

The
BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

November 2024



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This month's cover features Fort Niagara Lighthouse in Youngstown, New York.

The Purpose of the Berean Bible Society is to help you understand, enjoy, and apply the Bible. The Mission of BBS is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the whole counsel of God according to the revelation of the Mystery. Our Goals are to evangelize the lost, to educate the saved in "rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15), to energize the transformation of the Christian life, and to encourage the local church.

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A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

On December 8, 1934, John and Betty Stam, missionaries with *China Inland Mission*, were beheaded by Communist soldiers in Miaosheo, China. This year marks the 90th anniversary of their martyrdom.

When I give people a tour of our facilities at *Berean Bible Society*, I begin with a photo album in our study room. In that album is the telegram sent to the Stam family that accompanied the photo of the rescue of John and Betty's daughter, Helen Priscilla. John and Betty's deaths and their baby's dramatic rescue captured the imagination and sympathy of the news media and was front-page news the world over.

For several years, Cornelius Stam was asked to speak in many places about the martyrdom of his brother and sister-in-law. Their martyrdom took place in December 1934 and the first *Berean Searchlight* was published in March 1940. The Stam name was well-known at that time, and this likely gave a foothold to Pastor Stam's writings on mid-Acts dispensationalism which eventually led to the formation of the *Berean Bible Society*. Thus, I believe our beginnings can be traced to John and Betty.

Andrew Montonera, a relative of Pastor Stam through Cornelius's second wife, Ruth, has written a book about John and Betty's martyrdom. Published by Moody Publishers, it is called *By Life or by Death, The Life and Legacy of John and Betty Stam*. The book was released on October 1 in time for the 90th anniversary. Andrew often came to *Berean Bible Society* to do research for the book from the historical writings, books, and albums of Pastor Stam at BBS. Pastor Stam's library is where I record *Transformed by Grace*, and Andrew spent a lot of time in there digging through Pastor Stam's old books. One time, he came out with a book entitled, *David: Shepherd, Psalmist, King* by F. B. Meyer. On the first page was a four-line stamp which read, "John C. Stam, Rescued from the Loot, Tsingteh, China, December 1934." Andrew then continued to find numerous books of John's in Pastor Stam's library. Now when giving a tour, along with showing the telegram, I also show the stamp in the *David* book.

John and Betty Stam inspired much of the world 90 years ago, and their faith continues to inspire a deeper devotion to Christ. On page 18 is an advertisement for *By Life or by Death*. We are selling this work here at BBS. You can order it through the store on our website, or by calling us at 262.255.4750.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President



DUAL *Citizenship*



What does it mean to “render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s” (Matt. 22:21)? How far are we to “be subject unto the higher powers” (Rom. 13:1)? Should we vote, or is that considered entangling oneself with the affairs of this life (2 Tim. 2:4)?

As the world around us becomes ever more chaotic and ungodly, some believers are confused about how they should live. One extreme says that as “salt and light,” we should get deeply involved in social and political affairs and try to change the world for good. The other extreme says that we should have nothing to do with politics or social affairs and be strictly “heavenly-minded.” The answer, of course, is to avoid both extremes and have a Scriptural, dispensational, and balanced viewpoint.

While we are all currently citizens on *earth*, the Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 3:20 that we are also *heavenly* citizens. As believers in the Dispensation of Grace, we have “dual citizenship”—both in heaven and on earth, with associated responsibilities in both realms. Paul went on to tie our responsibilities in both realms together when he said that we are “ambassadors for Christ” (2 Cor. 5:20). Christ, Who is in heaven, has ordained us to be His ambassadors or official representatives on earth. Thus, anything we do reflects upon the One Who sent us.

As Christ’s representatives we should live in such a way that honors Him. Paul mentions numerous ways we can do this. In Ephesians 6:5-6, he says that we should work in such a way that pleases God. In Philippians 2:15 he tells us to “shine as lights in the world” by being “blameless and harmless...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.”

We should “render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s” by honestly and faithfully paying our taxes and being “subject unto the higher powers” by obeying the laws of those God has placed over us (and remember that these admonitions by Christ and Paul were given under the unjust and cruel rule of Rome). We should vote but without getting caught up in political entanglements or arguments (Jude 8) and keep our leaders in prayer (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

As ambassadors from heaven, we know that we are here on temporary assignment from our home country. We also know that one day, our Lord will recall His ambassadors (Titus 2:11-13). But in the meantime, we are to live in such a way that brings honor to the One Who sent us as His representatives.

—Pastor David Harvard

One More Chance

DISPENSATION
OF GRACE

A 1 NEXT EXIT



PASTOR DON HOSFELD
Berean Searchlight Editor

“Some years ago, an energetic young man began as a clerk in a hardware store. Like many old-time hardware stores, the inventory included thousands of dollars worth of items that were obsolete or seldom called for by customers. The young man was smart enough to know that no thriving business could carry such an inventory and still show a healthy profit. He proposed a sale to get rid of the stuff. The owner was reluctant but finally agreed to let him set up a table in the middle of the store and try to sell off a few of the oldest items. Every product was priced at ten cents. The sale was a success, and the young fellow got permission to run a second sale. It, too, went over just as well as the first. This gave the young clerk an idea. Why not open a store that would sell only nickel and dime items? He could run the store, and his boss could supply the capital.

“The young man’s boss was not enthusiastic. “The plan will

never work,’ he said, ‘because you can’t find enough items to sell at a nickel and a dime.’ The young man was disappointed but eventually went ahead on his own and made a fortune out of the idea. His name was F.W. Woolworth.

“Years later, his old boss lamented, ‘As near as I can figure it, every word I used in turning Woolworth down has cost me about a million dollars!’”¹

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Most can relate to the regret felt from a missed opportunity. I can still vividly recall a situation when I was younger that I missed the opportunity to go on a float trip with my cousin and his family. I was not quite yet a teenager, and this was going to be my first adventure of this kind, and I was extremely excited to go. I counted the days, but unfortunately for me, I caught poison ivy just a few days before the trip. I caught it so bad that it was in my eye, which swelled shut entirely. No matter

how much I regretted the situation I was in and pleaded with everyone, there was no chance of changing the situation—I was going to miss this opportunity!



For some, it may be an opportunity to invest in a company and make a lot of money, as in the original example. Or perhaps it was a missed opportunity to make an eternal difference in a person's life because we were too preoccupied with something we now realize was of little importance. H. Jackson Brown Jr. said it well when he said, "Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity."

The Scriptures give us numerous examples of those who paid an enormous price for missing the opportunity God provided them to be saved from the looming consequences of their actions.

In Luke 16, Christ describes the chilling events of the rich man and Lazarus: The rich man was in hell [hades] and hoped to have Abraham send Lazarus back to warn his five brothers about the torment to come for those who ignored the warnings of God, but the rich man was told no: "Abraham

saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (v. 29).

Abraham's point was that God had provided the means for the rich man's brothers to know the way of salvation, and the choice would be theirs to listen or not. Consequently, by being in hell, we know that the rich man himself did not heed the warnings of Moses and the prophets and thus missed his opportunity to be saved and was now paying the price for all eternity.

While Jesus hung on the cross, two men hanging beside Him took vastly different paths. One would seize his opportunity to get right with God through His Son, and the other refused and forever missed his opportunity to be saved from the judgment to come (cf. Lk. 23:39-43; Rev. 20:12-13).

As much as God wants all to be saved (cf. 1 Tim. 2:4), and as longsuffering and merciful as He is, there is still an end to man's opportunities to be saved from God's wrath and judgment. Eventually, the longsuffering of God will be replaced with the judgment of God. Thus, we read the Holy Spirit's plea through the Apostle Paul to the unsaved:

"For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

Here, Paul is applying the words of Isaiah to the present situation. At some point, the promised Rapture of the Church will occur, leaving those who have



"H. Jackson Brown Jr. said it well when he said, 'Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity.'"

to that point rejected God's offer of peace and salvation to their fate—the Tribulation. The end of this day of grace is imminent; we are not promised tomorrow—none have the promise of another day of life on this earth or that God will extend His mercy another day.

Failing to heed Paul's plea to "be ye reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20) leaves one on a cliff, at every moment on the brink of leaving the time of God's grace and entering the time of His wrath and judgment—"the great and the terrible day of the LORD" (Joel 2:31). And that will be the worst *missed opportunity* they will have ever made.

NO EXCUSES—GOD SAID IT WAS COMING

When it comes to the Tribulation, there is much misunderstanding, partly because it is a topic that interests people a great deal. Yet, with all the interest, the Tribulation will still catch many people off-guard, but God warned mankind. God warned that the Tribulation was coming, why it would happen, and *most importantly*, how to avoid it.

"I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I

said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye Me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right. Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save.

"Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside Me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside Me. Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by Myself, the word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear" (Isa. 45:19-23).

Isaiah 45 begins with God addressing Cyrus, a man who would not be born for another one-hundred and fifty years. God would raise him to power, and he would overthrow Babylon and allow those in exile to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. He says to Cyrus, "I have surnamed thee...*That they may know* from the rising of the sun, and from the

west, that there is none beside Me. I am the LORD, and there is none else” (vv. 4-5).

In other words, in giving Cyrus’ name in advance, He was demonstrating that He, the Lord God of Israel, is God, and there is no God besides Him. By saying that He has not spoken in secret or in a dark place, He reminds mankind that He has openly stated, “Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker” (v. 9), and that He has not hidden the fact that man has one option for salvation: Him.



When He says that He has sworn to Himself that “every knee shall bow, every tongue swear” (v. 23), He is openly declaring that one day or another, in this life or the next, all of mankind *will* acknowledge the fact that He alone is God, and they will at some point bend the knee to Him. The Tribulation is one of the means by which God will accomplish that.

“The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and

upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low” (Isa. 2:11-12).

Oh, how those who think they are mighty shall, through the Tribulation (Day of the Lord) and the Great White Throne judgment to follow, learn their lesson and finally fall to their knees and acknowledge the truth that “the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it,” *He* is “the LORD; and there is none else” (Isa. 45:18).

It is by God’s mercy that He warned, “For the day is near, even the day of the LORD is near” (Ezek. 30:3), “Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come” (Joel 1:15), “...let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand” (Joel 2:1).

And at Pentecost, it was indeed “nigh at hand,” for Peter “standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them... be this known unto you, and hearken to my words...this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God...I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come” (Acts 2:14-20 cf. Joel 2:31-32).

By associating the time with the prophecies of Joel, Peter was at Pentecost, making it known

that it was then “the last days” and that the Day of the Lord was about to begin. Though Peter and the other eleven apostles would offer the Kingdom to Israel if they would accept Christ as their Messiah, the nation rejected Christ once again.

The remedy for the situation and the next thing on the agenda, according to prophecy, was the coming Tribulation in which God would protect Israel from the Antichrist and certain destruction, thus wooing the nation to Himself. But first, God had a secret.

GRACE ABOUNDS

As the Twelve Apostles preached to Israel to repent, little did any of those unbelieving Jews realize that they were about to enter the worst time this earth would ever see. Indeed, those in Rome, Greece, and all across the world had no idea what was about to take place. As Stephen, in a judicial manner, convicts the nation for their repeated rejection of God, even Christ, their Messiah, and is physically attacked, the Lord stands up from His seated place next to God the Father and is now ready to judge His nation and bring His wrath upon the world (Acts 7:56 cf. 2:33; Heb. 10:12).

What Amos describes as a day of “darkness” (5:18,20), Joel “a destruction from the Almighty” (1:15), Isaiah the “day of the Lord’s vengeance” (34:8; 61:2) is ready to come. Isaiah goes on to describe the Tribulation, saying, “Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath

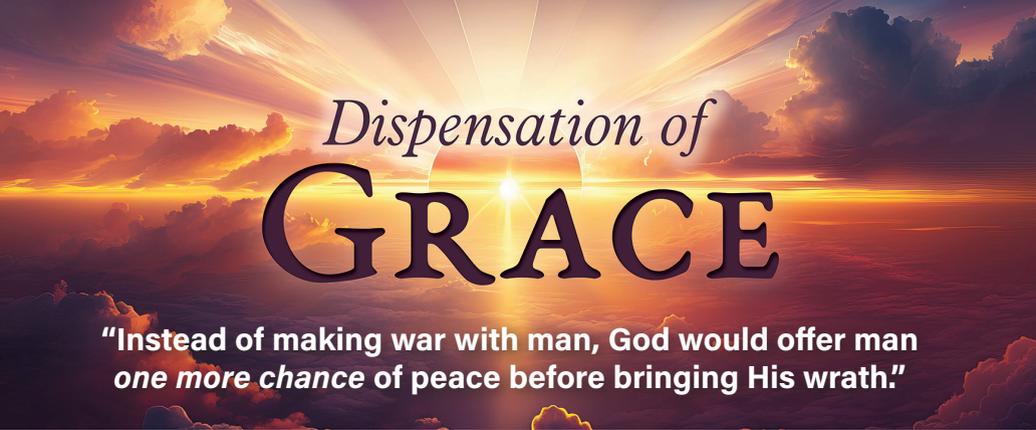
and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it... And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity” (13:9,11).

“Eventually, the longsuffering of God will be replaced with the judgment of God.”



Most had no idea what was about to happen, and God was fully justified to make it happen. But God! Instead, God turned to His greatest earthly enemy and made him His example and tool of grace (cf. 1 Tim. 1:16)—“where sin abounded, grace did much more abound” (Rom. 5:20). He took Paul, who persecuted the name of Christ like none other and made him His greatest witness and an apostle of an entirely new program. Instead of the Tribulation, God would bring about a day of grace—A “Dispensation of Grace” given to the new apostle, Paul (Eph. 3:1-11; Col. 1:25-27). Instead of making war with man, God would offer man *one more chance* of peace before bringing His wrath.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus



Dispensation of GRACE

“Instead of making war with man, God would offer man *one more chance of peace before bringing His wrath.*”

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).

As some might foolishly look around and believe mankind deserved another chance, even peace with God, let us not forget this peace was offered to the very ones who lied, falsely convicted, and killed the Son of God. The ones who nailed Him to the cross. Yes, another chance was given to Caiaphas, the high priest, and all those who took part and were still alive.

Those in the Tribulation will still have an opportunity for salvation; however, they must “endure until the end” (Matt. 24:13; Mk. 13:13). They must “overcometh” (Rev. 3:5) the worst time imaginable. It will not be as simple as believing that Christ died for their sins, was buried, and rose again. That offer will be off the table; that gospel will be replaced by the gospel of the kingdom and the need to endure the torments of the Antichrist and the world who will hunt down and try to kill anyone who fails to worship the false christ.

But now, man has an opportunity to avoid all of that. God has told us precisely how to avoid this great and terrible day: “For God hath not appointed *us* [the Body of Christ] to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him” (1 Thes. 5:9-10).

There will be no excuses for *anyone* who enters the Tribulation, and the Dispensation of Grace is the reason for it. It should not escape our attention that it was just before God’s wrath was to begin that He ushered in something He kept secret since “the world began” (Rom. 16:25)—a time which allows all people to avoid it, even those who had just spent four years rejecting Christ.

The timing is indeed perfect and is certainly one more chance for man to escape God’s wrath. Some argue that God is unmerciful in bringing His wrath, regardless of when, but they fail to recognize that God has done all He could to help each and every one of us to avoid it; it is He who gave mankind the

means to avoid it: He gave the world His Son so we could avoid His wrath, and He allowed man to kill Him so that we might live. All *we* must do today is believe the gospel.

Children will be raptured with the Church; thus, every single person who enters the Tribulation will be someone who has rejected the gospel: the good news of God's grace offered freely to *all* who would believe that Christ died for *their* sins, was buried, and rose again.

“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be

punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power” (2 Thes. 1:7-9).

God has warned everyone that His wrath is coming. He has told everyone why it is coming. And most importantly, He has told everyone how to avoid it. God is right now offering the world *one more chance* to avoid the great and terrible Day of the Lord. To miss the opportunity presented to us would be one of the worst missed opportunities ever given to man.

“Precisely because we cannot predict the moment, we must be ready at all moments” —C.S. Lewis. 

1. *Bits and Pieces*, Vol. F, #41. Sermon Illustrations, <https://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/o/opportunity.htm>.



SPOTLIGHT

on Grace Churches

OLD BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

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Alpha, Kentucky

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Sunday Worship Service—11:00 am

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Question Box



“What is of predominant importance in your teachings, the gospel message or dispensational message? And which message brings salvation?”

This question is often asked of us by those who feel we are causing division through our teaching of doctrine. But we must ask, is causing division the correct test of right or wrong? Bad or good? Did Christ Himself not say, “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather *division*” (Luke 12:51 cf. Matt 10:35)? And cause division He certainly did (cf. John 7:40-43; 9:16; 10:17-21). The fact is, truth divides; it always has and always will, and short of not sharing the truth, nothing can be done to prevent it.

It is the truth of the gospel that divides the non-believer from the believer, and the truth will also create division within the church, and rightfully so. However, the Scripture doesn’t cast the blame on those who speak the truth; instead, the responsibility lies squarely on those who reject it—“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which *cause divisions* and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Rom. 16:17). Here we see that those “which cause divisions” are the ones who are not adhering to correct doctrine.

To be sure, the most vital message that any believer can share is the gospel, for it “is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom. 1:16; 4:5). But members of the Body of Christ are called to do more than share the gospel with the unsaved. We are called to edify *the church* and share “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27). If a saved individual asks about God’s Word or counsel on baptism, tithing, sanctification, the Rapture, or any other vitally important doctrine, a believer should not be more concerned about any resulting division than sharing the truth, nor should we find it necessary to keep our conversations solely about the gospel.

God’s will is for all to be saved “*and* to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). This is why Paul said, “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine” (1 Tim. 4:13), desiring that we be “nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine” (v. 6), and warned us to “take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; *continue in them*” (v. 16). To do those things we must “preach the Word...reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2). We can and should speak the truth in love “that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14-15).

—Pastor Don Hosfeld

BIBLE TIMES: TIME PRESENT



TIME *Present*

Taken from the *latest Transformed*
by Grace series “Bible Times.”

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

“[Woody] Hayes coached the Ohio State football team for 28 years and took General George Patton as his model of leadership. His hard-nosed discipline gained him a reputation for being fiery. He was very difficult to please, had little tolerance for failure, and sometimes crossed the line when disciplining a player. Over his career, Hayes amassed an incredible win-loss record, but he also created a long list of offenses against players, parents, fans, and sports reporters. During the 1978 Gator Bowl, an opposing player intercepted an Ohio State pass and wound up on the Buckeyes’s sideline. Infuriated, Woody Hayes slugged the boy, nearly knocking off his helmet—all on national television.

“Appropriately, Ohio State fired him the next day. But in the weeks that followed, the nation raged, reporters mercilessly piled on, and anyone with a grudge vented...on the humiliated coach. He retreated in silence and shame behind drawn drapes and locked doors.

“During that time, Coach Tom Landry was to attend a prestigious banquet in New York and he was free to ask a guest to join him. Normally, he would have taken his wife, Alicia. But this time he appeared with Woody Hayes. Landry’s poignant act of grace lifted Hayes out of his shame and silenced his tormenters. Grace has a way of doing that.... When he was bent low, feeling ashamed...deserving nothing, Landry bent down, lifted him up, and embraced him.”¹

Time present is all about grace, grace toward the undeserving. God’s grace is being revealed today in a way it never was in time past.

IN TIME PAST...BUT NOW

“Wherefore remember, that ye being IN TIME PAST Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

TIME *Past*

Gentiles were...

Far off

Without Christ

Without Citizenship

Without Promises

Without Hope

Without God

“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

“BUT NOW in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ....

“NOW therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (Eph. 2:11-13,19).

“In time past,” Gentiles, the people of the nations, were in a desperate place. They did not have the opportunity and access to God that Israel enjoyed. The Gentiles were *far* from God, and being far from God included both separation from God’s people and His covenants with them as well as spiritual alienation from God Himself (4:18).

“But now,” in time present, we Gentiles, “who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ” (2:13). “But now” introduces a dispensational change. God’s dealings with mankind have changed. It was to the Apostle Paul that this change was first revealed (3:1-2). “But now” expresses the way it is for Gentiles in time present under grace. The Gentiles had many disadvantages in time past, *but now* we have many blessings and advantages in Christ.

In time past, “being...Gentiles in the flesh” (Eph. 2:11) was a problem because God “gave them [the Gentiles] up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts” (Rom. 1:24). God’s program was with Israel, and He had abandoned the Gentiles to their sins and their consequences. The Gentiles were on the outside looking in, separate from the people of God. *But now* we have our own program, with its own apostle (Rom. 11:13), and a message and a gospel that was revealed to him for us. After Israel fell in her unbelief, God turned to the nations and “opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles” (Acts 14:27), and through this program in time present, “salvation is come unto the Gentiles” (Rom. 11:11). All this was unthinkable in time past.

In time past, we “were without Christ” (Eph. 2:12), *but now* we have Christ. When we trust the gospel of grace, we Gentiles are “in Christ,”



BUT Now

Gentiles have...

Nearness

Christ

Citizenship

Promises

Hope

Access to God

having been baptized by the Holy Spirit into Him (1 Cor. 12:13). We are joined to Christ and His life, and we are righteous and blessed in Him. Colossians 1:27 also reminds us of the great privilege for the Gentiles today, that “God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you* [Gentiles], the hope of glory.” We are in Christ *and* Christ is in us! We are no longer without Christ.

In time past, we were “aliens from the commonwealth of Israel” (Eph. 2:12). The word translated as “commonwealth” in the original Greek means citizenship in a community with all the rights of a citizen. Having citizenship in Israel afforded many blessings, advantages, and privileges. Romans 9:4 describes some of them as “the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises” (cf. 3:1-2). *But now*, in time present, Gentiles who are members of the Church, the Body of Christ, have their own unique citizenship: “For our conversation [citizenship, a Greek word almost identical to commonwealth] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 3:20).

Further, Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:19 that “Now,” in time present, “ye [Gentiles] are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow CITIZENS with the saints....” We are no longer strangers and foreigners on the outside looking in. Instead, by the grace of God, we are the people of God; we are fellow citizens with all the saints under grace, having all the rights and privileges that come with citizenship in Christ (Eph. 1:3).

In time past, Gentiles were “strangers from the covenants of promise” (Eph. 2:12). *But now*, in time present, we, Gentiles, have promises in Christ. We do not receive our promises through being joined to Israel’s covenants of promise but by the grace of God. Ephesians 3:6 says of one of our promises that we are “partakers of His *promise* in Christ by the gospel.” We receive this promise in Christ, not by the covenants of promise, but “by the gospel.” What is this promise we receive from the gospel? Ephesians 1:13 tells us,

“In Whom [Christ] ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the *gospel* of your salvation: in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of *promise*.”

At salvation, Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit of promise by the grace of God. When we trust the gospel of grace, the Spirit takes up residence in us, and He seals us in Christ (4:30). Ephesians 2:22 also tells us how, in the Church, believing Gentiles with believing Jews “are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Individually and collectively, we are a “habitation,” a permanent dwelling place of God through the Holy Spirit.

In time past, Gentiles had “no hope” (Eph. 2:12) and no basis for hope because they were without Christ and not part of God’s covenants of promise with Israel. *But now*, we have great hope by God’s grace. Believing Gentiles now have “one hope of your calling” (Eph. 4:4), which is “the hope which is laid up for you in heaven” (Col. 1:5 cf. Eph. 2:6). Not only that, but Gentiles have “the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:7) and the “blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13) to catch us away to heaven before the Tribulation begins.

In time past, Gentiles were “without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12). *But now*, believing Gentiles are no longer separated from God. Rather, “through Him [Christ] we both [Jew and Gentile] have access by one Spirit unto the Father” (2:18). Gentiles in the Body of Christ today have “One God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:6).

BUT NOW ALL GRACE

All of this is by the grace of God. This was due to a change in God’s dealings with mankind after Israel’s fall and was made known in the revelation of the mystery that had been kept secret since the world began (Rom. 16:25). In this revelation for the Church in time present, we find that, by the blood of Christ and grace alone, the Gentiles have a program, an apostle, and a message; we have Christ, citizenship, promises, hope, and we have access and a relationship with God. And so, this dispensation is appropriately named “the dispensation of the grace of God” (Eph. 3:2), because all of this is a gift that we, Gentiles, do not deserve. 

1. Pastor Chuck Swindoll, “It’s Time to Embrace Grace by Embracing the Unlovely,” Insight for Living, posted June 15, 2009, <https://insight.org/resources/article-library/individual/it's-time-to-embrace-grace-by-embracing-the-unloved>.



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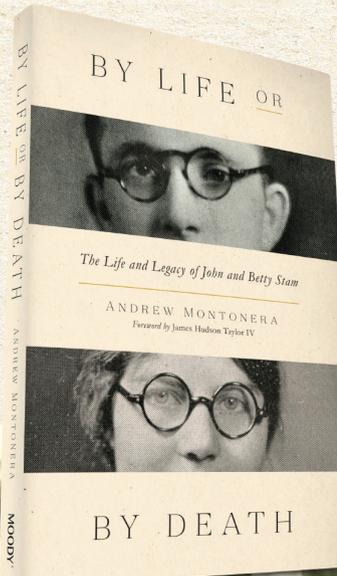


Video 348: God’s Timetable Overview
Video 349: Time Past
Video 350: Time Present
Video 351: Time Future

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in Ephesians Chapter 2, verses 1-5, apart from Christ, mankind is "dead in trespasses and sin" in his guilt. There is no doubt about that. We need the forgiveness of sin and the eternal life that only God can give in order to be saved for our future in Heaven.

Christmas Past
 The Christmas season brings to mind fond memories from Christmas past: good food, laughter, excitement, the spirit of giving, enjoyable times spent with family and friends, and the warmth and tenderness we've felt. As we consider Christmas past, we should also remember the reason for the season, which is the birth of Jesus Christ. His birth is significant above all others because His birth was prophesied 700 years before it took place, a Bible prophecy that tells us that Jesus Christ is "Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). The title Emmanuel means God with us. It means that the birth of Christ was God the Son coming from Heaven and becoming a man (John 1:16).

The Bible tells us, in 1 Timothy 1:15, why He came to the world: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." In His love, you have Christ's birth at Bethlehem: "Christ Jesus came into the world," and you have His purpose: "to save sinners." Christ came here to die on the Cross, taking the penalty for our sins in our place, because that was the only sacrifice which would satisfy God's justice against our sins. God's judgment against sinners is Hell. Because Jesus Christ bore God's judgment on us, He "saved" us from an eternity of conscious torment. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, we read, "For He [God the Father] hath made Him [God the Son] to be sin for us, Who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." On the Cross, Christ was made to be our sin and, when we trust Christ as our Savior, we are made to be His righteousness. He came "to save sinners," and each and every one of us is a sinner in need of the Savior. Romans 8:29 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

So when we look at Christmas past, we need to look at Christ, the eternal Son of God, becoming a man while remaining fully God, coming to this world to be our Substitute and Savior by His death for our sins at the Cross and then rising again the third day.

Christmas Present
 Christmas is celebrated with lights, and we remember the coming of the Light of the world (John 1:9; 8:12; 12:46) to deliver us from the darkness of sin and death and give us the light of life. We sing the words out of joy for the Infant Who was born and placed in a manger in Bethlehem, Who came to save us from all our sins and the Hell we deserve. As we sing to *Heard the Herald Angel Sing*, "Mild He lay His glory by, Born that man no more may die; Born to ease the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth."

As we celebrate Christmas today, we give and receive gifts, but we should do so remembering that Christ is the perfect Gift, Who willingly gave Himself to die for us so we can have eternal life. Christ came to this world to provide us with the free gift of salvation and eternal life. Ephesians 2:8-9 confirms that it is a gift from God: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Romans 6:23 also says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

How you accepted God's gift of salvation? All that is required to have eternal life in Heaven is faith in what Christ did for us: "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).



Christmas Times
 by Kevin Sadler

Don't forget to order our Christmas tract in time to include in all of your holiday greeting cards. Inspired by the Charles Dickens tale, this tract discusses Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Yet to Come in a way that makes it clear that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). Call to order your *Christmas Times* tracts today, or visit our online bookstore at beranbiblesociety.org.

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Murmuring

PASTOR JOHN FREDERICKSEN
Board Member

After high school, several classmates and I worked at the same place. For about two months, we sat together for lunch during break time. But every day, nothing but complaining spewed out of them. The constant negativity simply wore on me. Finally, I couldn't take it anymore, so I stopped eating with them.

We believers are not immune to a murmuring and complaining spirit. This is why God's Word instructs us, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings" (Phil. 2:14). Murmuring and disputing is the opposite of rejoicing and being thankful. They can also easily become a **horrible habit** that makes others around us miserable and hurts us, too.

Murmuring means to grumble or complain. **Disputing** means to (negatively) discuss, argue, or debate. God's people are often guilty of this. Not long after God miraculously brought Israel through the Red Sea (Exod. 15:23-24), they murmured against

Moses because of a lack of water, as if it was his fault. Soon after, Israel murmured against Moses over a lack of food (Exod. 16:1-4). It was becoming embedded in their character as a **pattern of life**.

When ready to conquer their Promised Land, Israel murmured against Moses, even wanting to stone him and return to the bondage of Egypt (Num. 14:1-4, 7, 9-10). Their negativity so kindled the anger of the Lord that except for Joshua and Caleb, an entire generation was not allowed to enter their land of great blessing. Psalm 106:25 explains, "But [they] murmured in their tents, and listened not to the voice of the LORD." The horrible habit of murmuring or complaining began in the privacy of their tents, but it soon spread like a disease that became a riot.

These examples are not only for Israel to learn from. The Apostle Paul reminds grace believers, "Neither murmur ye, as

some of them murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they were written for our admonition..." (1 Cor. 10:10-11).

God hates a complaining spirit. It robs us of joy and good health. It runs others away, spreads to others, and ruins our testimony for the Savior. Medical studies have also shown that unhappy, complaining people do not sleep as well as optimistic, happy people. Their stress lowers their immune system and elevates their blood pressure, which, of course, increases their risk of heart attack and premature death. Dear believer, we must choose joy over murmuring and disputing!



The story is told about an elderly man who had serious hearing problems for a number of years. His family tried again and again to convince him to get a hearing aid. Finally, he relented. He went to the doctor and was fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed him to hear 100 percent.

A month later, he went back to the doctor. The doctor said with a smile, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be

really pleased that you can hear again." The old man replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to their conversations. I've changed my will three times!" We believers must remember that God hears everything His children say. *Does our speech please Him?*

WE SHOULD STOP COMPLAINING AND MURMURING BECAUSE GOD PLAINLY TELLS US TO DO SO. Our clear instructions are to "do all things without murmurings and disputings" (Phil. 2:14). "All things" is very inclusive. It applies to our worship, interaction with family or church family, work, athletic competition, leisure time, service for Christ, and the rearing of our family. It literally means "all things" we do.

It is a simple reality that if we are murmuring with complaints or negatively disputing an issue, it stands to reason that we are unhappy. It is frequently reported that Abraham Lincoln once said, "Most people will be just about as happy as they decide to be." *How happy are you going to decide to be today and over the next several weeks?*

WE SHOULD STOP MURMURING AND DISPUTING BECAUSE GOD PROMISES HE IS WORKING WITHIN EACH OF US TO STOP THIS PATTERN OF UNGODLY NEGATIVITY. Philippians 2:13 promises us: "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." He wants us to experience His joy and victory over this sinful habit of negativity. Thankfully, He does

not expect us to accomplish this in our own power. The indwelling Holy Spirit will empower us to victory if we allow it.

The Holy Spirit will strengthen us to victory as He brings verses, as in this study, to our minds. He will also convict us when we return to complaining, remind us to dwell on our blessings and help us remember our blessed state.

WE SHOULD STOP MURMURING AND DISPUTING BECAUSE IT WILL RUIN OUR TESTIMONY FOR CHRIST AMONG THE LOST. The very reason Paul instructed the believers to stop murmuring and disputing was so “that ye [they] may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation [and world]” (Phil. 2:15). As sons of God, we represent God the Father, and God the Son. We must choose to represent the Lord well. Unsaved people in the world are watching us and hold us to a higher standard of being without blame or rebuke for how we talk. Lost souls are looking for peace, joy, purpose in life, and the power to live above their circumstances. They must see this in us. If they don’t, it discredits our faith and hardens them against Christ.

Radio talk show host Dennis Prager once asked a Christian if he was truly a pious man. He responded that he aspired to be but felt he fell short in two areas. One of those areas was not being as happy as a Christian should be. His point was that unhappy Christians reflect very poorly

on Christ. *If their faith is so impressive, why aren’t devoted Christians overjoyed?* There are only two answers: Either they are not practicing their faith correctly, or their faith is not conducive to genuine happiness. Unhappy Christians should rethink how important demonstrating genuine joy is before the lost.



“God hates a complaining spirit. It robs us of joy and good health.”

Dennis Prager’s conclusion was that unhappy Christians provide a more persuasive argument for atheism and secularism than do all the arguments atheists present for unbelief. Let’s choose to be happy and not murmur.

WE SHOULD STOP MURMURING BECAUSE IT IS GOD’S WILL FOR US TO SHINE AS LIGHTS IN A SPIRITUALLY DARK WORLD. The Apostle Paul continued his explanation about why we must not murmur while we live among the lost by saying we must “shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15). God would have us consciously choose to shine with the brilliance of pure speech, edifying words, and

genuine joy. God's standard for how we talk is Ephesians 4:29: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying." Simply put, if our words will not build someone up or point others to Christ, they should not be spoken.

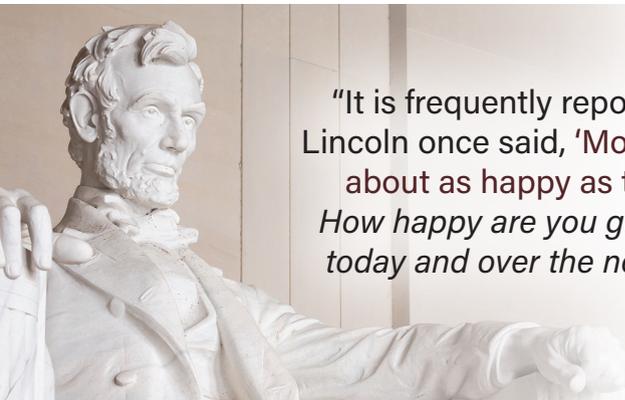
In the next verse, Paul continues: "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). *Have you stopped to think lately that when we speak in negative complaining words that it literally grieves the Holy Spirit Who lives inside each of us as believers?* Instead of indulging in negative complaining words, we must choose to "let the Word of Christ dwell in you [us] richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns...singing with grace in your hearts..." (Col. 3:16).

WE SHOULD STOP MURMURING AND DISPUTING TO ENHANCE THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD WHEN GIVEN TO THE LOST. Paul continues explaining to the Philippians why they should never murmur by saying that they must continue "holding forth the Word of life; that I may rejoice in the say of Christ..."

(Phil. 2:16). The lost hold us to a higher standard than they do for themselves. They expect to see Christians who are living the Word of God beyond Sunday. They need to see Christians who are living like they truly believe the Scriptures they study.

Paul explained it to the Corinthians this way: "Ye are our epistle...known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God..." (2 Cor. 3:2-3). Many will not believe the written Word of God until or unless they see it being lived by the one who seeks to lead them to Christ. The content of our speech will either draw men to believe God's Word or it will turn them away from the only source of truth leading to salvation. We need to ask ourselves: "*When others hear my speech, which way is my testimony leading?*"

WE SHOULD STOP MURMURING AND DISPUTING BECAUSE CHRIST IS COMING BACK FOR US AND WE WILL STAND AT THE BEMA SEAT. Paul reminds us in Romans 14:12, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."



"It is frequently reported that Abraham Lincoln once said, 'Most people will be just about as happy as they decide to be.' *How happy are you going to decide to be today and over the next several weeks?*"



“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.*” Philippians 4:8

This verse teaches that we will all give God an account of our lives (including our speech) after salvation. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11 confirms this by saying, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” We emphasize that this future time will NOT be for punishment because we stand completely forgiven in Christ (Col. 2:10). However, it will be a sobering time of accountability. It is only wise that we choose now to so live and speak in a way that will result in more joy and reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

HOW CAN I STOP MURMURING?

Victory over the horrible habit of murmuring and disputing cannot be achieved in the power of our own strength. **It must be done in the power of Christ.** When Philippians 2:13 tells us God works within us to will and do His good pleasure, it implies **we must yield to the Holy Spirit working within us.** When the Spirit of God urges us to speak only edifying things and not to complain, in spiritual sensitivity,

we must raise our speech to the proper godly level.

When Philippians 2:14 states we are to “do all things without murmurings or disputings” it creates a **new standard we must hold ourselves to in everything we speak, every time.** Excuses such as we were angry, wronged, tired, or circumstances produced negative speech must never be used again. We will only find victory over a complaining spirit when we choose to embrace this higher standard of doing “all things” with only edifying words.

The Apostle Paul instructs us to do more than empty our minds of negative grumbling. **We are to fill our minds with positive praiseworthy things,** such as “whatsoever things are true... honest...just...pure...lovely... whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil. 4:8). Putting this divine principle into practice lifts our thinking to a better place where the joy of the Lord can permeate our life and empower our testimony.

The author of *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal*, Joseph Telushkin, has lectured throughout this country on the powerful and often

negative impact of words. He often asks audiences if they can go 24 hours without saying any unkind words about or to another person.

Similarly, **if you cannot go 24 hours without saying unkind words about others, then you have lost control over your tongue.**”



“Victory over the horrible habit of murmuring and disputing... must be done in the power of Christ.”

Telushkin responds: “Those who can’t answer ‘yes’ must recognize that they have a serious problem. If you cannot go 24 hours without drinking liquor, you are addicted to alcohol. If you cannot go 24 hours without smoking, you are addicted to nicotine.

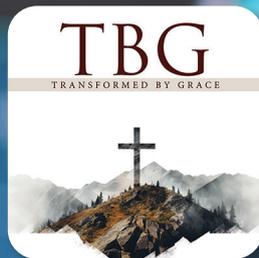
ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

Philippians 2:14 plainly tells us to “do all things without murmuring and disputings.” *Can you go the next 24 hours without saying any unkind words about others?* We urge the reader to prayerfully take up the challenge and not say even one unkind word about others or any situation for one full day. Many believe any new behavior can become a life-altering habit after 24 days. Once you achieve one day without murmuring or disputing, accept the challenge to continue for the next 24 days. Then, please let us know at the *Berean Bible Society* how God is changing your life and testimony and how much more joy you are experiencing. 

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On-and-Off THANKSGIVING

In the past, Thanksgiving was celebrated nationally only on an occasional basis. It was not a fixed date on the calendar but took place whenever the President proclaimed it. Thanksgiving was first proclaimed as an official, national holiday by President George Washington and was observed on Thursday, November 26, 1789. He proclaimed a second Thanksgiving over five years later on Thursday, February 19, 1795. President John Adams declared nationwide Thanksgivings in 1798 and 1799.

Thomas Jefferson was a deist and a skeptic of the idea of divine intervention, and he also believed it was a conflict of church and state to impose upon the American people a day of prayer and thanksgiving. Thus, he did not declare any Thanksgiving days during his presidency. Later though, President James Madison renewed the tradition at the close of the War of 1812 and proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving to be held on April 13, 1815.

On October 3, 1863, prompted by the Union victory at Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be celebrated on the final Thursday in November 1863 and that it be observed every year on the fourth Thursday of November. Since 1863, Thanksgiving has been observed annually in the United States. In 1941, a Congressional Joint Resolution officially set the fourth Thursday of November as a national holiday for Thanksgiving.

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:20).

Our thanksgiving to God might be much like it was celebrated in our country in the past: on and off. Paul, however, teaches the Church to be “giving thanks always.” Thanksgiving is the appropriate response to the grace and goodness of God. It stems from a Spirit-filled life. Paul offers this directive about thanksgiving after instructing the Body of Christ to “be filled with the Spirit” (5:18). As we yield to the Holy Spirit, He opens our eyes to all that God has done and continually does for us.

As we grow in the Lord, our thanksgiving can move from being intermittent, like the holiday was in this country for its first 74 years, to being more regular, like Thanksgiving has been for the last 161 years. Of course, God would have us be thankful more than just once a year. And, by the Spirit, thanksgiving can become a state of mind in our relationship with God, thanking Him “for all things” (Eph. 5:20) and “in” all things (1 Thes. 5:18), in all the circumstances of our lives, knowing that He is always there, in control, and at work in us (Phil. 2:13).

—Pastor Kevin Sadler

BBS

Letter

Excerpts



From Facebook:

(Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*—“The Nature of the Beast”) “A timely post....Thank you for sharing solid Scriptural reasoning to guide us.”

From the Philippines:

“I am thankful for your continuous sending of the *Searchlight* to me. It is such a blessing and helps me grow in the knowledge of the truth. I praise God for His amazing work. You are all God’s man, a vessel of His amazing Word that enlightens us. I pray He blesses your ministry, and I pray that many of those who are in the darkest valley may have the light of this *Searchlight*.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace*—“Major Events of the Bible—Pt. 6 | The Cross”) “I just want to say that when I need comfort from Christ Jesus and the living Word of God, I am grateful for your teaching, Pastor Kevin! May the Almighty and all-powerful God continue to bless your ministry.”

From Iowa:

“I thank you sincerely for your daily devotional [*Two Minutes with the Bible*]. My day begins with articles, often before I put a foot on the bedroom floor. The Scripture references give me some thought to research even before my daily Bible study. God bless you and your continued ministry.”

From Australia:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “One More Year”) “This was so good! Hard to express in words how edifying and helpful this teaching is. In fact, the whole series [“Rightly Dividing the Word”] has been beyond excellent, and I praise God for it, and thanks be to God for teachers like you, Pastor Kevin. Grace and peace from Australia.”

From Connecticut:

“I have been receiving the monthly *Berean Searchlight* for quite some time. I wanted to say how much I love and learn about God’s Word. I have enclosed a donation to say thank you.” (Thank YOU for sharing and for your support! –Ed.)

From Wyoming:

“We’re excited about the Grace Study Bible and continue to enjoy the TV ministry and the *Berean Searchlight*.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “The Cross in Prophecy—Pt. 4”) “This video broke my heart, thinking about how Jesus suffered for my sins to cleanse me from my sins and everyone who believes. All praise and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. Your teachings always bless us immensely. Thank you, dear Brother Kevin. What a fantastic ministry you provide for us all out here. We listen to two teachings every day from the memory stick as well.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “One Distinct Baptism”) “Brilliant! Clear and thorough explanations to dispel the unnecessary confusion that pervades today. Well done, Pastor Kevin. Praise God.”

From Our Inbox:

(Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*—“Is Water Baptism a Testimony?”) “Amen, I will research the Bible to get an answer to the question.” (Being a “Berean!” We love it! —Ed.)

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “All About the Bible—Pt. 2”) “This and all your teaching is so comforting, relaxing, and edifying. Exalting God and His Word above all else gives such a profound sense of peace in this sinful, deeply troubled, and restless world...Bless you, all at BBS.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Does God Care About My Life—Pt. 4”) “I have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, and my mum died of it as did her father...a judge. I must confess not remembering so many things now is making me very fearful. How we love these teachings, thank you, Brother Kevin. We watch and listen every day and they are so fruitful in our lives. God bless you much, Brother!” (Thank you for sharing, and our prayers are with you. —Ed.)

From Arizona:

“I am very happy and thankful to have received my first issue of the *Searchlight*, and I am enjoying it very much.”

From North Carolina:

“I was changing channels one day when I came across your program [*Transformed by Grace*]. I am so grateful I did. It’s been a blessing to me. I will keep watching. Enclosed is a gift.” (We are glad you found us as well, and thank you for the gift. —Ed.)

From Kentucky:

“Thank you for the monthly issue of the *Searchlight*. I read it several times and am blessed with each reading.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Getting Up Off the Mat”) “Wow, just beautiful. The Spirit definitely moved my heart on this one.”

From North Carolina:

“Many thanks to BBS for clearly teaching with rich understanding, the Bible, rightly divided.”

From YouTube:

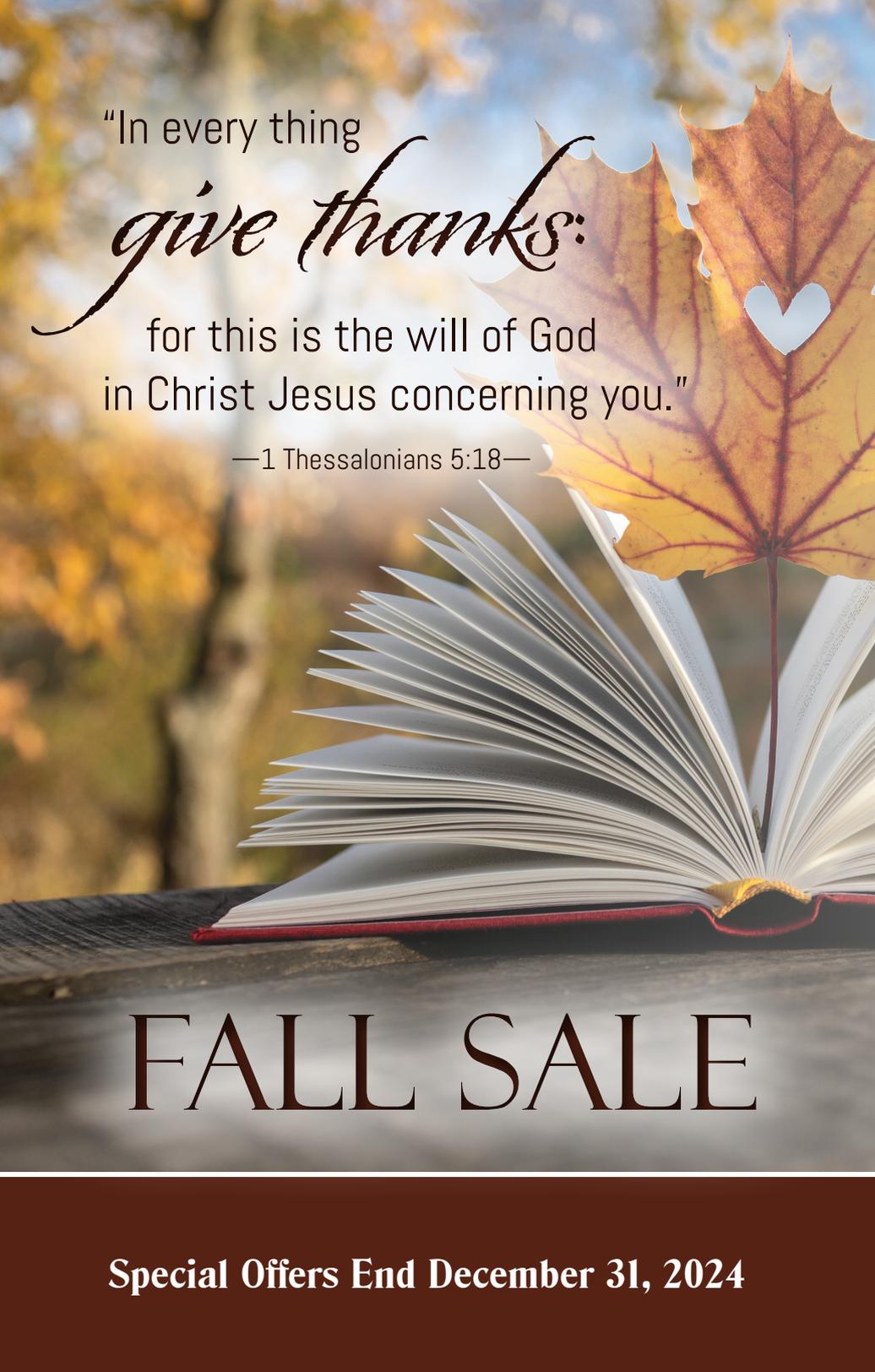
(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Gospel Presentation”) “Thank you for this presentation. I especially appreciated the heavy emphasis on sinfulness and the cure....Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, and He Himself paid the ultimate price for us. God bless you all and praise the Lord God for His unlimited grace and mercy and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ through Whom we are saved.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Growing Up Is Hard to Do”) “Well done! I really liked the comparison of the physical planting and the Spiritual planting! I sure am enjoying your teachings! Thank you so much!”



**Your gifts help to keep
the Searchlight shining!**



"In every thing

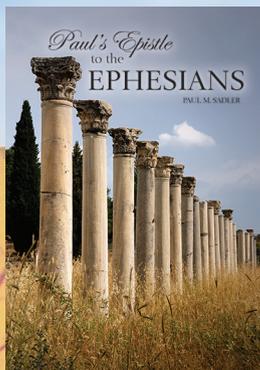
give thanks:

for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus concerning you."

—1 Thessalonians 5:18—

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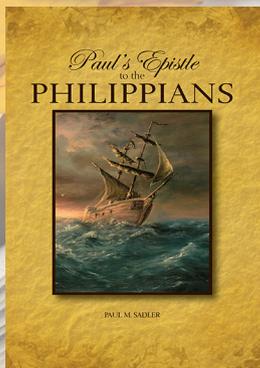


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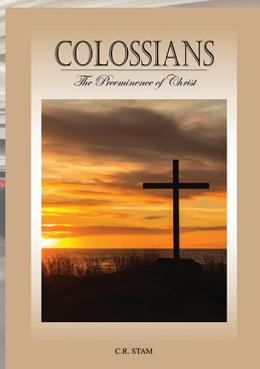


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News & Announcements



Correction: The Spotlight on Grace Churches in September's issue of the *Searchlight* (page 18) contained some incorrect information, which we would like to correct. The correct service times and contact information for *Grace Bible Fellowship* in Ridgeley, West Virginia is Sunday School for all ages—9:30 am, Sunday Worship Service—10:30 am, Thursday Night—7:00 pm, Phone: 304.726.4063, Email: brentbiller@breezeline.net, Website: www.gbfiwv.com. Our sincere apologies to Pastor Brent Biller, the congregation, and everyone else this may have impacted.

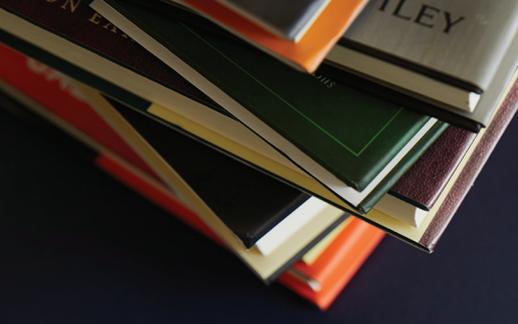
Grace Study Bible Update: With much interest in the progress of the GSB and in helping people follow along, we have decided to add a graph to our website listing the current state of each book of the Bible. We will update it as we go. Look for it on the Grace Study Bible page. Currently, forty-two books have been submitted and are in various stages of review. The review process includes multiple doctrinal and grammar reviews, as well as the need to check every reference cited by writers. Sixteen books have completed the final layout process. All of those involved are working diligently and faithfully to ensure that we do this wholly to God's glory and the edification of the Lord's Church. Please continue to pray for the work.

Transformed by Grace on the Go: Did you know that you can listen to *Transformed by Grace* in your car, while you exercise, or do housework, or at any time? The TBG Podcast is an audio podcast version of the *Transformed by Grace* TV show. The podcast is a great way to hear some of the early episodes or review past episodes, but you can enjoy the podcast even if you've never seen the TV show. Pastor Kevin Sadler from the Berean Bible Society presents the transforming power of God's grace. For more information on how to listen, go to <https://bereanbiblesociety.org/tbgpodcast/>.

Upcoming Conferences to put on your calendar!

Grace Family Bible Church, November 2-3, Duncansville, PA

Grace Bible Fellowship, February 2, 2025, Nokomis, FL



More Grace Materials

CHARLES F. BAKER

Bible Truth	\$8.00
Dispensational Relationships.....	12.00
Dispensational Synopsis of the New Testament.....	11.00
Dispensational Theology	30.00
Real Baptism.....	8.00
Understanding Acts.....	16.00
Understanding the Body of Christ	12.00
Understanding Galatians.....	12.00
Understanding the Gospels	16.00

W. EDWARD BEDORE

A Biblical Life (booklet).....	\$5.00
The State and Place of the Dead	12.00
Unlocking the Scriptures	10.00

ROBERT BROCK

Christianity Is (booklet)	\$4.00
Revelation of the Mystery (booklet).....	4.00
Seven Churches in Revelation	4.00
Teachings of the Grace of God (8.5 x 11).....	8.00

HARRY BULTEMA

The Bible and Baptism	\$16.00
Brief Notes on 1 & 2 Corinthians	12.00
Daniel.....	20.00
Isaiah.....	24.00
Miracle of Inspiration	8.00
Names of Our Wonderful Lord.....	4.00

JANET N. DAVIS

Puzzle with Three Pieces (workbook).....	\$15.00
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KEN LAWSON

The Essential Book of Grace.....	\$9.00
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FRED LEWIS

The Intermission of Grace.....	\$16.00
Understanding the Bible and End Times.....	14.00

J. C. O'HAIR

One Hundred Seventy Bible Lessons and Sermon Outlines.....	\$12.00
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DONALD WEBB

Basic Bible Doctrines.....	\$12.00
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ROLLIN WILSON

Thematic Preaching.....	\$11.00
So Run That You May Win	11.00

GROWING UP IN GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL (BBS)

Bible Events Book 1	\$24.00
Bible Events Book 2	24.00
Bible Events Book 3	24.00
Bible Characters Book 1	24.00
Bible Characters Book 2	24.00
Bible Characters Book 3	24.00
Bible Doctrines Book 1.....	24.00
Bible Doctrines Book 2	24.00
Bible Doctrines Book 3.....	24.00
The Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ	24.00

GRACE GOSPEL PUBLISHERS

First Things First (kids lessons and stories).....	\$11.00
Sound Words	5.00
Bible Memorization Packs (50 cards).....	3.00

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

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Phone: 262.255.4750 | Website: boreanbiblesociety.org

This is only a partial price list. For a full price list please see our website or contact BBS.

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“No man has a right
to do what he pleases,
except when
he pleases to do right.”

—Charles Simmons

TBG

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BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY TV MINISTRY

Sunday 9:00 am ET:

- The WALK Television Network

Monday–Friday 6:00 pm ET:

- Christian Television Network (CTN)
 - DirecTV: Channel 376
 - Dish Network: Channel 262
 - Glory Star Satellite: Channel 117

TBG Network 24/7 streaming channel on Roku and Apple TV
Also available on TBG YouTube, and the BBS website

