

The BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

June 2023



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This month’s cover features Tybee Island Light on Tybee Island, Georgia.

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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From the Editor to You

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sat down to write this, my last editorial to you in this space, I was reminded of the man who said: “My wife hates goodbyes, so she never says them. She goes without saying.”

I share that with you, not just because I like to begin my Bible study articles with a similar smile, but also because it’s true of me as well. I too hate goodbyes. So when Jessica Sadler told me that my coworkers here at *Berean Bible Society* were planning a staff luncheon on my last day in the office, I expressed my distaste of goodbyes to her. She replied, “We hate them too, so we just won’t say any. We’ll just have a nice lunch and enjoy one another’s fellowship.”

So that’s what I’d like to do with you as well. Rather than say goodbye, let’s just continue to enjoy one another’s fellowship. You can still fellowship with me through the Bible study articles I’ll continue to write for the *Searchlight*. I’ll also continue to contribute new audio and video messages to our BBS website each week that can actually make you feel like you’re a distant member of the church I’ll continue to pastor in Chicago’s south suburbs. And I can still enjoy *your* fellowship through the excerpts from your correspondence that we publish each month on our Letter Excerpts page, and as I meet with you in person at Bible conferences.

But as I say goodbye to the position of being your editor for the past 15 years, and to the office in Wisconsin where I’ve labored shoulder to shoulder with the staff members here for 22 years, I’m reminded of the parting words the Apostle Paul shared with the Ephesian elders as he parted company with them for the last time. Like him, I can say that “I kept back nothing that was *profitable* unto you” (Acts 20:20). I know that Paul’s epistles are written especially to us, so during my tenure as editor I tried to favor articles based on those all-important letters. But I also know that “*all* Scripture...is *profitable*” to God’s people (2 Tim. 3:16), so I also sought to present articles that would “declare unto you *all* the counsel of God” from the rest of His Word (Acts 20:27).

Finally, as I leave the office here to begin a full-time writing ministry for BBS at home, I know I can also do what Paul did as he parted company with those elders and “commend you to God, and to the word of His grace,” for I have every confidence that Pastor Hosfeld will maintain the standard of excellence you have come to know and expect from the publication that has been my heart and soul for so long: *The Berean Searchlight*.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ricky Kurth

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Honor To Whom Honor is Due

June in the United States is a special month that includes two national holidays, Flag Day and Father's Day, which serve as great reminders to give honor where honor is due.

"Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due.... *honour to whom honour*" (Rom. 13:7).

In 1775, as the American Revolution broke out, colonists fought under the flags of the various states from which they lived instead of a single unified flag. Believing this detrimental to the cause, General George Washington sought the creation of the first National Flag, which was established by the Second Continental Congress on June 14th, 1777.

Father's Day was declared an official national holiday in 1972 and is, likewise, a call to give honor to where honor is due. Showing honor to a father we love and a flag we appreciate is generally a very easy expectation to live up to, but what about in those cases where we believe a father or country has let us down? Are we to still give honor in these situations? The simple answer is—yes! The Apostle Paul, no doubt by the leading of the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Pet. 1:20-21), chose the word *dues* instead of the word *deserve*! The word *deserve* only appears one time in the KJV: "And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that Thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*..." (Ezra 9:13). The word implies merit, earned or to be *worthy*, which is a word we often find in the Bible.

Dues are something owed, whether earned or not. Someone needs not always merit what they receive. The foundation of our salvation is that we receive grace, an *unmerited* favor, and so we should not be too quick to insist that everyone merits the honor we give. I don't know too many parents that only expect their children to respect and obey them when the child believes the parent is right. The Bible is consistent; God instructs people to honor parents and authorities, not because they *deserve* it, but because *He created* those positions of authority (cf. Rom. 13:1), and that's why Romans 13:2 says, "Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God...."

Remember to honor those in authority over you to demonstrate your respect for the One who made the authorities.

—Pastor Don Hosfeld



One More YEAR

PASTOR KEVIN **SADLER**
Berean Bible Society President

TRAFFIC REPORT

“A man and his wife had just moved to town, and he was coming home from his first day at work. As he’s driving down the highway, his cell phone rings, and it’s his wife. ‘George, I just had to call you and tell you to be careful. I just heard on the radio that some nut got off the on ramp and is now driving the wrong way down Hwy. 280!’ ‘It’s worse than that!’ said George, ‘I’m driving home on 280 and it’s not just one car. It’s hundreds of them!’”¹

This man was traveling the wrong direction, and in the time of Christ, Israel also went the wrong direction in her unbelief and rejection of Christ.

WEATHER REPORT

“And He said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass. Ye

hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?” (Luke 12:54-56).

In Luke 12 and 13, the Lord addressed His disciples and a large crowd. Luke 12:1 tells us that “there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another....” In this address, the Lord urged the people to discern the significance of their present time. This was important in light of the division of opinion concerning Himself and the judgment that would follow if they continued in their rejection of Him.

The Lord equated observing His ministry to noting daily weather patterns. Both offered unmistakable signs of what was to come. The people all knew how to judge the future in light of the present, such as when predicting the weather.

The Lord told them that, when clouds formed in the west over the Mediterranean Sea, they could all

predict that rain was on the way. And they knew that when the warm wind blew from the south in the Arabian desert, a heat wave or a hot day was coming. And this is exactly what would come to pass in each instance.

The ability to judge the evidence and to see its implications was not restricted to the experts. Everyone could come to the same conclusion from the plain evidence they could readily observe.

The point the Lord was making was that, seeing as how they were able to reach correct conclusions about the weather, they should have been able to discern the times and come to the correct conclusion that He was their Messiah, based upon the mountain of evidence He had given them through His life and ministry, all of which fit perfectly with the predictions of the prophets. They didn't need the so-called religious experts of the scribes and Pharisees to tell them. They were able to reach the correct and obvious conclusion themselves.

When it came to the weather, they would see the signs and make the correct, logical conclusion, but they were not making the logical conclusion that the Messiah had arrived and His kingdom was coming.

Thus, the Lord rebuked this large crowd, calling them hypocrites and telling them that they could discern the sky and the earth, "but how is it that ye do not discern this time?" (v. 56 cf. Luke 19:41-44).

They did not see or realize the pivotal time which had arrived in Israel's history, the time of their Messiah's visitation. This

was Israel's day, the time of her people's greatest blessing and special opportunity with her Messiah's presence among them. And the people and their leaders had all the light they needed to know that it was Him, yet they chose to reject Him.



So again, like the signs of a cloud in the west or a south wind predicted future weather, the Lord warned them that their present rejection of Him would lead to future *judgment*.

LOCAL NEWS

"There were present at that season some that told Him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:1-5).

Next, the Lord was told by some in the large crowd about "the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had

mingled with their sacrifices.” For reasons unknown to us, Pilate, the governor of Judea, had cruelly ordered the slaying of some Galileans who had come to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. This was done while they were offering their sacrifices, and their blood was mingled with the blood of the animals that they were offering. The Lord used this tragedy to remind Israel of their need to “repent” of their rejection of Him, lest they “perish” and suffer a worse tragedy.

Then Christ reminded the crowd of the collapse of a tower supporting an aqueduct by the pool of Siloam in Jerusalem which caused the death of eighteen persons. The Lord emphasized that these catastrophes should not be interpreted as God’s special judgment on those people for their sins and wickedness and that they were not worse sinners than others. All those who were listening to Him were also sinners, individually, and worthy of God’s judgment.

Thus, the Lord said, “Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (vv. 3,5). Each person individually needed to repent and believe in Christ as the Messiah and the Son of God, so that they would not perish eternally in their sins.

However, it’s important to remember that God’s dealings with Israel were primarily national in nature. Thus, when the Lord said, “Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall ALL likewise perish,” He is speaking to Israel *nationally*. Israel, as a whole, had rejected her Messiah and was guilty. And the Lord challenged that large crowd and all Israel to repent, and told them that unless they repented and had a change of heart and mind and accepted Him as their Messiah, they would “ALL likewise perish.”

The collective sin of Israel in their rejection of their Messiah put the people in danger of a national calamity. Christ warned Israel of the inevitable future that was coming if she and her leaders continued in their unbelief.

BREAKING NEWS

“He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?” (Luke 13:6-7).

Next, the Lord told this large crowd a parable, which taught

“Acts chapter 1 through Acts chapter 7...is a one-year time period, the one more year that Christ asked that the Father give the nation of Israel.”

Acts

Matthew 24:1-28

17 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile.¹⁸ When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying.
Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the Zealot) and Judas (son of James).¹⁹ They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.
²⁰ During this time, when about 120 believers

Israel about her future. After the warning that unless Israel repented, they would all perish, the parable gave the reason repentance was vital for Israel: judgment was nearer than they

thereby restore his good standing with God. The only legitimate religion in all of human history was the law of Moses, with its sacrificial system that atoned for and covered Israel's sins.



realized! This parable clearly depicts the nation of Israel on the edge of judgment, and God as merciful in allowing the nation one final chance to respond to Christ in faith.

The parable begins by referring to “a certain man” that “had a fig tree planted in his vineyard.” The “certain man” in the story is the owner of the vineyard and represents God the Father.

The fig tree and the vineyard in the parable are both symbols of Israel in Scripture. Putting these two symbols together, we find that the parable is teaching about the *spiritual* condition (fig tree, Hos. 9:10) within the house of Israel (the vineyard, Isa. 5:7).

The fig tree is a symbol of religious Israel. You'll remember that, after Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, they tried to cover their nakedness and sin with fig leaves (Gen. 3:7). And that's what the definition of religion is: man's attempt, by his own efforts, to cover up his sin and

During Christ's earthly ministry, He lived and ministered under the law (Gal. 4:4), and He kept it perfectly. The fig tree represents the religion of Israel and their spiritual state under the law of Moses during the time of Christ's ministry.

At that time, the Lord stated in the parable that the owner of the vineyard, or God the Father, “came and sought fruit thereon, and found none” (Luke 13:6). The ultimate purpose of a fig tree is to bear fruit. And from the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry, God the Father sought spiritual fruit from Israel.

The parable shows that this fig tree had a favored position. It was in an ideal place for a fig tree. It had been planted in a vineyard, where the soil was especially rich for the grapes within it. And this tree also had the watchful care of a vineyard-keeper (v. 7). The tree was protected and well-watered, and the conditions were ideal for it to

bear fruit. This was to remind Israel that they lived under *ideal* spiritual conditions to bear fruit unto God (Rom. 3:1-2; 9:4-5).

Fig trees have relatively large leaves which tend to obscure their fruit so that one must come close and look carefully for the fruit to find it. And in the parable, the certain man “sought fruit” on the fig tree. Unfortunately, the leaves did not obscure the fruit, because there was none to be found. Because of their favored position and ideal spiritual conditions, especially with His Son ministering right then among them, God the Father *expected* to find spiritual fruit in Israel, but He “found none.”

God the Father patiently waited and sought spiritual fruit in Israel for the three years of His Son’s earthly ministry, but the nation did not produce fruit. Israel was all leaves with no fruit, external performance with no spiritual life. As a whole, they were not believing, just, true, faithful, or loving toward God or their neighbor. There were no fruits of righteousness or “fruits worthy of repentance” (Luke 3:8).

The “certain man” then spoke to the dresser of his vineyard, the one whose duty was to trim the vines and care for the vineyard. Christ is represented by the vineyard-keeper. The vinedresser worked in the vineyard, that is, the house of Israel, and personally cared for the nation. Christ was sent by the Father to the vineyard of Israel (Matt. 15:24), and He worked in that vineyard for the three years during which the Father came seeking fruit on the fig tree.

The “certain man” talking to the vineyard-keeper is God the Father speaking to God the Son. And the Father told the Son that because He didn’t find any fruit on this fig tree for these three years that He should “cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?” (Luke 13:7).



Because of its fruitlessness, God advised that the fig tree be cut down. It was cumbering the ground, meaning that it was occupying ground that could be used more productively. It was depleting the soil, taking up room, and blocking the sunlight; it needed to be removed.

CONTINUING COVERAGE

“And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down” (Luke 13:8-9).

Very much like Moses, who previously interceded for Israel when God was ready to judge her, so the Son interceded for Israel. The vinedresser, Christ, proposed giving the fig tree *one more year* to bear fruit. During that time, Christ said He would “dig about it,” or loosen, break up, and cultivate the soil around the

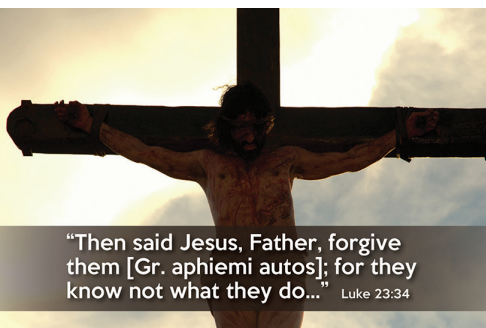
tree, and He would “dung it” or fertilize the tree.

Christ appealed to the longsuffering of God and asked that Israel be given another chance and one more year to accept Him as her Messiah after the three years of His earthly ministry.

And then the vinedresser said, “And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down” (v. 9). The Son told the Father that if at the end of the one year it was still fruitless and in unbelief, then He could cut it down.

Israel was to be given *one more year* to respond in faith toward Christ. If she did, this would result in spiritual life and fruit for the fig tree. But if she failed to respond and accept Christ as her Messiah, this would result in her being cut down in God’s judgment.

At the end of the three years of Christ’s earthly ministry, we know that Israel’s rejection of our Lord led to His crucifixion. At the Cross, He graciously interceded on behalf of Israel and said,



“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). The Father responded to His Son’s prayer and forgave Israel for rejecting His Son and

crucifying Him, affording them the additional opportunity of one more year to receive Christ as their Messiah.

When the Father was prepared to cut down the fig tree of Israel in her unbelief, the Son interceded and requested of the Father, “Lord, let it alone this year also.” And here is something fascinating. The Greek words, *aphiemi autos*, translated as “let it alone” in Luke 13:8, are often translated as “forgive” in Scripture. And when Christ prayed from the Cross, “Father, *forgive them*; for they know not what they do,” the words “forgive them” are the *same* Greek words, *aphiemi autos*, translated in Luke 13:8 as “let it alone.”

At the Cross, Christ was telling the Father to forgive them, to let the fig tree alone, don’t cut them down, give them another chance, give them one more year to believe.

After Christ ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit was sent to Israel. And the cultivating and fertilizing work was then done through the Spirit. The Holy Spirit dug around the fig tree of religious Israel and fertilized it, stirring up the nation, powerfully working by signs and wonders, bearing witness to Christ’s resurrection and His identity. This work of the Holy Spirit was done for the purpose of persuading Israel to accept Jesus of Nazareth as her Messiah (Acts 2:22-38; 3:13-26).

Acts chapter 1 through Acts chapter 7, between Christ’s resurrection and the stoning of Stephen, is a one-year time period, the one more year that Christ

asked the Father to give the nation of Israel. At the end of that one year, Israel, nationally, remained in her unbelief, and the fig tree of Israel still had not produced the spiritual fruit of faith in Christ.

Stephen, a man full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5,8), then stood before Israel's religious leaders and his powerful words cut them to the heart as he convicted them of being the betrayers and murderers of the Just One, Jesus Christ (7:51-54). Stephen looked up and saw "Jesus standing on the right hand of God," standing in judgment which was to be poured out against the nation (7:55-56). Hearing this, these leaders rushed together upon him in their rage, grabbed Stephen, cast him out of the city, and stoned him with their own hands (7:57-60).

It was at this point, at the end of the one additional year, that God cut the fig tree down. Israel was cut down, and her fall was to result in judgment and being cast into the fire of the Tribulation (Luke 3:9). At that point, the next thing on God's prophetic timeline was the vengeance and wrath foretold in Luke 21:

"For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled... for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles..." (Luke 21:22-24).

The Lord's prophecy in Luke 21 was *not* fulfilled in the destruction of the temple in AD 70.

This prophesied judgment was to be fulfilled during the Great Tribulation. This 70th week of Daniel was the next prophesied event after Israel was cut down because of her unbelief—but it didn't take place. Why?

SPECIAL REPORT

"If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery... Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men...And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God..." (Eph. 3:2,3,5,9).

At the stoning of Stephen, Israel fell, was set aside in unbelief, but the prophetic clock was put on *pause*. It temporarily stopped

Pause



running because God interrupted His prophetic program with Israel with the dispensation of the grace of God. Thus, the Tribulation period was temporarily suspended, and the promised Kingdom was temporarily postponed.

Instead of the cutting down of Israel resulting in the judgments of the Tribulation, it resulted in God turning to the nations to have


a program with us, the Gentiles (Rom. 11:11). For that purpose, God raised up the Apostle Paul, saved him by His grace, and called him to be the apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13; 15:16).

The dispensation of grace was something that God said *nothing* about until He raised up Paul and revealed it to him first. It had been “hid in God” (Eph. 3:9) and “in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men” (v. 5). For nearly 2000 years this dispensation of grace has continued, and we continue to live in this dispensation to this very moment.

To Paul, Christ revealed this dispensation of grace, along with its Church, the Body of Christ, its gospel of grace that salvation is by faith *alone*, our heavenly hope and calling today, and Christ’s office and position as the Head of the Church. And we must look to Paul to find God’s will and instructions for the Church under grace.

Christ also made known to Paul the truth of the Rapture of the

Body of Christ (1 Cor. 15:51-53). It is this event, the catching away of the Church to heaven, that will bring this dispensation to a close. Following the Rapture, God will pick up right where He left off with Israel, and God will pour out His wrath on this world in the Tribulation, and He will chasten and bring to pass the prophesied judgment upon Israel.

Any and every day now the Rapture could take place, and then the world will be plunged into the darkness of those seven years of judgment. In light of the sobering truth that we live among people who could be suddenly thrust into that day of God’s vengeance, may we “not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober...putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (1 Thes. 5:6,8). 

1. T. Michael Crews, “Wrong Turns, Wrong Roads, And Dead Ends,” Sermon Central, December 2, 2006, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/wrong-turns-wrong-roads-and-dead-ends-t-michael-crews-sermon-on-finding-fulfillment-98994>.



Grace Believers Conference

August 5-6, 2023

Location: Croton Community Church
5750 Wealthy St., Newaygo, Michigan

Speakers: Pastor Kevin Sadler, Pastor Jeff Seekins and more!

Contact: Pastor Matt Ritchey at 616-552-2959
or pastorritchey@aol.com

Question Box

“What are the promises of God that are yea and amen in 2 Corinthians 1:20?”

Under the law, God’s promises were *conditional*. He told His people in Israel that He would bless them *if* they obeyed Him (Lev. 26; Deut. 28). But God’s promises to us under grace are *unconditional*. They are yea and amen. And the answer to the question of what those promises *are* is found in the background of Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 1:20.

You see, there were some in Corinth who were judging Paul personally, questioning his authority as an apostle (1 Cor. 4:1-17), and boasting that he would never return to Corinth to shut them up (v. 18). He responded by assuring them that he would come “shortly, if the Lord will” (v. 19). When he didn’t keep that promise as swiftly as his detractors thought he should, they accused him of making promises using “lightness” (2 Cor. 1:17), and not taking his word seriously. He replied by saying,

“But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay” (v. 18).

Here he was reminding them that his promise to return to Corinth was found in an epistle that their prophets (cf. 1 Cor. 12:28) had already identified as part of the inspired Word of God (cf. 1 Cor. 14:37), and there is nothing light about the promises found in God’s Word. “As God is true,” every promise found in His Word is also true, for He wrote the Book.

So Paul’s promise to return to them was as inspired of God as the promise that the Lord will return for us at the Rapture (1 Thes. 4:15-17), a promise that *Paul* made us “by the word *of the Lord*” (v. 15). Paul eventually *did* return to Corinth, and the Lord will someday return for us. That’s one of the promises of God that are yea and amen.

Others are found when we compare how Paul told the Corinthians he was minded to return to Corinth, as he told them, “that ye might have a second benefit” (2 Cor. 1:15). We already have “all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3), so the only second benefit we could possibly experience would be to get raptured and physically *occupy* those heavenly places. Once we arrive there, God’s additional promise that “we shall judge angels” (1 Cor. 6:3) from those high places in the government of heaven will also come to fruition. Bless God, those promises too are “yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us” (2 Cor. 1:20).

—Pastor Kurth



GRANDMOTHER *to* MOTHER

Train Up a Child....

Recently at bedtime, my two-year-old granddaughter Emmie prayed with her father, “Thank you for my bed, and for time out, and for mommy talking with me, and for the library, and for zebras.” We all will no doubt smile at the cuteness of this prayer, the simplicity and honesty of a child’s heart. At two years old, Emmie had many things on her mind; I counted five in that quick prayer! Yet, I want to consider the two that were tucked in the middle: time out and mommy talking with me.

Children need and even desire direction, correction, protection, and boundaries. At two, Emmie is probably not thinking about this, yet she is expressing thankfulness for these things. She knows her mommy loves her, and that her parents are the authority over her. She is being trained in the ways of the Lord and her expression of prayer shows thankfulness for these things! She is not fearful, rebellious, angry or sad over correction, but is thankful for it. Emmie’s home has godly order, God first, parents, then children. It is not centered on children, but on the biblical model shown from the beginning; the parents are one (Gen. 2:24); the child is under the parents’ authority.

We recognize the opposite in a child-centered home. From Lou Priolo’s, *The Heart of Anger*, page 24, “A child-centered home is one where a child is allowed to commit the following indiscretions:

- Interrupt adults when they are talking
- Use manipulation and rebellion to get their way
- Dictate family schedules (including mealtimes, bedtimes, etc.)
- Take precedence over the needs of the spouse
- Have an equal or overriding vote in all decision-making matters
- Demand excessive time and attention from parents to the detriment of the other biblical responsibilities of the parents
- Escape the consequences of their sinful and irresponsible behavior
- Speak to parents as though they were peers
- Be the dominant influence in the home
- Be entertained and coddled (rather than disciplined) out of a bad mood.”

Children need to understand that they are sinners (Rom. 3:23), yet know God’s grace; “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). This begins with biblical correction, rebuke, instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16). Parents, I urge you to train up your child in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6).

—Valerie Hosfeld



Ananias Passes the Test!

PASTOR RICKY KURTH
Berean Searchlight Co-Editor

After a boy got a failing grade on a test, he said to his teacher, “I don’t think I deserve this F.” The teacher replied, “I don’t think you deserve it either, but it’s the lowest grade I can give you.”

As you know, there are times in the Christian life when *our faith* is tested. We find a good example of this in a man named Ananias. Right after Saul of Tarsus was saved on the road to Damascus, he continued down the road to Damascus,

“And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord...go...and enquire...for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming...that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard...how much evil he hath done to Thy saints at Jerusalem” (Acts 9:10-13).

Ananias knew the kind of *murderous monster* Saul was, so he knew what the Lord was asking him to do. It would be like if you were a Jewish ophthalmologist in 1944, and the Lord asked you to drop in on Adolf Hitler to help him regain his sight, so he could *kill you* after you helped him, and then continue to exterminate the rest of your race.

But Ananias *passed the test!* He did what the Lord asked and went to help Saul (Acts 9:17).

How the Spiritual Half Lives

If you’re wondering if *you* could pass a test like that, let me let you in on his secret. Paul later described Ananias as “a *devout* man” (Acts 22:12), and that word “devout” is a synonym of the word *devoted*. And to *devote* something means to take something that belongs to you and say, “*This belongs to the Lord,*” as we see in the Bible’s first use of this word in Leviticus 27:16,21, where it says that

“...if a man shall sanctify unto the LORD *some part of a field of his possession...*it...shall be holy unto the LORD, as a field *devoted...*”

That's talking about taking a field that you own, and can do whatever you want with it, and devoting it *to the Lord*, to do whatever *He* wants with it instead. That means a devout *man* is a man who knows that *his life* is his to do whatever he wants with it, but instead he devotes it *to the Lord* to do whatever *He* wants with it.

And that's the secret of Ananias's success. That's how he was able to pass the biggest test of faith in his life. Before it came, *he'd already decided* that his life was the Lord's to do whatever He wanted with it. So when this severe test of his faith came, he passed it with flying colors.

Now how about you? I don't care how old you are, the biggest test of faith in your life *might still be ahead of you*. And whether you get an F on that test or pass it with flying colors like Ananias did depends on whether you devote yourself to the Lord *before* your faith is sorely tested.

Our faith gets tested when the Lord asks us to do hard things, like when we have to accept the diagnosis of a terminal illness, or accept the loss of a child, and countless other things. When things like that happen, don't you want to be able to do what God asks as readily as Ananias did? Don't you want to be able to pass those tests of faith by remembering that God's grace is sufficient even in times of such *extreme* adversity?



If you think you might need a little help preparing for such tests of faith, let's read more about how Ananias was able to pass his life's biggest exam.

He Who Fails to Prepare Prepares to Fail

When Ananias found Saul, he found that he was *praying*. That's probably what you did after you got saved as well.

And I hope you never stopped! I say that because sometimes when grace believers learn God is not answering prayers like He used to, in miraculous, supernatural ways, they sometimes stop praying. God is still answering prayer! He just does it by working through His Word, as it works in the hearts and lives of His people. This isn't any less miraculous, when you consider how selfish and self-absorbed people can be—even *God's* people. And being a prayerful believer is as important as being a devout believer when it comes to preparing for life's tests of faith.

I've seen some *amazing* answers to prayer in my life, and you will too if you do what Paul says and pray "without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17). The reason Paul had to write that is that he *knew* grace believers would

tend to forsake prayer. But you can't give up on prayer and still claim you follow Paul as he followed Christ. There are so many prayers of Paul recorded in the Scriptures that whole books have been written about them. So if you want to be like Paul, you have to pray without ceasing. If you fail to prepare for the sore tests of life by becoming a prayerful Christian, you're preparing to fail those tests. If you only pray when you're in trouble, *you're in trouble*.

A Tight Spot

Now if you stop and think about it, the Lord was really putting Ananias on the spot. Did you notice the Lord didn't tell him, "I told Saul that *some guy* was coming to restore his sight"? He said, "I told Saul that *a guy named Ananias* was coming to restore his sight." That means God made Ananias an offer he couldn't refuse—because if he *did* refuse it, it's not like the Lord could send some guy named Bubba to restore his sight. God would have had to break His word to do that.¹

Now that's different than how the Lord asks *us* to do things in His Word. He doesn't say to me, "I told the people of Steger, Illinois that Pastor Ricky Kurth would be My ambassador." If He did, and I refused to be, He couldn't send anyone else! So instead, He calls on *all of us* to be His ambassadors. And if we all refuse Him, then God doesn't get represented in the cities and towns in which we live.

You see, God's not going to employ some miraculous means to direct someone to represent Him in areas where others won't, like He did with Philip under the kingdom program. When the spiritual leaders in Jerusalem failed to represent God to the Ethiopian eunuch when he went there to worship God, the Spirit directed Philip to Gaza (Acts 8:26), and told him to approach the eunuch's chariot (v. 29). Then "the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip...and...Philip was found at Azotus" (vv. 39,40), where he ministered to others.

As you can see, under the kingdom dispensation, God was still telling His representatives where to go *using an audible voice*, and whisking them around to selected areas to preach—whether they wanted to go or not! When this kind of thing happened to the prophet Ezekiel under the law, he got a little hot under the collar about it (Ezek. 3:14). But under grace, God is not going to do that *to you* if some other saint doesn't want to go and be His ambassador to people. There's been a dispensational change under grace!


With Great Faith Comes Great Boldness

Now I've been talking about how great it is that Ananias passed the test of his faith so gloriously. But there's something else about him that I personally think is pretty great. And that is: before he

1. The brilliance of the Lord's glory had blinded Saul on Damascus Road.

obeyed the Lord and went to see Saul, *he talked to the Lord about it first*, and voiced his objections to the Lord's command that he pay a visit to a man who might kill him. I don't believe he was being unspiritual in doing that. He was just being *human*.

When you're reading God's Word, and He asks you to do something you find hard to do, like accept the unfathomable loss of a child, you're not being unspiritual to voice your objections and tell Him why you don't think you can pass that severe test of faith. God understands. It's one of the reasons He invented prayer in the first place, so you could pour your heart out to Him and boldly tell Him how you feel about the things He says to you in His Word. The only reason to feel badly is if eventually you don't do what Ananias did and obey the Lord.

But examples of passing spiritual tests like Ananias won't do you a bit of good unless you *follow* their examples. In this case, that would include becoming a prayerful believer in advance, and resolving to obey the Lord no matter what He asks you to do. Don't prepare to fail life's future tests of your faith by failing to prepare in these crucial areas of your Christian life. 



A Tireless Laborer Is At Rest

When I asked Les Feldick if he would schedule a Bible conference at my little church back in 2011, he said, "I'll be glad to. But Ricky, I'm 82 years old, and anything can happen to me that might cause me to have to cancel." Nothing did, and about a dozen people who attended that conference later joined my church. Then, when nothing happened to Les for many years after that, he continued to tour and strengthen churches with effort that seemed positively indefatigable for a man his age.

The humble man you see on TV is the man that he was. When I took Les to a nice restaurant for dinner, he took one look at the prices and split a meal with Iris so I wouldn't spend so much money on them. And people were always surprised when they called *Les Feldick Ministries* and Les himself answered the phone. Yet God used this humble rancher, who never attended Bible school, to lead untold numbers of people to Christ, and open the eyes of understanding of countless others to "the revelation of the mystery."

As we pray that God will comfort Les's family in the wake of his homegoing, let's also pray that He continues to use his recorded messages in ways that will eclipse what he was even able to achieve in life. —Pastor Kurth

Take a Seat



PASTOR DON HOSFELD
Berean Searchlight Co-Editor

“Location, location, location.” Most of us have heard of this iconic phrase used to describe the three most important factors in determining the desirability of real estate, but the truth of this precept extends even to heaven itself.

During Jesus’ trial, Pontius Pilate asked Him: “Whence art thou?” (John 19:9). The question followed Pilate being told by “the Jews” that Jesus “made Himself the Son of God” (v. 7). He was essentially asking Jesus where He came from. We are left to speculate if Pilate asked anything else immediately prior to this question, but it is interesting that the question here is not who are you, but *where are you from?*

We know from Luke 23:6 that Pilate already heard that Jesus was from Galilee. So why ask *where* He was from? The question is remarkably astute. Maybe the simplest way to determine someone’s identity is to discover where they are from.

It was common, if not expected, where I grew up for people to ask, “What high school did you attend?” It’s such a common ques-

tion in and around St. Louis that people laugh about the excessive use. People ask this question to establish an identity of that person. It seems that Pilate may have had the same idea.

A Basis for Blessings

Understanding our new identity may be the single most important lesson for a new believer to grasp. So many of the issues people have in their daily walk would likely be resolved if they simply knew *and applied* who they were *in Christ*.

Understanding our identity is so vital that it’s probably why Ephesians may be my favorite book. For it’s in this book that God makes clear both the riches of His grace and the true identity of every believer. As Pastor Paul Sadler said in the preface of his commentary *Paul’s Epistles to the Ephesians*, “The *Book of Ephesians* has been called the Alps of the Pauline Epistles. It most assuredly brings us to the pinnacle of Body truth where the doctrines of *grace* might be viewed in their fullest sense.”

Writing Ephesians while a prisoner of Rome, we can only wonder

if Paul thought his time was short or believed he had years left, but the not-so-stable Nero was the emperor, so it would be reasonable for him to expect he would be sentenced to death rather than set free. It's also reasonable to believe that the church in Ephesus held a special place for Paul. Of course, he was committed to all the churches, but this is a church he established, and as we learn in Acts 20, he spent three years speaking publicly and going "house to house" (v. 20), and he "ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." (v. 31). And it is this group of elders from Ephesus that Paul determined to see before going to Jerusalem, knowing that once there "bonds and afflictions" awaited him (v. 23).



Anyone who has spent years ministering to a group can attest that leaving is difficult, and I expect Paul was no different. So, with all this in mind, it's not surprising that the apostle wastes little time establishing a theme for this book—that we have been blessed “with all spiritual blessings *in heavenly places in Christ*” (Eph. 1:3). This verse doesn't just tell us the type of blessings we have—spiritual

instead of physical. It also tells us that, unlike the nation of Israel, the blessings for the Body of Christ are *in heaven and in Christ*. Unlike Israel's blessings which were based on covenants, our blessings are not (cf. Eph. 2:11-12). The blessings for the Body of Christ are based on identity (being in Christ) and location (in the heavenlies).

Who Are You?

You're likely familiar with the question, “What would you say if God were to ask you why He should let you into heaven.” What would be your answer? Is it because of the religious work you have done? Is it because you believed the gospel? Not to be controversial, but neither of those would be my answer. Yes, the gospel is “the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom. 1:16). Let me be clear, there is no salvation without believing the gospel, but what does God do *to* and *for* “who-soever” believes?

The answer is that He makes us new. We are placed *in Christ*; we have a new identity, and that is why my answer to why I should be allowed into heaven is this: *because I am in Christ*. While so many suffer the needless worry about their salvation, knowing that you are identified with Christ is how you may have the “full assurance” Paul speaks of in Colossians 2:2.

Our salvation is eternal, not because Christ will never let us slip through His hands, but because we are *His hands*. We are part of *His body*. Is there any chance that He will cut off His hands? No!

We are “holy and without blame before Him” because He chose us “*in Him*” (Eph 1:4) and predetermined that those *in Him* would receive “the adoption of children by Jesus Christ” (v. 5). One of the definitions of “by” is *through*—denoting the agent. Jesus is not simply the reason but also the method by which we receive the adoption. What Christ did on the cross and with the resurrection is the *reason* God gives us “the adoption,” placing us *in* His Son is *how* He does it—hence by or *through* Jesus Christ. Paul continues this extraordinary lesson on our position and identification:

- ***Wherein*** *He hath made us accepted in the beloved...*” (v. 6).
- ***In Whom*** *we have redemption through His blood...*” (v. 7).
- ***Wherein*** *He hath abounded toward us...*” (v. 8).
- ***In Whom*** *also we have obtained an inheritance...*” (v. 11).

Knowing Makes a Difference

So, it’s not surprising that Paul then tells the Ephesians that his prayer for them is

“That...the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and *revelation* in the *knowledge* of Him: The eyes of your *understanding* being enlightened; that ye may *know* what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe,

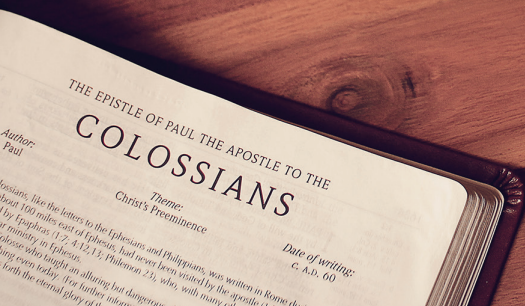
according to the working of His mighty power...” (Eph. 1:17-19).

In other words, Paul wants believers to know who they are and what that means. *Knowing* our position in Christ is essential to a victorious life. How can “the grace of God that bringeth salvation” *teach us* (Titus 2:11-12) if we don’t understand that grace? If “knowledge is power,” then how do we describe the enormity of *foreknowledge*?

I recall reading about somebody’s experience watching the Olympics; they wrote: “I will never forget the 1980 Olympics hockey match between the U.S. team—composed of small, young, amateur players—and the Soviets. During the final period, I was literally on the edge of my seat. I felt all the agony and anxiety of the contest as I watched it on television—and then suddenly, we scored to go ahead late in the game! Can we hang on? I was tense, nervous, and traumatized.



“Our team went on to win, and at last, I was ecstatic. Later that night, the network broadcast a replay of the game, so I invited some friends over to watch it. I watched the same game again, but was I on the edge of my seat?



“While so many suffer the needless worry about their salvation, knowing that you are identified with Christ is how you may have the ‘full assurance’ Paul speaks of in Colossians 2:2.”

Of course not. I sat back, propped up my feet, had a bowl of popcorn, and leisurely sipped a cola. I was watching the very same game—but what I knew about the outcome made a radical difference in my attitude and actions.”

When we *know* who we are in Christ, it can make a radical difference in our lives. I like to tell people that being a Christian means *knowing* some things. It appears from Scripture that the Apostle Paul spent as much time, if not more, working to increase the knowledge of saved individuals as he did in sharing the gospel with the unsaved. We don’t have to speculate why.

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Col. 1:9-10).

Before and After

And so here, in this Epistle to the Ephesians, Paul has made known to the church the Body of Christ, not just what God has done for us but *who we are and what that means*. In chapter 2, verses

1-10, Paul describes the believer **before Christ** (vv. 1-3), “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world,” **after Christ** (vv. 4-6): “But God... hath quickened us together *with Christ*.... And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” **and why** (vv. 7-10): “That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us, *through Christ Jesus*.... For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

The moment someone believes the gospel, God sanctifies them; He sets them apart as His. Wouldn’t it be nice if that act was enough to cause us to walk perfectly? But the reality is that there is a difference between our *standing* and our *state*, between positional and practical sanctification. Paul could open his letter to the carnal believers in Corinth, “to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus” (1 Cor. 1:2), and tell them, “ye are sanctified” (1 Cor. 6:11), and still remind the believer of his need to set himself apart from the sins of the world—“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication” (1 Thes. 4:3 cf. Col. 3:9-10).

Where Are You From?

Romans 6 gives a detailed account of how the believer is to “walk in newness of life.” Verse 11 says, “*Reckon* ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God *through* Jesus Christ our Lord.” We are identified with His death, but just as Jesus lives today, we are also identified with His resurrected life. And *where IS* Christ?

According to Acts 2:34, Christ sat on the right hand of God when He ascended; Hebrews 1:3 says He “sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Sitting on the right hand is a place of honor. We see a wonderful example when Solomon honored his mother, Bathsheba. As she approached him, “The king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king’s mother; and she sat on his right hand” (1 Kings 2:19).

During His trial, Jesus told—maybe we should say *warned*—the High Priest and the council, “And ye shall see the Son of man *sitting on the right hand of power*, and coming in the clouds of heaven.” (Mk. 14:62 cf. Lk. 22:69).

The right hand is a place of authority, power, and privilege that only the “most high” can grant access to. And Paul describes for us here in Ephesians what sitting at God’s right-hand looks like.

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:19-21). He’s not just above all principality, power, might, and dominion; He’s “far” above them. It’s the place He deserves. It’s also, and undeservedly so, where we’ve been placed. Just as Ephesians 2:6 tells us that God “raised us up together, and *made us* sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

I don’t think the picture here is like the maître d’ who takes reservations and invites the customer to a seat. It’s more like being *told* to take a seat. I can recall a few moments in my life when a coach or teacher *made* me sit down, and they didn’t ask my opinion on the matter. Can you imagine if it were up to us whether we would sit down with Christ? Much like the saying, “If you could lose your salvation, you would,” if God hadn’t “made us sit,” we’d probably have refused to do so.




Sitting signifies a finished and completed work. Our salvation, justification, identification, etc. are all finished—there is nothing left to be done. We don’t need to

seek those things. Just as Paul reminded the Colossians.

Chapter 2 concludes with Paul chastising them for following the “doctrines of men” and religion. He then says, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:1-3).

What are your concerns? Are they earthly or heavenly? As parents, we too often teach our kids to concern themselves with earthly issues instead of heavenly ones. Maybe that’s why God invented us grandparents! What would you say if Pilate asked you where you are from?

If you’re a believer, you have been *made to* “sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” who is “on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” 

EPISODE 300

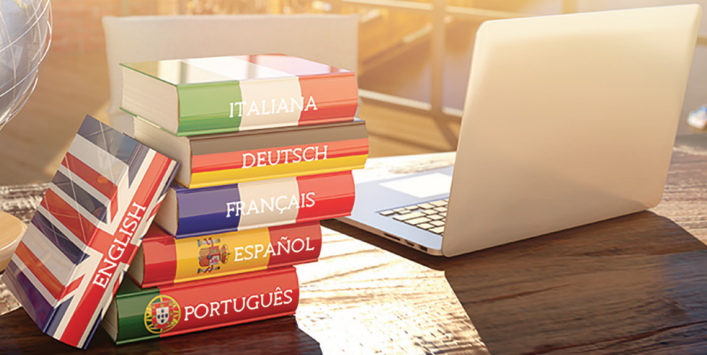
A Milestone for Transformed by Grace

As the Apostle Paul traveled the road from city to city, transforming lives by proclaiming God’s message of grace, it would be routine for him to pass one milestone after another. And we are excited that *Transformed by Grace* has also reached another milestone with the 300th episode. So, as Paul asked of the Thesalonians, we ask that you “pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course.”

Coming to a Language for You!

Closed captioning for all *Transformed by Grace* episodes will be translated into the following languages:

- Hindi
- Simplified Chinese
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- Indonesian
- German
- Swahili
- Filipino
- Arabic
- Dutch
- Burmese





Turning the World Right-Side Up!

“And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also” (Acts 17:6).

Without meaning to, a rioting mob of unbelieving Thessalonians paid the greatest of compliments when they described Paul, Silas, and Timothy as men who had “turned the world upside down.” As one commentator wrote, “God willing and blessing, people would say such things about the effectiveness of Christians today.”¹ The world *needs* to be turned upside down.

How can a few men turn the world upside down? All they did was bring good news to others. They had no power in themselves, but they did have a powerful message, a gospel that “is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom. 1:16). They had a message of a Savior Who came to this world to pay the price for all our sins by His death and to defeat death by rising from the grave. All these men did was talk about Christ wherever they went, and because of people responding in faith and being given true hope and being transformed by God’s grace, the world was turned upside down.

The irony is that, as they faithfully proclaimed the gospel of Christ, these men of God were actually turning the world right-side up! But when one is upside down, right-side up appears to be upside down. When sin and the curse entered the world, the world was instantly turned upside down. Sin deceives, and unbelievers think their version of the world is right-side up, when in fact it is upside down in the sight of a holy and righteous God.

The world thinking the world is right-side up is due to “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart” (Eph. 4:18). But after we trust the gospel of the grace of God, the Holy Spirit, by His Word, changes our thinking, values, and morality to be in line with God and His standards. As a result, the world views believers as strange, different, and upside-down, when in truth, we have been turned right-side up by Christ!

The gospel of grace revolutionized and upset the world as the Thessalonians knew it, but it did so for the eternal best. The gospel is what this upside-down world needs. It is God’s way of making things right. —Pastor Kevin Sadler

1. David Guzik, Enduring Word, <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/acts-17/>.

BBS Letter Excerpts



From North Dakota:

"We are so excited about the publication of the *Grace Study Bible*, so therefore we would like to donate to that project. When we are finally able to hold that precious Bible in our hands, it will give us GREAT joy to know that we were a part of it through this donation. We plan to purchase additional Bibles that can be given away to friends and family. We can't wait!!!"

From our Inbox:

"*Transformed By Grace* is one of the best Christian programs available today! Each teaching is so rich with Scriptures, rightly divided, to help with studying God's Word...God's way. I'm so grateful for this program and Pastor Sadler, who teaches it. Thank you!!!"

From Arizona:

"Give my most sincere appreciation to Pastor Kevin. I so appreciate his wonderful work that he is doing for the Lord. Thank you for your program and the literature you put out."

From Myanmar:

"Please extend our thanksgiving to the BBS for the *Searchlight* that they send to us monthly. We just received a copy of it last Friday. Our local workers and some members who can read English are so blessed to have them. It helps us a lot to know more about the goodness and faithfulness of God and the right teaching for this dispensation of grace."

From our Inbox:

"I am happy to receive your e-mail and very encouraged by the article.... It is a delight to be reassured in our standing before God....May I one day learn how to rightly divide the Word of truth and be surely free. For now, I still walk on eggshells, hoping not to do harm to myself by breaking a command and displeasing the Lord. Thank you for your insight and patience." (Pray for this brother!-Ed.)

From Tennessee:

"Brother Sadler, I appreciate the clarity with which you teach and the demeanor in which you deliver your teaching. I watch you on DISH 262 with my wife, and we enjoy the teachings greatly."

From West Virginia:

"I have appreciated your TV program and the good grace teachings you bring forth to a truth-starved audience....God bless you, Pastor Kevin, and all. Keep on preaching and teaching the riches of grace and don't ever give in or give up, not for anyone or anything."

From Illinois:

"Up there in Wisconsin, you're teaching the Word right."

From Arizona:

"Pastor Ricky, and Pastor Don, thank you for coming to our small Arizona fellowship. We were blessed and look forward to another conference next year if the Lord tarries."

From YouTube:

"You are hands down the BEST! You are the ONLY one I know who teaches TRUTH. You have all the qualities of a truly Godly man! The way you talk, your voice, and joy make listening so tranquil; I could listen all day. Thank you, thank you."

From Nova Scotia:

"This Rapture series 'Are You Rapture Ready' is such beautiful teachings. Thank you, Pastor Kevin!"

From Facebook:

"What a wonderful episode 'Today, Shalt Thou Be with Me in Paradise!'"

From Arizona:

"My wife and I watch *Transformed By Grace* with Pastor Kevin Sadler on CNT Dish Network. The Bible is becoming clearer."

From Illinois:

"I find your *Transformed By Grace* programs most helpful....I first heard of you back in 2011 at one of your seminars in Steger, Illinois. Les Feldick spoke there. Rightly dividing the Word of truth just opens up the Bible to a believer like me for greater knowledge and understanding of Scripture!"

From Wyoming:

"Prior to last year, I might have read 3 books in the last 15 years. I think this book is the 6th so far this year. All books from your *BBS* ministry! The other thing I'm going to make my mission is to have others come with me to Tipp City, Ohio, for the much anticipated Summer conference. We'll see who joins me there." (We hope to see you all there! -Ed.)

From Florida:

"Please apply this to either the Bible or Video fund, whichever you think is in more need. We continue our prayers and support."

From Colorado:

"Pastor Kevin, I enjoy your preaching and look forward to your jokes! Keep up the good work for the Lord!"

From Kentucky:

"I appreciate all you do to further my understanding of God's Word. I'm 77 years old and have learned so much from Les Feldick's ministry (10 years of watching) and now from your ministry (5 years)....I brought my sister on board from the beginning, and now we feel ready to attempt a Bible study with our other three siblings and cousins....We both feel that with the Holy Spirit's blessing and your program, we can successfully lead our family to salvation."

From Minnesota:

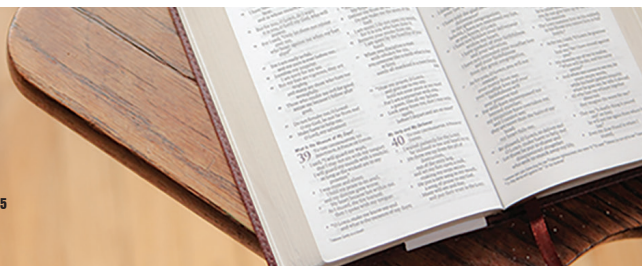
"Thank you for the *Berean Searchlight*. I now have a smartphone and found your app. I'm able to listen to your sermons while driving and doing other things. They always have something to cause me to learn more."

From North Carolina:

"Your *More Minutes With the Bible* message 'You've Got To Stand For Something, Part 1' is wonderful! So timely and full of excellent details from the Word. I was a truly 'ignorant freshman'...in the fall of 1968. I knew nothing of the behind-the-scenes actions during the late '60s and early '70s....We are staying faithful to God's Word rightly divided. This article is a keeper."

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

—2 Timothy 2:15



A God-Start to Summer!



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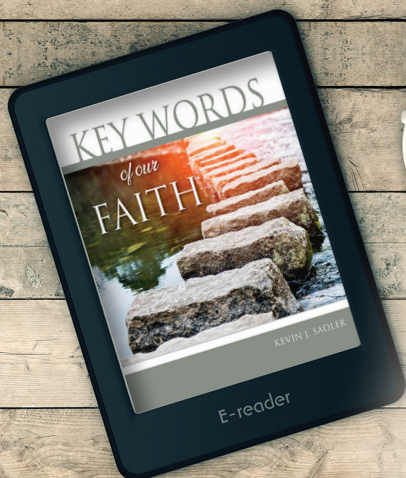
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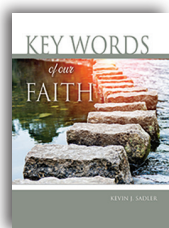
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News and Announcements

Missouri Bible Conference: The warm-hearted believers of the *New Hope Bible Church* in Salem have invited Pastor Kevin to come share the life-changing message of God's grace with them. These dear saints showed your outgoing editor such a hunger for the truth at last year's conference that I'm not surprised to hear of their interest in hosting another. If you'd like to attend and encourage this budding grace assembly while encouraging yourself in the process, Pastor Wayne Werline will be delighted to hear from you at 573-247-9748.

Donors Make This Work Possible: If you are looking for a simple and secure way to donate to the work and ministry of BBS, you can do so at BereanBibleSociety.org/donate.

Our Affinity for the Trinity: Ever since Wikipedia posted something that said that "Bereans" don't believe in the doctrine of the Trinity, we've been receiving calls and emails asking if that was true of us here at BBS. If you're a new subscriber to the *Berean Searchlight*, we want you to know that we stand firmly and unequivocally for this cardinal fundamental of the faith. As the old hymn says, we hold to "God in three Persons, *Blessed Trinity*."

Wanted: If you live in the Carlisle, Iowa, area and would like to be a part of and help establish a new *grace* gathering, you are not alone. Tony Vanderbeek has determined to start a group and would love to hear from you. You can contact him at t.vanderbeek@aol.com or 641-455-8699.

A Ham Slam! Back in October, we announced that amateur radio operator Jason Randolph wanted to establish a ham radio grace fellowship. Days after that announcement came out, he met a fellow ham at the BBF conference in Beloit, Wisconsin, who joined his group. Then in March, a man at our BBS conference in Banning, California, told Pastor Kevin that he too had joined, and reported that there were now eight of them enjoying this old school means of internet. It looks like this idea was a hit! Here's to establishing *even more* venues for the faithful.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

BBF Summer Conference, June 18-22, Tipp City, Ohio

Missouri Conference, July 14-16, Salem, Missouri

Grace Believer's Conference, August 5-6, Newaygo, Michigan

Lancaster Special Meetings, September 17, Lancaster, Wisconsin



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