

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

June 2021



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This month’s cover features Kap Arkona Lighthouse in Rügen, Germany.

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,

After a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the annual *Berean Bible Fellowship* summer conference is back! *Community Bible Church* in Tipp City, Ohio, will again be the gracious host for this event. From Sunday, June 20 through Thursday, June 24, sixteen men from around the country will preach the Word, rightly divided, under the theme, “The Dawning of a New Dispensation—Acts 9-18.” Pastor Ken Lawson, BBS Board Member, will be teaching during the Bible Hour. His four-part series on “Forgiving as Christ Forgave Us” is certain to be a blessing.

Pastor Jeff Seekins has asked me to speak before the beginning of the conference, at the 9:30 a.m. session of the normal Sunday services for *Community Bible Church*. Then later in the evening, at the conference, I’ll be speaking on “The Conversion of Saul” from Acts 9:1-25. I’ve always counted it a privilege to preach the Word at the BBF conference. Many faithful men in the past have stood behind the pulpit at this conference to fearlessly share the truth of Paul’s unique apostleship and message. Theirs is a rich legacy. They fought intense battles as they saw the truth, stood for it, and made it known. And today, it is incumbent for us to remain faithful so others may come to see this truth and rejoice in it.

Encouragement comes in different forms at this five day long conference, such as from the fellowship of like-minded grace believers, the prayer sessions at the beginning of each day, and watching the children’s program as they quote God’s Word and sing together. Perhaps the greatest encouragement, however, is how the truth weighs on you after hearing sermon after sermon from the Word. The result is being spiritually uplifted and growing in understanding by the Holy Spirit.

One of the highlights of the week for me is the Missionary Hour. It’s not only about what we know from God’s Word, but what we *do* with what we know. Thus, I appreciate hearing testimonies from missionaries about how God is working around the world. We are often shown pictures so we can see the message of grace being taught, souls being saved, and lives being changed. And it challenges my heart to listen to missionaries who, like the Apostle Paul, are giving their lives “To preach the gospel in the regions beyond” (2 Cor. 10:16).

Please make plans today to attend the BBF conference. But I should warn you, if you come once you might get hooked, like so many do, to come back year after year.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President



GOSPEL POWER

“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost...” (1 Thes. 1:5).

On Paul’s second apostolic journey, Paul, Silas, and Timothy had communicated the truth of the gospel of the grace of God to the Thessalonians. However, Paul recognized that it wasn’t their eloquence that had brought people to faith in Christ. The gospel had come to the Thessalonian church in word, but “not...in word only.”

“John Stott shares the following story from 1958 when he was leading a university outreach in Sydney, Australia. The day before the final meeting, Stott received word that his father had passed away. In addition to his grief, Stott was also starting to lose his voice. Here’s how Stott describes the final day of the outreach:

“‘It was already late afternoon within a few hours of the final meeting of the mission, so I didn’t feel I could back away at that time....When time came for me to give my address...I had to get within half an inch of the microphone, and I croaked the gospel like a raven. I couldn’t exert my personality. I couldn’t move. I couldn’t use any inflections in my voice. I croaked the gospel in monotone.

“‘...I’ve been back to Australia about ten times since 1958, and on every occasion somebody has come up to me and said, “Do you remember that final meeting in the university in the great hall?” “I jolly well do,” I reply. “Well,” they say, “I was converted that night.”’

“Stott concludes, ‘The Holy Spirit takes our human words, spoken in great weakness and frailty, and he carries them home with power to the mind, the heart, the conscience, and the will of the hearers....’”¹

The truth of the gospel has power. It is by grace that the Holy Spirit uses our words and our proclamation of the gospel to save souls. He does so, even when the words are spoken in weakness, when we stumble over the words, when we don’t answer questions well, and even when we’re sure that we blew it.

The conversion of souls does not depend on slick salesmanship techniques, powerful rhetoric, or convincing logic on our part. The power is in the truth of the gospel and the Holy Spirit. We are simply called to make the gospel known, and the Holy Spirit works through our faithfulness to share His truth. Even if it feels like we’ve failed when we share the gospel, we actually *never* do. According to God’s way of looking at it, we “always...triumph in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:14) when we make known the knowledge of the Savior and the good news of His finished work.

—Pastor Kevin Sadler

1. “John Stott Discovers God’s Power in His Weakness,” Preaching Today, accessed April 30, 2021, <https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2011/march/7030711.html>.



Rightly Divided Worship

PASTOR RICKY KURTH
Berean Searchlight Editor

Did you hear about the woman who said, “My husband and I got divorced for religious reasons. He thought he was God, and I didn’t.” Of course, while her husband agreed they got divorced for religious reasons, according to him, it was because “she worshipped money, and I didn’t have any.”

I suppose everyone worships *something*, and those who worship *God* worship Him in many different ways. And “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15) causes *grace believers* to worship God in ways that *differ* from the way most other believers worship. This got the Apostle Paul into trouble in Acts 18:12,13, where we read:

“...the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul... Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God *contrary to the law.*”

When Paul began preaching that “we are not under the law” (Rom. 6:15), those unsaved Jews accused him of teaching men to worship *contrary* to the law. And I guarantee if *you* start preaching

that, it won’t be long before someone accuses you of that as well.

Do you know how you should respond when they do? The same way Paul did later in Acts:

“...after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, *believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets*” (Acts 24:14).

Teaching that we are not under the law but under grace was called *heresy* even in Paul’s day. But he categorically *denied* being a heretic, and insisted he believed “all things which are written in the law.” He had many *new* revelations to share about how to worship God under grace, but he knew people would receive them more readily if he *first* established that his new message of the mystery *agreed* with the Scriptures of the prophets (cf. Acts 15:15). That’s why he opened his first New Testament epistle by stating that there as well (Rom. 1:1,2).

Is there anything you can learn from that? Before you start telling Christians about the *different* things you believe about the Bible, it is always best to let them

know you believe many of the *same* things they believe. BBS founder Pastor C. R. Stam used to go on the radio and say, “We believe all the fundamentals of the faith.” And you know what? He was right, we do! Lists of the fundamentals of the faith usually include the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His blood atonement, His bodily resurrection, and the inerrancy of the Scriptures. We agree with *all* those doctrines!

So if you want to share the grace message like one of the *pioneers* of our message, start by telling people what you believe in common with them like Pastor Stam did—and like the *original* pioneer of the grace message did, the Apostle Paul!

Common Ways to Worship

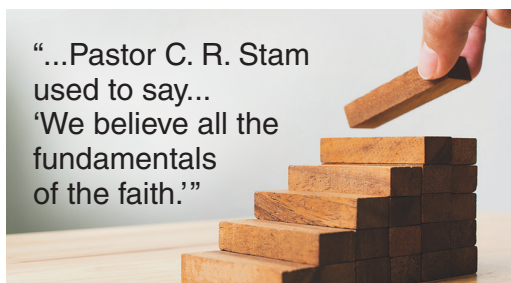
With that in mind, before we talk about how rightly dividing the word causes us to worship God in some new and different ways, let’s follow Paul’s lead and first establish that we worship Him in many of the same ways His people worshipped in time past.

For instance, when God told Abraham to sacrifice his son,

“Abraham said unto his young men...*I and the lad will go yonder and worship...*” (Gen. 22:5).

You could conclude from this that worshipping God means being willing to do whatever He asks, *no matter how dearly it costs you*. And if that’s the case, may I ask if that’s how *you* worship Him? Do you believe all things that are written in the law in *that* passage? Are you willing to

do whatever God asks, no matter what it costs *you*?



Did you notice Abraham said, “*I and the lad* will go yonder and worship”? That means *his son Isaac* worshipped too! Abraham was old and Isaac was young, and he could have easily overpowered the man who wanted to worship God by sacrificing him. That means Isaac must have been willing to *give* his life as a sacrifice to Him. Well, if God calls that worship, what do you think He calls it when we obey Paul’s command to “present your bodies a *living* sacrifice” (Rom. 12:1)? Do you think maybe God considers *that* worship as well? Isn’t that worship that you can do “believing all things which are written in the law” about Isaac?

Look how a Jewish man worshipped God under the law in Deuteronomy 26:10:

“...I have brought the first-fruits of the land...and worship before the Lord.”

When you do what he did and *put God first* in every area of your life, can you see how that worships Him?

When I first began pastoring and needed help fixing something in our church building, I asked one of our men to help. He replied

by reciting a long list of things he had to do that day, so I was sure the next words out of his mouth would be, “So I can’t help you.” It chokes me up every time I remember that instead he said, “But the Lord comes first.”

I think he worshipped God that day, don’t you? I think he worshipped God believing all things written in the law, the law that said to give God the firstfruits.

Uncommonly Profound Worship

You might want to take your shoes off before considering our next example of how they worshipped under the law, for the ground we’re about to tread is holy. David was praying that God would spare the life of his sick baby boy (2 Sam. 12:16). When they told him the infant had died,

“David arose...and worshipped” (v. 20).

Is that what you’d do if you lost the infant child that you’d been praying would live? Do you know what Job did when he lost *all* his children, and all his wealth as well?

“Job...worshipped, And said... blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:20,21).

Job lost *literally everything*, and not only didn’t complain, *he blessed God!* Do you think the worship of his God after such an unfathomable loss might have caused unbelievers who saw it to be more likely to open their hearts to his God? Do you think they might be more open to God if they should see *you* worship Him after *you* lose everything?

That’s a testimony that literally *screams* to unbelievers that you have something they don’t have.

If you say, “I don’t think I’m at the point in my spiritual life where I can worship God like that yet,” can you at least worship like the wise men did? They asked Herod,

“Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we...are come to worship Him....And when... they saw the young child...worshipped Him: and...presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2:2,11).



Their worship of the Lord included *giving Him gifts*. That means every dollar you give to the Lord’s work *is an act of worship*. Hey, there’s a reason they call it an *offering plate*. Under the law, “worshippers” offered *animals* (cf. Heb. 10:2), and animals cost money! It was a *financial* sacrifice to offer animals to God, and it’s a sacrifice on your part to offer *your finances* to Him as well. And it’s another one of the ways you can worship like Paul did, believing all things written in the law.

Kingdom Worship

Now that we’ve seen how a grace believer can worship God in ways like they did under the

law, let's consider a way we can worship Him in a manner that His people worshipped under the kingdom program the Lord introduced to the Jews when He was here. Do you remember how He described the worship of Israel's unsaved rulers?

"...in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9).

If teaching the commandments of men worships God "in vain," wouldn't teaching the commandments of God constitute *correct* worship? I ask that because of the time a lady once asked me, "Do you *worship* at your church?" And you know what she meant. She wanted to know if we jumped up and down and rolled around in the aisles and engaged in all the emotionalism that passes for worship in countless churches these days. Our Lord's words assure us that it is the absolute *highest* form of worship to say, "I'm not only going to obey God, I'm going to spend Sunday morning learning *how* to obey Him by hearing my pastor teach the commandments of God."



"...there's a reason they call it an offering plate."

God's commandments for us include many of the things written in the law and the prophets, including nine of the ten commandments, for our apostle Paul

repeats them. But while our worship mirrors that of Jews under the law in that we keep those nine commandments, our worship *differs* from theirs in that Paul gives a different *reason* to keep them.

All the More Reason to Worship

First let's look at the motive God gave His people in Israel to worship Him by obeying the commandments. Under the law, He told them,

"I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD...And a curse, if ye will not obey..." (Deut. 11:26-28).

Under the law, God told His people to obey His commandments *or be cursed*. But when the apostle of grace talks about the ten commandments, he doesn't say to obey them or be cursed. He says,

"...love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:8-10).

Paul doesn't tell us to obey the law out of fear that God will curse us if we don't. He says we should keep the law out of *love*. If you love your neighbor, are you going to lie to him, steal his stuff, or covet his wife and commit adultery with her?

There's also *another* kind of love that should motivate you not to sin against your neighbor, and that's *Christ's* love for *you*:

"...the love of Christ constraineth us, because...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).

Another reason you should want to keep the law that says not to lie or steal is that Christ loved you enough to die to *save you* from all your lying and stealing. Continuing to sin after God gave you a new heart would be like an alcoholic continuing to drink after receiving a new liver. Neither of those scenarios reflects the proper gratitude people should have for the gift of a new life.

A New World Order

But there were more than just 10 commandments in the law. The ancient rabbis counted 613 of them, and a lot of them are like the ones we read about in Colossians 2:21:

"Touch not; taste not; handle not..."

The law was chock-full of commandments that said things like, "Don't eat that, it's unclean. Don't touch that dead body, or *you'll* be unclean." But do you know what Paul said about those commandments in the context?

"If ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not...) *after*

***the commandments and doctrines of men?*" (Col. 2:20-22).**

Most Christians would object that those "touch not" commandments aren't the commandments of *men*, they are the commandments of *God*! And it's true that they *used to be* the commandments of God. But now that we are not under the law, they are the commandments of men. Those "rudiments of the world" now constitute a new definition of *worldliness*. Do you see how rightly dividing the Word affects the way we worship Him with our obedience to His commandments?

But worshipping God by keeping His commandments involves more than just recognizing that some of the commandments of the law are no longer binding on believers today. It also involves recognizing that God gave some *new* commandments *through Paul*, as he himself said in 1 Corinthians 7:19:

"Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, *but the keeping of the commandments of God.*"

I sometimes hear from well-meaning Christians who quote this verse to *challenge* our teaching that we are not under the law of the ten commandments. But we know Paul couldn't have been speaking about the commandments of the law here, for circumcision was one of those commandments! It would make no sense to say circumcision was *nothing*, but the keeping of the commandments is *everything*—which is what he was saying there—if he meant the commandments

of the law. He must have been talking about some *new* commandments, the ones he mentions in 1 Corinthians 14:37:

“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”

There are *Pauline* commandments (cf. 1 Thes. 4:2; 2 Thes. 3:6,12), *hundreds* of them. And *they* are now the commandments of God! If you teach them, you can avoid worshipping God in vain, for you’ll be teaching the commandments of God *for this dispensation*.

That’s the Spirit!

The only other time Paul talked about how he worshipped, other than the time when he insisted he worshipped God believing all things written in the law and the prophets, is found in Philippians 3:2,3:

“Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit...and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Paul’s “beware of dog” warning here reminds me of a sign I once saw that said, “Solicitors welcome. Dog food is expensive.”

But Paul was talking about *spiritual* dogs, of course. Under the law, *Gentiles* were considered dogs (Matt. 15:21-26), perhaps partly because dogs were unclean animals who would eat just about anything, just like Gentiles who weren’t bound by the diet restrictions of the law. But

when Paul warned the Philipians to beware of dogs, and then added they should beware of *the concision*, he was saying that unsaved circumcised *Jews* were now dogs.

But what does he mean when he says we worship God *in the spirit*, in addition to worshipping Him believing all things written in the law? Well, a good example is found in what he wrote the Colossians about circumcision:

“...ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands...by the circumcision of Christ” (Col. 2:11).

Physical circumcision involved the cutting off of the foreskin, a type of the *spiritual* circumcision God always wants His people to have (cf. Deut. 10:16). Spiritual circumcision involves the kind of *cutting off* that the Lord experienced (Dan. 9:26) when He was “cut off out of the land of the living” (Isa. 53:8). In other words, it involves *death*. If you’re saved, *you died with Christ* (Rom. 6:1-5), so you are circumcised with Him *spiritually*.



“It is *always* an act of worship to agree with everything God says or does.”

And that’s a spiritual death you needed to be saved and cleansed from your sins. You see, you used to be so sinful *even God Himself* couldn’t cleanse the man you

were before you were saved. All He could do is identify you with Christ in His death and burial, and raise you with Him to make you a “new man” (Col. 3:10).

And it is because we “worship God in the spirit” with our circumcision that Paul says we have “no confidence in the flesh” (Phil. 3:3). Compare that to what John the Baptist told some unsaved Jews in Matthew 3:9:

“...think not to say within yourselves, *We have Abraham to our father....*”

Clearly, unsaved Jews had *all* their confidence in their circumcised flesh. They thought no circumcised son of Abraham would *ever* go to hell. John was trying to convince them that God was looking for circumcision of the heart in addition to the circumcision of their flesh.

Prophet-able Worship

In closing, when I gave you examples of how we worship God as Paul did, believing all things written in *the law*, did you notice I didn’t give you any examples of how we worship God as Paul did by believing all things written in *the prophets*? There are a couple of examples I could give, but I’ll close with the chilling description Isaiah gives of worship in the millennial kingdom:

“...all flesh come to *worship* before Me, saith the LORD. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against Me: *for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring...*” (Isa. 66:23,24).

The Lord Jesus *quoted* that passage when He was describing *hell* to His Jewish hearers in Mark 9:42-48. That means in the millennial kingdom, God’s people in Israel are going to “worship” Him by looking down into the open pit of hell to see the suffering of unsaved people.

How will that *worship* God, you ask? Well, let’s compare how God will be worshipped when it is declared of Him,

“...true and righteous are His judgments: for He hath judged the great whore....And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God... saying, Amen...” (Rev. 19:2-4).

That word “saying” there indicates that the way they worshipped God was by saying Amen to the assessment that His judgments are “true and righteous.” The word Amen indicates that they *agree* that God’s judgments are just and right.


And in the millennial kingdom, men will similarly worship God by agreeing that the judgment God is giving unbelievers in hell is just as righteous as the judgment He will give the great whore of Babylon. That is, they will agree with God that unsaved people are getting *exactly* what they have coming to them.

People sometimes ask me how they’ll enjoy heaven if they know their loved ones are in hell, and Isaiah provides us with the answer to that question. We too will worship God, believing all things written in the prophets, by changing the way we think about our loved ones to reflect

how *He* will think about them. It is *always* an act of worship to agree with everything God says or does.

Don't you want God to change how you think about *everything* when you get to heaven? Don't you want to think *exactly* like He thinks for all eternity? For God to allow us to be selective in the changes He makes to our thinking

would only mean we would be eternally unhappy as we remember our lost loved ones.

If the thought of "abhorring" your loved ones makes you uncomfortable, *it should*. It should make you uncomfortable enough to warn them and pray for their salvation. Why not begin today to make *that* a part of your rightly divided worship of God? 

Question Box

"What is the promise the writer is talking about in Hebrews 11:39?"

"And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise."

God "promised" the Old Testament saints mentioned here a Savior (Jer. 33:14,15; Acts 13:23) that they didn't live to receive (Luke 10:24). He also "promised" them eternal life in the kingdom of heaven on earth (James 2:5), a kingdom in which He "promised" to save them from their enemies (Luke 1:71,72), which amounted to a "promise" of *rest* (Heb. 4:1). He also "promised" the people of Israel the *land* of Israel (Deut. 19:8; Acts 7:5), from which He promised they would rule "the world" in the millennial kingdom (Rom. 4:13; Rev. 5:10) and then in the new earth (2 Pet. 3:13).

All those Hebrews 11 heroes of faith died "not having received the promises" (11:13) *plural*. But when verse 39 says they "received not the *promise*" (singular), we know the *specific* "promise" must be that of *the resurrection* (cf. Acts 26:6-8), for the next verse says:

"God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (v. 40).

The Lord was "made perfect" *when He rose from the dead* (Heb. 5:8,9). And while the "spirits" of those Old Testament saints have already been "made perfect" (Heb. 12:23), their *bodies* won't be made perfect and reunited with their perfected spirits until the resurrection. The writer of Hebrews says that it was "better" for him and his fellow New Testament Hebrew saints that the resurrection hadn't taken place back in Old Testament times *without them*.

Aren't you glad the Lord waited to raise the saints of *this* dispensation until you got saved?

—Pastor Kurth

Divine Enlightenment



“Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ” (Eph. 1:8-12).

“Having made known unto us the mystery [secret] of His will....” This is how the riches of God’s *grace* hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence! Mark well that it is to the praise of His grace we have the adoption in verse 5; we have been graced into the Beloved One in verse 6; we have redemption through His blood...the forgiveness of sins through the riches of His grace in verse 7; and it is in grace He has abounded toward us by making known the mystery of His will in verses 8 and 9. No wonder this is called the dispensation of grace!

The divine enlightenment of the mystery of His will, however, concerns the dispensation of the fullness of times which, of course, is based upon His grace, of which the present mystery (secret) of the Body of Christ is but a part!

Contained in the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery (Eph. 3:1-6) is the fullness of revelation and the truth as to how all of God’s purposes will be fulfilled—whether the dispensation of the kingdom or the dispensation of grace or the grand union of all the family of God after the establishment of the new heavens and the new earth in the dispensation of the fullness of times!

And how has God made known these truths to which He has enlightened us? Solely through the man who was called in light above the brightness of the sun, at a place where the chosen people [Israel] were set aside, where the chief of sinners was aborted from his destructive course (1 Cor. 15:8), by him who declared “that by revelation He [Jesus Christ] made known unto me the mystery”—yea, the Apostle of the Gentiles...Paul!

—Pastor Don Webb



California Special Meetings

July 11 & 18, 2021

Pastor Kevin Sadler, BBS President

Grace Bible Church
2550 W. Orange Avenue
Anaheim, California

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Extraordinary!

TRACY LESAN
Contributing Writer

Not counting the Lord Jesus, I believe that the Apostle Paul is the greatest person who has ever walked the planet. What other historical figure has even come close to making the impact that Paul made—not just in his own generation but in every generation since, and not just in his own country but over the entire world? Evaluating “greatness,” however, is highly subjective, and I know that we all have our own standards of measurement and personal favorites. For that reason, I am content and much more confident to argue that Paul was merely the most *extraordinary* person, next to Christ, who has ever walked the planet. The bits and pieces that we glean about him from the Bible form a mosaic of formidable evidence.

Paul was extraordinary in his travels. He traversed most of the ancient world by boat and by foot and mingled continually among a plethora of diverse races, nations, and cultures. Just think of all that he saw, heard, smelled, tasted and touched on his extensive mission trips!

Paul was extraordinarily intelligent. He received probably the highest possible education of his day, freely quoted foreign philosophers and poets, and was fluent in at least three major languages. He could quickly outthink a hostile crowd, like when he turned a roomful of Jewish politicians, united to convict him, against themselves with one simple statement and got off scot free. Moreover, he never stopped growing in his passion to learn. Even at the end of his life, on death row in a cold, dank prison cell, his only wish, besides a simple cloak to keep himself warm, was to hold his precious parchments once more.

Paul was an extraordinary orator. Though he may have been perceived by some as weak in personal presence and contemptible in speech, at least once his presence and speech were so captivating that an entire city wanted to sacrifice to him as a god.

Paul was an extraordinary author. Even after two millennia we have yet to plumb the depths of divine truth in his ever-living letters, and many of his stirring passages of prose and poetry continue to be recited at our most meaningful social ceremonies.

Paul commanded extraordinary authority. He could quiet an angry mob with the wave of his hand, publicly rebuke a revered apostolic leader, and reprimand both high-ranking soldiers and religious high priests. He even admonished kings.

Paul displayed extraordinary courage—or was it momentary insanity?—when, after reviving from being stoned and left for dead by a fuming, Christ-rejecting throng, he got up, brushed himself off, and promptly returned to the very city where his would-be assassins had just returned home.

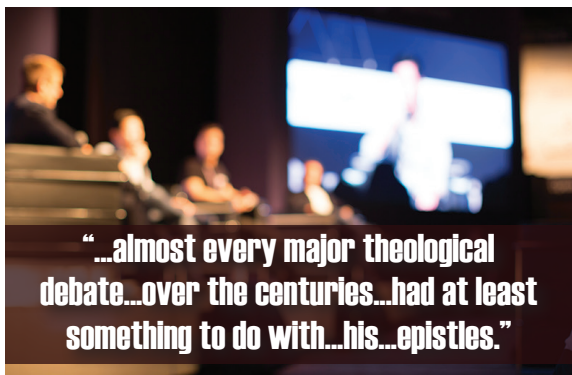
Paul lived extraordinarily frugally, simply, and selflessly. Though he could have persuaded his hearers to ensure him an easy living for his preaching—as many others did then and even more do now—he always forsook the opportunity for personal gain and often chose to labor extra on the side just to put bread on his table. From beginning to end, he freely relinquished both his comforts and his rights so that he could be a blessing for others.

Paul's character was extraordinary in both its breadth and its depth. He possessed the iron-will of a general, the compassionate heart of a shepherd, and the tender hands of a nursing mother. The affection that he expressed for the individuals and assemblies that he served, his longing to be with them, his intense concern, even anguish, over their welfare, and his constant and fervent prayers to God on their behalf are all a study in and of themselves. Such a well-rounded personality and diverse skill set as Paul's have probably never resided in any other leader, spiritual or otherwise, since his day.

Paul had an extraordinary relationship with God. The Lord of heaven and earth communicated with him directly—personally, audibly, visibly—through multiple dreams and revelations over many years. He even received visions of heaven that were so magnificent, he was not permitted to tell anyone about them.

Paul was extraordinarily humble and referred to himself as the least of the apostles, even the least of all God's people. Speaking often of his unworthiness for his high calling, he was always mindful of God's unfathomable grace toward him, the "chief" of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15).

Paul evoked extraordinarily contradictory reactions in others. People either loved him so much that they would pluck out their eyes and risk their lives to help him, or they hated him so much that they would bind themselves by oath to murder him. Not only does Paul



still today continue to attract devoted followers and bitter foes, but he is also still stirring up controversy; almost every major theological debate or movement over the centuries, including some that rocked the world, have had at least something to do with the interpretation of his epistles.

Paul was extraordinarily committed to the Lord and to his ministry from the Lord in the face of the most extraordinary hardships imaginable. As if perilous journeys, sleepless nights, and frequent bouts of cold, hunger, and thirst were not enough, he was perpetually the target of vehement opposition. Everywhere he sojourned, he was subjected to such spite, scorn, ridicule, and rejection as defies rational explanation. Why such hatred for a man whose only crime was preaching about the majesty and love of a resurrected Savior?

Through all that satanic madness, however, Paul was constantly driven by an extraordinary compassion for his enemies. Far from despising them and craving God's vengeance upon them, he loved them and passionately prayed for God's blessing upon them. He even wished that God would let him take eternal condemnation in exchange for their salvation.

Perhaps the most startling aspect of Paul's life was his extraordinary perspective on life, itself. The overarching focus that fueled and framed all that he did—his worldview—was nothing less than otherworldly: do everything possible and be everything possible for as many as possible to win as many as possible for Jesus Christ. He cared not concerning himself whether he lived or died. He literally wore out his body in service to the Savior who, as Paul never tired of saying, "loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). And it was he whom Paul loved more than all else. Even more than life, itself.

Though Paul would likely be the first to object to our continuing further in such reflective admiration, there remains yet one more aspect of his extraordinary life that we must not fail to mention. Paul, himself, in fact, sets it forth as the most extraordinary aspect his life and the one thing that he wants us believers to most remember. For our own sake. The most extraordinary thing about Paul the Apostle is precisely that, his unique calling as an apostle. The Apostle. The Apostle of the Gentiles.

Paul boldly asserts, "I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office" (Rom. 11:13). This is no prideful slip of Paul's pen but a powerful proclamation of the Holy Spirit as to exactly who and what Paul is and why we all must follow him. God appointed Paul to be his special ambassador to the nations and the supreme human authority for all believers in Christ in the present age. No warrior, no judge, no prophet, no priest, no other apostle, not even any king, has ever held such an exalted position.

God had previously raised up Moses as the leader of Israel and revealed to him the Law to explain to the Jews their unique identity and responsibilities as God's chosen people. But to Paul God revealed a new "dispensation" or governing plan of grace for the Church—God's new chosen people made up of both Jews and Gentiles united through faith in Christ and blessed apart from Israel during the present period of Israel's spiritual hardening and blindness (Eph. 3:1-6; Rom. 11:7-25). This plan was a "mystery" which God had kept secret from all the ages and generations of humanity until he made it known to Paul for him to bring to light so that all might "see" it (Eph. 3:7-13).

Paul is for the Church what Moses was for Israel. Yet he is even more than that. Unlike Moses's sphere of authority, Paul's sphere of authority extends beyond God's people to include the rest of humanity as well. Paul is God's mouthpiece to make known to all people everywhere how to know and love Jesus Christ precisely the way that Jesus Christ wants to be known and loved today.

Paul's gospel, his preaching about Jesus Christ "according to the revelation of the mystery" (Rom. 16:25-26), is the specific message of eternal life that all unbelievers must hear to be saved. It is also the specific body of truth which all believers must heed to be firmly "established" spiritually and to serve God according to God's will (Rom. 16:25; Gal. 1:6-9). Paul's teaching is a matter of spiritual life and death for everyone.

Extraordinary, indeed.

For me, studying Paul is no passing academic pursuit but a life-long goal and passion. Everything that I have done in ministry for the past 30 years—every sermon that I have given, every Bible study that I have taught, every evangelistic outreach that I have led, every theological discussion that I have engaged in, every pamphlet, article and book that I have written, every doctrinal controversy that I have dealt with, every piece of spiritual counsel that I have shared, every prayer that I have prayed—have been inspired by, or at least filtered through, Paul's teaching. Even in my day-to-day activities and relationships as a husband, father, citizen, church member, employee, neighbor, and friend, I strive to live according to the commands that Christ gave us through Paul. Having that as my doctrinal foundation has been the most important part of my Christian life. I cannot imagine it, and certainly would not want it, any other way.

Like Paul, I want to magnify his office, because he is the God-appointed spiritual authority for the whole world in this age under the headship of Christ, himself. He is the Apostle. Our Apostle. Our spiritual life and service to Christ, both individually and collectively, hinge more than anything else on how well we know and obey this extraordinary man's extraordinary teachings. May we all respond daily to God's call to "follow the leader": "Be ye followers of me," Paul exhorts, "even as I also [am] of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1).





Mystery

An excerpt from Pastor Kevin Sadler's forthcoming book, "Key Words of Our Faith."

PASTOR KEVIN **SADLER**
BBS President

"Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest..." (Rom. 16:25-26).

"Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse... recounted how he once employed a single woman named Elizabeth as his private secretary who was terrific, and so far as he knew had never dated anyone. This was fine with him because he did not want to lose her. However, one Sunday morning as he parked his car someone approached him saying, 'Max and Elizabeth are engaged.' He did not believe it. However, when he got to the church door someone else said the same thing. When he stepped into his office there stood Elizabeth beaming radiantly, confirming the engagement. She and her new husband planned to serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico. Barnhouse reflected:

"Here was a true *musterion* [mystery] in the New Testament

sense. It had been completely hidden, absolutely unknown, totally unsuspected. Then suddenly it was whispered to one person, and the news spread like leaves in the wind."¹

The Greek word, *musterion*, translated as "mystery" in Romans 16:25, does not mean something mysterious or puzzling, as the English word suggests, but rather a secret or something that was unknown. The message of grace for today was once hidden in God. But the Apostle Paul tells us, "How that by revelation He [Christ] made known unto me the mystery" (Eph. 3:3). The Lord revealed this blessed truth first to Paul, and then Paul made it known to others, and it spread "like leaves in the wind." And we, the Church, are tasked with spreading this thrilling message to others: "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery" (Eph. 3:9).

God Is Able to Establish You

"Now to Him that is of power to stablish you..." (Rom. 16:25).

God is He Who is “of power.” God is the source of all power. He is all-powerful. As Jeremiah prayed, “Ah Lord God! behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee” (32:17).

The God of all power is able to establish each believer spiritually in Christ. He does so by the power of His Word. One of the ways God reveals His power today is by establishing His people in the truth of His Word (Psa. 119:160).

By being established, Paul means for us to be put on solid, stable ground, spiritually speaking. We’ve all probably sat at a table where all four legs don’t touch the floor at the same time. It rocks back and forth and is shaky. You might try to establish, or stabilize it by putting something under one of the legs, so that it will not wobble.



That is the idea that Paul has in mind with the word “stablish.” God wants to bring us to a place where we are no longer spiritually wobbly, shaky, or unstable. Instead, God wants our faith to be solid, secure, and firm, being “Rooted and built up in Him, and *stablished* in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving” (Col. 2:7).

The resource for the establishing of our faith is God Himself. God, Who is of power to establish us, transmits His power to us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit always works in conjunction with His Word, and thus it is by the Word of God that we are established. This is the goal of God’s Word, and certainly the goal of the Book of Romans, that believers would be established and brought to a place of security, strength, and stability in their faith.

According to Paul’s Gospel

“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel...” (Rom. 16:25).

Paul notes that we are spiritually established specifically “according to my gospel.” Paul’s gospel, which he received directly from the Lord, was “the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24).

This gospel is at the core of the truth of Romans, and all of Paul’s epistles, regarding the preaching of the Cross and all that Christ has accomplished for us by His shed blood. It involves the fact that we are justified by faith alone (Rom. 4:5).

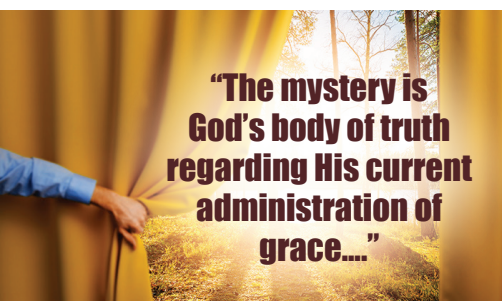
Understanding all that is true of us based on the Cross of Christ establishes us. When you know you are “justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (3:24) and that “being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (5:1), these truths, among many others, bring stability to your faith.

Paul calls it “MY gospel” for a reason. It’s Paul’s gospel because

it was first revealed directly to him by the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was given a special, sweeping revelation that no one else possessed or had ever received. It was a gospel that Peter, James, John, and other writers of Scripture did not know and had never received. As Paul told the Galatians,

“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).

No man taught Paul his gospel. He did not receive it from Peter or the other apostles of the Kingdom. Paul received his gospel *directly* from the risen, glorified Lord Jesus Christ. After He temporarily set Israel aside in her unbelief, the Lord revealed from heaven this formerly unknown gospel to Paul.



Paul's gospel is that Gentiles no longer have to become proselytes of the Jews' religion to be saved, and that salvation is by grace through faith alone in Christ, apart from the law (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16). Paul's gospel tells us that, upon believing the gospel of grace, the Holy Spirit immediately baptizes us and identifies us with Christ's death,

burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4), and places us into the Church, the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). Paul's gospel reveals that all who are in the Body of Christ have a heavenly hope (Col. 1:5).

These are truths that are *new* and *unique* to the good news committed to Paul by the risen, glorified Lord; these truths cannot be found outside of Paul's letters. Knowing these things of Paul's gospel, we are established in our faith. We are established by truth, that is, by the truth of God's Word rightly divided. We find spiritual stability by a proper understanding of God's Word and living in light of it by faith.

According to the Revelation of the Mystery

“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery...” (Rom. 16:25).

“The preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery” defines Paul's gospel. It is good news that is concentrated on the Person of Jesus Christ. It is about His Cross and resurrection.

The Lord Jesus Christ can be preached two ways in Scripture: 1) according to the revelation of prophecy or 2) according to the revelation of the mystery. The twelve, including Peter, preached Christ according to the revelation of prophecy, which had been made known to the prophets of old (Acts 3:20-21). Paul preached Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, which had *not* been revealed to the prophets.

Jesus Christ preached according to the revelation of prophecy has to do with His office as King over Israel. It is about the prophetic fulfillment of the Messiah establishing a kingdom on the earth, delivering Israel from her enemies, and reigning over all the earth in righteousness, justice, and peace.

Jesus Christ preached according to the revelation of the mystery has to do with His office as the Head of the Church, the Body of Christ. It has to do with Christ's heavenly ministry today in His exaltation at the right hand of the Father, offering His finished work in grace to the world.

Paul wrote that we are established in our faith today by "the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery." God would have us know and be established in this aspect of Christ's ministry and His finished work that is the basis of today's gospel of grace.

The heart of Paul's epistles is the proclamation of Jesus Christ. Everything centers in Him. He is the Savior of the Body (Eph. 5:23). He is the Church's foundation (1 Cor. 3:11) and its Head (Col. 1:18). He is our life (Col. 3:4), our hope (1 Tim. 1:1), and our all (Col. 3:11).

Seeing the twofold ministry of Christ, that of prophecy and that of the mystery, establishes our faith and enables us to grow in Christ. It allows us to grow even deeper in Him because we recognize what our Lord is doing in this dispensation of grace and how He is working today in and through His Church.

What is "the revelation of the mystery"? The word translated "mystery" [Gr. *musterion*] is derived from Greek words that mean, to shut the mouth. It refers to that which was hidden or kept secret, something about which God never "opened His mouth" to reveal to mankind. "Revelation" speaks of an uncovering, a disclosure of something which was previously unknown.

Putting these two terms together, the *revelation* of the *mystery* refers to the truth of God which had been hidden in time past, but now has been revealed and disclosed. The mystery *was* kept hidden until it was given first to the Apostle Paul. By direct, divine revelation, the Lord Jesus Christ personally made known to Paul "the mystery" (Eph. 3:3).

The mystery is God's body of truth regarding His current administration of grace and is Christ's instruction for His Church today. This truth and instruction was "hid from ages and from generations" (Col. 1:26). It thus required a direct revelation from God to make known His previously unknown truth. Christ revealed it to Paul, and in Paul's letters, we learn about the mystery, the truths of grace for the Church to trust and live by.

The mystery is multifaceted and has many unique truths and characteristics that were revealed to Paul, such as Paul being our apostle (Rom. 11:13), believers becoming one body in Christ (Rom. 12:5), no difference between Jew and Gentile (Rom. 10:12), the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-20), and the pre-Tribulation

Rapture of the Church (1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thes. 1:10; 5:1-11).

Kept Secret Since the World Began

“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began” (Rom. 16:25).

Imagine how absurd it would be to search the archives of ancient history to find a reference



to an iPhone as a form of communication. That's what it is like trying to find the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery in the pages of the Old Testament. You can search, but your search will be in vain.

God's truth of the mystery is nowhere to be found in Genesis, the law, the historical books, the wisdom literature, or the prophetic Scriptures. It is not in the four Gospels. It is not hidden in prophecy, nor foreshadowed in the types. It was “hid in God” (Eph. 3:9).

God kept the knowledge of His Son according to the mystery a hidden secret since the world began. God was there when “the

world began,” when He created all things by His almighty power. And from the beginning of the world and then throughout the thousands of years of the Old Testament, into and through the years of the four Gospels and early Acts, God kept the mystery hidden. He never breathed a word of it or ever spoke of it.

Concerning His Son, the Messiah, and the plans and purposes God has for the earth through the nation Israel, of those things God most certainly spoke “since the world began.” In Luke 1:69,70, Zacharias prophesied, “And [the Lord God of Israel] hath raised up an horn of salvation for us [Israel] in the house of His servant David; As He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began.”

However, concerning His self-same, only Son, the living Head of the Body of Christ, and God's plans and purposes for the heavens through the Church, God kept those things a secret “since the world began.” You cannot find this truth of Christ apart from the message revealed to the Apostle Paul, which is only found in his epistles.

But Now Is Made Manifest

“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest” (Rom. 16:25-26).

The preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery was kept secret in time

past, but then Christ appeared to Paul on the Damascus Road and saved him. Following this, the Lord revealed “the mystery,” His teachings of grace, to Paul, by a series of revelations (Acts 26:16; 2 Cor. 12:1-7; Gal. 1:15-2:2).

The mystery was a mystery, kept secret in time past, but no longer, for as Paul wrote, “But now is made manifest.” Similarly, Paul wrote the Colossians, “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, *but now is made manifest to His saints*” (Col. 1:26). Now the mystery is fully revealed! It is in the pages of God’s Word within the letters of Paul, Romans through Philemon.

As the revelation of the mystery has been “made manifest,” so it is now God’s will for it to be made manifest to all people. God instructs the Church, the Body of Christ “to make all men see what

is the fellowship of the mystery” (Eph. 3:9).

We are constrained to do so by God’s love and grace (2 Cor. 5:14). It is a message of Jesus Christ, making peace by His Cross and providing the way for any and all to be reconciled to God by faith alone in His once-for-all sacrifice on their behalf. We also do so because it opens up to believers the understanding of God’s Word, and we see what God is doing today under grace, and we find what our Savior’s will is for the Church. Thus, like Paul, we should ask God for open doors to make it known,

“Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ” (Col. 4:3).

1. “Donald Grey Barnhouse on Mystery Engagement,” Sermon Central, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/73919/donald-grey-barnhouse-on-mystery-by-sermon-central>.

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**2 Minutes
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SINGLE TO SINGLE

God wants all members of the Body of Christ to serve Him and to serve one another. The Body of Christ is made up of married, single, divorced, and widowed saints of all ages. We all need one another.

For those of us who are single, we have a great opportunity to serve the Lord in our current position. Paul wrote about singleness in 1 Corinthians 7:32-34, saying, *“I would have you without carefulness [anxieties, concerns, worries].”*

Interestingly, the Greek word for care/concern is used in Luke 10:41 about Martha worrying too much, in Matthew 6:25-34 when the Lord Jesus taught about not worrying about the needs of life or about our future, and in Philip-
pians 4:6,7 where we are taught, *“Don’t worry, pray.”*

A married person is concerned with serving their spouse, while a single person can worry about serving the Lord. This was written by a single guy, whose mission was to spread the Gospel to the world! In 1 Corinthians 7:34, we see his passion, *“that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.”* Paul saw singleness as a unique opportunity to serve God in a way that is more difficult for a married person.

So, I want to encourage my single friends, do not focus on what you do not have currently in your life. Use this unique time to serve God and the Body of Christ.

Currently in the USA, only 52% of adults are married. The average age of marriage is 29 years old. In fact, it is predicted that 25% of single, young adults may never get married. Single adults are members of our churches. The church needs us. We need the church. Everyone should feel part of the church family—loved for who we are, given opportunities to use our spiritual gifts, accepted, appreciated, and encouraged.

All of us need to learn to say like Paul, *“in whatever state I am, therewith to be content”* (Phil. 4:11). Only Christ can truly satisfy our deepest desires. Find joy in Christ where you are and get busy serving God!

—Missionary Brook Seekins



GREECE TOUR POSTPONED

We made the difficult decision to postpone our “In the Footsteps of Paul” 2021 tour. We received interest, but people were wary to commit due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. We will be rescheduling this tour in the future, but we are going to wait until travel to foreign countries is more feasible.

BBS Letter Excerpts



From Pennsylvania:

"We are so thankful for the ability to get your sermons on YouTube. It is such a blessing to us!"

From Ethiopia:

"I'm really being blessed by the monthly magazines...and *Two Minutes*....I am thankful for all your dedication and time in helping me grow in the revelation of the truth which is by 'rightly dividing the Word of truth.' I'm growing from day to day through the teachings of Pastor Kevin Sadler from YouTube which are prepared with the title *Transformed By Grace*. They are helping me understand foundational truths, clarify my questions and so on. Especially the teachings which are entitled 'How to Pray Under Grace.'"

From Guam:

"How blessed it is to hear your preaching on DVD, *Transformed by Grace*. You are truly gifted, and I love the way that literally every word in every sentence is totally drained of God's intended meaning rightly divided. And I can literally also feel the Holy Spirit's joy and presence in you, as He gives you such joy in your speaking."

From Facebook:

"Thanks for this great Bible study [*Two Minutes with the Bible*: "The Second Trumpet," by Paul M. Sadler]. I so much enjoyed this. I agree 1000% with every Bible verse here. Praise the LORD."

From New York:

"Another financial gift to help toward God's work that BBS is doing...I personally have gained more knowledge in the half-hour Bible study sessions."

From Nevada:

"What an amazing *Transformed By Grace* message by Pastor Kevin Sadler!...Please send a *Berean Searchlight* subscription to my daughter and son."

From Ohio:

"My dad wants to get cremated. He is 80 years old. Until I read your article, I thought that this wasn't okay for Christians. Now I know that it is."

From our Inbox:

"The lighthouse picture on the November 2000 issue was taken by Mrs. Betty France, but I was wondering where is this lighthouse located?... I've been sharing with an unsaved friend who loves lighthouses, and it has been a way to open a door." (The lighthouse information is now found inside the front cover.—Ed.).

From our Inbox:

"I appreciate your Biblical articles written with compassion and hope for the lost and written according to Paul's Gospel of the Grace of God. P.S. Your father had a huge influence on my life. He was the most exact, truthful, and compassionate Bible teacher that I have had the privilege to meet. A true gentleman also."

From our Inbox:

"I read your *Two Minutes With the Bible* daily devotion articles and save most of them on my computer for future reading again. You do a great work for God in sharing His Word."

From our Inbox:

"Thank you so very much for the clear, clean and excellent exposé on those seven churches. You are very knowledgeable...the way you cut straight the word of Truth! I'm so glad I wrote to you Pastor. You are indeed a much-appreciated blessing!"

From West Virginia:

"For Kevin: What was Boaz before he met Ruth? Ruthless! It was wonderful to meet Kevin and his bride at the conference in Martinsburg last year."

From our Inbox:

"Exceptional! One of your top 10 *Two Minutes* yet. The clarity you've shown in this teaching is commendable for making a Scripture that has words or expressions that tend to be confusing, a clear and fully digestible Word of God. Thank you for seeking until you found exactly the best way of interpreting this passage!" (I always ask God to help me "accurately convey" what He has written in His Word. Your prayers will help [2 Cor. 1:11].—Ed.).

From New Jersey:

"I am through three chapters and 42 lessons in your MP3 series on Colossians, and once again I have to thank you for being the great instrument of God's blessing that you are....I'll be praying for you and *Berean Bible Society*."

From our Inbox:

"How helpful was that! My goodness. I was just introduced to dispensational teaching so all of this is new to me. How relieving! I want to learn all I can, so thank you so much for your prompt reply, because I deal with so much anxiety over the Scriptures. I don't want the Lord to say, depart from me, I'm going to spit you out, I never knew you, etc. I get so worried about these things. Thank you for your time. I'm eternally grateful."

From our Inbox:

"Thank you ever so much for that most excellent treatise on baptism! I just finished reading the Penta-teuch—for the umpteenth time—and I finally get the proper perspective of today's pastors' error concerning water baptism. What I fail to understand is how pastors can come out of divinity schools with that erroneous doctrine....Again, thank you very much for being my 'in absentia' Bible mentor."

From Facebook:

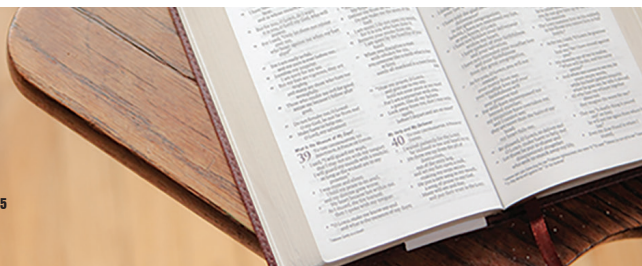
"I receive these *Two Minutes With the Bible* daily in my email. And it makes it easy for me to share with friends and family. Thank you so much!"

From Minnesota:

"I had often wondered why Jesus taught that in order to be forgiven you must forgive others, why Paul taught that when we trust in Jesus all our sins, past, present and future are forgiven; Paul taught that we are saved by faith, and James taught that faith without works is dead, etc. Those questions were immediately answered for me when I became a grace believer."

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

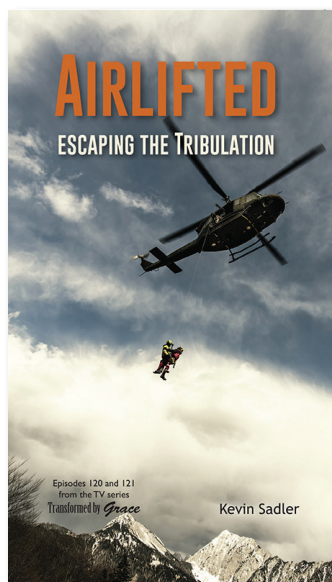
—2 Timothy 2:15



4 New Booklets!

Our *Transformed By Grace* television broadcast is receiving such good response, Pastor Kevin has written out four of these messages that you can now study in booklet form and share with others.

SPECIAL OFFERS END JUNE 30, 2021



AIRLIFTED: *Escaping the Tribulation*

Author: Kevin J. Sadler

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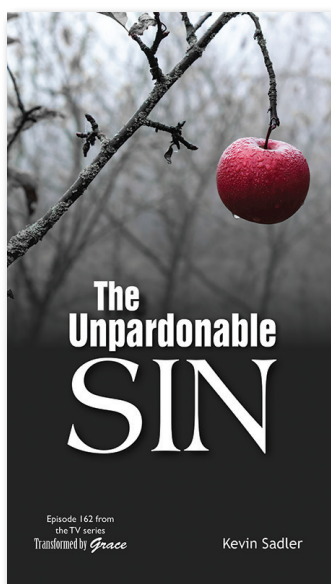
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THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

Author: Kevin J. Sadler

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This work examines the subject of the unpardonable sin in light of God's change in program from Israel to the Body of Christ, which has rendered it impossible for us to commit this sin today.

THE JUDGMENTS TO COME

Author: Kevin J. Sadler

22-page booklet

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This booklet is a study of four judgments to come, examining when they take place, to whom they apply, and what the judgments determine.





News and Announcements

The 52nd Annual Bible Conference of the *Berean Bible Fellowship* is scheduled for June 20-24 at the *Community Bible Church* in Tipp City, Ohio. BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler and grace pastors and teachers from around the country will continue the study of the Book of Acts they began in 2019, addressing Acts 9:1 through 18:28. Pastor Ken Lawson will use the daily Bible hour session to bring four messages on the subject of forgiveness. For further information, you can visit BBF's website at bereanbiblefellowship.weebly.com, call them at 217-820-7098, or email them at bereanbiblefellow68@gmail.com.

Wanna join our team? *Berean Bible Society* is looking for part-time help in our mailroom. Your duties would include the packaging and shipping of the daily orders of our literature, stocking our shelves, mailing *Searchlights* to churches and others who receive packages of our magazine every month, and helping with answering the phone. If you'd like to work with other grace believers getting the grace message out to others, email Pastor Jim Tollar at businessmanager@bereanbiblesociety.org, or give him a call at (262) 255-4750.

Kettle Moraine Bible Church of West Bend, Wisconsin, is looking for a pastor. If you'd like to shepherd a warm and vibrant church family, and spearhead a solid grace ministry that recently had to relocate after outgrowing their former facilities, contact Board President Randy Wiskirchen at rcwisk@gmail.com.

Mike Szafranski is now at home with the Lord. Your editor has many good memories of him and his brother Art that go back to our time together at the earliest *Berean Bible Fellowship* conferences in Cedar Lake, Indiana. Mike was a teaching elder at *Grace Bible Church* in Buffalo, New York, and an amateur photographer whose work was featured on the cover of the *Searchlight*. But his most important legacy is found in his wife Linda's heart, and in the hearts of people with whom he shared Paul's gospel.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

BBF Summer Conference, June 20-24, Tipp City, OH

California Special Meetings, July 11 & 18, Anaheim, CA

BBS Regional Conference—Wyoming, August 14-15, Laramie, WY

Wisconsin Special Meetings, September 25-26, Lancaster, WI



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TOO BIG FOR GOD TO
USE, BUT NEVER
TOO SMALL." —D. L. MOODY



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Sunday 11:30 am ET: The Walk
Sunday 9:00 pm ET: DirecTV Channel 367
Monday 6:00 pm ET:
• DirecTV: Channel 376
• Dish Network: Channel 267
• Glory Star Satellite: Channel 117

Monday 9:30 am ET: Entertainment Studio Networks
BBS Network 24/7 streaming channel Roku and Apple TV