1 Launch the **App Store** app from your Home screen.



2 Move over to the **Search** tab on the end and type in "Berean Bible".



3 Click on the BBS Network app icon, then click the **Get** button to download the app for free. Then click the **Get** button on the next page to confirm download.



4 To launch it, go back to the **Home** screen and swipe up, down, left, or right on the touchpad until you reach the BBS Network app. Click on the app to launch it.





News *and* Announcements

Wanna join our team? Our good friend John Peters is retiring as president of BBS Canada. During his many years of faithful service, he saved Canadian grace believers the extra shipping charges it would have cost to have their orders shipped from our office here in Wisconsin. He also saved the Lord's work here at BBS a lot of money, for banks can charge up to 30% to process contributions sent here from Canada, and that's in addition to losses incurred by the daily fluctuations of the exchange rate. So as we extend our profound thanks to John for his invaluable work at the helm of this ministry, we'd like to ask if one of our Canadian readers would like to try to fill his faithful shoes. For more information, call Pastor Jim Tollar at (262) 255-4750, or email him at businessmanager@bereanbiblesociety.org.

BBS Singles Conference: It's not too late to let us know you are coming to this February 13th event, but it almost is! Your best bet would be to pick up the phone today and call BBS at (262) 255-4750, or email Jessica Sadler at Jessica@bereanbiblesociety.org. But only if you're single!

Roku and Apple TV: For those who are not able to watch *Transformed by Grace* in your area, Roku or Apple TV is the solution! Each week, the newest episode is added to the BBS Network Channel on Roku and Apple TV. If you have internet in your home, then you can view our program and any of its 180 episodes.

Another Covid Casualty: Late last year we began to hear from people saying their December *Searchlight* never arrived. While we are always happy to mail out a replacement copy, we began to wonder what was up when we heard from more and more people about this. One reader said his December issue arrived the day after his January issue came! Our printer mailed the magazine on time, so we believe the problem arose at the post office. December is always busy for them, so Covid-19 issues must have strained their faithful efforts to the nth degree. We apologize for the delay, and plan to mail the *Searchlight* out earlier for the time being in case this happens again. So if you received this February issue in late January, we hope you'll forgive us for this presumptuous error!



UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

BBS Grace Singles Event, February 13, 2021, Germantown, WI

Florida Special Meetings, February 28, 2021, Inverness, FL

Arizona Conference, March 19-21, 2021, Sun City West, AZ

BBS Footsteps of Paul Greece Tour, October 17-24, 2021



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

MEDIA PRICE LIST



DVDs

The Miracles of Calvary	\$15.00
What it Means to Be A Grace Believer	15.00
Transformed by Grace (1 episode) ...	2.00
Transformed by Grace (set of 12) ...	24.00

Transformed by Grace

(Pastor Kevin Sadler)

Episodes 1-162

available on DVD

(see full list of titles and series on our website).

What Does the Bible Say?

(Pastor Ken Lawson)

Episodes 1-48

available on DVD.

More Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions.....	9.00
Moses and Paul	5.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians	9.00
Paul's Epistle to the Philippians	9.00
Revelation Volume 1.....	9.00
Revelation Volume 2.....	9.00
Revelation Volume 3.....	9.00
Revelation Volume 4.....	9.00
Rightly Divided Answers to Frequently Asked Questions.....	9.00
Studies in James	6.00
Things that Differ.....	8.00
Two Minutes with the Bible	8.00
TwoFold Purpose of God	5.00

USB Drive

USB Drive (423 Audio Messages)	\$12.00
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Power Point Download

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Between Prophecy & Mystery.....	\$8.00
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Rapture vs. Second Coming.....	8.00

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(not printed books)

Acts Volume 1.....	\$9.00
Acts Volume 2.....	9.00
Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ.....	9.00
Growing In God's Grace.....	5.00
Memoirs of Cornelius R. Stam.....	9.00

Audiobooks on CD

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ	\$21.00
Studies in James	15.00
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Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians ...	45.00
The Triumph of His Grace	24.00
The TwoFold Purpose of God	6.00
Things That Differ	27.00
Moses and Paul	6.00
True Spirituality	18.00
No Other Doctrine.....	15.00
The Lord's Supper	9.00

Other Audio

"After..." (Music, D. Wasson).....	\$15.00
Great Love & Grace (Music, Nichols)	11.00
KJV Bible (MP3 on CD)	17.49
Preschooler's Bible (Audio CDs) ..	12.99

Orders up to \$30.00; please add **\$4.00** for Postage and Handling

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

Foreign orders please inquire.

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“Although dispensational distinctions are extremely important, may the Lord also give us an understanding as to the importance of the connections between the two programs of God.”

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler

Transformed By
Grace

Berean Bible Society
TV Ministry

Sunday 9:00 am in Chicago on WJYS
Monday 10:30 am ET: ION Plus
Monday 6:00 pm ET:

- DirectTV: Channel 376
- Dish Network: Channel 267
- Glory Star Satellite System: Channel 117

Roku and Apple TV—BBS Network 24/7 streaming channel