

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

March 2024



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This month's cover is a lighthouse called "Noordertoren" on the Dutch island Schiermonnikoog.

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,

The beginning of spring is just around the corner, as the month of March arrives with a ray of hope and with plenty to remind us of God's goodness. After long winter months filled with cold temperatures and barren landscapes, there is an undeniable sense of anticipation in the air. The promise of new beginnings whispers through the wind, inviting us to awaken from our hibernation and cast aside our heavy coats for months to come.

As we bid farewell to February's frosty grip, March brings thoughts of blooming flowers and vibrant colors that will soon grace the world around us. It sets the stage for nature's grand revival, where dormant buds on trees begin to stir awake, and delicate petals start peeking through their protective cocoons.

To his love, Solomon describes the transition to spring by saying, "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come..." (Song of Solomon 2:11-12).

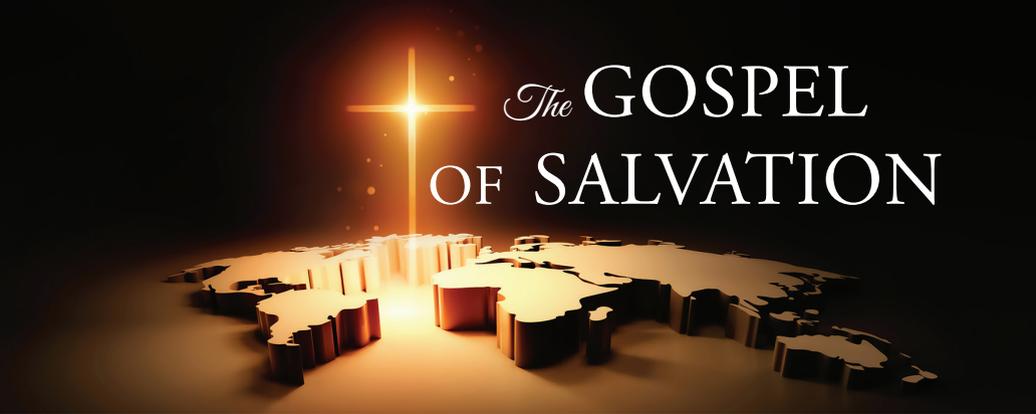
The new beginnings and new life that comes with spring ought to remind believers of the new life we have in Christ and that we are a new creation (Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:17). They remind us that thanks to Christ, believers have been "quickened [made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). This new life brings with it an opportunity to leave the past behind and live each day in a way that brings beauty to the world and glory to our Creator.

March also marks a turning point in time—it signals a shift towards longer days and shorter nights, which should remind us to "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without [the unsaved], redeeming the time" (Col. 4:5). Each passing day gifts us with more precious sunlight, casting God's gentle warmth upon our skin and uplifting our spirits, reminding us that believe that "our Saviour Jesus Christ... abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10).

We "were sometimes darkness, but now are...light in the Lord," thus we need to "walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8). There are many reasons for the Christian to have a little "spring" in their step this March. All you need to do is "Count Your Blessings."

By His Grace,

Pastor Don Hosfeld



The GOSPEL OF SALVATION

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved...that Christ died for our sins...was buried, and that He rose again the third day...” (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

The most critical issue every person will ever face concerns their relationship with God; thankfully, God has not left us wondering where we stand.

Why Do I Need to Be Saved: No matter how good anyone believes they are, the fact is we have all sinned (Rom. 3:23; 5:12; Eph. 2:3), and our sin makes us unrighteous and separates us from God. A JUST God MUST require payment for sin, or He would not be just. Our sins MUST be paid for.

What Do I Need to Be Saved From: The penalty (wage) for sin is death (Rom. 6:23), and because sin (evil) cannot dwell with God (Psa. 5:4; 101:7), our destination can only be hell (9:16-17; Phil. 3:18,19). Biblical salvation refers to being saved from the eternal consequences of our sins.

How Can I Be Saved: The ONLY way to be saved from the penalty of sin is by believing *The Gospel of Salvation* (Rom. 1:16; 2:16; 1 Cor. 15:1,2). The gospel or good news is God’s plan to reconcile God and man by dealing justly with man’s sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If you believe that Christ died for YOUR sins, was buried, and rose again, then God forgives your sin based on Christ’s sacrificial death in your place and replaces it with His righteousness (Rom. 3:22; 2 Cor. 5:21), thus freeing you from the penalty of sin and making you, from that moment on, and forever more, a child of God and heir with Christ (Eph. 1:13,14; 4:30; Titus 3:7).

God neither requires nor accepts ANY work on YOUR part for salvation either before or after believing the gospel. It is a free gift to all who believe, based solely on the finished work of Christ and our belief in the gospel (Rom. 3:28; 4:4,5; 11:6; Eph. 2:8,9).

It is God’s will for ALL to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4).

Where do YOU stand? Have you *obeyed* “the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thes. 1:8).

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By Whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Rom. 5:1,2).
—*Pastor Don Hosfeld*



Main Figures of THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Revelation 12:1-17

(The following is an explanation of Revelation 12
from the upcoming Grace Study Bible.)

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

After the BBS Board of Directors decided to move forward with the Grace Study Bible project, the various board members chose the books of the Bible for which they had an interest in writing notes. Following this, we invited faithful men with an understanding of the grace message from all over the country to write for the remaining books. My choices were the Gospel of John, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon, and Revelation.

Once I got started working on Revelation, however, I wondered if I could change my mind! It was tough at the beginning, but it ended up being a joyful and fascinating study.

THE WOMAN: ISRAEL

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars” (Rev. 12:1).

At this point in the Book of Revelation, we are at the midpoint

of the seven-year Tribulation. The seven seal judgments have been broken open, and the seven trumpet judgments have sounded and have started to manifest.

In Revelation 9:2-3,5,10, we learn how demonic locusts will torture men for “five months” under the fifth trumpet judgment. This is followed by the sixth trumpet which announces monstrous, demonic horsemen (vv. 16-19) destroying all that is in their path for “an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year” (v. 15). This equals thirteen months and 25 hours. Adding the five months of locusts to the thirteen months of horsemen makes one and one-half years. Thus, the previous judgments of the seals and four trumpets will take two years, because the seal and trumpet judgments take place during the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation, which our Lord called “the beginning of sorrows” (Matt. 24:8). The bowl judgments take place in the second three and one-half years, which our Lord

called, “great tribulation” (Matt. 24:21).

As we come to Revelation 10-15, we learn about events that take place at the midpoint of the Tribulation, such as the slaying of the two witnesses and their resurrection and ascension (11:7-13), the assassination and resurrection of the Antichrist (13:3,12), the making of the image of the beast that all will be required to worship (13:14-15), and the requirement of taking the mark of the beast (13:16-18), among other things.

Revelation chapters 12-14 reveal those who will be the main characters of the second half of the Tribulation, or the Great Tribulation. We find in verse 1 of chapter 12 that one of those main characters will be “a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.” This woman very clearly represents Israel. And believing Israel, portrayed as a woman, is the bride of Christ (Isa. 54:5-6; Rev. 19:7-8).



We see that the woman is Israel by the description regarding the sun, moon, and twelve stars. This reminds us of Joseph’s dream in Genesis 37:9-11, with the sun representing Jacob

(Israel), the moon representing Joseph’s mother, and the stars representing the sons of Jacob. Thus, the twelve stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Regarding this woman, Israel, verse 2 of Revelation 12 states,

“And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.”

As a mother giving birth (Isa. 26:17-18), Israel had agonized and suffered for centuries, longing for the Messiah to come and usher in His kingdom. We see affirmation of this in Zacharias, who prophesied, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David...That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us” (Luke 1:68-69,71).

THE DRAGON: SATAN

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth; and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born” (Rev. 12:3-4).

Satan will be another main character of the Great Tribulation. Calling him “a great red dragon” depicts Satan as a fierce and deadly foe. Red speaks of bloodshed and his murderous ways. As our Lord said of him, “He was a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44).

The dragon has “seven heads and ten horns.” The dragon’s multiple heads and horns, as well as his having “seven crowns upon his heads,” all combine to represent Satan’s power as the god of this world and to tell of the governmental control he will use to subjugate the entire world in the Great Tribulation. Under grace, it is pure speculation to try to identify the heads and horns. The Antichrist is given the same description of “seven heads and ten horns” (13:1; 17:7,9,12), which shows that Satan will give him his authority.

When Revelation 12:4 states that the dragon’s “tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven,” this refers to the fallen angels who followed Satan at his original rebellion. The dragon standing before the woman (Israel) “to devour her child as soon as it was born” shows that Satan anticipated the Messiah’s birth in accordance with Scripture. Thus, we know that, after Christ was born, Satan was behind Herod’s seeking “the young Child to destroy Him” (Matt. 2:13).

THE MAN CHILD: CHRIST

“And she brought forth a Man Child, Who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her Child was caught up unto God, and to His throne” (Rev. 12:5).

The woman, Israel, gave birth, and the “Man Child,” Jesus Christ, was born (Isa. 9:6-7; Matt. 1:1). Christ is the main character of the Great Tribulation. At the end of those years, He will return on a white horse at the Battle of Armageddon and cast the Antichrist and the False

Prophet into the Lake of Fire and establish His Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 19:11-21).



During Christ’s future earthly kingdom, He will “rule all nations with a rod of iron” (Rev. 12:5 cf. Psa. 2:7-9; Rev. 19:15). Further identifying the Man Child as Jesus Christ, John wrote that the “Child was caught up unto God, and to His throne,” which is the ascension of Christ to heaven (Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9; Rev. 3:21).

The Man Child was caught up unto God, but during the Great Tribulation, verse 6 of Revelation 12 says,

“And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.”

There is a gap between verses 5 and 6, between Christ’s ascension (v. 5) and the fleeing of Israel into the wilderness (v. 6). What transpires during this gap is the Dispensation of the Grace of God (Eph. 3:2-3), as made known in the revelation of the mystery “which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints” (Col. 1:26). This current age and dispensation are not revealed in

“There is a gap between verses 5 and 6...What transpires during this gap is the Dispensation of the Grace of God...”



**Christ's
Ascension
(v. 5)**

**Dispensation
of Grace**

**The fleeing of
Israel into the
wilderness (v. 6)**

any of the prophetic writings in Scripture, including “this prophecy” (Rev. 1:3) of the Book of Revelation. We find it only in the writings of Paul. For nearly 2000 years, the Dispensation of Grace has delayed the fulfillment of the events of Daniel’s 70th week. Following the pretribulational Rapture of the Church (1 Thes. 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; 1 Cor. 15:51-53), God will pick up where He left off with Israel, beginning with the Day of the Lord (1 Thes. 5:1-3).

Israel fleeing into the wilderness is what the Lord told her she should do in His Olivet Discourse, that at the midpoint of the Tribulation, when the Abomination of Desolation (the image of the beast) stands in the temple, “Then let them which be in Judaea *flee* into the mountains” (Matt. 24:16ff).

The “they” that will “feed her” (Rev. 12:6) in the wilderness refers to the *sheep* nations (Matt. 25:31-40). Prior to His kingdom, the Lord will say unto these nations, “For I was an hungred, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in” (v. 35). Israel will be fed in the wilderness by these nations for 1260 days (Rev. 12:6), which equals three and one-half years, the time of the Great Tribulation.

THE ARCHANGEL: MICHAEL

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

“And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Rev. 12:7-10).

During the first half of the Tribulation, there will be “wars and rumours of wars” (Matt. 24:6), but at the midpoint of the Tribulation, there will be a war in heaven. Michael the archangel, the protector of Israel (Dan. 10:20-21; 12:1; Jude 1:9), will battle against the dragon, the adversary of Israel.

It’s interesting to me how this will be a battle between equals. The created angels, Michael and Satan, are equal in strength, and the holy angels and demons under each of their commands are

CHAPTER 12

The Woman: Israel

And there appeared^a a great wonder in heaven; a woman^b clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:^c

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.^d

The Dragon: Satan

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon,^e having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.¹

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven,^f and did cast them to the earth; and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.^g

The Man Child: Christ

5 And she brought forth a man child,^h who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:ⁱ

and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.^j

6 And the woman fled^k into the wilderness,² where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her^l there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.^m

The Archangel: Michael

7 Andⁿ there was war^o in heaven: Michael^p and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,^q

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.^r

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent,^s called the Devil,^t and Satan,^u which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth,³ and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren⁴ is cast down,

^j. The ascension of Christ to Heaven (Mk. 16:19; Acts 1:9; Rev. 3:21).

^k. "Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains" (Matt. 24:16ff).

^l. Matt. 25:31-40.

^m. 1260 days equals 3 1/2 years, the second half of the Tribulation.

ⁿ. At the mid-point of the Tribulation.

^o. Not only will there be "wars and rumours of wars" (Matt. 24:6) on earth, there will be war in heaven.

^p. Michael, the archangel, is assigned to protect Israel (Dan. 10:20-21; 12:1; Jude 1:9).

^q. A battle between equals! God will empower the victory.

^r. Satan will never again have access to any of heaven's spheres.

^s. Gen. 3:1-14; II Cor. 11:3; Rev. 20:2.

^t. "Devil" means slanderer.

^u. "Satan" means adversary.

^a. Chapters 12-14 describe the main figures of the Great Tribulation.

^b. The woman represents Israel (Isa. 54:5-6; Rev. 19:7-8).

^c. The twelve stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel (Gen. 37:9-11).

^d. As a mother giving birth (Isa. 26:17-18), Israel had agonized and suffered for centuries, longing for the Messiah to come and usher in His kingdom.

^e. The dragon represents Satan as a fierce and deadly foe (v. 9). Red speaks of bloodshed and his murderous ways (Jn. 8:44).

^f. The fallen angels who followed Satan at his original rebellion.

^g. Matt. 2:13-18.

^h. The "man child" is Jesus Christ (Isa. 9:6-7; Matt. 1:1).

ⁱ. Psa. 2:7-9; Rev. 19:15.

1. (12:3) The dragon has "seven heads and ten horns," and so does the Antichrist (13:1; 17:7), which teaches that Satan will give him his authority. Revelation 17:9 states, "The seven heads are seven mountains" or kingdoms. Revelation 17:12 further states, "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet..." (cf. Dan. 7:7,24). The dragon's seven heads and ten horns, as well as him having "seven crowns upon his heads," all combine to represent Satan's control over world empires and tell of the governmental powers that will be subjugated to him in the Great Tribulation. It is pure speculation to try to identify them under grace.

2. (12:6) There is a gap between verses 5 and 6, between Christ's ascension (v. 5) and the fleeing of Israel into the wilderness (v. 6). What transpires during this gap is the Dispensation of the Grace of God (Eph. 3:2-3) as made known in the revelation of the Mystery, "which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints" (Col. 1:26). This current age and dispensation are not revealed in any of the prophetic writings in Scripture, including "this prophecy" (Rev. 1:3) of the Book of Revelation. We find it *only* in the writings of Paul. For nearly 2000 years, the Dispensation of Grace has delayed the fulfillment of the events of Daniel's 70th week. Following the pre-tribulation Rapture of the Church (I Thes. 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9), God will pick up where He left off with Israel, beginning with the Day of the Lord (I Thes. 5:1-3).

3. (12:9) Satan's fall comes in stages. Satan and his angels were cast out of the third heaven at his initial rebellion (Lk. 10:18; Rev. 12:4). He and his angels will be cast out of the second heaven to the earth at the mid-point of the Tribulation (Isa. 14:12; Rev. 12:6-9). Then, prior to and for the duration of the Millennial Kingdom, he will be cast into the bottomless pit for 1000 years (Isa. 14:15; Rev. 20:2-3). And finally, he will be "cast into the lake of fire and brimstone" forever (Rev. 20:10). It is down, down, down, down for the devil. Proverbs 16:18 rings true for the devil and for us in our personal lives: "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

4. (12:10) The accuser of the brethren has something evil that can be said of *every* believer in Christ. None of us is 100 percent holy in everyday living. We all stumble, fail, and sin. However, we have a faithful Intercessor, "Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us" (Rom. 8:34). Our standing with God is unaffected despite Satan's accusations because "It is God that justifieth" (Rom. 8:33); He has declared us righteous in Christ. We have been given the very righteousness of Christ and are righteous in Him forever (Rom. 3:22; II Cor. 5:21).

v. Being cast out of heaven, Satan will no longer accuse believers before God (Job 1:6-11).

w. This heavenly praise likely comes from the Tribulation martyrs (6:9-10).

x. The heavenly worshippers praise their brethren who would yet suffer martyrdom for overcoming Satan on earth (6:11).

y. The blood washes away sin (1:5; I Pet. 1:18-19) and overcomes Satan's accusations.

z. Lk. 14:26; Rev. 2:10; 20:4.

aa. The heavens rejoice over the dragon's departure, but it is bad news for the earth.

bb. God will aid their escape (Ex. 19:4; Isa. 40:31).

cc. Like in the days of Moses when Israel wandered in the wilderness (Ex. 16:1-36; Matt. 6:11).

dd. A time=1 year; and times=2 years; and half a time=1/2 year. Or 3 1/2 years.

which accused them before our God^v day and night.^w

11 And they overcame him^x by the blood of the Lamb,^y and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.^z

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!^{aa} for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.^{*}

^{*}Rev. 12:6,14

Satan's Persecution of Israel

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man *child*.⁵

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle,^{bb} that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished^{cc} for a time, and times, and half a time,^{dd} from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman,^{ee} that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.^{ff}

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up^{gg} the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war⁶ with the remnant of her seed,^{hh} which keep the commandments of God,ⁱⁱ and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 13

The Beast Out of the Sea: Antichrist

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast^a rise up out of the sea,^b having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns,^c and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.^{*}

^{*}Dan. 7:25; 11:36.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard,

ee. The flood refers to "the floods of ungodly men" (Psa. 18:4): "When the enemy shall come in like a flood" (Isa. 59:19 cf. Jer. 46:7-8).

It is an invading, destroying army.

ff. The serpent will seek to sweep away, consume, and destroy Israel by this attacking force.

gg. Like with Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Num. 16:31-33; Deut. 11:6).

hh. Satan will be full of rage against the whole nation of Israel, but he will declare war on the remnant of her seed, that is, Jewish saints who believe in the true Christ (13:7).

ii. After the Rapture, all will be under the Law (Matt. 19:16-17; Rev. 14:12; 22:14).

a. The "beast" is the Antichrist. Being called "a beast" teaches what he will be like: predatory, vicious, and dangerous.

b. "The sea" symbolizes the nations (17:15).

c. Rev. 12:3; 17:9-13.

5. (12:13) The dragon sought to "devour" the man child (v. 4), and during the Great Tribulation, he will seek to devour the "woman," or Israel (I Pet. 5:8).

6. (12:17) Out of his hatred for believing Israel, Satan will war against her in the Tribulation. Under grace, Satan wars against the Church, the Body of Christ. Since almost the beginning of time, Satan and his forces of evil have been in battle against God and His own. Satan turns his guns on us the moment we trust Christ as our personal Savior. Being engaged in this ancient struggle, we are called to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (II Tim. 2:3), deliver lost souls from the power of darkness (Col. 1:13), fight the good fight of faith (I Tim. 6:12), and stand against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:11). We do this, not in our own strength, but by being "strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10). *Are you taking your place in the spiritual battle to bring honor and glory to your Savior?*

1. (13:2) The beast and his kingdom are seen as gathering in the symbolism of three ancient empires: the lion portraying Babylon, the bear portraying Media-Persia, and the leopard portraying Greece (Dan. 7:2-7). The superpower of the Antichrist's worldwide empire will entail all the incredible wealth, splendor, glory, and military might of the kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, and Greece combined.

2. (13:3) The beast will be assassinated and rise again. Revelation 17:8 reads, "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit...and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder..." The "was" of that verse refers to the 3 1/2 years when the beast rises to power through politics. The "and is not" refers to his death at the midpoint of the Tribulation. At his death, his soul will descend into the bottomless pit. Then, under the permission of God, in giving the world what it has always wanted: a Savior other than Jesus Christ, the Antichrist will be allowed to return from the dead, when "his deadly wound was healed" (13:3 cf. 13:12,14) and he "shall ascend out of the bottomless pit" (17:8). Thus, the Antichrist will be a counterfeit to the 3 1/2-year ministry of Jesus Christ, and His death, burial, and resurrection.

likewise equal. The only difference is that it is a battle between two-thirds holy angels versus one-third fallen angels. Moreover, God is also sovereign over this war, and He will empower the victory of Michael.

As a result of his defeat, “that old serpent, called the Devil [Slanderer], and Satan [Adversary],” will be cast out of heaven and confined to the earth. He will never again have access to *any* of heaven’s spheres, whether it is the first heaven of our upper atmosphere, the second heaven of outer space, or the third heaven where God dwells.



“Our standing with God is unaffected by Satan’s accusations...”

Verse 10 of Revelation 12 states that Satan, being cast out of heaven, will no longer be able to accuse believers before God in heaven (Job 1:6-11). The accuser of the brethren has something evil that can be said of every believer in Christ. None of us is 100 percent holy in everyday living. We all stumble, fail, and sin. However, we have a faithful Intercessor “Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also

maketh intercession for us” (Rom. 8:34). Our standing with God is unaffected by Satan’s accusations because “It is God that justifieth” (Rom. 8:33); He has declared us righteous in Christ. We have been given the very righteousness of Christ and are righteous in Him forever (Rom. 3:22; 2 Cor. 5:21).

As a result of Satan being cast to the earth and confined there, verse 12 of Revelation 12 is a verse of exultation:

“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

Satan’s banishment from the heavens is cause for its residents to rejoice, but his confinement to the earth is bad news for the inhabitants of the earth. He will be full of great wrath knowing that he has only “a short time.” The “short time” is defined in verse 14 as “a time, and times, and half a time.” “A time” equals one year, “and times” equals two years, “and half a time” equals one-half year. One plus two plus one-half equals three and one-half years, the second half of the Tribulation, the time of Great Tribulation.

SATAN’S PERSECUTION OF ISRAEL

“And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the Man Child.

“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is

nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

“And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

“And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 12:13-17).

Satan will fix his attention squarely on believing Israel during the Great Tribulation and will persecute “the woman which brought forth the Man Child.” In Israel’s past, the dragon sought to “devour” the Man Child (v. 4), and during the future Great Tribulation, he will seek to devour the “woman,” or Israel. This is why Israel is taught in 1 Peter 5:8 to “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”



During the Great Tribulation, verse 14 of Revelation 12 tells us

that “two wings of a great eagle” will be given to Israel, “that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place.” This hearkens back to Israel’s past at Mount Sinai when God told Israel, “Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto Myself” (Ex. 19:4). God will aid their escape, and in the wilderness, He will protect her from Satan and the Antichrist.

God will also nourish her in the wilderness. Like in the days of Moses when Israel wandered in the wilderness, God will provide manna from heaven (Ex. 16:1-36) and give Israel her daily bread (Matt. 6:11). Revelation 12 shows that believing Israel will be sustained in two ways during the Great Tribulation: first, by the believing nations aiding her (12:6) and, second, by God supernaturally providing for her needs (12:14).

In verse 15, we learn that Satan, in his great wrath, will hunt and find Israel in the wilderness, and he will “cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman.” In Scripture, “flood” sometimes refers to an invading, destroying army. We see this in Psalms 18:4, “the floods of ungodly men,” and in Isaiah 59:19, “When the enemy shall come in like a flood,” and in Jeremiah 46:7-8, “Who is this that cometh up as a flood...? Egypt riseth up like a flood...and he saith...I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof.” Thus we see that the serpent will sweep away, consume, and destroy Israel by this attacking force.

However, God will use the earth to thwart this attack. Like with Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Num. 16:31-33; Deut. 11:6), the earth will dramatically and supernaturally open her mouth and swallow “up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth” (Rev. 12:16).

During the Great Tribulation, Satan will be “wroth” (Rev. 12:17), full of rage against the whole nation of Israel, but he will declare war on “the remnant of her seed,” that is, the Jewish “saints” (13:7) who “keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (12:17) and believe in Him.

Out of his hatred for believing Israel, Satan will war against her in the Great Tribulation; under grace, Satan wars against

the Church, the Body of Christ. Since almost the beginning of time, Satan and his forces of evil have been in battle against God and His own. Satan turns his guns on us the moment we trust Christ as Savior. Being engaged in this ancient struggle, we are called to endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 2:3), lead others to Him Who delivers lost souls from the power of darkness (Col. 1:13), “Fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim. 6:12), and “stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). We do this, not in our own strength, but by being “strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might” (Eph. 6:10). May we all be strong in the Lord as we take our place in the spiritual battle to bring honor and glory to our Savior. 

West Valley Grace Fellowship Bible Conference

March 22-24, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Sadler, BBS President

Theme: *The Ministry of the Holy Spirit*

Location: West Valley Grace Fellowship
14465 R H Johnson Boulevard
Sun City West, Arizona

**For questions or additional information, please contact:
Pastor Mark Dilley at jjdster@gmail.com | 623.377.3071
or Jim Humphrey at jhumph783@gmail.com | 623.466.7636**

Question Box



“What is ‘the mystery of God’ in Revelation 10:7?”

“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants the prophets” (Rev. 10:7).

This question was posed to me at a Bible conference in 2023. Initially, I was able to explain what it did not mean, that it was not referring to the revelation of the mystery that was committed to the Apostle Paul (Eph. 3:1-9); rather, it concerned a message for the future after this dispensation of grace is concluded. From there, I stumbled all over myself and had to admit that I really did not know what this “mystery of God” was. Later, after studying the chapter and its context for the Grace Study Bible, I came to see what I believe is the answer.

The term *mystery* in Scripture refers to truth that had been hidden or kept secret by God. God has truth in the Book of Revelation that had not been revealed before it was first made known to the Apostle John. This mystery is defined by the time period in the Tribulation during “the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound.” This refers to the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15) which sounds to announce the seven bowl judgments that take place during the second half of the Tribulation. Thus, here in chapter 10, we are at the midpoint of the Tribulation.

The “mystery of God” refers to the truth made known in Revelation 11-15 regarding details about the middle of the Tribulation that are found nowhere else in Scripture, such as the death, resurrection, and ascension of the two witnesses (11:7-12), the war in heaven between Michael and Satan (12:7-9), the assassination and resurrection of the Antichrist (13:1-3), the workings of the false prophet (13:11-15), and the mark of the beast (13:16-18).

This mystery was revealed to John, and it will be revealed to “His servants the prophets” (10:7). When you see this verse refer to “prophets,” don’t think past Old Testament prophets; think future Tribulation prophets. After the Rapture, when God resumes His dealings with Israel, the gifts of apostles and prophets will again be given to believing Israel by the Holy Spirit (11:18; 16:6; 18:20). And during the Tribulation, God will declare “the mystery of God” and when it “should be finished [fulfilled]” to His servants the prophets for them to declare it to others.

—Pastor Kevin Sadler

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?



PASTOR DAVID **HAVARD**

Board Member

When people do something stupid, we may ask them, “What were you thinking?” Sometimes we ask the question, and sometimes the question is asked of us. Usually, the context of the question is when people do something that is known to be unwise, and then they are surprised or shocked at the outcome.

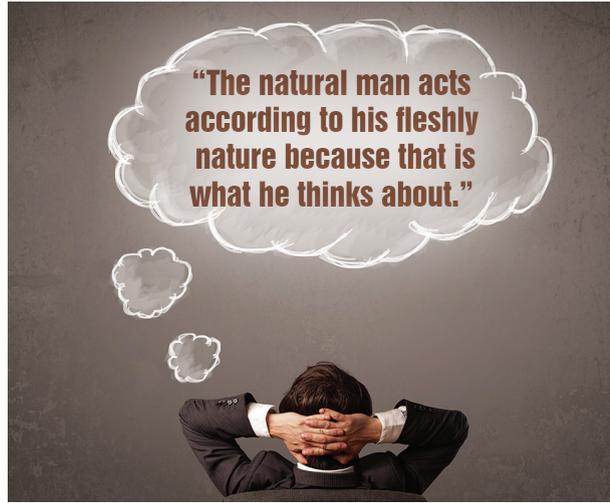
This same principle is addressed in Scripture when we are told that we reap what we sow. Galatians 6:7-8 says, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

If we sow to the flesh, we should not be surprised when we reap a fleshly or corruptible outcome. Even though this is a universal principle, people continue to act surprised when they reap a harvest of bad consequences because of sowing bad seeds. For example, a person may decide to drive after drinking alcohol and get arrested for DWI, yet they still ask, “How could this happen to me?” To anyone but themselves, the answer is obvious. It did not “just happen” to them but was a direct consequence of their bad choices.

But before any choice or action, bad or good, there is first a thought. We will not do anything (sow to the flesh or to the Spirit) without thinking about it first. This is why the Apostle Paul told us repeatedly to control our thought life and bring it under the authority of the Word of God and the control of the Holy Spirit. This is the key to a victorious and joyful Christian life.

Let us look at what he had to say about the importance of our mind and proper thought-life. In Romans 8:5, Paul said, “For they

that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.” Here, Paul was talking about our mindset. Those who live according to the principles of the fleshly nature—the natural man, do so *because* that is what they have set their minds on—that is what they think about. As Proverbs 23:7 says, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” The natural man acts according to his fleshly nature because that is what he thinks about.



But how do we change our mindset from the fleshly to the spiritual? Paul gave the answer in Romans 12:1-2 where he said, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

It is impossible to change the way our fleshly mind works. That is why Paul did not tell us to simply change the way we think but to transform or *completely renovate* our mind itself. Notice Paul’s logic in this verse. Only after our minds have been totally rebuilt by the Word of God can we be transformed into the image of Christ (instead of conformed to the world).

The word transformed is from the Greek word *metamorpheō* (which is transliterated into our word *metamorphosis*) and means to be completely changed. It is the same word used in Matthew 17:2 when the Lord was *transfigured*. And Paul used the same word in 2 Corinthians 3:18 when he spoke of us being changed or transformed into the image of Christ.

Having a transformed mind should result in a transformed life. Building on this vital truth, Paul went on to admonish us in Ephesians 4:17-18,22-24 that we should “henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 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....That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your

mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

Because we now have our understanding enlightened (Eph. 1:18) and are no longer alienated from the life of God (Eph. 2:12; Col. 1:21), we are to put off, with urgency, our old way of life that was controlled by our fleshly mind, and live a new life controlled by our renovated (spiritual) mind.

But, as we all know, having a new mind is not all there is to it. Our new life in Christ gives us the *ability* to set our mind on the things of God and to walk in the newness of life (Rom. 6:4), but just because we *can* do something does not mean that we *will* do it. Before we were saved, we had no choice but to walk after the flesh, but now we do have a *choice* whether to serve God or the sinful nature. We must choose, or set our mind, to obey God instead of our flesh.

To maintain a proper mindset, we must control our thoughts. We cannot be passive about this. If allowed to wander, our mind, like a car not being steered, will wander off into the ditch of wrong thoughts and sinful behavior. We must actively keep a watch on our thoughts (2 Cor. 10:5) and submit ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit.



The Apostle Paul also gave us some directions about how to do this. In Philippians 3:13-15 he wrote, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.”

When Paul told us to “be thus minded” in verse 15, he was referring back to the single-minded pursuit of Christ-likeness in verses 13-14. For us to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh, we must constantly keep our focus where it belongs (Heb. 12:2), which takes *effort* and *discipline* (1 Cor. 9:27).

Maintaining this attitude requires that we feed our mind the proper thoughts (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Athletes feed their bodies proper nutritious foods so they can perform at their peak. Racers give their cars premium fuel to get top performance from the engine. Likewise, we must keep our minds filled with the proper thoughts

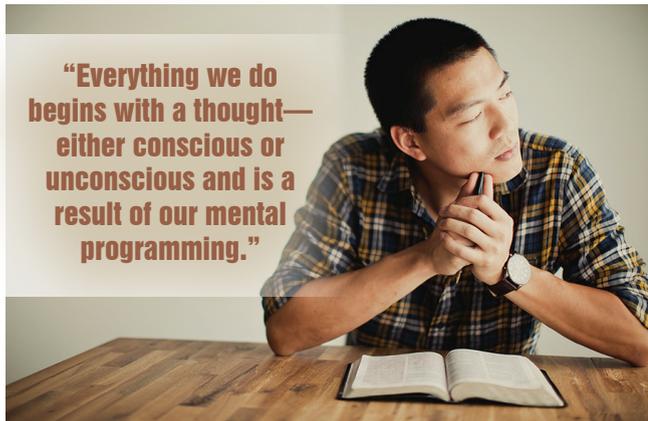
so they can properly direct our actions at crucial times. In Philippians 4:8, Paul told us, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.”

While this is not an exhaustive list, Paul gave us a good idea of the proper concepts with which we should be preoccupied. If we maintain a proper focus (Phil. 3:13-14), immerse our mind with Scripture (Col. 3:16; 2 Tim. 3:16), and focus on things that are virtuous and praise-worthy (Phil. 4:8), we will be able to obey Paul’s command in Colossians 3:2 where he told us to “Set [our] affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

To set our affection is to fix our mind on something. We think about what we love, and we love what we think about (cf. Matt. 6:21). If we keep in mind that this world is not our home (2 Cor. 5:1-2; Eph. 2:6; Phil. 3:20; Col. 1:5; 2 Tim. 4:18), we will be better able to keep our affections where they belong.

When we encounter situations where we do not have time to think about what to do but have to react instantly, what we do will be the result of what is in our mind at the time—thus the often-used phrase of “thinking off the top of your head.” Whatever thoughts are on the “top of our head” dictate how we respond in such situations. If our reaction is not a good one, we may find ourselves on the receiving end of our opening question: “What were you thinking?” That is why we must ensure that our minds are saturated with the Word of God, so the first thought “off the top of our head” will be a good one—a proper Scriptural reaction.

Everything we do begins with a thought—either conscious or unconscious and is a result of our mental programming. So, where does our programming come from? God’s Word or man’s fleshly philosophy? We must allow God to use the sharp sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12) to excise and debug all the bad code that has been maliciously inserted into our mental programming by the flesh and the devil. Does your mind need a spiritual reboot?



A scenic landscape featuring a paved road that leads towards a finish line marked by a checkered pattern. The road is flanked by green fields and distant mountains under a sky with scattered white clouds. The word "FINISH" is written in large, bold, white capital letters at the top, and "the Race" is written in a white, cursive script below it. The text "2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8" is positioned below the cursive text.

FINISH

the Race

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

PASTOR DON HOSFELD

Berean Searchlight Editor

If you have ever seen the movie *Tombstone*, you may recall Wyatt Earp's words to Doc Holiday just before heading off on the infamous "Earp Vendetta Ride" to hunt down and exact revenge on the men who shot and killed Wyatt's brothers. He said, "*Let's finish it!*"

These were the words spoken by a man on a mission, albeit not the kind of mission we've been given. Indeed, the Christian has been assigned a mission, and pastors and elders especially need to take note of what that mission is.

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:1-2).

Second Timothy chapter 4 is the last chapter of the last epistle from the Apostle Paul and contains his final words in Scripture. After more than thirty years of ministry, this thirteenth epistle will give us our final glimpse into

the mind of the Apostle Paul and his last message for us. Final words are always considered to be quite profound because they generally represent what that person wishes to convey above *all* else.

So important, in fact, are final words that even the courts allow a person's dying declaration to be admitted in court as evidence, which would otherwise be considered hearsay.

I was always struck by John Adams' final words. He and Thomas Jefferson were the last surviving members of the original American Revolutionaries. They were fellow patriots who stood together to form a new nation but became bitter adversaries on how that new nation should be governed. After years of refusing to speak to one another, they reconciled and spent the remainder of their lives corresponding often.

Remarkably, on July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which both men signed and helped create, they both lay

dying in their respective homes. Adam's final words were "Thomas Jefferson still survives." However, he was mistaken: Jefferson had died just five hours earlier. Adams' final words were a testament to how important Thomas Jefferson was to him.

Paul uses his final words in Scripture to "charge" Timothy before God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. He also shares that the race he has been on throughout his ministry has come to an end, no doubt leading him to give these final instructions to his beloved son in the Lord.

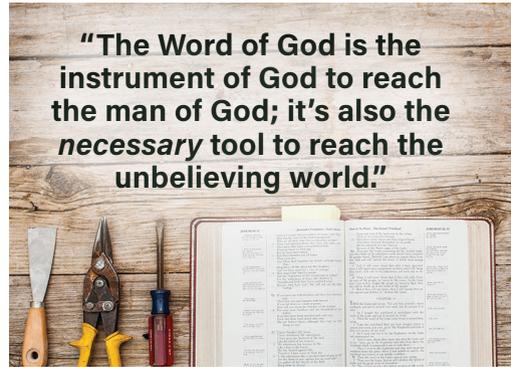
CHARGED

Being *charged* with something is a serious matter. The word charge (v. 1) means to testify, witness to, or command. By calling upon God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as witnesses in this charge, Paul is using some of the strongest words possible.

Paul then adds further weight to his instructions by reminding Timothy that the Lord Jesus Christ, who is a witness to this charge, shall also "judge the quick and the dead." Surely, this reminder would serve to encourage Timothy to do his very best to live up to his responsibilities as a minister of Christ, and it should do the same for *us*.

Paul's charge to Timothy begins with the all-important requirement to "**Preach the Word**" (v. 2). The word "therefore" in verse 1 takes us back to the final verses of chapter 3, where Paul said, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is

profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).



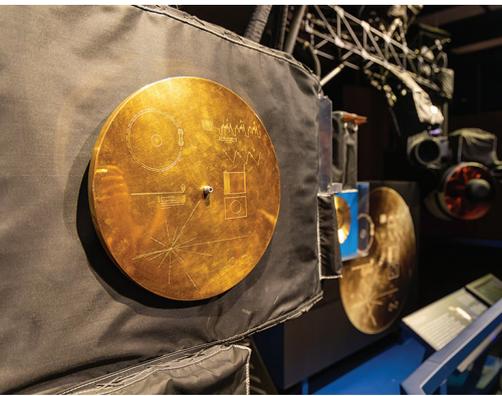
The Word of God is the instrument of God to reach the man of God; it's also the *necessary* tool to reach the unbelieving world.

"The world is bombarded with message after message offering hope after hope. But above all the messages and above all the hopes that bombard the world, there is one that is more needed by man than all the others—one that is so important that it supersedes all the others combined. What is that message? It is the message of the Word of God. The Word of God offers the only lasting hope for man. For this reason, the Word of God must be preached. The minister of God must commit himself to the awesome charge to preach the Word of God and to minister as never before."¹

Unfortunately, many pulpits today are filled by those who preach their own ideas and not the Word of God. They might read a verse or two, then quickly

move on, often keeping far from any inconvenient verses. The preacher who uses a lot of Scripture from the pulpit is doing a good thing.

The world does not need the philosophies of man but the testimony of God *from God*. The *Word* is God's testimony to the world about Himself, and we should be mindful to never stand in the way. It reminds me of the Golden Records² that were placed on the two Voyager spacecraft launched in 1977. These gold-plated records are mankind's account of himself. They contain sounds and images selected to portray the life and culture on Earth and are intended for intelligent extraterrestrial life. Unlike God's record, the Bible, I expect those Golden Records shall never be used and benefit no one.



The Word of God is not gold-plated but God-breathed, and unlike anything produced by man, it “shall stand for ever” (Isa. 40:8). He declares, “Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former

things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure” (Isa. 46:8-10).

TAKE A STAND

Paul subsequently commands Timothy to “be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2). Paul wants Timothy to be *ready*, which conveys the idea of urgency and preparedness, and the willingness to take a stand. The minister of God needs to be ready to take a stand in season and out of season—when it's popular and when it is not.

Christians often put restraints on the Word of God because of the culture that surrounds them or the lack of popularity of the message; *not so*, says the Apostle of Christ. For good reason, as Paul next warns:

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

“And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Tim. 4:3-5).

As easy as it is to complain about the world, the fact is, every day between now and our upward call brings an opportunity to impact this world for Christ.



“Christians often put restraints on the Word of God because of the culture that surrounds them or the lack of popularity of the message; *not so*, says the Apostle of Christ.”

Sometimes, we might even think the world doesn't deserve our efforts or the opportunity to change. It would be easy to sit back and think the world will get precisely what it deserves, but to quote a line from Clint Eastwood, “Deserve's got nothing to do with it.”

However, we mustn't relegate Paul's meaning here to unbelievers. Paul had already instructed Timothy concerning unbelievers in chapter 3:1-13, whom he describes as “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (v. 7).

When Paul says here in chapter 4, “The time will come when *they* will not endure sound doctrine,” he is speaking of professing Christians. For the unbeliever can not turn “from the truth” (v. 4) because they have yet “to be saved, and to *come unto* the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4).

But the Christian who has understood and believed the gospel truth can, with itching ears, be turned from truth to fables (vv. 3-4), much like a child would. To the Corinthians, Paul warned, “Brethren, be not children in understanding...but in understanding be men” (1 Cor. 14:20).

Rather than using 2 Timothy 4:3-5 to try and decipher when the Rapture will come or to determine when exactly “the last days” (2 Tim. 3:1) are, we should remember their purpose is to warn what will happen, not when it will happen. More important than when these happen is what Paul says to do because of it: Preach the Word.

People love to listen to those who tell them what they want to hear, and becoming a Christian doesn't make us immune from this or other lusts of the world. And if we are to “stand against the wiles of the devil,” which are meant to tickle our ears and draw us from the truth, then we must take hold of the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (cf. Eph. 6:11,17). Preaching the Word is how we combat the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

RUN WELL

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have *finished my course*, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the

Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day...” (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

It is often said that what turns people away from Christianity most often are Christians. Likewise, if asked to describe a Christian with one word, many unbelievers say that word would be “hypocrite.” Well, that’s not how our Apostle would be described. What Paul expected from Timothy, Paul lived out. He described his life and ministry as his course or *race*.

The words “have fought,” “have finished,” and “have kept” (v. 7) tell us not only that Paul was at the end of his race but also how he ran the race. The thing about a race is that they aren’t easy; it takes dedication.

I never enjoyed running and was quite horrible at it unless it involved a sport. The added competition made it doable. I can still vividly recall the dread I felt in gym class each year when it was time to run “the mile.” Though I played eleven seasons of soccer and was in very good physical shape, I usually came in last when running four times around that track with nothing to push me along.

When I joined the Navy and entered boot camp, and it was time for our first run (also around a track), a funny thing happened, though I didn’t see any humor in it at the time. When I lagged behind, the Company Commanders were able to instill a little motivation in me, and I’m proud to say it only took one conversation. Needless to say, I never lagged behind

again. All I needed was the proper motivation, which produced a lot more dedication.



Running a physical race is not easy, nor is running our Spiritual race. Both require dedication *not to quit*. “Defeat doesn’t finish a man, quit does. A man is not finished when he’s defeated. He’s finished when he quits.”³

Even when Paul knew that “bonds and afflictions” awaited him, he was not going to quit. He explained, “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might *finish my course* with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:23-24).

Paul was motivated by much more than the here and now, and so should we be. He knew that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18). These “sufferings” include any rejection *we* receive for standing boldly with the Word of God.

To the Philippians, Paul explained his great concern was to “rejoice in the Day of Christ, that

“The words ‘have fought,’ ‘have finished,’ and ‘have kept’ tell us not only that Paul was at the end of his race but also how he ran the race.”

I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain” (Phil. 2:16). In 1 Corinthians 9, we read that he made himself “servant unto all,” (v. 19) “for the gospel’s sake” (v. 23). Explaining himself further in verse 24, he says, “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize?”

Then, as if to inspire others to follow, even us, he says, “*So run*, that ye may obtain. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown” (vv. 24-25).

It is remarkable to realize that the Lord intends to reward the members of the Body of Christ for sharing with others what *He did*

for us, how He sacrificed, and what He accomplished. But that’s precisely what Christ is going to do.

All believers have been placed on “the track,” and we have a race set before us. The world won’t make it easy; however, it is up to *us* how we run. The question is, will you run? How will you run? And will you quit?

“With Malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to *finish the work* we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds.”—*Abraham Lincoln*

1. The Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible: New Testament.
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyager_Golden_Record.
3. Quote by Richard M. Nixon. 

Grace Bible Church Banning Bible Conference

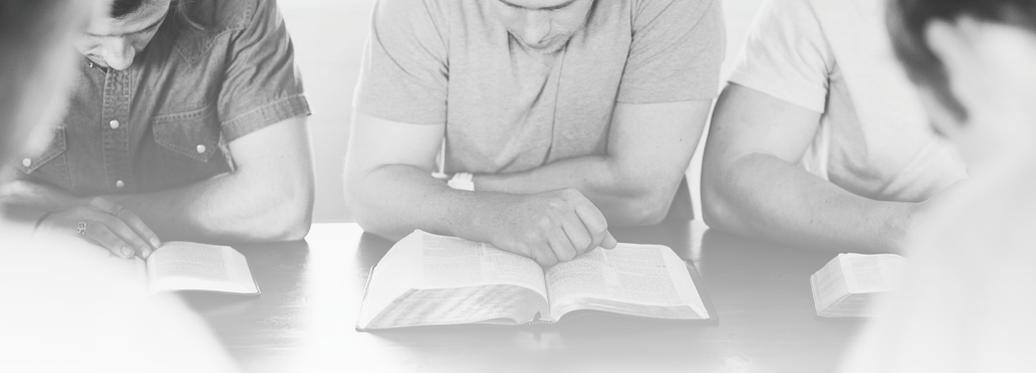
Dates: March 22-24, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Don Hosfeld
Berean Searchlight Editor

Theme: *Having Done All to Stand* (Eph. 6:10-18)

Location: *Grace Bible Church Banning*
375 N San Gorgonio Ave., Banning, California

For questions or additional information, please contact:
Michael TerBush at: michaelterbush@yahoo.com | 951.285.1878



MAN *to* MAN

THE ARMOUR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

“But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the Word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left” (2 Cor. 6:4-7).

A popular teaching today has it that once a person becomes a Christian, all his problems—spiritual, financial, health, family, etc.—are over; but in 2 Corinthians 6, Paul gives us the real picture of living the normal Christian life.

In verses 4-5, he describes three sets of pressures upon himself. First, the general trends of outward circumstances—“afflictions” (literally meaning “grinding pressures”), “necessities” (needs), and “distresses” (literally meaning “being confined to narrow places”). Then, the sufferings inflicted by those who oppose the gospel—“stripes” (from the whip), “imprisonments,” and “tumults” (Gospel meetings often ended in brawls.) Finally, the privations he voluntarily inflicted upon himself—“labors,” “watchings” (sleepless nights in care, prayer, danger, and service), and “fastings” (going without food).

Paul knew about all-around pressures and problems in the Christian life, but also how to have “much patience” (v. 4) and the ability to persevere by the “power of God” (v. 7).

When problems and pressures seem to be coming from all sides and from every direction, we have the “armor of righteousness for the right hand and for the left” (v. 7), the “whole armor of God” (Eph. 6:10-18). There is no simple formula or shortcut to standing in the battle. When the going gets tough, we, like Paul, need to take up God’s armor. It alone makes us “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might... (and) able to stand.”

—Pastor Dennis Kizonas

BBS

Letter Excerpts



From YouTube:

“Thank you so much for posting the *Transformed by Grace Regional Conference*. So insightful and well done. Looking forward to the Study Bible. I have learned so much because of the ministry at *Berean Bible Society*.”

From Ohio:

“Enjoying your ministry.”

From Arizona:

“We are so blessed to have a daily *Transformed by Grace* broadcast. We learn immensely from the clear, detailed studies presented by Pastor Kevin. We find especially helpful the Searchlight Scripture Index. We thank God and our Lord Jesus Christ for your faithful service to the glory of God.”

From Florida:

“Dear Pastor Don Hosfeld, I recently read your article ‘An Adversary Arrives,’ and it was very insightful. All of us who are Christians need to be alert about these last days and remember the world, the flesh, and Satan want to steal, kill, and destroy. Thank God for the armor of God and other Scriptures to encourage and build us up in the faith.”

From Oregon:

“Thank you for taking on the Grace Study Bible project. I’m excited to get one when it is finished. Keep up the good work.”

From Facebook:

[Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*] “Good morning! Thank you for your daily Bible message.”

From Iowa:

“[*Transformed by Grace*] #310, ‘One Distinct Baptism,’ was a fast-ball hit with the meat of the bat and driven into the upper deck!... Your message of progressive revelation and rightly dividing the Bible is spot on. You preach the gospel boldly! Water baptism had its time; spiritual baptism is the ‘But now.’”

From our Inbox:

“We...are so excited about the Grace Study Bible project. I personally can’t wait to place my order for one.”

From YouTube:

“Pastor Kevin, we love you from India. All your messages are very encouraging, and the language you use to reflect them is awesome. We are a mid-Acts, dispensational, grace gospel, and rightly divided team that proclaims the cross of Christ in India. We have a lot of love for your dad, too! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

From Facebook:

[Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*] “The Time Element In Scripture” “Thank you for these two-minute gems. Most Christians don’t want to hear or talk about these things.”

From North Carolina:

“Every morning, we look forward to starting our day with the *Two Minutes with the Bible*, from the book and also from our email, along with the *Daily Transformation* devotional book that we enjoy greatly! Then, at 6 p.m., all priorities are to watch your *Transformed by Grace* show! And with the valuable information from your app, along with the *Berean Searchlight* booklet every month. As well as all of the reading material that I have received from you.”

From Florida:

“Pastor Kevin Sadler is an excellent teacher. God bless y’all for your broadcast.”

From Alabama:

“I receive the *Berean Searchlight*, and it is truly a shining light in my life. I also watch *Transformed by Grace*—a good way to start and end my day. Thank you for your ministry. It has really opened my eyes to the ‘real’ Word of God.”

From Pennsylvania:

“I always look forward to *Transformed by Grace*. I record it just in case I miss it.”

From YouTube:

“What beautiful teaching we all get from Pastor Kevin. Thank you, Brother, for such great truths! The Lord Jesus bless you all at *Berean Bible Society!*”

From Illinois:

“I love the Word of God and am so thankful for *Berean Bible Society*, and the sound teaching of the Holy Scriptures!”

From Texas:

“Friend, thank you very much for taking the time to respond [to my email]....I appreciate the *Berean Bible Society’s* teaching on dispensationalism. It is very good.”

From our Inbox:

[Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible* “The Gospel of Salvation”] “Hallelujah! I have been ‘preaching’ 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 for decades. Pulling folks away from the kingdom gospel for salvation is like pulling their teeth—they have been hearing false doctrine in church all their lives and still hear it today....Keep at it, and I’ll keep watching Pastor Kevin at 6 p.m.”

From the Philippines:

“Thank you for unendingly sending me materials. It’s a big help to my ministry. I am a pastor and a newcomer to studying the difference between prophecy and mystery. God bless you all, and greetings from the Philippines!”

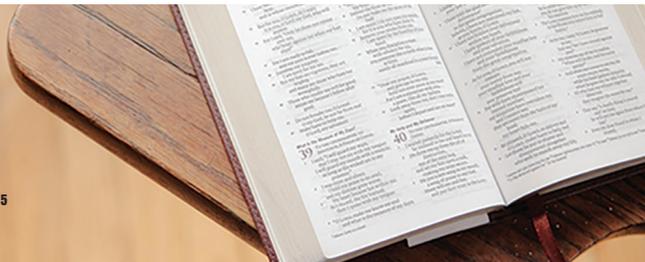
From Oklahoma:

“As I look back at 2023, one of the things that stands out is our thankfulness for the *Berean Bible Society* and the spreading of the grace message.”

From Wisconsin:

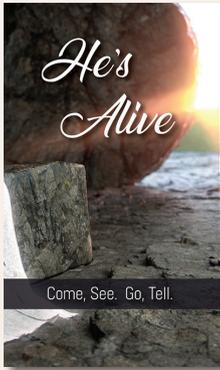
“Here is my 2023 contribution to the *Berean Searchlight*. I have eternal salvation because of what Jesus Christ accomplished as a result of the finished work on the cross. I have peace with God, my Creator. Your publication helps in my daily walk.” (Thank you for helping us share with the world the truth and power of the cross. —Ed.)

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



Resurrection Sunday

is at the end of this month, and we encourage you to believe and share the good news that Christ died for our sins, was buried, *and rose again on the third day*. With this tract, invite others to believe this good news as well.



He's Alive

Come, See. Go, Tell.

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler

Package of 25

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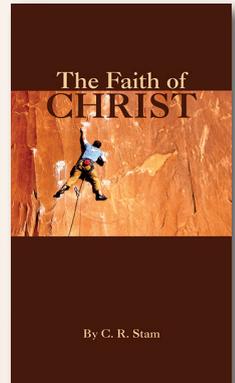
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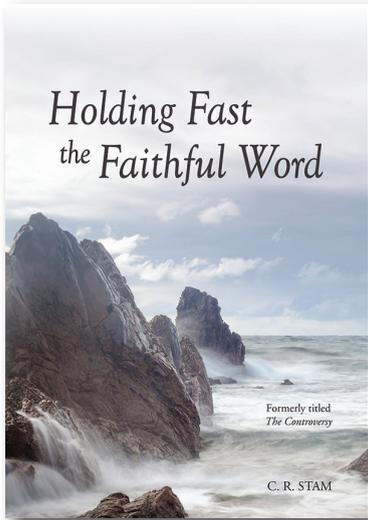
Pastor C.R. Stam

16 page booklet

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Our faith in Christ's work on the cross is meaningful only because of the faith of Christ, which led Him there. This booklet looks at the difference between faith in Christ and the faith of Christ and why both are essential to salvation.





Holding Fast the Faithful Word

by C. R. Stam

312 page paperback

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The value of this volume goes beyond mere history because it addresses from Scripture many of the same arguments you will face today as you hold fast the faithful Word.

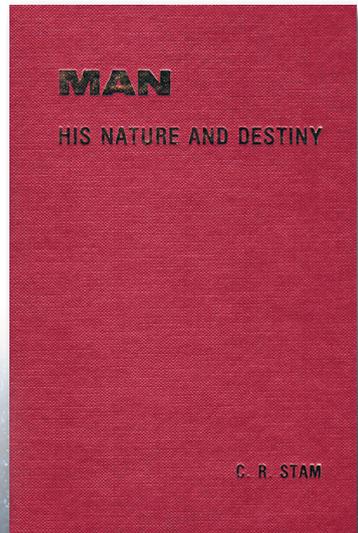
Man His Nature and Destiny

by C. R. Stam

220 page Hardcover

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In this particular work, Pastor Stam answers the three most commonly asked questions by mankind. Where did we come from? What is our purpose in life? And, is there life beyond the grave?



Special Offers End March 31, 2024

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262.255.4750 or bereanbiblesociety.org

News & Announcements



BBS Regional Conference: Our next BBS Regional Conference will be held on April 13, 2024, at the Marina Center in Guttenberg, Iowa. Here's your chance to meet and see BBS's own Pastor Kevin Sadler, who'll be teaching three sessions beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will also be a Q&A session. For more information, you can contact Tom and Nancy Hausler at 319.464.4109 or nthausler@gmail.com. They will be happy to fill in all the details about this special time of grace preaching and fellowship.

Website Changes: If you have noticed the recent changes to the BBS website, then good; that means you are likely using one of *Berean Bible Society's* best resources. The BBS website contains an enormous number of resources, and it continues to grow with each new issue of the *Searchlight*, every new episode of *Transformed by Grace*, and every new article, devotional, or book and booklet produced. Making all this information easily discoverable and useable is important. At BereanBibleSociety.org, you can easily research topics, or with our robust search engine, you can search for anything we've written on a specific topic or text of Scripture.

New Transformed by Grace Episodes: Pastor Kevin Sadler recently finished an eight-part series on the *Major Events of the Bible*, which included the topics "Creation," "The Flood," "The Tower of Babel," "The Red Sea," "The Cross," "Damascus Road," and "The Second Coming." If you missed it on CTN, you can still watch it on our website or our YouTube channel. You can find CTN on the following channels: DirecTV: Channel 376; Dish Network: Channel 262; Glory Star Satellite System: Channel 117. You can find us on YouTube by searching for *Transformed by Grace*.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

- West Valley Grace Fellowship Conf. ,** March 22-24, Sun City West, AZ
- Grace Bible Church Banning Conference,** March 22-24, Banning, CA
- BBS Regional Conference-Iowa,** April 13, Guttenberg, IA
- Kentucky Bible Conference,** May 11-12, Alpha, KY

Media Price List

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

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



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C.R. STAM

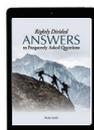
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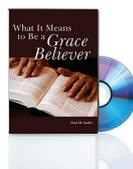
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"Transformed by Grace" is a Bible study video broadcast with Pastor Kevin Sadler. Each DVD contains one 28-minute episode.

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**“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me,
then no sacrifice can be too great
for me to make for Him.”**

–C.I. Studd

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Grace

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