

# *The* BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

November 2022



Feature Article

Complete in Christ, *by Kevin Sadler* .....5

Articles

A Grand Statement of Faith, *by Paul Sadler* .....13

An Open Letter to a Pentecostalist, *by Ken Lawson* .....15

Things to Avoid Like the Plague, *by Ricky Kurth* .....19

Departments

What Think Ye of Christ? .....4

Mother to Sons.....12

Question Box.....24

News and Announcements .....30

*This month’s cover features Turkhankut Lighthouse which is located in Crimea.*

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.

The *Berean Searchlight* is the official organ of the *Berean Bible Society*,  
and is sent free of charge to any who request it.

**President:** Kevin Sadler | **Editor:** Ricky Kurth | **Layout/Design:** Jessica Sadler

**Reader’s Rights and Responsibilities:** BBS respects a reader’s right to hold views that differ from those of our writers. If a reader has a serious concern with a specific article, it is his or her responsibility to act in a manner that endeavors to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. This can best be accomplished by contacting the editor, who will then forward your concerns to the author of the article in question. We promise to address all concerns in a timely manner.



You can reach us at:

BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
N112 W17761 Mequon Road  
PO Box 756  
Germantown, WI 53022

Main Office: (262) 255-4750 — Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, CT

Internet: [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org)

E-mail: [berean@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:berean@bereanbiblesociety.org)

**The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), November 2022. Vol. 83, Number 8.**

The *Berean Searchlight* is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Periodical postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756 and additional mailing offices.



## *A Note From the President*

Dear Friends in Christ,

After Paul healed a lame man in Lystra by the power of God, the pagan people of the city believed that “the gods are come down to us in the likeness of men” (Acts 14:11). In their excitement they were going to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas to worship them. Horrified at the thought, Paul and Barnabas tore “their clothes and ran in among the people, crying out,

**“And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:14-17).**

All have evidence of the existence of the living God in creation (Psa. 19:1) and also by His providence. It is God Who, in His goodness, lovingly provides rain and fruitful seasons, seedtime and harvest (Gen. 8:22), which gives us the food that fills our hearts with the gladness that comes from the provision and enjoyment of food. For this reason, it is proper that we give thanks to God for our food (1 Tim. 4:3-5).

William Jennings Bryan once said, “On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence.” We all depend on God. We depend on Him for our food, and we depend on Him for physical life and even the breath in our lungs (Acts 17:25). For all that God gives us, “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD” (Psa. 92:1).

Paul also told those in Lystra that “in times past” all nations were allowed by God to go their own ways with their beliefs, BUT NOW they were being called to turn from their false beliefs to the living God. Following Israel’s fall, God began a work among the Gentiles through Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles (2 Tim. 1:11). “In times past,” God had, in creation, borne witness to the Gentiles of His “eternal power and Godhead” (Rom. 1:20). But now, in the dispensation of grace, God has turned to the Gentiles to give all nations the opportunity to be saved by grace through faith alone in Christ. For the rich blessing of God having a program for the nations, by which we have been saved and blessed in Christ, we give God thanks.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President



# What Think Ye of Christ?

“What think ye of Christ is the test,  
to try both your state and your scheme;  
you cannot be right in the rest,  
unless you think rightly of Him:

“As Jesus appears in your view—  
as He is beloved or not,  
so God is disposed to you,  
and mercy or wrath is your lot.

“Some take Him a creature to be—  
a man, or an angel at most;  
but they have not feelings like me,  
nor do they know themselves wretched and lost.

“So guilty, so helpless am I,  
I durst not confide in His blood,  
nor on His protection rely,  
unless I were sure He is God.

“Some call Him a Saviour, in word,  
but mix their own works with His plan;  
and hope He His help will afford,  
when they have done all that they can:

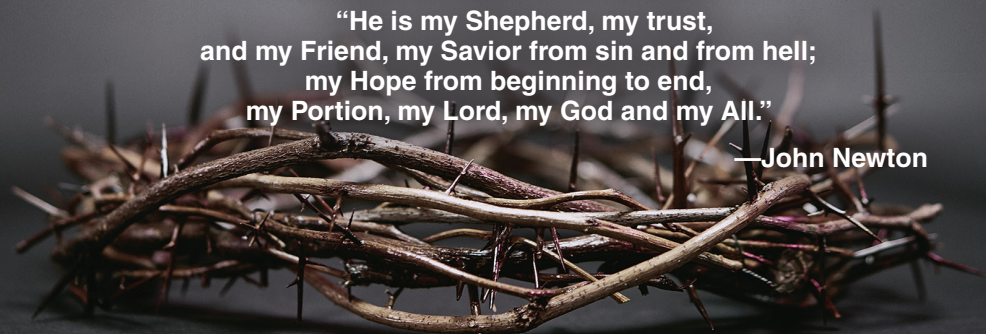
“If doings prove rather too light,  
and before God their works do not measure up  
and they fail, they purpose to make up full weight,  
by casting His name in the scale.

“Some style Him ‘the Pearl of great price,’  
and say, He’s the fountain of joys;  
yet feed upon folly and vice,  
and cleave to the world and its toys.

“If asked what of Jesus I think,  
though still my best thoughts are but poor,  
I say, He’s my meat and my drink, my life,  
and my strength, and my store;

“He is my Shepherd, my trust,  
and my Friend, my Savior from sin and from hell;  
my Hope from beginning to end,  
my Portion, my Lord, my God and my All.”

—John Newton





# Complete in Christ

100%

Complete

PASTOR KEVIN **SADLER**  
BBS President

“In his book, *I Shall Not Want*, Robert Ketchum tells about a Sunday school teacher who asked her group of children if any of them could quote the entire twenty-third psalm. A little four-and-a-half-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands. A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm. The little girl came to the podium, faced the class, made a little bow, and said: ‘The Lord is my shepherd, that’s all I want.’ She then bowed again and sat down.”<sup>1</sup> Christ is all we want and He is all we need, and as the Apostle Paul tells us, we are complete in Him.

## Watch Out!

**“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Col. 2:8).**

Concerned about the Colossian believers being influenced

by false teachings that would lead them away from Christ, Paul wrote, “Beware!” The word rendered “Beware” means to see, to discern, to take heed, but in the context of the spiritual dangers it conveys the idea of “Look out!” “Watch out!” “Take note!” The Body of Christ is taught here to be on guard, alert, and to keep a watchful eye.

We are to do so “lest any man spoil you.” Now, this isn’t the kind of spoiling that grandparents do to their grandchildren; rather, it literally means to carry one off as a captive. We’ve probably all heard of the “spoils of war,” or the adage, “To the victor go the spoils.” In biblical times, the spoils were the gold, silver, goods, merchandise, and livestock taken by the victorious army. Spoils were also many times people, as they would be taken away as prisoners to be made slaves in the homeland of the victors.

Paul's concern was that the Colossians' faith would be overthrown and they would be carried off as slaves to the beliefs of false teachers. Paul had just taught the Colossians of the need to be "rooted and built up in Him [Christ], and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught" (v. 7). This rooting and grounding and being established in our faith are so that we do not become spoiled or carried away by those who would seek to capture us by false teaching and lead us away from the Lord.

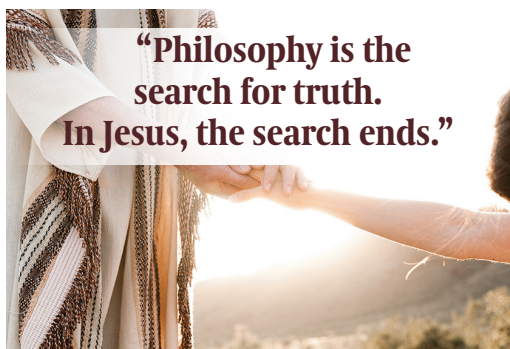
Paul tells us that one way believers can be entrapped and carried away from Christ is "through philosophy and vain deceit" (v. 8). The term "philosophy" is made up of two Greek words, *phileo* and *sophia*. *Phileo* refers to brotherly love and *sophia* means wisdom. Putting them together, *philosophy* literally means the love of wisdom. There is nothing wrong with loving wisdom, as long as it is the right kind of wisdom, the wisdom of God. However, the wisdom Paul warns against here is a godless wisdom of man that spoils and leads one away from the Word of God and the simplicity and truth that is in Christ.

The philosophy that Paul is referencing is the type that is "vain deceit." The words "vain deceit" refer to empty lies, devoid of truth. Revelation 12:9 informs us that Satan "deceiveth the whole world." And by his influence, there is much vain deceit and philosophical nonsense surrounding us in the world today.

"It is said that the great French philosopher, Sartre, summed up

all of life with the statement, 'To do is to be.' Camus, his contemporary, summed up all of life with a conflicting statement, 'To be is to do!' Then Frank Sinatra came along and put them both together in a song: 'Do-be-do-be-do!'"<sup>2</sup>

Human philosophy can be contradictory, is constantly changing, and can be nonsense. As we know, the pursuit and love of man's philosophies is an empty idol to many in this world, an idol which cannot truly meet the needs of the soul. It's been said well that "Philosophy is the search for truth. In Jesus, the search ends."<sup>3</sup> As our apostle wrote a few verses prior to our main text, "In Whom [Christ] are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). We find the truth and true wisdom by looking to Christ Jesus.



Paul wrote that we need to beware of philosophies that are empty lies, and are "after the tradition of men." The empty philosophies of men often gain supposed authority in that they are from antiquity and have been handed down and believed to be true for so long. They arise out of the thinking of men, find a foothold in society, and then are

passed along from generation to generation, thereby appearing popular and widely supported as something “everybody knows.” But just because people have believed something and handed it down through the years does not make it true. Tradition may merely serve to perpetuate error.

Paul further wrote that philosophy is “after the rudiments of the world.” The word “rudiments” means that which is basic or elementary, and the Greek word from which “rudiments” is translated can refer to the spoken sounds of the letters of the alphabet. Rudiments of the world are those basic principles—the building blocks—that get combined to make up the teaching of the material world. This shows us that, in God’s eyes, philosophy isn’t advanced, deep, or new knowledge (Eccl. 1:9-11), but actually finds its basis in the ABCs and most elementary principles of this world.

Finally, Paul warns us of philosophy of the type that is “not after Christ.” This is the foremost reason that we must “Beware.” Any philosophy, teaching, or belief that is “not after Christ,” and which disregards, belittles, or leads us away from Him, is satanic, dangerous, and something that we *must* reject.

### Why Settle for Less?

**“For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9).**

The word “for” introduces the reason for abandoning the false teachings of philosophy that are

not after Christ. And the reason is that Christ is God! The reasoning is, why would anyone settle for anything less than Him Who is God Almighty? Man’s philosophies are “vain” or empty, and they only fill anyone with more emptiness; in contrast, Paul wrote about the One Who has all fullness (Col. 1:19), the fullness of the Godhead bodily.



In Christ dwells ALL the fullness of the Godhead. He is not part God or 50% God, or 99% percent God, but 100% God. This verse is a dramatic, airtight declaration of the deity of Jesus Christ. As John Newton put it in his poem on page 4, “So guilty, so helpless am I, / I dare not confide in His blood, / nor on His protection rely, / unless I were sure He is God.” We are sure He is God, and before us is one of the clearest statements in all of Scripture testifying to this fact.

Considering that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ, He cannot be a halfway god or a junior god. Christ wasn’t merely inspired by God or illuminated by God. Christ is not God-like. Christ was God. Christ is God. Christ will always be God.



All that God is, Christ is. Christ is complete Deity. He is God essentially and perfectly and has all the infinite attributes and perfections of God in full measure.

And the term “dwelleth” here speaks of permanence. Commenting on this, Pastor and professor Marvin Vincent (1834-1922) wrote, “The indwelling of the divine fullness in Him is characteristic of Him as Christ, from all ages and to all ages. Hence the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in Him *before* His incarnation.... It dwelt in Him *during* His incarnation....The fullness of the Godhead dwells in *His glorified humanity* in heaven....He carried His human body with Him into heaven, and in His glorified body now and ever dwells the fullness of the Godhead.”<sup>4</sup>

Colossians 2:9 teaches that not only is Christ fully God, but He is also fully human. He is the fullness of the Godhead *bodily*. Having the fullness of the Godhead in His Person as God the Son within the Trinity has always been the case from eternity past. But having the fullness of the Godhead “bodily” has only been the case since the incarnation roughly 2000 years ago and now for eternity future.

Christ is God in a human body. And when Christ ascended to heaven, He did so in His body of flesh and bones. After His resurrection, the Lord said, “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have” (Luke 24:39). Christ is now in heaven

in His risen, glorified body. He currently and permanently has a body of flesh and bones, and He will always now be the fullness of the Godhead *bodily*.

Part of Christ’s sacrifice for us is that He Who is God, the Son of God, took on a human body for eternity. And now forevermore He is the “one Mediator between God and men, the *Man* Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5). Being 100% God and 100% Man, Christ is the perfect Intercessor and Mediator between God and man.

### Incomplete vs. Complete

**“And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principal-ity and power” (Col. 2:10).**

The implication of being complete in Christ is that we are incomplete outside of Him. As a result of sin and the curse, mankind is in a state of incompleteness. We are spiritually



incomplete, unrighteous, dead in our sins, and separated from the life of God (Eph. 2:1). But when we trust the One Who is the fullness of the Godhead *bodily*, that He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again, we immediately go from incompleteness to being “complete in Him.”

“Complete” in Colossians 2:10 means to be made full, to fill to the full. We are made full *in Christ*. Verse 9 says that “in Him” dwells all fullness of the Godhead bodily. Verse 10 says that “in Him” we find fullness and are made full. There’s no room for anything more and, being in Him, there’s nothing missing. There aren’t any other things to add. Christ makes us whole spiritually.

The teaching of fullness from verse 9 carries into verse 10. Christ is the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and there is nothing that could be added to Christ to make Him be more God. He is completely God. He lacks nothing as God. Likewise, believers find total fullness and completeness in Christ.

Just as Christ is the fullness of the Godhead bodily, there is nothing *we* lack in Him. There is not one thing that could or ever needs to be added to make us more complete in Him or more filled by Him. In Him, we have everything we need for salvation and spiritual life. You cannot add anything to the completeness that you have in Christ. You do not need anything more than you already have in Him.

### Born Complete

Being complete in Christ is not a status to be achieved, it is a truth in which to rejoice. And this truth is all by grace. It is nothing we deserve. At the moment we trust Christ as our personal Savior, we are complete in Christ. Professor and Bible commentator Warren Wiersbe (1929-2019) has

written, “When a person is born again into the family of God, he is born complete in Christ.”<sup>5</sup>

Paul doesn’t say to you the believer that you *will* be complete in Christ, he says you “**ARE** complete in Him.” From the moment you believe and for all eternity, this is permanently so. In Christ, we will never be anything but complete.



Being complete in Christ is true because Christ is truly God. If Christ were not God, we could not be complete in Him. And we won’t find completion in anyone or anything else. Salvation is in Christ alone. In Him alone, our hope is found.

Paul goes on in verse 10 to say that we are complete in the One “which is the head of all principality and power.” He is far above the hierarchy of heaven and over all angelic principalities and powers. He is the Creator of those principalities and powers: “For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, *or principalities, or powers*” (Col. 1:16).

Reinforcing His deity and our completeness in Him, Paul shows

us that Christ is abundantly able to save, because He is Lord, Creator, and God Almighty, before Whom all in heaven submit and Who commands all the host of angels. In this all-glorious One, we are complete. It is He which supplies us with so great and so complete a salvation.

Paul provides us here with a startling and stark contrast between the emptiness and incompleteness of the philosophies of this world and the greatness and majesty of our Savior and the completeness we have in Him. The stance of the apostle first was negative, that of admonishment: beware that you don't allow yourself to be carried off from Christ by godless human wisdom which is nothing more than empty, deceitful tradition passed down over time, and is the same old ABCs of human thought, reasoning, and speculation. Then Paul's stance turned positive, to one of encouragement: when you have Christ, the fullness of the Godhead bodily, Who is the head of all principality and power, you have everything you need in Him.

Pastor and BBS founder C. R. Stam (1908-2003) has said, "You and I, dear friends, are either 'complete in Christ' or we are completely *out* of Christ."<sup>6</sup> Which are you? Without Christ we have nothing, but in Him we have everything. Being completely out of Christ, and therefore still in your sins, means you are perishing and on the road to the second death of the judgment of the lake of fire. But that isn't God's desire for anyone. God desires "all men to

be saved" (1 Tim. 2:4), and Christ "gave Himself a ransom for all" (1 Tim. 2:6) so that anyone can be saved through Christ's finished work. Having trusted Christ as your personal Savior, and thus being complete in Him, you are right with God and you *know* you are headed for glory.



"He was just a little fellow. His mother died when he was just a child. His father, in trying to be both mommy and daddy, had planned a picnic. The little boy had never been on a picnic, so they made their plans, fixed the lunch, and packed the car. Then it was time to go to bed, for the picnic was the next day. He just couldn't sleep. He tossed and he turned, but the excitement got to him. Finally, he got out of bed, ran into the room where his father had already fallen asleep, and shook him. His father woke up and saw his son. He said to him, 'What are you doing up? What's the matter?'"

"The boy said, 'I can't sleep.'"

"The father asked, 'Why can't you sleep?'"

"In answering, the boy said, 'Daddy, I'm excited about tomorrow.'"

"His father replied, 'Well, Son, I'm sure you are, and it's going to




be a great day, but it won't be great if we don't get some sleep. So why don't you just run down the hall, get back in bed, and get a good night's rest.'

"So the boy trudged off down the hall to his room and got in bed. Before long, sleep came—to the father, that is. It wasn't long thereafter that back was the little boy. He was pushing and shoving his father, and his father opened his eyes. Harsh words almost blurted out until he saw the expression on the boy's face. The father asked, 'What's the matter now?'

"The boy said, 'Daddy, I just want to thank you for tomorrow.'"

As a result of what Christ has accomplished for us, because we are complete in Him, we know without a doubt that we are heaven-bound, and we can say, "Thank you, Father, for tomorrow," the tomorrow of eternity in glory. Thanking our heavenly Father for our salvation is what Paul did earlier in this letter:

**"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins"** (Col. 1:12-14). 

1. "Nothing Else," Sermon Central, contributed July 14, 2003, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/13799/nothing-else-by-sermon-central>.
2. Tim Timmons, *The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart* (Nashville, Tennessee: W Publishing Group, 1998), p. 448.
3. John Blanchard, "Colossians 2:8-10 Commentary," Precept Austin, [https://www.precept-austin.org/colossians\\_28-15](https://www.precept-austin.org/colossians_28-15).
4. Marvin R. Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume III* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980), p. 487.
5. Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary, New Testament Volume 2* (Colorado Springs, Colorado: Cook Communications Ministries, 2001), p. 126.
6. Cornelius R. Stam, *Colossians* (Germantown, Wisconsin: Berean Bible Society, 2015), p. 131.
7. "Thank You for Tomorrow," excerpted from Benjamin Reaves, "Living Expectantly," *Preaching Today*, accessed September 30, 2002, <https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/1998/july/3874.html>.

# Transformed by *Grace*

This 8 GB USB Flash Drive contains **AUDIO MESSAGES** of Episodes 1-250 from our *Transformed by Grace* broadcasts. Just insert this USB into any computer or USB port in your vehicle and you can listen to the messages!

Transformed by  
*Grace*



AVAILABLE  
FOR \$10



# MOTHER TO SONS

*Carol Rice wrote this poem for her sons.*

With arms for hugging, and playing ball.  
To lift them up, when they did fall.

A mind to encourage them to see  
The importance of learning, and faithful be.

A heart to show them the Father's Grace,  
And then to follow in life's race.

And now their way reflects their choice,  
Of listening well and hearing God's voice.

With all your guidance they're a tribute to you,  
As in God's Word they both stand true!



## SPOTLIGHT on Grace Churches

### NEW HOPE CHURCH

County Road 6200

Salem, Missouri

### Pastor Wayne Werline

*Please join us for our weekly services:*

Bible Study 10 am | Worship Service 11 am

Sunday Evening Service 6:30 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm

For more information, please contact  
Pastor Werline at: 573-247-9748



# A Grand Statement of Faith

PASTOR PAUL M. SADLER

*Past BBS President*

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one Body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:3-6).

Notice that the Spirit of God, not the local assembly, has established this sevenfold unity. These seven planks form the doctrinal foundation upon which the super-structure of the Mystery rests. It is indeed a grand statement of faith. Due to the fact that the Spirit has established it, adherence to the sevenfold unity isn’t negotiable, it is *required*. A complete exegesis of this subject is found in the author’s book, *Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ*. In fact, one entire chapter is devoted to each plank of the statement. Therefore, we will only be giving a brief presentation here to ensure that the reader is pointed in the right direction.

It is imperative to remember that each part of the sevenfold unity of the Spirit is *unique* to Paul’s gospel. Moreover, each is *spiritual* in nature, not physical. We have before us the unsearchable riches of Christ:

**1. ONE BODY:** This is the *new creation* that God foreordained that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. The Body of Christ is a living organism made up of Jews and Gentiles without distinction. We are members one of another—one in Christ, who is our Head (1 Cor. 12:12,13; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:22,23).

**2. ONE SPIRIT:** The person of the Spirit is the same yesterday, today, and forever. However, His *role* during the dispensation of Grace has changed dramatically. Today it is the Spirit who baptizes us into the Church, the Body of Christ. He also illuminates those who are seeking a fuller knowledge of God’s will, which is accomplished by enlightening them to the Mystery (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 3:1-5; Col. 1:8-10 cf. 1:25-27).




**3. EVEN AS YE ARE CALLED IN ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING:** We certainly have no objections to those who limit the apostle's words here to the *Rapture*. We, too, believe that this glorious event is indeed included in the phrase. But Paul is addressing the *one hope of our calling*, wherein we find that believers have been *called* into His grace in Christ. Christ is our hope according to I Timothy 1:1: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is *our hope*." Thus, the hope of salvation (Rapture—deliverance from the wrath to come), the hope of the resurrection, the hope of heaven, and the hope of eternal life, are all *vested* in Him (Gal. 1:4; 1 Thes. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:19; Col. 1:5; Titus 1:2).

**4. ONE LORD:** The person of Christ is *immutable*. Like the Spirit, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. With the King in royal exile due to His rejection, Christ is conducting a heavenly ministry today with the Church, which is His Body. As the *Head* of the Body, He is seated at the right hand of the Father as the God of all grace, not willing that any should perish but that all would receive deliverance from the judgment to come (Eph. 1:19-23; 2:13-16; Col. 1:15-19).

**5. ONE FAITH:** While this might well be a reference to the entirety of Paul's revelation, which he calls *the faith*, we feel this would be somewhat redundant when the same could be said of the sevenfold unity under consideration. It seems to us that the apostle has the *faith of Christ* in mind, as it relates to the terms of salvation. With the change in dispensations, Paul was given the *secret* of the gospel which is *Calvary*.

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. Thus, when we believe the gospel of salvation, that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again, we are justified by *His faithfulness* (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 6:19).

**6. ONE BAPTISM:** This is the baptism that *saves*. Even most of our Baptist friends would agree with this conclusion. The moment we trust Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit *spiritually* baptizes us into Christ. According to Paul's revelation, this baptism simultaneously places us into the Body of Christ and identifies us with His death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3,4; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12).

**7. ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS ABOVE ALL, AND THROUGH ALL, AND IN YOU ALL:** We serve one God who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Godhead is co-equal and co-eternal. As we have seen, God the Father is making known His *eternal purpose* for the Church during the age of Grace. He is working in and through us to the praise of His glory (Eph. 1:3-6; 3:11; Phil. 2:12-15). 





# An Open Letter to a Pentecostalist

PASTOR KEN **LAWSON**  
BBS Board Member

*This is a reproduction of a letter written several years ago to a dear friend who became caught in the modern Pentecostal/Charismatic movement. It is, in part, a response to a religious tract he sent to me from the United Pentecostal Church called, "The Apostle's Doctrine." I realize, of course, that many others who call themselves Pentecostal or Charismatic would not agree with the teaching of this tract. Therefore, it is up to each individual to discern whether they believe the doctrine that I have endeavored to answer. The friend who received this letter told me later that he read it about a dozen times over a number of months. Each time he would throw it in the garbage only to pick it out again to be read later. By the grace of God, he came to see and believe the message of grace and rejoice in the Word of God, rightly divided. He has repented of his earlier beliefs and now refers to himself as a "Re-Pentecostalist." He has urged me to share this letter with you for which I give God thanks. —Ken Lawson*

Dear Terry,

Hello again in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It was nice to hear from you again and know that your doctor's appointment has been moved up. I pray that you can find relief from suffering very soon. But remember, the Lord has many spiritual lessons he can teach in the midst of suffering. If you pray only for deliverance from trouble, you may miss God's lessons to be learned in suffering as well as through it (2 Cor. 1:3-11; 4:8-18; 12:1-10).

I have read the tracts you sent to me including the one on tongues ....Some people will not study through literature with which they think they will disagree. I think this is a wrong attitude. As people who want to know and stand for the truth, it is necessary to examine each biblical subject from varying theological views, then compare and contrast using the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit's teaching to discern what is right.

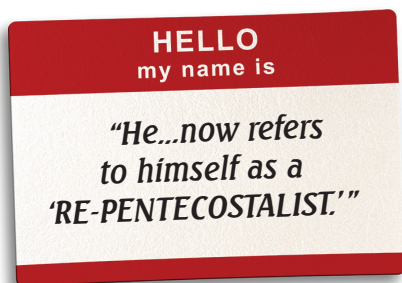
The objection I had with your soul winner's tract was that it tries to use guilt as the motivating force to get people to witness. It says in effect, "Shame on you for not witnessing." When our service for Christ is based on fear, shame, and guilt, the emphasis is definitely in the wrong place. We need to get back to grace motivation in the dispensation of grace. Paul said, "the love of Christ constraineth us" to live unto Him which died and rose again (2 Cor. 5:14,15). When I read his epistles, the first thing he does is establish the believers in the sound doctrine, telling them of their spiritual blessings and who they are in Christ. He then uses the love and gratitude produced thereby to encourage them to loving worship and service.

Regarding your tract, *The Apostle's Doctrine* I would like to concentrate on the section called, "Salvation." I'm sure you would agree that this is the most important issue. The tract says, "Salvation consists of deliverance from all sin and unrighteousness through the blood of Jesus Christ." Salvation is a deliverance, and I like their emphasis on the blood of Jesus Christ. However, if I were writing it, I would

be careful to say, "Salvation consists of deliverance from the penalty of all sin and unrighteousness...." "The wages of sin is death" and ultimately the second death in the Lake of Fire. The way it is stated in the tract gives the impression that when we are saved, we don't sin anymore. Maybe the group who published this tract teaches this. I, however, do not (1 John 1:8,10; James 3:2).

They further state salvation consists of 1) repentance from sin, 2) water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, 3) and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, 4) after which the Christian is to live a godly life (Acts 2:36-41).

Where are we ever commanded to repent of our sins for salvation? This is an implied doctrine which is not taught in the Bible. We have the command to repent many times given both to believers and unbelievers, and it is always toward God. For the unbeliever, repentance is a "change of mind" concerning the person and work of Christ. I agree with you that it is not "sorrow for sin" although "godly sorrow worketh repentance..." (2 Cor. 7:10). Repentance is one of the most misunderstood doctrines of Scripture. Many times it is used synonymously with believing. Because of this, I prefer to use other less misunderstood words like "faith, believe, and receive" when telling the lost person of his responsibility toward God. Too many times, people confuse repentance with penance and think you must clean up your life in order to





receive Christ and be saved. But how can a lost enemy of God do this? He lacks the power and inclination to do it. It is noteworthy to know that Bible teachers through the years have agreed that the Gospel of John and the Book of Romans present the most comprehensive teaching on the New Testament salvation. Yet neither of these mention repentance for salvation. To repent of your sins is a better command to give believers who are harboring carnality in their lives. Since they have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God can use the Word of God to further growth in godliness (2 Cor. 7:8-10; 12:21; 2 Tim. 2:25).


In regard to baptism, there is no indication that the phrase “in the name of” was meant by our Lord to be a formula. The apostles were not instructed to repeat these words but simply to baptize in the name of or by the authority of Jesus Christ—just as a British officer might apprehend a criminal in the name of the Queen, or an American officer might shout, “Stop in the name of the law!” or our ambassador to France might speak in the name of the government of the United States. The mere repetition of the words here is not the issue, but rather the authority of the representative. When the apostles baptized those early believers, they were doing it under the authority of Jesus Christ.

This is all a rather moot point seeing that the last work on baptism (historically) is Paul’s revelation that there is now only one baptism (Ephesians 4:5). Your tract speaks of water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Ghost.  $1+1=2$ . That is too many. Actually, there are two baptisms in the New Testament in which the Holy Spirit is involved. There was the baptism with the Holy Spirit which was performed by Christ and resulted in tongue speaking. This one is a fulfillment of prophecy (Joel–Acts 2). Then there is the baptism by the Spirit which makes us a member of Christ and the Church, which is His Body (1 Cor. 12:13). This one is not prophesied by any of the Old Testament prophets nor revealed before Paul’s revelation of the Mystery. In the first example, the ascended Christ is baptizing with the Spirit. In the latter, the Spirit is baptizing unto Christ. I personally would not want to give up the baptism that puts me into Christ and His Body. One revelation superseded the other.

Someone may ask, “Why would one revelation supersede another or why would God change His dealings with man? Doesn’t the Scripture say, ‘Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever’?” (Heb. 13:8). The answer to this little dilemma is amazingly simple. No one is saying that God Himself changes. God’s attributes including His Holiness, Justice, Mercy, Goodness, Love, Patience, etc. remain constant through all ages and dispensations. What does change are His dealings with man. To any thinking person this must be the case. God is a God of infinite variety, and though His method of dealing with man has changed, God’s principles remain unalterable. For example, under the law, the people of Israel were commanded to offer animal

sacrifices, circumcise their male children the eighth day, observe the Jewish Sabbath and feast days, abstain from eating unclean animals and many other such things. Jesus, as one “made under the law” commanded and practiced these as well as the whole law (Gal. 4:4; Matt. 23:1,2; 8:4; Luke 2:21; 4:16; John 2:13; 7:37; Acts 10:14,15). The only objection Jesus had with the law was that it did not go deep enough. His teaching remedied this by going to the motives of the heart (Matt. 5:22,28,32,34,39,44).

But now Christ speaking to us Gentiles through Paul says, “Ye are not under the law, but under grace.” We are delivered from the law and dead to the law. It is done away, abolished. We have been redeemed from its curse which was a ministry of death and condemnation. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth (Rom. 6:14; 7:4,6; 2 Cor. 3:6-18; Gal. 3:13; Rom. 10:4). This establishes the fact that God changed His dealings with man from law to grace! Does that mean God Himself changed or that He has compromised any of His attributes? God forbid! Today is the dispensation of grace and grace is reigning (Eph. 3:2; Rom. 5:20,21).

While the above examples are readily accepted by most Christians, many still fail to recognize other changes in God’s dealings including water baptism, the sign gifts, and the terms of salvation itself. For sake of argument, let me concede for a moment that the terms of salvation given by Peter at Pentecost are still valid today (Acts 2:38). I wish you could answer for me a few questions. When Peter later went to the Gentiles (Cornelius and his household), they received the gift of the Holy Ghost prior to being baptized. Why? Notice that the order in Acts 2:38 was 1) Repent, 2) Water Baptism, 3) Remission of Sins, 4) Gift of the Holy Ghost. In Acts 10:43-48, the order was 1) Believe, 2) Remission of Sins, 3) Gift of the Holy Ghost, 4) Water Baptism. This shows us that a great change was taking place as God turned from the Jewish nation to the Gentiles. Even this is not the final word in the New Testament on baptism. Many years after Acts 10, Paul writing to the Gentile saints said there is now only one baptism (specific) but one baptism (general). In Acts 10, there were still two baptisms—water and Spirit. Again, I don’t want to give up the baptism of 1 Corinthians 12:13. Failure to “rightly divide the Word of Truth” (2 Tim. 2:15) and to see that much of the New Testament was changing and in process of development has wrought havoc to Biblical interpretation. 

“

“People confuse repentance with penance....”

”

*(To be continued next month in the December 2022 edition.)*



# Things to **Avoid** Like the Plague

PASTOR RICKY KURTH  
Berean Searchlight Editor

Speaking of avoiding things, my doctor told me that it would be good for my health if I could avoid stress. That sounded like good advice, so I avoid opening his bills.

In Paul's epistle to Titus, he told the young man that it would be good for his *spiritual* health if he could avoid some things.

**“But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain” (Titus 3:9).**

Now as I'm sure you'd agree, there are all kinds of foolish questions in the world—especially in the world of *religion*! Back in the 17th century, the monks in Constantinople used to debate the question of how many angels could dance on the head of a pin. That's certainly a foolish question. But it's not the kind of question Paul had in mind. Here the apostle is talking about questions concerning the law of Moses, and there are a couple of ways that we can know this to be so.

First, Paul *mentions* the law in this verse when he tells Titus to avoid “strivings about the law.” But also, you may have noticed that our text begins with a “but.” That means in speaking about the law here, Paul is drawing a contrast with the *grace* of God he has just finished discussing in verses 7 and 8. After reminding us that we are “justified by His grace” (v. 7), he wrote:

**“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men” (v. 8).**

Paul told Titus that he should constantly affirm that we are justified by God's grace “*that*”—i.e., for the purpose of—helping they which have believed in God to maintain good works. He knew that the way to get believers to maintain good works under grace is to constantly *remind them* that they are justified by grace.

## The Sweet Spot

You see, grace puts you on the spot. It says, “God saved you by His grace; now what will you do for Him?” Grace says that “the love of Christ” that He showed in dying for us “constraineth us” to live for Him (2 Cor. 5:14,15). We serve Him out of gratitude for His love for us, *not* out of fear of what He’ll do to us if we *don’t* serve Him, as was the case with God’s people in Israel under the law.

But there were men in Crete, where Titus was stationed (Titus 1:5), who didn’t agree. They conceded that we are justified by grace, but they felt that the only way to get believers to maintain good works was to put them under the law! When Titus affirmed that *grace* is our motivation to “live soberly, righteously, and godly” (Titus 2:11,12), the champions of the law questioned this, as the legalists did in Galatia, because that’s what legalists *always* do. But questioning the grace of God like that is “foolish,” and Paul tells Titus to “*avoid*” foolish questions.

If you’re not convinced Paul is addressing foolish questions about the Law, look what he called the Galatians who had forsaken grace for the law:

**“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you....Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect...by the works of the Law...?”** (Gal. 3:1-5).

Paul reminded the Galatian believers that their Christian lives began with the Spirit, with “the renewing of the Holy Ghost”

that we receive when God saves us by His grace (Titus 3:5). So it would be “foolish” for them to go back *to the law* to perfect themselves with good works.

## There’s No Fool Like a Disobedient Fool

There’s a reason Paul calls questions about the Law “foolish.” Did you know one of the definitions of a *fool* in the Bible is *someone who refuses to obey God*? Samuel told Saul,

**“Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD...”** (1 Sam. 13:13).

Do you see how that verse defines a fool as someone who doesn’t obey God?

We see this definition again when the Lord said,

**“...every one that heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man...”** (Matt. 7:26).

And we see it yet again with the Galatians, when Paul wrote them,

**“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth...”** (Gal. 3:1).



The law of Moses was once *the truth of God*, and when God’s people in Israel obeyed it, *they were obeying the truth*. But like



the rest of us who live in the dispensation of grace, the Galatians were “not under the law” (Rom. 6:15). So when they forsook grace to return to the law, they were not obeying the truth. They were not obeying the *new* truth of *grace*.

All of this means that questions about the law today under grace are foolish, for they cannot help a believer maintain good works. So there’s no *value* in asking questions about the law, at least to that end. There’s always value in studying any and all parts of Scripture, but don’t be looking to the fear induced by the law to help you maintain good works. Look to the love of Christ instead.

Getting back to that question of how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, most people are unaware of the reason why that question is *particularly* foolish. Back in the 17th century when those monks were debating that question, Constantinople was surrounded by the Turks who were massing outside the city, preparing to invade and conquer it! And there the religious leaders of the city sat, debating a question that was of absolutely no value in a situation like that. That’s what made this theological question a metaphor for wasting time debating topics of no practical value while more urgent matters are ignored.

And it’s an apt metaphor to employ here, for there’s no value in asking questions about the Law to help you in the very practical area of maintaining good works. So avoid such questions like the plague!

## Grace Doesn’t Run in the Family

All of that is why Paul *also* told Titus to avoid “genealogies” (Titus 3:9), for genealogies were a *part* of the law—an *important* part! When the Jews returned to their homeland after 70 years in captivity in Babylon, some men claimed they were priests, and

**“These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood” (Neh. 7:64).**

Those men couldn’t serve God in the ministry of the priesthood because they couldn’t prove “by genealogy” that they were of the priestly tribe of Levi. But genealogies aren’t important today, for you don’t have to be of the tribe of Levi to serve God in the ministry under grace!

Of course, the legalists in Crete were saying otherwise. But when Paul told Titus to “ordain elders” in Crete (Titus 1:5), and then proceeded to list the qualifications for spiritual leaders (vv. 6-9), he didn’t say anything about checking to see if a man’s family tree could be traced back to Levi. That means if you “desire” to be used of God in the ministry (1 Tim. 3:1), *God can use you*, no matter who your daddy is.

When Paul went on to tell Titus to avoid “contentions,” a contention is a quarrel or argument that is *always* caused by *pride* (Prov. 13:10). Levites were *proud* of their genealogy, and *all* Jews “boasted” about the knowledge of God they had in their law

(Rom. 2:17,18). That pride caused some “unruly and vain talkers... of the circumcision” in Crete (Titus 1:10) to raise “contentions” in Crete’s churches, as they contended that the Law be taught to help believers maintain good works. No wonder Paul warns Titus to “avoid...strivings about the law” (3:9).

### Turning a Spiritual Profit

We know strivings about the law were also a problem in Ephesus where Timothy was stationed (Eph. 1:3), for Paul told him,

**“...put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers” (2 Tim. 2:14).**

When Paul warned Timothy not to *strive* about words *to no profit*, doesn’t that sound like his instruction to Titus to avoid “strivings about the law; *for they are unprofitable*”? When Paul followed up that warning to Timothy by reminding him about the importance of “rightly dividing the word of truth” (v. 15), this suggests that the *particular* “words to no profit” he had in mind there were words that could have been avoided by recognizing that the law was given to the people of Israel, not to us. And the only way to recognize that is by *rightly dividing the word*.

Aren’t you eager to gain the spiritual profit that maintaining good works always brings a believer? Remember, a profit is what you have left after you have covered your expenses. It’s what makes it so you can do more than

break even. And when it comes to your Christian life, you want to do more than break even! After

**“...when it comes to your Christian life, you want to do more than *break even*!”**

**BREAK EVEN**



you invest your time, your talents, your money and everything else you have in life, you want to *profit*.

And the way to profit in the Christian life is to remember that it is the *grace* of God that prompts us to do good works. Didn’t Paul just finish saying that this was “profitable unto men” (Titus 3:7,8)? But if he says maintaining good works is profitable, and the law is *unprofitable*, that must mean the Law can’t profit you when it comes to maintaining good works.

Now you should know that the law *used* to profit the Jews who were under the law to that end, because God was *honoring* the law back in those days. God promised to bless them with wealth and good health if they maintained good works. If you lived under a program like that, wouldn’t you maintain good works to get those blessings?

Of course, God is not honoring those promises of the law today under grace. But if you think He is, you’re going to find the Law to be *unprofitable*, because you’re going to think God is letting you

down when He *doesn't* bless you with health and wealth when you maintain good works. And that will most likely cause you to *quit* doing good works, or at the very least make it harder for you to maintain them. At the very most, it could make you believe that God doesn't keep His promises, and shake your faith in the Word of God to the very core.

### A Similar Vain

Now when Paul goes on to say that strivings about the Law are “vain” (Titus 3:9), that word means *empty*, or *worthless*, or *unprofitable*. But if that be the case, why is the apostle repeating himself? Why would he say that strivings about the Law were *unprofitable*, and then add that they were *vain*, if the two words mean much the same thing?

I believe it is because when the law was God's program for His people, the word “vain” usually had to do with *idolatry*, as it did when Samuel warned the people of Israel,

**“...turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after *vain* things, which cannot *profit* or deliver; for they are *vain*” (1 Sam. 12:21).**

It's easy to tell that the prophet was warning them about idolatry with those words, for when they didn't *heed* his words, Isaiah later wrote,

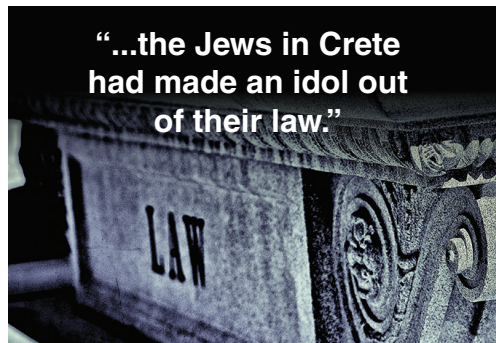
**“They that make a graven image are all of them *vanity*: and their delectable things *shall not profit*...” (Isa. 44:9).**

The prophet Jeremiah added to Isaiah's words there that God's people in Israel had indulged in

so much idolatry, it became the religious inheritance they passed on to their children, saying:

**“...our fathers have inherited lies, *vanity*, and things wherein there is *no profit*. Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are *no gods*?” (Jer. 16:19,20).**

With all these verses proclaiming that idolatry was “vain” and of “no profit,” when Paul affirmed that *the law* was “unprofitable and vain,” I can't help but conclude that in using those same words, he was implying that the Jews in Crete *had made an idol out of their law*.



**“...the Jews in Crete had made an idol out of their law.”**


If you don't think that this could happen to something that God gave Israel, remember that the Jews made an idol out of the brazen serpent that God gave Moses to lift up in the wilderness (Num. 21:5-9 cf. 2 Kings 18:1-4). And in Paul's day, they had evidently done the same thing with the law, something else God gave Israel, because they were a people who were prone to idolatry.

If you think God's people are *less* prone to idolatry today, think again. I hear from believers all the time who contend that we have to follow the Law if we want

to be godly. Hardly a month goes by that I don't receive correspondence from some sincere believer stating that godliness comes from observing the law's sabbath and its diet laws. And just about any pastor will tell you that you're being *ungodly* if you don't support the Lord's work by *tithing* as the law demands!

Whether these brethren realize it or not, they are worshipping the law long after it stopped being profitable to help God's people maintain good works, just as His people in Israel worshipped the brazen serpent long after

it was no longer profitable for saving them from the bite of the serpents.

And legalists aren't the only ones who make a god out of something that God gave believers in time past. I can tell that some of the Pentecostal brethren I hear from have made a god out of the gifts of tongues and healing. But all of the confusion that accompanies this dispensational brand of idolatry could be avoided if God's people would just heed Paul's advice to rightly divide the word of truth, *and avoid strivings about the law!* 

## Question Box

*"Who is leviathan, and what does Psalm 74:14 mean?"*

**"Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness."**

Elsewhere, God vows to punish "*leviathan that crooked serpent*" and thereby "*slay the dragon*" (Isa. 27:1). So leviathan there is "*the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil*" (Rev. 20:2).

Breaking his heads is an idiom that describes what God did to Satan when He defeated the devil's army at the Red Sea (Psa. 74:13). Giving him "*to be meat to the people in the wilderness*" is what God did later to Satan's giants in Canaan. Joshua told the Jews in the wilderness not to fear them, "*for they are bread for us*" (Num. 14:9), that is, "*We'll eat them alive!*"

Tribulation Jews will hide from the beast in the wilderness (Rev. 12:6,14), and Isaiah 27:1 will assure them that the Lord will defeat him, and he and his host will be meat for them at Armageddon.

—Pastor Kurth





**“To be GRATEFUL is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us—and He has given us EVERYTHING. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience.”** —Thomas Merton



## **Tour the Best of Israel**

May 15-25, 2023 with

**BEREAN**  
BIBLE INSTITUTE

**Caesarea**

**Sea of Galilee**

**Jerusalem**

**Garden of Gethsemane**

**and much more!**



Limited space! Reserve your seat today at:

**[www.BereanBibleInstitute.org/Israel](http://www.BereanBibleInstitute.org/Israel)**

# BBS

## Letter

## Excerpts



### **From North Carolina:**

“It’s hard to put into words what this ministry has done for me through your faithfulness in preaching the Word of God rightly divided. I stumbled across...BBS around the beginning of 2020 as I was searching the internet for information on baptism.... I started with Paul, and then looked to Darby, and then found BBS. What an oasis this ministry has been! I’m leaving out quite a bit of details of how I got to where I am now—but thanks be to the Lord, I’m here!”

### **From our Inbox:**

“I have been on a journey to find the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and now I have finally found it....I was sent a friend request on Facebook and I looked at this person’s profile...and saw posts that spoke of Paul being my apostle, etc. I started to look into my Bible and focus on all of Pauls’ writings....I’ve been hearing a muddled gospel my entire life. The Word has never been rightly divided for me by a pastor. I thank God for His leading!”

### **From our Inbox:**

“The past two years, I’ve been seeing things in my church that just don’t measure up. But I’m nervous about making changes that I’m uncertain about in regards to my faith. I began to watch YouTube in the evenings, and have been viewing Pastor Sadler’s channels. His messages made sense to me, and were very comforting.”

### **From Oklahoma:**

“I had so many questions since being saved in 1994. They were never answered through my local Baptist church, so I went on a search for the truth. I knew in my heart that the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus was before the cross and resurrection. I just couldn’t put it all together. Thanks to you and other teachers, all the pieces fit together and have fallen into place in the Word of God like never before.”

### **From our Inbox:**

“Thank you for your *Transformed by Grace* messages. My wife and I listen to one or two every Sunday on YouTube before we go to our church. We thank God for our grace church where we hear about salvation, about rightly dividing, and about the dispensation of grace. But the focus is *knowledge*, and we hear condemnation of those who don’t have the knowledge we do. We hear nothing about how to apply that knowledge to our lives or even that we should apply it to our lives. We hear nothing about how to live. So we are really grateful to you for filling that part that we are missing at our church.”

### **From Wisconsin:**

“The *Berean Searchlight*...is a source of spiritual encouragement and continual learning for me. Each and every one of your writers is helping me grow in knowledge” (We thank God for our contributing writers! —Ed.).

### From our Inbox:

"This *Two Minutes* [“Did Christ Suffer in Hell?”] is excellent, and Biblically correct!”

### From Florida:

“My first loved book of the Bible was Ephesians, and then to have Pastor Sadler’s excellent commentary on Ephesians really topped it off!”

### From our Inbox:

“Thank you for replying to my cry for help. You have no idea what this means to me. An answer to prayer for sure!”

### From our Inbox:

“Can you send me an issue about the topic of a man after God’s own heart in the *Berean Searchlight*? I forgot what month or year it was released....Please. I am going to preach on that this coming Sunday.” (Emails like this are one of the reasons we check our emails on Saturday, to help our pastors and teachers. —Ed.)

### From our Inbox:

“Thank you so much for helping me. Quite honestly, you’re the only person I have to turn to with all my questions. It means so much to me.”

### From Georgia:

“The Bible conference in Gillsville [Pastor Sadler and Dr. Nix] was awesome! The wife and I really enjoyed the awesome messages on grace.”

### From Iowa:

“We went to the Platteville, Wisconsin, conference. Pastor Jim Tollar is an awesome teacher! We were truly blessed that day.” (Our business manager graciously filled in for Pastor Kevin when he fell ill that week. —Ed.)

### From Arizona:

“I was listening to the recent regional conference in Streamwood, Illinois, on YouTube and I was amazed at all the wonderful teaching of the Word, as well as the other pastor/teachers, Dave Stewart and others. My husband and I have learned so much from the different avenues BBS has for learning the Word of God rightly divided.”

### From Georgia:

“It was pure joy to have Pastor Kurth at our church for our homecoming service. I am not much for words, but it was a real pleasure to meet such a gracious man.”

### From Missouri:

“You have accomplished three of BBS’s four goals [See page 2] here at *New Hope Church* in Salem. We are united in our desire to help with your number one goal in evangelizing the lost. Brother Kurth, we love you and are continuing in remembrance of you with regard to Colossians 1:9. The entire congregation is anticipating studying the Scriptures through Pastor Stam’s book *Things That Differ* beginning on October 23rd. We need 30 copies.”

### From Alaska:

“We love our *Berean Searchlight*, and use it always for study. Enclosed is our yearly contribution.”

### From our Inbox:

“I appreciate all your excellent Bible studies that consistently and continually ‘blow me away,’ even after 32 years of learning right division! And: Richard Church, I appreciate all your excellent work on the BBS website!”

**“BBS is a work of faith supported by the gifts of Christian friends.”**

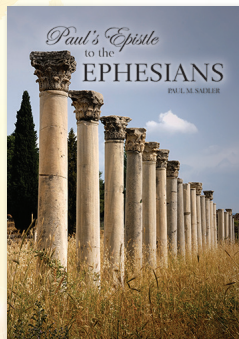
—C. R. Stam, BBS Founder





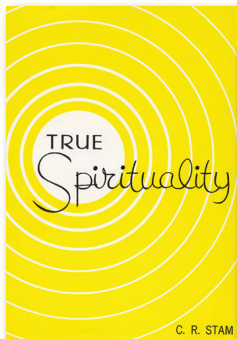
# True Thanksgiving

Revitalize your Christian life with this bundle of life-transforming titles that is sure to turn you into a spiritual bundle of energy, while saving you a bundle of money!



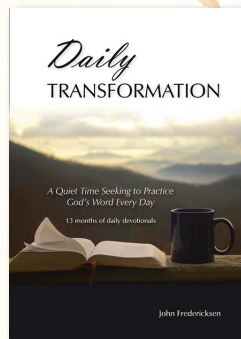
## Ephesians

Pastor Paul Sadler  
400 page hardcover  
commentary  
on Ephesians



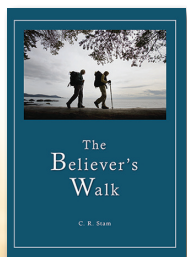
## True Spirituality

Pastor C.R. Stam  
209 page hardcover  
practical guide to  
Christian Living.



## Daily Transformation

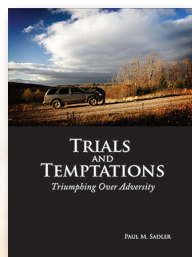
Pastor John Fredericksen  
Contains 13-months'  
worth of daily devotions.



## The Believer's Walk

Pastor C.R. Stam  
28 page booklet

**Believers  
Walk Bundle**  
**\$40** (savings of \$19)



## Trials and Temptations

Pastor Paul Sadler  
22 page booklet





## Holiday Times Call For Holiday Measures

No matter what your holiday greeting cards say, adding a gospel tract can do more than just wish your loved ones merriment. And a tract with a wreath is more likely to be read this time of year than a tract without one!



### Christmas Times

Pastor Kevin Sadler (Tri-fold Gospel Tract)

**Sale Price \$2.50** (pkg of 25)

## Special Offers End December 31, 2022

**Free shipping!** (Wisconsin residents, please add 5.5% sales tax)

(262) 255-4750 or [bereanbiblesociety.org](http://bereanbiblesociety.org)



# News *and* Announcements

**Spread Good News Along With Good Cheer:** Gospel tracts enclosed with holiday greeting cards give them the chance to spread *eternal* good cheer, and Bible study materials are the ultimate way to show the believers on your shopping list that you care. We have a lot to choose from when it comes to these things, but if you want your order to arrive before December 25, be sure to place it no later than December 15. Otherwise you'll miss this year's last chance to make an eternal spiritual impact in the hearts and lives of your loved ones.

**A Flashy Stocking Stuffer:** Ten bucks doesn't buy much these days, but it'll buy the audio version of 250 episodes of our television broadcast *Transformed By Grace*. Back in your editor's day, to give someone 250 messages you had to have 125 cassette tapes and a good sized box. These days they all fit on one 8 GB flash drive, making it the ideal gift to leave in the mailbox for your postal carrier, or for others with whom you've agreed to a ten dollar holiday gift-giving spending limit. So check out our ad on page 11, but be sure to order today, for while they may be small, they'll take as long to ship as any of our larger materials.

**Bible Conference Bookings:** If your church has been talking about hosting a Bible conference next year featuring BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler or your editor, Pastor Ricky Kurth, now is the time to touch base with us about it. If you don't have a local grace church but would love to see one get started in your area, hosting a conference in a local motel meeting room or other such venue is a great way to find out if there are other grace believers within driving distance of where you live after we advertise your conference in the *Searchlight*. But our schedules fill up fast, so remember that the early bird gets the worm, and all the second mouse gets is cheese.

**New Pastor:** After Paul Balbach served as your editor's assistant pastor for many years, he was recently ordained to the ministry by our home church, *Faith Bible Church* of Steger, Illinois. And since he'd already done a lot of guest-speaking at *Grace Bible Church* of Bowler, Wisconsin, it wasn't long after his ordination that those dear saints called Paul to be their pastor. Keep them in prayer, and if you're a grace pastor, why not consider mentoring men in your church for the ministry. If you do, someday some grace church will be eternally grateful!

# Things That Differ

The Fundamentals of Discernment

# Media Price List

## POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

PowerPoint Presentations are digital downloads to view with a projector, computer or tablet.

Basic Distinctions between	
Prophecy and the Mystery .....	\$10.00
The Key to Understanding the Scriptures .....	10.00
The Rapture vs. The Second Coming .....	10.00

## AUDIO MESSAGES ON USB DRIVE

These USB drives can be plugged into your computer or vehicle for easy listening to grace messages.

BBS (423 messages from various grace speakers)	
USB Flash Drive .....	\$10.00
Transformed by Grace (episodes 1-250)	
USB Flash Drive .....	\$10.00

## E-BOOKS FROM BBS

(E-Books are digital files to read on your devices, not printed books.)

### C.R. STAM

Acts Vol. I .....	11.00
Acts Vol. II .....	11.00
Memoirs of Cornelius R. Stam .....	11.00
Moses & Paul .....	6.00
Things That Differ .....	10.00
Two Minutes with the Bible .....	10.00
Twofold Purpose of God .....	6.00

### PAUL M. SADLER

Exploring the Unsearchable	
Riches of Christ. ....	11.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians .....	11.00
Paul's Epistle to the Philippians .....	11.00
Revelation Vol. 1 .....	11.00
Revelation Vol. 2 .....	11.00

Revelation Vol. 3 .....	11.00
Studies in James .....	8.00

### KEVIN J. SADLER

Revelation Vol. 4 .....	11.00
Runaways, Running from God .....	8.00

### RICKY KURTH

Rightly Divided Answers	
to Frequently Asked Questions .....	11.00
More Rightly Divided Answers	
to Frequently Asked Questions .....	11.00

### JOHN FREDERICKSEN

Growing in God's Grace .....	\$6.00
------------------------------	--------

## DVD SETS

### PAUL M. SADLER

What It Means to Be A Grace Believer .....	18.00
<i>This series with Pastor Paul M. Sadler will take you through the Grace Message step by step!</i>	
The Miracles of Calvary .....	18.00
<i>These video messages from Pastor Paul M. Sadler will take you back in time to the day that Christ died.</i>	

### KEVIN J. SADLER

"Transformed by Grace" is a Bible study video broadcast with Pastor Kevin Sadler. Each DVD contains one 28-minute episode.

Single Episode (more than 200 available) .....	3.00
Set of 12 DVDs (1-12, 13-24, 25-36, 37-48 etc.) ....	29.00
Series Set (more than 42 available) .....	Contact for Price

### KEN LAWSON

"What Does the Bible Say?" is the Bible study video series with Pastor Ken Lawson.

Set of 12 DVDs (1-12, 13-24, 25-36, 37-48) .....	\$29.00
--	---------

**Free Shipping!** Wisconsin residents please add 5.5% sales tax

**BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY | PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022**

Phone: 262-255-4750 | Website: [bereanbiblesociety.org](http://bereanbiblesociety.org)

This is only a partial price list. For a full price list please see our website or contact BBS. Prices and availability are subject to change without notice. For detailed descriptions of products, please visit our online store.

THE BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT  
N112 W17761 MEQUON ROAD  
PO Box 756  
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022-0756

PERIODICALS  
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI  
AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES



Transformed By  
*Grace*

Berean Bible Society  
TV Ministry

Sunday 9:00 am CT: WJYS Chicago

Monday–Friday 6:00 pm ET:

Christian Television Network (CTN)

- DirecTV: Channel 376
- Dish Network: Channel 262
- Glory Star Satellite: Channel 117

BBS Network 24/7 streaming channel Roku and Apple TV

Also available on Facebook, YouTube, and the BBS website