

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

January 2025



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This month's cover features the Grand Haven Pier Lighthouse in Grand Haven, Michigan.

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FROM THE EDITOR TO YOU

Dear Friends in Christ,

The tradition of New Year's resolutions has its roots in ancient history! As far back as 2000 B.C., the Babylonians marked the New Year with a 12-day religious festival called Akitu, in which they made promises to the gods to repay debts and return borrowed objects. These commitments were seen as a way to start the year with a clean slate and gain favor from the gods.

The Romans embraced the Babylonian New Year along with the custom of making resolutions. However, this celebration was later moved to January 1 when the Julian calendar was introduced in 46 B.C. Despite having religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are primarily secular in nature.

Another common resolution is found in official documents or debates. These often contain two clauses: a **whereas** clause meant to explain the rationale for the resolution and provide supportive facts and background information, and a **resolved** clause that states the action being requested or the resolution's outcome.

While some Christians prefer to avoid making a typical New Year's resolution, maybe the latter use will suffice this January.

Whereas, it is "God that made the world and all things therein...He is Lord of heaven and earth" (Acts 17:24); and

Whereas, by man and not God, sin entered into the world, and "all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12); and

Whereas, "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him" (Nah. 1:7); and

Whereas, "God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment" (Job 34:12); and

Whereas, "Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite" (Psa. 147:5); and

Whereas, the armor of God includes and the Bible instructs us to be "praying always" (Eph. 6:18 cf. Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Thes. 5:17; Col. 4:2); and

Whereas, the days are evil (Eph. 6:13), and the Apostle Paul and others from Scripture *consistently* relied upon prayer to face the challenges of living in a "defiled" and fallen world (Isa. 24:5); therefore

Resolved, that in this new year, prayer shall be a priority; no plans of mine, schemes of Satan, or any other thing shall prevent me from seeking the Lord *continually* in prayer.

By His Grace,

Pastor Don Hosfeld



Pastor Don Hosfeld has been serving as Editor for the *Berean Searchlight* since February 2023. In addition, he speaks at Bible conferences and churches around the country.



New
Testament

Every-Man Evangelism

“Do the work of an evangelist.” Paul’s Spirit-inspired injunction in 2 Timothy 4:5 applies indirectly to every believer in Christ. Are not our pastors simply leaders in the work of the Lord? Shall the congregation sit idly by as the pastor alone does “the work of an evangelist?” God forbid! The pastor is rather to be an example to his flock to go and do likewise.

How well this writer recalls the days of the so-called Darby-Scofield movement when multitudes all over the country thronged to hear Bible teachers like Gaebelein, Gray, Gregg, Ottman, Chafer, and Newell. These able men of God expounded the Word as the “blessed hope” of the Lord’s return was being recovered. But these Bible teachers were evangelists too, in the truest sense of the word, and their evangelism was contagious.

In those days almost all premillenarians, including the young people, carried New Testaments in their pockets wherever they went. Why? They hoped and prayed for opportunities to testify to others about God’s plan of salvation through Christ, and they wanted to show them the way from Scripture. In those days, if a Christian failed to have a New Testament with him, he was apt to be reproved with the words: “What! a soldier without a sword?” By contrast, few believers carry New Testaments about with them today, and they certainly don’t carry Bibles!

Some are telling us today that this brand of fundamentalism is out of date and ineffective in these fast-changing times. We reply that all of us ought to get back to this brand of fundamentalism, this earnest effort to personally win souls to Christ by showing them God’s plan of salvation from the Scriptures.

God help his people in general and each spiritual leader in particular to “do the work of an evangelist.”

—Pastor C. R. Stam

The Art of

Distraction



PASTOR DON HOSFELD
Berean Searchlight Editor

“All warfare is based on deception. Hold out baits to entice the enemy. Feign disorder, and crush him.”

—Sun Tzu

Roughly twenty-five hundred years ago, military strategist and philosopher Sun Tzu wrote *The Art of War*, which may be the most influential text on military strategy and tactics in history. It is so highly regarded that the United States Military Academy, aka West Point, uses it as instructional material in the Military Strategy course and is recommended reading for all United States Military Intelligence personnel.

The Art of War has remained relevant over the years because it is about strategy and tactics rather than specific warfare technology. General Douglas MacArthur, five-star general and onetime supreme commander of the Allied Powers, said, “I always kept a copy of *The Art of War* on my desk.”

Divided into 13 chapters or *arts*, one of the work’s key ideas is the importance of deception

and distraction in any conflict. Many of the most famous and consequential battles in history have utilized the art of deception and distraction in order to achieve victory.

The Trojan War famously ended thanks to a ruse and the resulting distraction of a giant wooden horse. Believing the enemy had fled and their city and homes safe, the people of Troy let their guard down. However, the enemy was closer than they ever imagined; he was in their midst, and they had no idea.

The Allied landing at Normandy on D-Day during WWII was one of the most significant battles in history, and it relied heavily on the art of distraction to achieve victory. It marked the largest military invasion in history as Allied forces launched an assault on Nazi-occupied Europe.

On the night of June 5 into June 6, 1944, a significant number of Allied paratroopers descended over Normandy. However, they weren’t alone in their descent on

D-Day. In order to mislead German forces as to the true focus of the attack, hundreds of inflatable paratroopers were also dropped over both Normandy and Calais.



Known as Oscars by Americans and Ruperts by British forces, these decoy soldiers were part of Operation Titanic. Their purpose was to help distract attention from Normandy by making the Germans believe Calais was the actual target for invasion. These dummy paratroopers came in various forms and played a significant role in sowing confusion among German troops during those critical initial hours of the operation, allowing the invading forces to gain a foothold. And a foothold is often the only thing necessary for an enemy to secure a path that leads to destruction.

Mankind may use *the art of distraction*, but it originated and was perfected by “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan.” As Peter warned, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

The word “sober” refers to sober-mindedness. It’s the idea of self-control, clarity of mind, steadfastness, and keeping your passions under proper restraint. Without a doubt, Satan will use distractions in order to gain a foothold in our lives. We need to “be vigilant”—ever watchful against the subtle and wicked designs of our spiritual enemy.

DISTRACTED FROM GOD

“Be extremely subtle, even to the point of formlessness. Be extremely mysterious, even to the point of soundlessness. Thereby you can be the director of the opponent’s fate.” —Sun Tzu

When God introduces mankind to his enemy, Satan, He does so by describing him as “more *subtil* than any beast of the field” (Gen. 3:1). If the old axiom “Know thyself and thy enemy” is true, then mark well *the very first* attribute of Satan that God warns us about: he is “subtil.”

The word “subtil” (Hebrew *arum*) can have either a positive or negative connotation. In the negative sense, which is no doubt the intent here, it means *crafty*, as we see in Job 5:12: “He [God] disappointeth the devices of the crafty [*arum*].” Satan is indeed crafty. We may be acutely aware of Satan’s goal to destroy us while dangerously unaware of his tactics.

There are two areas in a person’s life that Satan wishes to attack above all else, the first being *our relationship with God*—as evidenced by his first recorded action—working to

create separation between Adam and God. How did Satan go about this? What tactic did he use? He baited Adam and Eve by dangling a distraction in front of them. He distracted Adam and Eve with the opportunity and thoughts to have something they did not at that moment have—to “be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:5).

The art of distraction is one of Satan’s most commonly used and most successful tactics. No wonder then that God warned Israel prior to leaving the wilderness and entering the promised land, “Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God” (Deut. 8:11). He warned them repeatedly not to forget Him (cf. 6:12; 8:14,19).

God’s warning to Israel was simple: when you go into the land and have “eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein...and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God” (8:12-14). God knew that Israel would turn their attention from Him and to the things of this world. It is easy to become distracted from God when we stop living as though our lives are entirely dependent upon Him.

God’s warning to Israel to “not turn aside to the right hand or to the left” (Deut. 5:32; Prov. 4:27) was basically a warning not to become distracted but rather stay the course and keep their focus on Him and His commandments. The “first and great commandment” to “love the Lord thy God with *all* thy heart, and with *all* thy soul, and with *all* thy mind”

(Matt. 22:37-38 cf. Deut. 6:5) essentially conveys the need to avoid becoming distracted and giving God less focus and attention than one should.

Paul tells us that the god of this world (Satan) “hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Cor. 4:4). Literally, Satan *obscures* the light of the gospel. How does one obscure something? Often, they simply put something in the way.



Satan puts various things (distractions) between the non-believer and the gospel. He has always done this. We might recall what Christ told the twelve Apostles regarding some who encounter the Word of God, “the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the Word, and it becometh unfruitful” (Mark 4:19).

It makes no difference if you are a believer or non-believer; our enemy is actively engaged in trying to create separation between you and God, and we should not be so foolish to think he will ever

“We may be acutely aware of Satan’s goal to destroy us while dangerously unaware of his tactics.”



stop. We must be watchful of anything that would draw our attention from God, the study and meditation of His Word, and prayer.

This world has a way of providing many places to focus our attention other than on God. But the good soldier doesn’t “entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him Who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (2 Tim. 2:4). Or as David said, “I have set the LORD *always* before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved” (Psa. 16:8).

Paul told Timothy, “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine....Meditate upon these things; give thyself *wholly* to them” (1 Tim. 4:13-15). “Wholly” to what? To “reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” *Believer*, understand and know that this world is set up in such a way as to demand your time and distract your mind. Do not accept it; fight the course of this world and make time for the Lord—“Let the Word of Christ dwell [*inhabit*] in you richly [*abundantly*]...” (Col. 3:16).

Satan will also try to distract our service to God. We see an example of this just before David

fought Goliath. When David arrived at the Israelite camp, he “came and saluted his brethren” (1 Sam. 17:22), but then, hearing the taunts of Goliath and saying, “who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God” (v. 26) David is presented with a distraction. Immediately, after hearing what David had said, his eldest brother Eliab’s “anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart” (v. 28).

But David didn’t take the bait. After a quick rebuke, David “turned from him toward another” (v. 30). David kept his focus on serving God and did not allow himself to get distracted for any reason, including defending himself. It’s not uncommon for people who genuinely love the Lord and start out with the mindset of serving Him to get distracted and end up serving themselves. Our enemy is good at pulling the right heartstrings to get us to focus on our wants instead of God’s instructions.

DISTRACTED SPOUSES

The second area in a person's life that Satan wishes to attack above all else is *our relationship with our spouse*. In marriage, we find the first relationship to exist beyond that between man and his Creator. It is the most important human relationship a man or woman can have. Consequently, it is the most important human relationship that Satan would seek to divide. No matter what we see in this world, no matter what baits are out there, we can rightfully expect that Satan's true focus is on dividing and destroying marriages.

When, in the Garden, Satan sought to create separation between mankind and God, he was also seeking to create separation between man and his wife. How quickly, in Adam's eyes, Eve went from "bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh" (Gen. 2:23) to "the woman whom Thou gavest to be with me" (Gen. 3:12).



The relationship between husband and wife existed prior to all other human relationships and takes precedence over all other relationships. Our marriages come before and are above all

other expectations. In a Godly marriage, each puts God first and their spouse second. Nothing interrupts that order: not children, not work, not politics, not entertainment, not yourself; nothing comes before your spouse except God.

Christians, your homes are under attack! Satan has every intention to invade your home, and with the use of subtleness (craftiness), he intends to divide and conquer. The surest way to lead the world away from God is not through the secular culture but by dividing the home—God's first and most important institution.

Distraction will be his tactic that you can be sure of and, better yet, plan for. He is like the general who sends troops in one direction simply to distract his opponent and capture his attention so that he is not focused and becomes vulnerable.

What are the distractions that capture most people's attention and which become Satan's tool? Entertainment, politics, world events, and even ministry responsibilities. There are many things, even good things, that distract us from what is most important. We need to ensure we don't have a misplaced ministry. Our spouse is the first and always most important ministry. It comes before every other ministry.

There are some sobering truths that should cause us to question ourselves: in the U.S. the average Christian spends more time listening to political news and pundits than to their spouse. As

important as being informed and even involved in the current state of politics and culture is, it pales in comparison to the importance that God places and expects you to place on your spouse.

Like with Eliab and David, the enemy will present you with another enemy to fight to distract you from the more critical battle. The home is the more critical battle. For many, 75% of the time they get to spend with their children is over by the time they turn twelve. 90% by the time they turn eighteen.

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:15-17).

The importance of these words and their relevance to marriages hits home when we recognize that they come just prior to Paul’s instructions to husbands and wives (vv. 22-28). “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it” (v. 25). Is Christ distracted?

Do we ever find Him too busy to talk to, lean on, or learn from?

One of the main tools of distraction today is the mobile phone, and social media in particular. It truly is a weapon of mass distraction. According to one source, more people in the world own a mobile phone than a toothbrush. On average, in the U.S., Americans check their phones between 60-144 times per day and spend 4 hours and 30 minutes on their mobile phones each day. That equates to more than one day per week, six days per month, and seventy days per year.

Most children get their first phone by age 12, and based on current life expectancy, that means they will likely spend 12 years of their life looking at a phone. According to a 2022 study, 78% of all females say they spend more time on their smartphones than with their partners. On average, people spend 2 hours and 27 minutes on social media daily. Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, TikTok, Instagram, X, Pinterest, Reddit, and Snapchat are all ways spouses are

“No matter what we see in this world, no matter what baits are out there, we can rightfully expect that Satan’s true focus is on dividing and destroying marriages.”



distracted, and the home is being attacked.



Seventy-eight percent of people check their social media feeds before any spiritual involvement in their life, i.e., prayer or Bible reading. We have a problem when a spouse is more interested in the most recent post than they are in prayer, more interested in Snapchat than chatting with their spouse, with Facebook than the Good Book. We need to have our face in the Book *much* more than being on Facebook. If we don't, we aren't merely inviting trouble; it's already there, much like the people of Troy, who had no clue that their homes weren't safe and the enemy was already in their midst.

Social media isn't the only tempter when it comes to our phones. Wake up in the morning and look at how many notifications you have. We get notifications from news sources telling us about the latest events around the world, the latest sales on Amazon, and so much more. Look at your email, and there is bound

to be one right after another trying to get your attention. Attention from whom? Attention from what? This grasp for our attention is by design. What is the cost? What is the price of allowing so much of our time and focus to be pulled away from our spouse and our marriages?

Remember the old saying, "You got time to lean; you got time to clean"? Christian husbands and wives, *you got time to play, you got time to pray*. How much time have you spent praying for your spouse? How much time have you spent contemplating them, their struggles, their needs, and their wants?

As believers we *know* that we live in an evil day. We *know* that we have an enemy. We need to put the world aside and focus on our spouse. They need us to do this. Every day, our spouses face temptations and trials, and we need to communicate with each other and pray for each other. In marriage, the two become one, and we need to spend time each morning preparing each other for the day ahead if we are to succeed at thwarting the enemy's schemes to divide us.

Finally, consider the eternal consequences of becoming distracted from our spouses. In Colossians 3:18-25, the Apostle Paul lays out responsibilities to various groups of people, but not surprisingly, he begins with spouses. Note the warning of verse 25, "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

Our spouse is a gift of God, they are the most important ministry we will ever have. To God, our spouse is precious. I'm reminded of Leah and Rachel. Jacob was married to both, but he loved Rachel. Apparently, seeing Leah not loved didn't sit well with our

God: "And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, He opened her womb" (Gen. 29:31). How would God see our marriage and the time we spend occupied in things less important? Are you spending your time wisely with God and your spouse as your focus? 



SPOTLIGHT

on Grace Churches

PALMA SOLA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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PASTOR DOUG LAPOINT

Service Times:

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Sunday: 10:45 am-12 pm—Sunday Service

Tuesday: 11:00 am—Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday: 7 pm—Prayer and Bible Meeting

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Millennial Sacrifices

PASTOR DAVID HAVARD
BBS Board Member

While understanding the dispensational distinctions between Israel (with its earthly prophetic program) and the Body of Christ (with her heavenly unprophesied program) answers most of the supposed soteriological and eschatological contradictions in the Bible, some questions remain. One of these questions which is brought up from time-to-time is regarding the purpose of the blood sacrifices which will be offered to God in the Millennial Temple. This question is usually asked along the lines of, “Since Hebrews 9:12 says that Jesus was the once-for-all sacrifice for sin, why will blood sacrifices again be offered during the Millennium?”

To better understand the answer to this question, we will first briefly look at the Mosaic sacrificial system. Then we will see what Scripture has to say about the Millennial Temple and its sacrificial system. And finally, we will compare the two to try to gain insight into the purpose of the Millennial blood sacrifices.

THE MOSAIC SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

After Israel was freed from their Egyptian bondage, God gave the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 20-31; Lev. 1-25). The Mosaic Law was much more than just the Ten Commandments. God also gave Moses detailed instructions regarding the building of the Tabernacle (and all its furnishings), the Levitical priesthood (including their vestments, ordination, and how they were to carry out their priestly duties), and the requirements for the many sacrifices that the people were to give.

God went into great detail when He told Moses how to construct the Tabernacle, and He admonished Moses to be sure to construct it all according to the *pattern* which God had showed him (Ex. 25:9,40; Num. 8:4). What pattern did God show him? Hebrews 8:5 adds additional information and tells us that God showed Moses the pattern for the Tabernacle when he was on Mt. Sinai: “Who serve unto the



“The ark was given a covering (an atonement) that protected it from the judgment of God’s flood waters upon the world.”

example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith He, *that* thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.”

While on Mt. Sinai, Moses was not only told, but also shown what to do. Moses was directed to build the earthly Tabernacle based on his vision of the heavenly Temple—it was a pattern to be copied. Thus, we see that the entire Levitical sacrificial system was a type or “shadow of heavenly things.”

What was the purpose of the blood sacrifices in the Levitical system in the Tabernacle and Old Testament Temple? Scripture tells us that they were to “make atonement” for sin (Ex. 29:36-37; 30:10; Lev. 1:4; 4:20; et al). The word “atonement” (Hebrew *kâphar*) means *to cover*. Interestingly, it is the same word translated as “pitch” in Genesis 6:14, “Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.”

The ark was given a covering (an atonement) that protected it from the judgment of God’s flood waters upon the world. Likewise, the blood sacrifices of the Levitical system provided a covering over Israel’s sins and uncleanness which protected them from God’s judgment and allowed a holy God to remain in their presence. Thus, Noah’s ark, like the blood sacrifices of the Levitical system, is a type of Christ. The blood sacrifices of the Levitical system did not remove or expiate sin but only provided a covering—as we read in Hebrews 10:4, “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”

Under the Mosaic Law, blood sacrifices were required to cover Israel’s sin both to avert God’s judgment and to allow God’s holy presence to remain with them. After years of hard-heartedness and rebellion, as evidenced by phony worship to God (offering sacrifices to Him without the right heart attitude, Isa. 1:11-14) and outright idolatry (worship of other gods, 2 Kings 17:13-18), we see that God had finally

had enough and removed His glory from the Temple (Ezek. 10:18-22). Though Israel continued to offer sacrifice, God's Shekinah glory never returned to Israel's Temple (neither Solomon's nor Herod's).

THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE AND ITS SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

Moving from the Levitical worship system of the past, we now want to look at the Millennial worship system of the future. The most extensive treatment of the Millennial Temple and its worship is given in Ezekiel chapters 40-46. The dimensions of the Temple and its surrounding area listed in Ezekiel chapters 40-42 show that it will be larger than before—just the Temple itself will be about one mile square (Ezek. 42:15-20). Ezekiel 44:15-16 shows that only Levitical priests who are descended from Zadok will serve there. And Ezekiel 45:13-17 (along with Isa. 56:7; Jer. 33:18) reveals that there will be blood sacrifices offered on the altar in the Millennial Temple.

Comparing the worship and sacrifices of the Solomonite and Millennial Temples, we see that *both* will require blood sacrifices. We previously saw that the reason for blood sacrifices under the old Levitical worship system was to provide atonement or a covering for Israel's sin (Ex. 29:36-37; 30:10; Lev. 1:4; 4:20). What then will be the purpose of blood sacrifices in the Millennium?



Well, Ezekiel says that these sacrifices will be offered for the *same* reason that they were offered in the previous Temple—to “reconcile” or *make atonement* for Israel (Ezek. 45:15,17,20). But *why* is atonement still required for Israel if Christ has already offered Himself once-for-all (Heb. 9:12)?

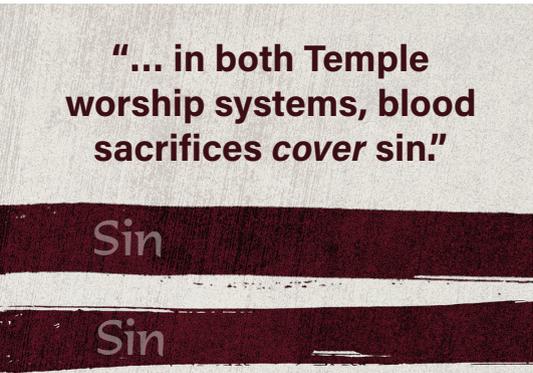
THE PURPOSE OF THE MILLENNIAL BLOOD SACRIFICES

The problem is answered once we realize that we are asking the wrong question. The problem is that we erroneously equate blood sacrifices with the expiation of sin. But as Hebrews 10:4 says, “For *it* is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” The blood of sacrificial animals *never* took away sin. It did not purge sin in the previous Temple worship system and neither will it purge sin in the future Millennial Temple. *Blood sacrifices have nothing to do with the forgiveness of sin.* Rather, in both Temple worship systems, blood sacrifices *cover* sin—and that is the key to understanding their significance in both the past and the future.

A common reason given for the blood sacrifices in the Millennial Temple is that they are memorials that look back to Christ's sacrifice—just as under the Law, the theory goes, they looked forward to Christ's work on the cross. However, there is only one problem with this supposition: nowhere in Scripture are these sacrifices ever said to be “memorials.”

We previously mentioned that God's glory had departed from the Temple (Ezek. 10:18-22). Now, let us go back to Ezekiel for a passage that we deliberately did not mention before. Ezekiel 43:2-5 reveals that in the Millennium, God's Shekinah glory will return and once again fill the Temple. In the Millennium, “the glory of the God of Israel” (Ezek. 43:2), “the glory of the LORD,” (Ezek. 43:4), will “fill the house [Temple]” (Ezek. 43:5) just as it did in the days of Moses (Ex. 40:34) and Solomon (1 Kings 8:11).

God cannot abide in the presence of sin (Psa. 5:5; Hab. 1:13). Anything in His presence that is not 100% holy would be destroyed by His glory (Ex. 33:20). In the Millennial Kingdom, God's glory will once again fill the Temple; so how will Jews and Gentiles in their natural bodies be able to worship Him in the Temple as required?



**“... in both Temple
worship systems, blood
sacrifices cover sin.”**

Sin

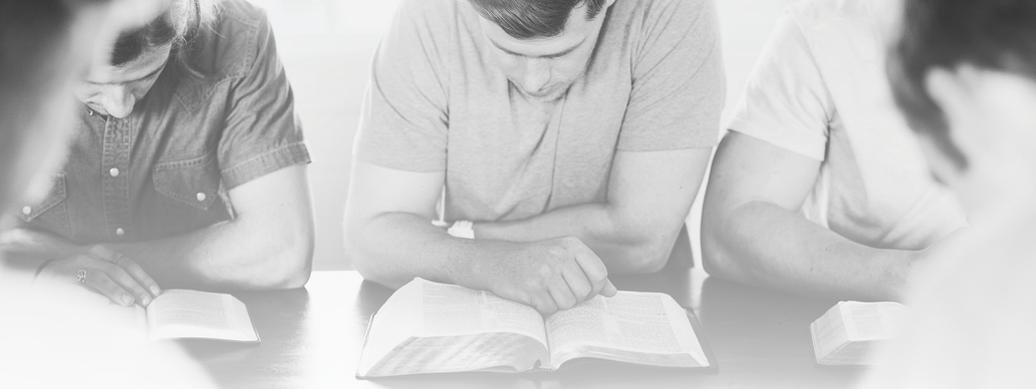
Sin

Provision must be made whereby unholy man can approach and worship a holy God. As in the Tabernacle and the old Temple, the blood of sacrificial animals in the Millennial Temple will provide a *covering* or atonement over their ceremonial uncleanness so God can be in their presence without destroying them.

The Book of Hebrews was written to Kingdom Jews to show them the absolute superiority of the Lord Jesus Christ over Moses, the Law, and their sacrificial system. The Jews had come to place faith in the wrong thing—the works of the Law (including blood sacrifices) for salvation instead of the work of their Messiah on their behalf.

Using the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ in Hebrews chapter 10 to question the purpose of blood sacrifices in the Millennium is to miss the point of both the Book of Hebrews and the Millennial sacrifices. The purpose of the Book of Hebrews is for Kingdom Jews to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ instead of the works of the Law. The purpose of blood sacrifices in the Millennium is to provide atonement (a covering) for man's uncleanness so he can enter into God's presence to worship Him.





CHRISTIAN *to* CHRISTIAN

THREE INSTRUCTIONS FOR AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS

In Colossians 4:5 and 6, we read: “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without [the non-believer], redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

“Walk in Wisdom Towards Them That Are Without!” A believer who wants to effectively witness to the lost must be very careful as to their personal conduct around the lost. We must be loving, kind, and compassionate at all times. The lost will immediately dismiss the witness of a hypocrite.

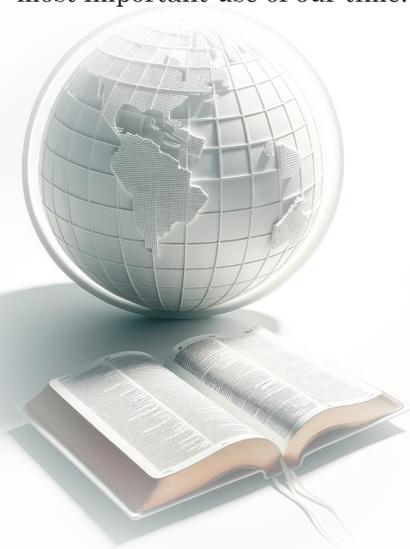
“Redeeming the Time!” A believer who wants to win the lost must realize we have no time to waste. We must prioritize our use of our time. Manage your time in such a way that you prioritize time spent on evangelism. Our ambassadorship (2 Cor. 5:18-20) should be the most important use of our time.

“Let Your Speech Always Be With Grace, Seasoned With Salt.”

Believers must speak the truth, but we must speak the truth in love. We must tell people the truth but tell it in a way that effectively communicates our love for them. The world will not listen to us unless we convince them that we love them first.

Your witness will become effective and fruitful IF you follow God’s instructions.

—Pastor Jim Zaebst



Question Box



"Can you please explain what the 'water' and the 'Spirit' means in John 3:5? Thanks!"

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

A couple of verses earlier, the Lord Jesus Christ told the Pharisee, Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (3:3). The words "born again" literally mean born anew from above. Thus, Christ told Nicodemus that, in order to enter the kingdom of God, a person must receive a spiritual birth, a rebirth, a new life from above.

However, Nicodemus was taken aback and perplexed by Christ's words about being born again, and he did not grasp their spiritual meaning. Understandably, he then asked the Lord absurd questions, expecting a negative answer, because surely Christ did not mean something as impossible as a second physical birth. Nicodemus asked, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (3:4). The Lord answered that "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit" (3:5), he can't enter the kingdom of God.

Answering Nicodemus's protest about being born after being fully grown or entering the mother's womb a second time, the Lord pointed out to Nicodemus that there are two kinds of birth, of water and of the Spirit, meaning the natural and the spiritual. I believe that being born of water speaks of being born of the flesh, or physical birth. The breaking of the water in natural birth is what makes sense of the expression "of water and of the Spirit." Being born of the Spirit (vv. 5-6) refers to the Holy Spirit's work of renewal and spiritual rebirth. Thus, the Lord is describing birth and rebirth, being born and born again. He was saying that, unless one is born of a woman ("of water") *and* born from above ("of the Spirit"), he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Referring to the two births, the Lord said in the next verse, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (3:6).

The old Christian adage, attributed to Martin Luther, is true: "Born once, die twice [Rev. 20:14-15]; born twice, die once."

—Pastor Kevin Sadler



Love

IN ALL WE DO

(From a message preached at the 2024 BBF Fall Conference in Friendship, Wisconsin)

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

“You’ve probably never heard of Wilbert Williams. He’s not famous or rich. Still, Williams received an honor normally reserved for the connected, powerful, and wealthy. On December 2, 2004, the city of Chicago designated a street as Wilbert Williams Way. The honor is in celebration of his upcoming retirement.

“What did someone as unknown as Williams do to deserve such a tribute? The question becomes even more compelling when you realize that for nearly 40 years, Wilbert Williams has worked at the Woman’s Athletic Club as a doorman. Normally, an honorary street sign goes to people who get the door held open for them—not to the one holding the door.

“What set Williams apart? He has carried out his duties in an exemplary fashion. Police Officer Paul O’Donnell said, ‘In all these years, I’ve never heard him speak a harsh word about anyone. He’s a gentleman.’ Through his

kindness and service to others, Williams made an impact on those who he met at the corner of Michigan and Ontario. Commenting on why he has always helped tourists, pointing them in the right direction, Williams says, ‘If I was in a different city, I’d like someone to help me.’

“Having a street named after you is impressive. How much greater the honor God promises to give to those who serve Him well, an eternal inheritance that will never spoil or fade away.”¹

WHAT SHOULD THE BELIEVER’S WORK LIFE LOOK LIKE?

“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men” (Col. 3:22-23).

The word “servants” (v. 22) refers to a slave. When Paul wrote Colossians, slavery was

widespread in the Roman Empire. There are differences between the institutions of ancient slavery and modern employment. However, the practical principles given by Paul for servants and masters can be applied to the employee-employer relationship of our day.

Much of our lives is given to work. For the majority of us, most weeks and days are given to a job or some kind of work. Work is a significant part of who we are and what we give ourselves to, day in and day out, year in and year out. If you spend 40 hours a week on the job for 50 weeks a year, between the ages of 18 and 65, you will amass 94,000 hours on the job. God cares about what you do with all that time and has instructions for it.



In verses 22-23, Paul gives instructions for the believer who is under the authority of another in the workplace, and Paul answers the question, “What should the believer’s work-life look like?” For many believers, God has called for the workplace to be their primary mission field. It is where we spend the most time and often where we are around the most people. The way we work is a testimony to a watching world.

- 1 **“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh...”**
- 2 **“...not with eyeservice, as menpleasers...”**
- 3 **“...but in singleness of heart, fearing God.”**
- 4 **“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily...”**
- 5 **“...as to the Lord, and not unto men.”**

1. Obedience

“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh...” (Col. 3:22).

A couple of verses earlier, Paul wrote, “Children, *obey* your parents *in all things...*” (v. 20). Then in verse 22, he wrote, “Servants, *obey in all things...*” This shows that the obedience the child learns from their parents in the home is important for the future obedience that they will need in the workplace.

For the employee, there is to be obedience to our “masters according to the flesh.” There is a subtle reminder here by Paul that these masters are only masters according to the flesh, meaning the believer has another Master Who is far above all (Col. 1:18). And before Him, believing employees owe submission and obedience to their employers or supervisors. Obedience in the workplace is ultimately obedience to the Lord. Of course, this instruction is not suggesting that

the believer compromise his or her faith, do something contrary to God's Word, or break the law. The point is that God wants us to respect and cooperate with the people we work for and to do as we are instructed.

2. Not with Eyeservice

"...not with eyeservice, as menpleasers..." (Col. 3:22).

"In the comic strip *Calvin and Hobbes*, Calvin's boss is catching him sitting at his desk staring out the window. 'Why aren't you working Calvin?' Without much thought Calvin confessed to his boss, 'Because I didn't see you coming.'"²



"Eyeservice" refers to one who just works hard, or *pretends* to work hard, when he or she knows somebody's watching and, as such, is a "menpleaser" and one who seeks to gain the praise and favor of others through the work being seen. The quality, effort, and thoroughness of those who work only with eyeservice drop off dramatically when they aren't being watched.

The type of work Paul exhorts from believing employees has nothing to do with whether we are being watched or not, or whether we will get credit or not. By the grace of God, Christ desires that His Church be people of integrity who work diligently all the time, even when no earthly master is watching. We do so knowing that the Lord, our Master in heaven, sees all we do at all times (Prov. 5:21).

3. In Singleness of Heart, Fearing God

"...but in singleness of heart, fearing God" (Col. 3:22).

The word "singleness" means simple sincerity, the virtue of one who is free from pretence and hypocrisy. This sincerity comes from one's heart. God's grace reaches for the heart, and it changes it. The goal for our respect, cooperation, and a good work ethic on the job is that it be not just superficial but genuine from the heart.

Singleness of heart is wanting to do what is right and good in God's sight. It's being singularly and sincerely focused on pleasing the Lord in all we do, including in the workplace. There is more to working for the believer than just punching the clock, doing the job we are paid to do, and then punching out. We're called to work with singleness of heart as a testimony for Christ.

Paul adds that we are to work, "fearing God." Fearing God is about giving reverence to Him. Your job, no matter what it is, can be an act of worship. It's been said well that "As Christians we



"If a carpenter crafts a chair for a rich stranger, he may do it well, but if he crafts it for his daughter, he will do it lovingly."

sometimes exalt 'spiritual' work and downplay simple labor. However, any work, no matter how mundane, that is done for God is spiritual work."³ All believers can serve the Lord in their jobs, whatever that job may be. Thus, any job becomes a ministry.

Often, many in the world look to their career to *provide* them with meaning and for it to *bring* significance to their lives. For the believer, however, Christ is the One Who gives meaning and significance to our lives. Therefore, we do not look for meaning in our career; rather we bring meaning to it by faith as we work in an attitude of worship, fearing God.

4. Do It Heartily

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily..." (Col. 3:23).

"Whatsoever ye do" is a comprehensive statement. One's whole being belongs to God: body, soul, and spirit. All of life is Christian. And whatever we do in our daily employment, we should "do it heartily," putting our hearts and souls into it, doing it wholeheartedly to the best of our abilities.

In His earthly ministry, the Lord told Israel, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength..." (Mark 12:30). Worship teaches us to give our whole heart to the Lord God. And stemming from our devotion to God, in our employment, we are called to work with all our hearts. Being a reliable, productive, hard worker glorifies God. As King Solomon advised, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." (Eccl. 9:10).

5. As to the Lord

"...as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:23).

Walter Wangerin wrote the following: "If a carpenter crafts a chair for a rich stranger, he may do it well, but if he crafts it for his daughter, he will do it lovingly. Much, much is different between the first and the second crafting, and much is different between the two chairs, too, though only he and his daughter may see the difference."⁴

As we work out of our love and gratitude for the Lord, this makes a difference in how we work and the kind of effort we give it. Working just for a paycheck often leads to doing just enough. Knowing that one is ultimately working for the Lord is meant to transform and upgrade a worker's attitude and performance. And because we *truly* are serving the Lord in our jobs, Paul wrote that our faithful testimony in our jobs will be justly rewarded by the Lord one day.

PAYDAY SOMEDAY

“Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons” (Col. 3:24-25).

We serve the Lord in our daily employment “knowing” we will be rewarded by our Master in heaven one day. The Lord promises to reward those who work with the kind of heart, integrity, and obedience described in verses 22-23. The word “reward” (v. 24) means recompense. It refers to what Christ will give in return for the work that believers do in the workplace.

This reward is called “the reward of the inheritance.” Believing Israel has a future inheritance in the Promised Land during Christ's earthly kingdom (Matt. 5:5). For the Body of Christ, we learn of our inheritance from the message revealed to the Apostle Paul for the Church today. Paul referred to the believer's inheritance earlier in this letter:

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light” (Col. 1:12).

When we trust Christ as our Savior, we are born again, by grace, into the family of God (Eph. 2:4-5; Titus 3:4-5). In Christ, believers enter a familial relationship that, in turn, legally bequeaths us an inheritance called “the inheritance of the saints in light.” This describes the believer's position and standing before God in Christ in the light and glories of heaven (Col. 1:5). Our inheritance of eternity in heaven in Christ cannot be gained by works or lost by bad behavior. It is all of grace and is a gift received by faith alone.



However, “the *reward* of the inheritance” (Col. 3:24) is different from our “the inheritance of the saints in light.” The “reward of the inheritance” is something that *can* be gained or lost based on our service to Christ.

Colossians 3:24 tells us that one who serves the Lord in the workplace “shall *receive* the reward of the inheritance: for ye *serve* the Lord Christ.” Thus, we see *the receiving of reward* is dependent upon good and faithful *service*

rendered to Christ. Colossians 2:18 also warns the church of the possibility of *losing rewards*: “Let no man *beguile* [defraud or cheat] you of your *reward* in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels....”

The reward of the inheritance refers to heavenly, spiritual, and eternal rewards. These will be given or withheld, won or lost when we stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10-12). It is at that day when each believer will individually stand before the Lord to give an account, that believers who faithfully labor in their jobs and ministries and serve the Lord in them will be recompensed and given an eternal reward by Him.

Your daily work goes into eternity. Your job has eternal significance. You might feel as if your work doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things. You get called out to a job for a sink that's leaking, you fix the pipes like you've done a thousand times before, and you wonder what difference it makes. You go to your class



every day and teach the children the things you've been teaching for many years, and you wonder if it is making any difference.

Work often feels futile and pointless. This passage reminds you that it isn't. What you do matters forever. The kids you taught might not care that you poured your heart out teaching them, and they might not ever realize how much it helped them in life. In the house where you ably fixed the plumbing, conscientiously caring



that you did a good job, the residents won't remember you were there in a day or two, and they might not remember your name. But Christ cares. He knows. He won't forget. He will reward you for it one day. Everything you did for the glory of Christ and as a godly testimony for Him will be remembered forever.

Regarding the receiving of the reward of the inheritance at the Judgment Seat of Christ, Paul further points out that, at that day, “he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons” (Col. 3:25).

The motives, attitudes, and conduct of the believing workman are the issue in this context. “He that doeth *wrong*” is obviously one who does the opposite of what is right, and in this context, it means to do the opposite of everything Paul said the believer should do in

the workplace. It means to be habitually stubborn, insubordinate, and disobedient to the supervisor. It means to work with eyeservice and superficial cooperation, not giving a full effort or working as to the Lord.

Paul says when this kind of unfaithful workman stands before the Lord at the Judgment Seat, he will “receive for the wrong which he hath done” in the sense that he will receive *nothing*. “He



shall suffer loss” of reward (cf. 1 Cor. 3:15). The heavenly rewards of our inheritance that we could have received from the Lord’s own hand, had we been faithful laborers, will be withheld.

At the Bema Seat, with “no respect of persons” (Col. 3:25), or without favoritism, the impartial Judge and Head of the Church will righteously judge the entire Body of Christ. On that day, every believer in Christ can expect to receive a reward for good conduct or suffer loss of reward for consistent misconduct in their daily employment. As 2 Corinthians 5:10 reminds us,

“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.”

By the grace of God, may we resolve in 2025 to be faithful, godly workers for the glory of our Savior!

1. John Beukema, as quoted in the [Chicago Sun Times](https://www.chicagosuntimes.com/12-2-2004) (12-2-2004), <https://www.cybersalt.org/dr-harold-mcnabb/the-pilgrim-life-is-the-life-for-me>.
2. “In the Comic Strip Calvin and Hobbes, Calvin’s...” contributed June 18, 2007, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/60404/in-the-comic-strip-calvin-and-hobbes-calvin-s-by-sermon-central>.
3. “Jesus Made Plows That Lasted,” Preaching Today, accessed December 1, 2024, <https://preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2004/july/15435.html>.
4. Source unknown. 

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BBS

Letter Excerpts



From Missouri:

“We thank each and every one of you for your love and devotion in sharing and teaching the Word of God rightly divided. We learn from you daily. God bless you.” (Your words are one of the many ways God blesses us. —Ed.)

From the Philippines:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “The Cross in Prophecy—Pt 4”) “I should extend my gratitude for your sermons, Pastor Kevin Sadler. I learned many things from them. I use them in teaching and preaching in church. I also gleaned lessons from your *Searchlight* magazines.”

From Tennessee:

“I was an Agnostic for years and almost died twice now. One thing that kept coming was the *Searchlight*. I want to thank you for sending it all these years. The *Searchlight* is what has kept me ‘going’ spiritually. I want to add a couple of my friends, and I hope it impacts them as much as it did me. Keep on publishing!” (We are overjoyed to hear this and pray it will impact your friends.—Ed.)

From Iowa:

“We are using your book, *Key Words of Our Faith*, in our adult Bible study. Your prayer that God’s people might be rooted in Christ, established in the faith and abounding with thanksgiving is answered every time these powerful truths are taught.”

From Kenya:

(Responding to *More Minutes with the Bible*—“The Truth About the Truth”) “God bless you so much for your concern with the Scripture. More grace be with you and your family and ministry over there. We are behind you with prayer.”

From Iowa:

“I read on your website of the soon-to-be-released KJV Study Bible sometime in 2026. We all are blessed with the Word, and we believers commend you for creating this *Grace Study Bible*. I hang my hat on the 2 Timothy 2:15 hook, and I look forward to seeing your work....Thanks again for your labor in the Spirit; we appreciate it so much.” (That’s a good place for us all to hang our hat. —Ed.)

From Our Inbox:

“My heart is so happy right now after I received your books. I just want to say thank you for all your efforts in doing anything you can to spread God’s Word and for rightly dividing the Word of Truth; I pray that God blesses you endlessly. I know He is smiling right now, seeing His good and faithful people, and He is glorified from your ministry.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “The Gospel of Salvation”) “Thank you once again, Brother Kevin! How we love all your teachings! Such an enormous blessing every time we watch and listen to them.”

From Our Inbox:

(Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*—“Keeping On An Even Keel”) “I so needed to hear this today. With everything taking place on the internet, the end times, I really needed to hear this. Praising God and thanking you with the love of Christ.”

From Uganda:

“Praise be to our mighty God, brethren at BBS. I am so grateful for my February 2024 issue of the *Searchlight*, and many thanks to President Pastor Kevin Sadler for the article ‘Three Dangerous Characteristics.’ False teachers excel in talking; they are vain talkers, are captivating and persuasive, and what they say impresses but has no real foundation....This is very common in our country.”

From Our Inbox:

“I am a new Christian (about 1 year) and earned the monicker of ‘The Berean’ because of my insatiable quest for knowledge of the Lord. A sister in Christ brought some of your monthly *Searchlight* issues to a class we are taking. That’s how I found the *Berean Searchlight* and *Berean Bible Society*. Thank you. I have your app on my phone and watch Pastor Sadler on YouTube.”

From YouTube:

“(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “The Mystery of Christ”) “I am SO grateful that I can have daily Bible study and feast in the rightly-divided Word of God with Pastor Kevin....”

From Florida:

“Thank you...I’d be lost without your teaching.”

From South Africa:

(Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*—“A Little Leaven And Lost Blessing”) “Thank you very much for the devotion. The Word of God doesn’t get stale.”

From Our Inbox:

“Thank you very much for sending me the *Berean Searchlight*; it’s such a blessing. Please keep sending them. God bless you all and your ministry.”

From Zambia:

“I am writing to you to thank God for the way He is using you to print [the *Berean Searchlight*] magazines which you are sending to us. This has helped us to rightly divide the Word of truth. These magazines have helped us to be established in grace. We are using them in Bible study and reaching out to others.”

From Philadelphia:

“May God bless you, Pastor Sadler, and your program *Transformed by Grace*. I watch on CTN here in Philadelphia. Wonderful spirit-filled teaching! Thank you so much.”

From Iowa:

“Since my wife went to be with our Lord and Savior, I have received much compassionate advice on handling the grief of physical loneliness and emotional grief. Through it all, I just want to relay to any and all that daily study of the Holy Scripture and prayer is by far the best medicine. The tears and heartache will all be forgotten in eternity with our Lord Jesus Christ and our loved ones. Thank you, *Berean Bible Society*, for all your Scripture study aids.” (Thankful we serve the God of all comfort. —Ed.)



Your gifts help to keep
the Searchlight shining!

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13



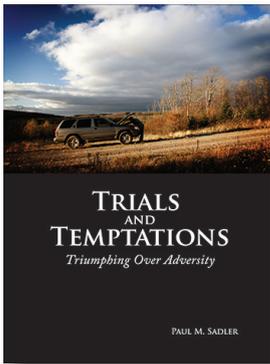
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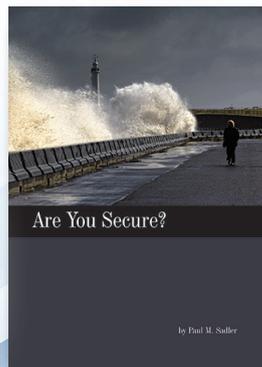
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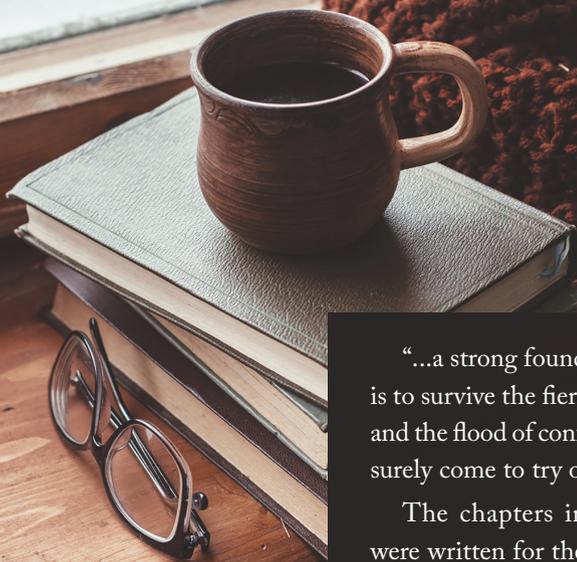
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News & Announcements



A Legacy of Hope: *Berean Bible Society* is a ministry devoted to sharing the hope of the gospel of the grace of God with a world that desperately needs to know the *correct* gospel. We are also dedicated to helping people understand their Bibles so they “through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” Would you consider helping this work by including the *Berean Bible Society* in your estate planning? This kind of commitment will undoubtedly create a lasting legacy that will impact future generations. For more information, contact us at 262.255.4750 or berean@bereanbiblesociety.org.

Grace Churches and Bible Studies: Here at BBS, we often get questions from people wanting to find a “grace” church or Bible study nearby for themselves or loved ones. To help, we’ve put together a comprehensive list of various grace gatherings throughout the U.S. and created a new feature on our website where you can search for Bible studies or churches within 500 miles of any U.S. zip code. You’ll find the “Find a Grace Church/Bible Study” page under the Bible Study main menu. While we are honored to have the trust of those who look to us in matters like this, and though we have done our best to ensure that each ministry listed teaches Scripture “according to the revelation of the mystery,” we encourage you to use this tool as a starting point and investigate for yourself the groups listed.



Florida Special Meetings: BBS President Pastor Kevin Sadler will be speaking at a special meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2025, at *Grace Bible Fellowship* in Nokomis, Florida. If you live near the Venice/Sarasota area or need another excuse to visit Florida in February, stop in to visit the dear saints and listen as Pastor Kevin brings a message from the Scriptures. For more information, please contact Pastor Matt Ash at 941-966-5959 or email at pastor@gbfcflorida.com.

Upcoming Conferences to put on your calendar!

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

Northern Wisconsin Grace Conference, February 15-16, 2025, Lena, WI



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