

The BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

April 2025



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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.

BBS is a faith-based ministry dependent on the gifts of God's people.

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FROM THE EDITOR TO YOU

Dear Friends in Christ,

We hope this issue of the *Searchlight* finds you doing well and deep in the Word of God! As many of you know, *Berean Bible Society* has been diligently working on a project close to many hearts, including ours: the creation of a *Grace Study Bible* that reflects our mid-Acts doctrinal position. As a ministry founded over eighty-five years ago for the purpose of helping believers understand and enjoy the Word of God, we are confident this study Bible will greatly help establish believers in sound doctrine and introduce others to the grace message. And thanks to your continual encouragement through email and phone calls, as well as your financial support, we know that you, too, are excited to see this project reach completion and to have your very own copy of the *Grace Study Bible*.

If you have not already heard, Lord willing, we expect to have the Bible available on **December 1, 2025**—yes, this year! However, in order for us to ensure that all the notes from Genesis through Revelation, as well as the charts/maps and the other study tools, are of the utmost quality while meeting this deadline, we are making a few changes around the BBS office.

Moving forward, the primary focus for everyone at BBS will be to work on the Bible project. This means, for now, less time to be able to answer questions by phone or email. While we do recognize how important those things are, we also realize the need to complete the work before us so as to respect those who have patiently waited. Another change you may notice is our utilization of previously published articles for the *Searchlight*. This will allow Pastor Kevin and myself to devote as much time as possible to the Bible. Besides, who doesn't need a bit of repetition in teaching?

The time has come to make a final push to the finish line. Please continue to lift this project and all those involved up to the Lord in prayer, knowing our desire to be faithful to our word and our promise to bring you a Bible that recognizes the “revelation of the mystery” and the unique apostleship of Paul for the Body of Christ.

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

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.

The Man Upstairs

In his song entitled, “Unanswered Prayers,” country singer Garth Brooks refers to God as “the Man upstairs.” Similar phrases referring to Almighty God include: the Big Man, my Co-pilot, my Homeboy, my Golf-buddy, or simply JC. The user may not intend it this way, but such references are highly disrespectful and reveal a lack of understanding about who and what our Great High God really is.

When the Apostle John encountered the Lord Jesus Christ, who was instructing him to write what would be revealed to him, he said, “I fell at His feet as dead” (Rev. 1:17). Notice there was nothing casual in John’s response. Why? When the Lord Jesus Christ spoke, it was with “a great voice, as of a trumpet” (v. 10). “His eyes were as a flame of fire” (v. 14), and “His countenance was as the sun” (v. 16).

This brief picture, and the reaction of a mere man in the presence of God, is consistent with the rest of Scripture. Isaiah says he saw “the Lord...high and lifted up” with dynamic angelic hosts attending Him crying, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts” (Isa. 6:1-3). Isaiah’s response was not casual or irreverent. He said, “Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips” (v. 5).

People of old had a far greater reverence for the Lord. King David described his great God by saying, “The Lord reigneth, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength... Thy throne is established of old: Thou art from everlasting” (Psa. 93:1-2). He continued, “God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness” as He reigns over all men (Psa. 47:8). He’s not just a co-pilot or a buddy. Balak declared, “God is not a man, that He should lie” (Num. 23:19).

The Lord tells us this is because “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:8-9). In the context of all this information, the Lord Jesus said of the Father, “Hallowed [meaning holy or sacred] be Thy name” (Matt. 6:9).

It would be appropriate to lovingly share articles such as this with lost souls who lack understanding of God’s holiness and magnificence. More importantly, in humility, we believers need always to show great reverence to the Lord and to His name.

—Pastor John Fredericksen



TRUTH

The Resurrection **Cover-Up**

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

Robert Gorham Davis was a professor of English at Columbia University. After his retirement he spent his energies writing letters to the *New York Times* Editorial Section. He wrote many letters, usually prompted by any favorable mention of Christian truth. Anytime the *New York Times* made some mention of Christianity, he protested with a letter.

In one such letter he wrote, “Plainly if there were such a God who really wished to reveal Himself to mankind, He could do so in a way that left no doubt.”¹

Well, He did. God revealed Himself to mankind through His Son, and God left no doubt as to the revelation of Himself to mankind by His Son rising from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single most amazing way God could have revealed Himself to us. And the facts are clear, the evidence is conclusive: Christ is risen from the dead.

Satan hates the Resurrection. He tried to cover it up by the lies and scheming of religious leaders

and Roman soldiers, and he still tries to cover up the resurrection today. As a result, the true meaning of Easter is covered up with bunnies, eggs, candy, and baskets. But we must be careful and vigilant not to allow the world to cover up for us what this blessed holiday is all about.

SURE, SEALED, AND SET

“Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done” (Matt. 28:11).

Matthew records, “Now when they were going.” The “they” are the women who had come to the tomb on Resurrection morning. An angel had appeared to them at the tomb and told them to tell the disciples that Christ was risen from the dead as He said, and that He was going before them into Galilee where they would see Him (vv. 5-8). As they went from the tomb, the Lord appeared to the women. And then He too told them to tell the disciples that He

was risen and would meet them in Galilee.

Thus, verse 11 says, “Now when they were going,” meaning that these women were obeying the Lord and were on their way to deliver to the disciples this message of good news from the risen Savior.

People were moving in different directions on Resurrection morning. The women were on the move toward the disciples’ location, and “some of the watch,” or the Roman soldiers, were on the move as well “into the city” of Jerusalem to find the Jewish chief priests. Strange, isn’t it, that Roman soldiers would seek out the Jewish chief priests?

To answer that question, first we need to learn about the orders given to these soldiers.

“Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

“Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while He was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

“Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night, and steal Him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

“Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

“So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch” (Matt. 27:62-66).

After Christ’s death on the cross, the chief priests and Pharisees remembered Christ’s words

that He would rise again after three days.

They requested from the Roman governor, Pilate, a watch, or a Roman guard unit, to be stationed at the tomb to ensure that the disciples didn’t try to steal Christ’s body and claim He rose again. Pilate granted the watch. So the Roman soldiers “went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.”

Now, Roman guards were *serious* about what they were put in charge of guarding, because if a Roman soldier failed in his duty as a guard, it was an offense punishable by death. They faced certain and immediate execution. This was why the Philippian jailor was about to kill himself after the earthquake when he thought Paul and all the prisoners had escaped (Acts 16:26-29).

The punishment for failing on guard duty was for the soldier to be “stripped of his clothes, then burned alive in a fire started with the garments.”² The fear of that punishment made guards very alert and mindful of their responsibilities.

Christian apologist, evangelist, and author Josh McDowell wrote this about a Roman watch: “A Roman guard unit was a 4-to-16-man security force. Each man was trained to protect six feet of ground. The 16 men in a square of four on each side were supposed to be able to protect 36 yards against an entire battalion and hold it. Normally what they did was this: four men were placed immediately in front of what they were to protect. The other 12 were asleep in a semi-circle in front of them

with their heads pointing in. To steal what these guards were protecting, thieves would first have to walk over those who were asleep. Every four hours, another unit of four was awakened and those who had been awake went to sleep. They would rotate this way around the clock.”³



We know the guard unit in front of Christ’s tomb was a multi-man force because Matthew recorded how “SOME of the watch came into the city” (Matt. 28:11) after the resurrection. “Some” implies several men of the Roman guard unit.

Matthew 27:66 tells us that the Roman guards “made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone.” Application of the Roman seal to the stone was key because it was a public testimony that Christ’s body was actually there. Before that seal was applied, each member of the guard unit would go in and verify that what they were guarding was there. Their lives depended on that. That seal tells us that Christ’s body was in that tomb.

After verifying that Christ’s body was in the tomb, the stone was rolled in place, and a cord was stretched across the rock

covering the entrance. The cord was fastened at each side with sealing clay. While still soft, the clay packs were stamped with the official signet of the Roman governor.

Trying to move the stone from the tomb’s entrance would have broken the Roman seal, and thus incurred the judgment of Roman law and power. And the consequences were severe, that is, “automatic execution by crucifixion upside down.”⁴

After inspecting the tomb, rolling the stone into place at the entrance, and sealing the stone, the Roman guards then set the watch and got themselves in place.

A POWERFUL ANGEL

“And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

“His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow” (Matt. 28:2-3).

When Christ died, there was a great earthquake. His death in payment for sin was of such magnitude that it shook the world (Matt. 27:50-51). In Matthew 28:2, we see that when He rose again in victory over death, the chains of death were broken forever, and this too was of such magnitude that it literally shook the world. His death shook the world. His resurrection shook the world. Verse 2 calls it “a great earthquake.” The word “great” is *megas* in the Greek, so we would say that it was a mega-quake. That is to say, it was a supernatural earthquake, and a severe one.

It wasn't any shifting of the tectonic plates in the earth's crust that caused the earthquake. It wasn't any physical phenomenon at all. It was the result of the arrival of the angel of the Lord,



descending from heaven to roll the stone away. The earthquake was not caused by Christ coming out of the tomb. It was caused by the arrival of the angel coming to the already-empty tomb. The angel did not come to let Christ out. When the angel arrived, Christ was already gone. He had already risen. In Christ's resurrected, glorified body, He could simply move right through the rock, which He did when He left the tomb.

We learn that the angel didn't move the stone to let Christ out. The angel moved the stone to let the world in, so all could see that Christ was gone. The angel moved the stone so that the women and the apostles could go in and give eyewitness testimony to the fact that Christ wasn't there.

You gotta love this angel. When he comes, he comes in power, and there's a great earthquake. He then single-handedly rolls that great stone some distance from

the entrance of the tomb, and then he sits on it. That stone being removed from that door showed death had been conquered forever, that we are *free* forever from bondage through the fear of death (Heb. 2:15). That stone was a symbol of the sin that shut man in prison and condemned him to death. But now Christ had conquered sin and the grave. Nothing was going to change this fact. And in exultation at Christ's victory, this angel sat on that stone. He sat on it as a divine testimony to Christ's once-for-all, finished sacrifice for sin and His triumphant resurrection over death.

SHAKY SOLDIERS

“And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men” (Matt. 28:4).

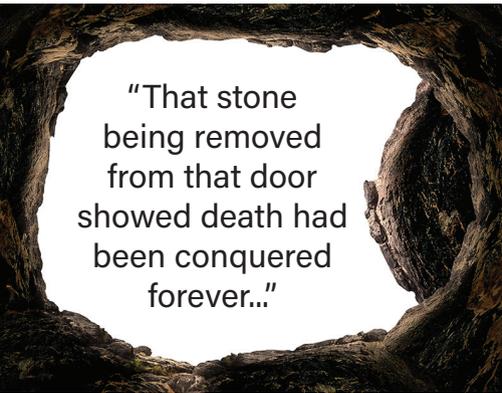
When the angel appeared and the earthquake occurred, and he moved the stone and sat on it, Matthew 28:4 records that the guards shook. The Greek word translated “shake” (*seio*) comes from the Greek word for “earthquake” in verse 2 (*seismos*). One could say that the guards had their own seismic experience. The ground quaked and then *they* quaked and shook out of sheer terror from seeing this heavenly angel.

Roman soldiers were acquainted with the terrors of battle. They were not easily shaken emotionally. But the angel's shining countenance, coupled with the earthquake, paralyzed the “keepers,” the Roman guard. They were struck with such fear that they went into a comatose state, and they fainted “and became

as dead men.” The angel never speaks to these guards. It was just his powerful presence that overwhelmed these rough and tough Roman legionnaires.

As soon as they regained consciousness, the soldiers checked the tomb, which they found empty except for the graveclothes lying as they were when they were wrapped around the Lord’s body, and the head napkin folded neatly to the side (Jn. 20:5-7). The soldiers saw and examined the entire scene.

“Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done” (Matt. 28:11).



“That stone
being removed
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Then some of the guards came into the city of Jerusalem to talk to the chief priests and to report to them all that had happened. Only “some” of them came because the others probably feared for their lives and were in hiding. The “some” who did come were shrewd. They did not report to their superior officers or to Governor Pilate; instead they reported to the Jewish chief priests. They reported to the men who were as

anxious as they were to cover up what had happened.

They reported to “the chief priests all the things that were done.” And “all things that were done” included the earthquake, the appearance of the angel, the angel moving the stone away from the entrance to the tomb by himself and then sitting on it, and how, after this, they fainted. Then they reported that, after they came to, the tomb was empty, except for the graveclothes. The chief priests, therefore, received word of Christ’s resurrection before the disciples did. The religious leaders already knew while the women were still on their way to the disciples.

A BRIBE AND A LIE

“And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

“Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole Him away while we slept.

“And if this come to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him, and secure you” (Matt. 28:12-14).

In verse 12 we read, “when they [the chief priests] were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel.” The chief priests immediately called for a formal, emergency meeting of the Sanhedrin, the 70-man ruling body of the Jewish religious leaders. The firsthand facts from the soldiers were shared: the tomb is empty and they’ve got to do something about it. They assembled to consult together, that together they might come to a satisfactory resolution.

First they decided to bribe the soldiers to lie: “they gave large money unto the soldiers” (v. 12). They couldn’t have the soldiers going around saying there was an earthquake, an angel who rolled the stone away, and then that the tomb was empty. Today we would call this hush money.



The Greek word for *money* in verse 12 means silver coinage. The Jewish leaders gave the soldiers a large sum of silver money. They had bought Judas off for the sum of 30 pieces of silver; now they had to pay much more, but there was no price too high to buy a lie about this. This information could not come out. One would think that the resurrection would *soften* the hearts of the religious leaders to believe, but instead it hardened their hearts. They were determined in their unbelief.

Second, the Jewish religious leaders decided that, in return for the large sum of money, the soldiers were to spread a lie: “Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole Him away while we slept” (v. 13). These religious leaders of Israel were desperate to come up with a story to explain the empty tomb and deter people from faith in Christ. The body was stolen. This was the only lie that worked. Nothing else works

but this, because you have to offer a natural explanation for an empty tomb. But their cover-up proves the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The lie to be made known was “Well, we were all asleep when the disciples came in the middle of the night and stole His body.” However, the question that logically raises is “If you were asleep, how do you know His disciples came during the night and stole His body away?” You can’t have it both ways. You can’t be asleep and also know who took Him.

Another reason for the large bribe was that the religious leaders were asking the soldiers to incriminate themselves and to admit to sleeping while on guard duty in violation of Roman military law, which, as previously stated, was punishable by death.

For this reason, the third thing the religious ruling body decided was to assure the soldiers of their protection, telling them, “And if this come to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.” They were good at that, persuading Governor Pilate. Pilate was like putty in their hands. When Pilate was resistant to crucifying Christ, they kept working on him and worked the crowd into a frenzy against him: “the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this Man go, thou art not Caesar’s friend” (Jn. 19:12). As we know, the weak-kneed Pilate ultimately relented and commanded Christ to be crucified. Thus, if Pilate tried to take action to execute the soldiers, the chief priests knew they could go to him and keep the soldiers out of trouble.

“So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day” (Matt. 28:15).

Confident that the chief priests could do this and keep them safe, we learn in verse 15 that the soldiers took the large sum of money and did what they had been “taught.” The Jewish leaders had a number of soldiers that all needed to be telling the exact same story. They needed to go over the details of the cover-up and the lie so that one soldier wasn’t saying one thing and another was saying something different. As we say today, they needed to be on the same page. Thus, they were “taught” the lie carefully.

The leaders feared that the Resurrection was going to be preached and believed. They knew the news that the tomb was empty was going to spread, so they had to spread the lie quickly and widely. As Mark Twain once said, “A little lie can travel half way ’round the world while Truth is still lacing up her boots.”⁵ The Resurrection cover-up lie of the disciples stealing the body went out far and wide. Matthew, writing years later, confirms that it was still a prominent story believed by the Jews in that day, even though it was ridiculous.

The soldiers, who knew better, lied. The religious leaders, who knew better, lied. Satan, who is the father of lies, still propagates lies about the Resurrection today, and people still believe them.

Here are a few lies about the resurrection. There’s the “Wrong

Tomb Theory,” that says the reason the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty was that the women went to the wrong tomb. However, two of the women had watched where He was buried the day of His crucifixion and knew where the tomb was (Matt. 27:61). This would mean that not only did the women go to the wrong tomb, but so did Peter and John when they ran to the tomb later (Jn. 20:3-4). And the right tomb would have been located after a while, especially by the Lord’s enemies who would have wanted to disprove the resurrection. Obviously, Joseph of Arimathea and the Roman soldiers knew which tomb contained the Lord’s body.

There’s the “Swoon Theory,” that Christ didn’t really die on the cross and just fainted from exhaustion. He was buried alive, and so later He came to and left the tomb on His own.

“A woman wrote [pastor and radio preacher] J. Vernon McGee, ‘Our preacher said that on Easter Jesus just swooned on the cross, and the disciples nursed him back to health. What do you think?’



“McGee replied, ‘Dear Sister, beat your preacher with a leather whip for thirty-nine heavy strokes. Nail him to a cross.

Hang him in the sun for six hours. Run a spear through his heart. Embalm him. Put him in an airless tomb for three days. Then see what happens.”⁶

You may have heard the “Hallucination Theory.” This theory states that people only thought they had seen the resurrected Christ and had just hallucinated. However, mass hallucinations do not exist, and numbers of people together in the same place saw the risen Christ. There were too many different people in too many different places at too many different times and circumstances to be able to have that many hallucinations. And if the risen Christ were a hallucination, there would have been a body in the tomb.

Then there’s the “Stolen Body Theory” of Matthew 28:12-15 that began on Resurrection Day, a theory which is still believed by some. However, the disciples weren’t plotting how to steal the Lord’s body, they were hiding in fear of their lives.

HE IS RISEN INDEED

What we have here in Matthew 28:11-15 is an account of Christ’s resurrection from the viewpoint of *His enemies*. The Holy Spirit, in the wisdom of God, gives us this angle as proof of the truth. Critics and doubters of the Resurrection may question the accounts by Christ’s friends, saying that of course they’re going to lie and say He rose again, because they were His friends. So unbelievers might dismiss the testimony of His followers. But it’s pretty hard to dismiss the testimony of His enemies! The last thing the Jewish leaders wanted was a

resurrection and an empty tomb, but this is exactly what they got, and the elaborate cover-up is proof that the Resurrection really happened.

Christ’s followers give strong testimony to His resurrection in their eyewitness accounts, and His enemies give strong testimony to it in the plot to cover it up. Any and every way you look at it, Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

“...the elaborate cover-up is proof that the Resurrection really happened.”



Praise God that He did! His resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith. The fact that Christ came out of that tomb is an everlasting proof of the sufficiency of His sacrifice for our sins and that our sin debt was paid in full, and that we will spend eternity in the heavenly places. As we are reminded in 2 Corinthians 4:14,

“Knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus.” 

1. Robert Gorham Davis, “The Word of God?,” *New York Times*, July 5, 1992, <https://www.nytimes.com/1992/07/05/books/1-the-word-of-god-491792.html>.
2. Josh McDowell, *The Resurrection Factor* (San Bernardino, California: Here’s Life Publishers, 1981), p. 69.
3. *Ibid.*, pp. 56-57.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 64.
5. AZ Quotes, accessed February 27, 2017, www.azquotes.com/quote/809707.
6. “The Swoon Theory,” Ministry 127, accessed March 5, 2025, <https://ministry127.com/resources/illustration/the-swoon-theory>.



Second Corinthians

MATURATION OF THE BELIEVER

JIM HUMPHREY

Guest Writer

The January 2024 issue of the *Berean Searchlight* carried an article titled, “First Corinthians—The Believer’s Primer.” In the first epistle, Paul reproves and corrects the church for their carnality. In 2 Corinthians, he encourages them, recognizing that they have accepted his admonitions and grown/matured in their spiritual walk. Thus, the Corinthian epistles demonstrate the process of the believer’s maturation by taking to heart the Word of God: “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for **doctrine** (instruction, teaching), for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** (education, training, disciplinary correction) in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). First Corinthians is reproof and correction, and 2 Corinthians demonstrates the results thereof. Doctrine and instruction are included in both epistles.

It’s important to note that both Corinthian epistles emphatically proclaim Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ and identify true believers as Saints (sanctified ones) (1 Cor. 1:1-2 vis-à-vis 2 Cor. 1:1). Most may think of saints as individuals who lived a pure and decent life and/or performed some especially good work. However, we learn from Corinthians that all true believers are saints even when their walk is less than stellar (1 Corinthians). However, as they grow spiritually by receiving the Word of God, they change (repent) and mature spiritually (2 Corinthians). Equally important is the emphasis in both epistles of Paul’s Apostleship as the minister of the Gospel of Grace. These “truths” have applied to all true believers (members of the Body of Christ) ever since. Amazingly, one becomes a saint by the simple act of believing in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:22; 5:1; 1 Cor. 15:1-4), and nothing can change the believer’s standing before God. All are safe and secure in Christ regardless of their carnality (Rom. 7:24-25; 8:34-39), which does not give believers license to sin, God forbid (Rom. 6:1-2).

A prominent example of reproof/correction is Paul's admonishment that they were tacitly condoning an immoral sexual relationship by an individual in their congregation, such as not even practiced by unsaved pagans (1 Cor. 5:1-3). Paul instructed them to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction/punishment of the flesh in the name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 5:4-6). The man involved is likened to leaven that corrupts the entire loaf, i.e., the entire congregation (1 Cor. 5:7-8). This is an anti-type to Israel's Passover when they ate unleavened bread, signifying their separation from the sin of the unsaved in Egypt (Ex. 12:8-11). The Passover also required the slaughtering of an innocent lamb, eating the meat thereof, having its blood brushed on the mantel of their doorposts, and burning what remained. The blood on their doorposts signaled the Death Angel to pass by as he went about killing the firstborn of all without the blood applied, the antitype being the Lord Jesus Christ when He shed His blood on the cross to save all who believe from eternal death (Matt. 26:26-28). First Corinthians is Paul's only epistle that teaches believers to remember Christ's perfect sacrifice (by practicing communion), not just once, but twice (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-30).



Thus, as mentioned above, the incestuous believer had to be delivered for the destruction of his flesh because the leaven of sin cannot be allowed to contaminate the church, the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 5:4-7). Notably, Paul's exhortation to flee fornication is mentioned four additional times in 1 Corinthians—6:13; 6:18; 7:2; 10:8—indicating the prevalence of that sin among the Corinthian saints. And this lesson applies today; all new believers are exhorted to live lives separated from the sins of the flesh.

Thus, as mentioned above, the incestuous believer had to be delivered for the destruction of his flesh because the leaven of sin cannot be allowed to contaminate the church, the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 5:4-7). Notably, Paul's exhortation to flee fornication is mentioned four additional times in 1 Corinthians—6:13; 6:18; 7:2; 10:8—indicating the prevalence of that sin among the Corinthian saints. And this lesson applies today; all new believers are exhorted to live lives separated from the sins of the flesh.

In 2 Corinthians, we learn they had accepted Paul's correction; they had heeded the Word of God; their faith had matured; they had united to reprove the incestuous man (2 Cor. 2:6). He stood corrected and had ceased his sinful lifestyle; he was changed and contrite. As a result, so he would not drown in sadness/sorrow for his past sin, Paul exhorts them to forgive and comfort/exhort him. Doing so would confirm their love for him as a fellow member of Christ's Body (2 Cor. 2:7-8). Paul explains that he had reproved them about this in 1 Corinthians to test/prove their obedience to his instructions in all things (2 Cor. 2:9). He teaches the necessity of forgiveness, indicating that what they forgave, he also forgave for their sakes in the Person of Christ (2 Cor. 2:10). With this statement, Paul teaches clearly and unequivocally that he spoke for Christ (by the authority granted him by Christ Himself,

Phil. 3:17). The purpose of his doctrine/teaching is this: “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Cor. 2:11). The Apostle Peter also addresses Satan’s devices: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

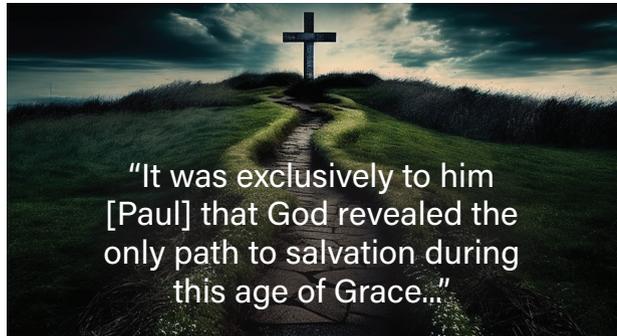
First Corinthians is Paul’s only epistle that deals with tongues, miracles, prophecy (1 Cor. 12:10), and water baptism (1 Cor. 1:14-17). Some Corinthians clung to and practiced these sign gifts, but Paul explains that they would soon cease in the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 13:8-13). These gifts were associated with and carried over from the Kingdom Gospel Peter preached (Acts 2:1-4). Unfortunately, some professing believers today have not learned the truths taught in 1 Corinthians; their walk is still immature/carnal as they try to emulate these sign gifts. Second Corinthians does not mention tongues and water baptism as they learned from 1 Corinthians and matured in their spiritual walk.

As noted above, Paul defends his standing as an Apostle of Christ in both 1 and 2 Corinthians. This cannot be overly stressed. Paul is the one and only Apostle to whom God revealed the Gospel that has saved everyone who has believed for the last almost 2000 years. The reason people are members of Christ’s Body is because they believe in the Gospel Paul preached. Unfortunately, there are many today, like the Corinthians, who downplay Paul’s role in their salvation; some say they follow only Christ Himself and others the Gospel preached by Peter (1 Cor. 1:10-12). Hundreds of different churches/denominations teach different variations of the requirements for salvation. However, just like the Corinthians, all who are truly saved are a seal of Paul’s apostleship, i.e., they are saved through his ministry (1 Cor. 9:1-2). Every member of the Body of Christ caught up to heaven (raptured) (1 Thes. 4:13-18) will do so because they truly believed the Gospel of Grace revealed to and through Paul. It was exclusively to him that God revealed the only path to salvation during this age of Grace (Acts 20:24; 1 Cor. 4:15-16; 11:1; 15:1-4).

False apostles are not mentioned in 1st Corinthians, probably because the new believers were still learning the rudiments of Christian living. However, they are mentioned in 2nd Corinthians because as believers grow spiritually, some are persuaded by silver-tongued orators to drift from the Gospel revealed to Paul. Some fall for Satan’s devices, his *modus operandi* (MO): “For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ” (2 Cor. 11:13). The words “false apostles” in this verse are from one Greek word (*pseudapos'tolos*) found only here in the New Testament (NT). Thus, Paul repeats the fact of his apostleship and that he was secondary to none (2 Cor. 11:2-5; 12:11-12), which brings to mind what Paul later wrote: “Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against

flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*” (Eph. 6:11-12).

The Greek noun and verb forms translated as love are found in the Corinthian epistles. However, the King James translators translated these words with both “love” and “charity.” In today’s English, the word charity usually expresses a different thought than what the word love conjures in our minds. The verb form of love occurs only twice in 1st Corinthians and four times in 2 Corinthians. The noun form is found fourteen times in 1 Corinthians, twice translated as “love” and 12 times as “charity.” In 2 Corinthians, it is found 9 times, always translated as “love.” (The noun and verb for charity/love are found a total of 29 times in the two epistles). In 1 Corinthians, Paul teaches the new believer the elements of love, indicating that in faith, hope, and charity, charity (love) is the greatest (1 Cor. 13:1-13). In 2 Corinthians, he informs them about the great love he had for them (2 Cor. 2:4) and that they should confirm their love for the man who had repented of his sin (2 Cor. 2:8). Believers today are to emulate the Apostle Paul in loving our fellow saints, including those whose lifestyles are less than exemplar: “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample” (Phil. 3:17, see also Eph. 1:15; 3:17; 4:2; 5:2).



Whereas Titus is not mentioned in 1 Corinthians, he was Paul’s fellow worker and emissary to the Corinthian church as evidenced by the 9 times he is mentioned in 2 Corinthians. It opens: “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” (2 Cor. 1:3-4). And it closes with the statement that it was written by Titus and Luke from Philippi (2 Cor. 13:14). It ends: “Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. Greet one another with an holy kiss. All the saints salute you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen” (2 Cor. 12:11-14). 

For a complete study of 1 and 2 Corinthians, see the author’s website at faith-studies.com. Hold your mouse over the tab marked “Volume 5,” and each study in Volume 5 will be revealed. The study of the two Corinthian epistles begins at number 38 and runs to number 74.

Question Box



“Many people believe that Saul, after his vision on the road to Damascus, began to preach Body truth. But in Galatians 1:23 the Scriptures clearly state that Saul now preached the faith which he once destroyed (Peter’s message)”

As we know, Paul spent the first two chapters in Galatians distinguishing his apostleship and message from the apostleship and message of the Twelve. In fact, he clearly states that the gospel he preached was “not after man,” that is, the Twelve or any other man for that matter. Rather, his message was a direct revelation from the Lord of glory (Gal. 1:11-12). With this in mind, verse 23 must be interpreted in light of the context that precedes it.

“But they [churches of Judea] had heard only, that he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. And they glorified God in me” (Gal. 1:23-24).

We must remember that there was a point in Paul’s life when he rejected Christ and the seemingly ridiculous notion that He had risen from the dead. He believed Him to be nothing more than an imposter. But when the Lord of glory appeared to Paul on the dusty road leading to Damascus, his stony heart of flesh melted within him. He could not deny his senses; he believed Christ was Who He claimed to be! You see, the fact that Christ was the Son of God Who had risen from the dead was common ground between the two programs of God. So it is in this sense the apostle preached the faith that he once sought to destroy.

This is further confirmed by Paul’s statement in 1 Corinthians 15:11: “Therefore whether it were I [the apostle of the Gentiles] or they [the twelve apostles of the kingdom], so we preach, and so ye believed.” Preached what? Clearly in this context the resurrection of Christ—true, it may have been for completely different purposes; nevertheless, it was a common denominator.

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



FRIEND *to* FRIEND

Something unexpected happened as the Lord was preaching the Word in a crowded house in Capernaum (Mk. 2:2). There was noise above them. People on the roof began digging out the topcoat of clay, removing and tearing away clay tiles, then pulling, tugging, and pushing at the underlying branches and timbers. One can surmise that debris from the roof rained down on those inside the house, and they clamored and struggled to get out of the way.

We imagine that bright sunlight suddenly streamed into the darkness of the home from a hole in the roof. But the men above kept working until they made a larger opening. Now particles of dust probably hung in the air from the partial demolition of the roof. Then the stream of light was blocked as a stretcher was swung over the hole, and a man who was a paralytic was lowered into the house (2:4). People shuffled and made room as the man on the stretcher was lowered and placed directly before the Lord. Above the scene now were seen four happy, hopeful friends looking down into the house.

These four determined men are examples of true friends who, in love, help needy sinners to come before the Savior. These four had a faith that refused to quit in the face of obstacles. Their friend couldn't walk, so they carried him. The crowd blocked their access to Christ, so they went around them. The roof was in the way, so they tore a hole in it. The men went to extraordinary lengths and great effort to place their friend before the Lord.

The paralytic is a picture of all who are outside of Christ for, in our sins, we are all spiritual paralytics. The four men believed in Christ (v. 5), and they knew He could help their friend, so they brought him to Christ and were willing to do whatever it took to get that man before Him. May their same heart beat within us, having the kind of faith and zeal that would tear apart a roof to get a person before the Lord and under the hearing of the gospel. By far, the number one reason new people come to a church or go to a Bible study is that a friend invites them. When you stop and think about that hole in that broken roof, what you see is a picture of *love*.

—Pastor Kevin Sadler



Forty Angry Men

PASTOR **DON HOSFELD**
Berean Searchlight Editor

“When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise” (Prov. 21:11).

Romans 15:4 tells us that *“whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning...”* This is also expressed in 1 Corinthians 10:11 when Paul, speaking of those who *opposed God* in the wilderness, said, *“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for **our** admonition...”* It has been aptly said, “Men often learn by example what they would not learn by precept...”¹

A Plot to Kill Paul

“And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

“And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy. And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

“Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow, as though ye would enquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him” (Acts 23:12-15).

There have been many foolish instances of Jews killing or trying to kill those whom God sent, but this just might take the cake. Pun intended! The fact is, Paul’s life had been threatened and in danger throughout his ministry. After returning to Damascus after meeting the risen Lord, “the Jews took counsel to kill him” (Acts 9:23). Once he reached Jerusalem, there too, “they went about to slay him” (v. 29). He was persecuted and expelled from Antioch in Pisidia (Acts 13:50), threatened to be stoned at Iconium (Acts 14:5), was stoned at Lystra (Acts 14:19), and in Greece, the Jews “laid wait” for him (Acts 20:3). In Acts 21, as “they [the Jews (v. 27)] went about to kill him,” he had to be

“This may be the most successful weight-loss plan ever conceived; don’t eat or drink until you’ve killed someone God is protecting.”



arrested by the Romans for his own protection. We are told that when the people saw the Roman guards coming, “they left beating of Paul” (v. 32).

One of the great evidences for the truth of Paul’s message and ministry was his willingness to give up honor, power, authority, and certainly wealth for a life of threats, beatings, stonings, and what would lead to his eventual killing. Paul summarizes his sufferings well for the grace message in 2 Corinthians 11:23-33. Nothing but meeting Jesus *alive* could explain Paul’s conversion.

The forty-plus men from Acts 23 didn’t just seek to kill Paul, though. They made the highly foolish decision to “bound themselves under *a curse*” (v. 12) not to eat or drink until they killed Paul. This may be the most successful weight-loss plan ever conceived; don’t eat or drink until you’ve killed someone God is protecting.

These forty angry men were likely of the Sadducees sect since Paul had already convinced the Pharisees to let him go (vv. 6-9). They may not have believed that Paul was a true representative of God, but they sure should have known that what they were doing was wrong.

Note carefully that they bound themselves under this curse before ever speaking to the chief priests (v. 14). They didn’t go to the priests seeking permission or even guidance on whether killing Paul could be done lawfully; they went with a plan to commit murder. That they made their oath before going to the priests might make one wonder if this speaks of their confidence that the priests would participate or their disregard for what the priests and the Law said. Probably both.

These men were hypocrites; for they sought to kill Paul because they thought he was guilty of breaking the Law (v. 29), yet they were ready to murder him behind the scenes and outside of the trial and without a guilty verdict, which is entirely contrary to the Law. There was not the only hypocrisy Paul was facing. To the high priest Ananias, Paul said, “God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law” (v. 3).

Believers today should guard themselves against and reject hypocrisy from both the non-believer and the believer. In his final epistle, Paul warns that

some shall “*depart from the faith...Speaking lies in hypocrisy.*” The church is to be the “pillar and ground of the truth.” We shouldn’t be accepting of the world’s wisdom that the end justifies the means.

Secret Things Revealed

“And when Paul’s sister’s son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul” (Acts 23:16).

What a turn of events in the life of Paul. As Paul’s nephew told him about what he had heard, it must have been a reminder that he had once gone to the high priest with a plan to arrest the kingdom saints. And just like Paul’s plans were interrupted, so too would this plan be interrupted: “The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: He maketh the devices of the people of none effect” (Psa. 33:10).

The day before this plan was to be executed, Paul was on trial before the council (v. 1); the Pharisees wanted to let Paul loose, while the Sadducees had other ideas (vv. 6-9). Seeing the commotion, the chief captain ordered soldiers to go down and bring Paul to the safety of the castle (Antonia Fortress) (v. 10).

That night, the Lord appeared to Paul, and we are told He “stood by him.” What a remarkable image these three words present. Christ didn’t just send a message saying, “Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of Me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome” (v. 11). Instead, Christ Himself came

to comfort and encourage Paul, and with Christ’s declaration that Paul would testify of Him in Rome, there was no chance that the schemes of forty angry men to kill Paul would succeed. Paul’s nephew *happened* to overhear the plot and notified Paul and the Roman guard.

“...curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter” (Eccl. 10:20).

This was no lucky break. Paul may not have known that that very evening forty plus men were conspiring to kill him (add that to the list of questions I want to ask Paul someday—did Christ tell him that night of the plans of these forty *fasters*?), but the Lord knew, “For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD” (Prov. 5:21). The Lord appeared to Paul to strengthen him. The phrase “*be of good cheer*” means to *take courage* and was used often by Christ during His earthly ministry (Matt.



9:2; 14:27; Jn. 16:33). If the Lord had purposed that Paul was going to Rome, to Rome he would go. No scheme of man could prevent this from happening.

“The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand” (Isa. 14:24).

Good and Acceptable in the Sight of God Our Savior

“Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

“So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain...Then the chief captain...asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

“And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

“...there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee” (Acts 23:17-21).

When Paul got word from his nephew of the plan, he called for a centurion and told him to take him to the chief captain so he might be told of the scheme. We shouldn't let it escape us that Paul was able to get this centurion to do what he wished. A centurion isn't an ordinary guard but a man with command authority. It's hard to imagine any centurion being willing to help Paul if he had he been a problematic prisoner. It is possible to exercise civil rights without being rebellious or insulting.

Paul's willingness to submit to authority is a demonstration

of greater concern than himself: God's desires “all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4), which is why Paul said in the preceeding verses, “I exhort therefore, that... supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for *all* men; For kings, and for *all that are in authority*” (vv. 1-2).

How often do we Christians fail to follow Paul to this extent, especially those of us who recognize Paul as our apostle and our example in following Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 11:1)? Are we more willing to be wronged than to do wrong?

A Sad State of Affairs

“And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night; And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor” (Acts 23:23-24).

When the chief of the captains is told of this plan, he could have allowed Paul to fall victim to the conspiracy, but he chose to ensure Paul's safety. This is the same man who ordered Paul to be “examined by scourging” (Acts 22:24).

Herein lies another lesson for the believer from these events, for it is with the non-believing Gentiles that Paul found safety from oppression. How far Israel had fallen! To Israel, God said, “Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy” (Psa. 82:3).

The nation which had been given every “advantage” because “unto them were committed the oracles of God” (Rom 3:1-2) was not the one ensuring a fair trial, but it was they who sought to pervert justice. Paul received greater protection from being treated unfairly by the Roman army and Felix than he did from Ananias, the high priest.

“Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand” (Mic. 2:1).

Are we, the Body of Christ, the world’s best example of truth and justice, or do people find it more abundantly from the unbeliever? Have we learned from Israel’s mistakes, or are we, like they, ready to set aside truth for what we believe benefits us, is convenient, or satisfies the flesh?

Opposing God

These forty angry men may not have realized it, but they weren’t opposing Paul; they were opposing God. Ignorance won’t be an excuse for them, *nor will it be an excuse for anyone else*. Certainly, their guilt was as great as Ananias’, whom Paul said God would smite for his acts of hypocrisy and injustice (Acts 23:3). We aren’t told what happened to these men, but we can be sure, like all opposition to God, ultimately, failure is its unavoidable destiny.

Even we believers should never assume we aren’t standing in opposition to God. It’s easy to be fooled into serving ourselves

while thinking we’re serving God. Fighting against God is not only like what we see in our example with the “forty angry men” or as plainly evident as in the Book of Revelation, where man forms an army to face off against God. Often, we are fighting against God in ways much more subtle. Many of the things that stand in the way of God are our everyday decisions. Yes, believers, *our* everyday choices.

It’s not easy to accept the idea that we could be opposing God, but this is the kind of warning Paul gives the Corinthians. To those *believers*, he speaks of the need for “Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5).



It’s in verse 4 that Paul mentions tearing down strongholds. Large cities, like Corinth, would have a fortress high up on a hill if they could, and Corinth did. These are places to hide when under attack (being confronted). Paul was using imagery that was easy for people to see. They could

see the fortress and know how it was used, and Paul used this imagery to describe the arguments, thoughts, and plans he, through God's Word, was tearing down.

Today, the fortresses people hide in and Jesus Christ is tearing down are the strongholds of philosophies, thoughts, reasonings, ideas, and false religions. All are ideological forts that people barricade themselves in against God.

How do you tear down these things standing in opposition to God? As verse 5 says, "bringing into captivity *every* thought to the *obedience* of Christ."

Paul didn't try and win arguments; he tried to win people to Christ. Paul didn't try to force believers to do what he thought was right; he wanted to get them to take captive every thought to the obedience of Christ. Renewing your mind was Paul's constant theme.

Could you be fighting against God all the while thinking you are in the right? That is a serious question, and we all would do well to ask ourselves it regularly, especially since we have the means to verify every thought, every position, and every doctrine with the full and final authority: the Word of God.



Let us learn from the mistakes of others and not oppose God. Let us take our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ. 

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A Finished SALVATION



PASTOR CORNELIUS R. STAM

BBS Founder

Beloved, salvation is clearly a question of “do” or “done.” A large majority of religious clergymen say that you must do, do, do, do, to be saved. But God’s Word says that “it” is already done, and let God be true and every man a liar. Hebrews chapter 10 has a good deal to say about this truth:

“And every priest [the Old Testament priests] standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;

“From henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool.

“For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Heb. 10:11-14).

The tabernacle and the temple had pieces of furniture—a table of shewbread, a golden altar, a golden candlestick, and the Ark of the Covenant. There was no chair for the priest to rest upon. “Every priest standeth daily ministering and offering, oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sin.” Why? Because his work was never done.

My beloved friend, you can be as religious as you please every day of your life, and you can work as hard as you please, but you will never, never finish your task of saving yourself. It was Christ alone who finished the work of salvation for man. It was the Creator who died for the creature’s sin.

As He yielded up His spirit to His Father, He cried out that great word “FINISHED.” It is done! (Jn. 19:30).

“Every priest standeth daily...But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God...For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified” (Heb. 10:11-14).



BBS Letter Excerpts



From Our Inbox:

“I’ve been reading *Two Minutes with the Bible* (and now *Daily Transformation*) since Pastor Stam was still on the radio. I’ve read every book he wrote, the *Berean Searchlight*, and many writings of the other BBS presidents and writers. I look forward to meeting so many of them when called home. May God continue to bless your ministry at BBS.”

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“Thank you for your materials for rightly dividing God’s holy Word. The Bible first, then your study material.”

From Our Mailbox:

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(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Major Events of the Bible—Pt. 1 | Creation”) “I wanted to reach out to let you know I watched episode 318 on Genesis 1:1...it was a wonderful experience...It moved me, and it gives great glory to our Lord and Savior, as Creator.”

From YouTube:

“(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Saved and Secure—Pt. 9 | The Preeminence of Christ”) “Oh, how we love you and your teachings. You and the *Berean Bible Society* have been such an enormous blessing to us and our understanding of God’s Word over the years, and we get such blessings from everything we watch (daily) and nightly...Blessings on you all there!”

From Our Inbox:

“I have just read the *Two Minutes with the Bible* article for January 9 by Pastor Paul Sadler, and it brought tears to my eyes as I read it. I, too, fall short of what the Lord would have us do, and I try each day to be more mindful. Thank you for being so faithful to all of us.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Analyzing the Resurrection”) “No doubt what He did! Thank you for sharing your message.”

From Our Inbox:

(Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible* “Ambassadors for Christ”) “I just want to thank you very much for the messages you keep sending to me. Indeed, I have been constantly blessed by your teachings, which are affecting my life positively. I pray for more grace on you all. Thank you, and God bless.”

From Our Mailbox:

“I’ve watched different sermons on TV and tried various churches, and was just about to stop watching them because interpretations were so different from one to the next; then I flipped channels one more time and came upon your channel, and I got so happy to hear the Word ‘rightly divided’...I just want to understand the verses clearly.”

From Our Mailbox:

“Your ministry is simply fantastic...You have such a beautiful way of presenting the truth of the Bible rightly divided, and it has made such a fantastic impact on our Christian walk and understanding. I cannot say enough about that. We love *Berean Bible Society* and...have forwarded so many of your teachings to Christian friends.”

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“We so appreciate the *Searchlight* each month! Your Bible project is exciting, and all writers excel in English grammar!”

From Our Mailbox:

“Just a note and enclosure to thank you for sending the *Berean Searchlight*...May our Lord continue to bless your ministries!” (Thank you for your support.—Ed.)

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“Thanks for being faithful in sending me BBS booklets. It helps very much our Grace members here in the Philippines.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Walking With God—Pt. 9 | Walk to Please God”) “I love the grace message that you preach. The one Jesus revealed to Paul.”

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(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Holiday Message—Pt. 6 | A Psalm of Thanksgiving”) “This really blessed me and glorified our Lord.”

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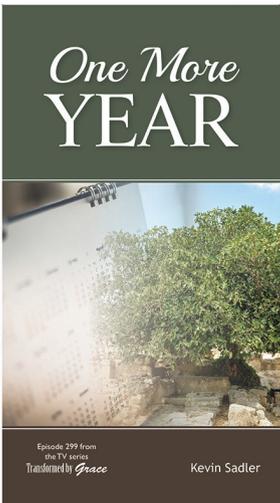
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News & Announcements



Northeast Ohio Grace Conference: Pastor Kevin Sadler will be joining Pastor Michael Morris at *First Grace Gospel Church* on April 25-27 for a conference on "Building Biblical Community." Sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday at 6:00 p.m., as well as 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. on Sunday. The church is located at 5730 Adams Ave, in Ashtabula, Ohio. Pastor Morris will be happy to answer any questions you may have and provide you with more information; you can reach him at 440.997.8181. Please RSVP at <https://www.firstgracegospelchurch.com/>.

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Upcoming Conferences to put on your calendar!

Northeast Ohio Grace Conference, April 25-27, Ashtabula, OH

Oshkosh Grace Conference, May 10, Oshkosh, WI

BBF Summer Conference, June 15-19, Tipp City OH



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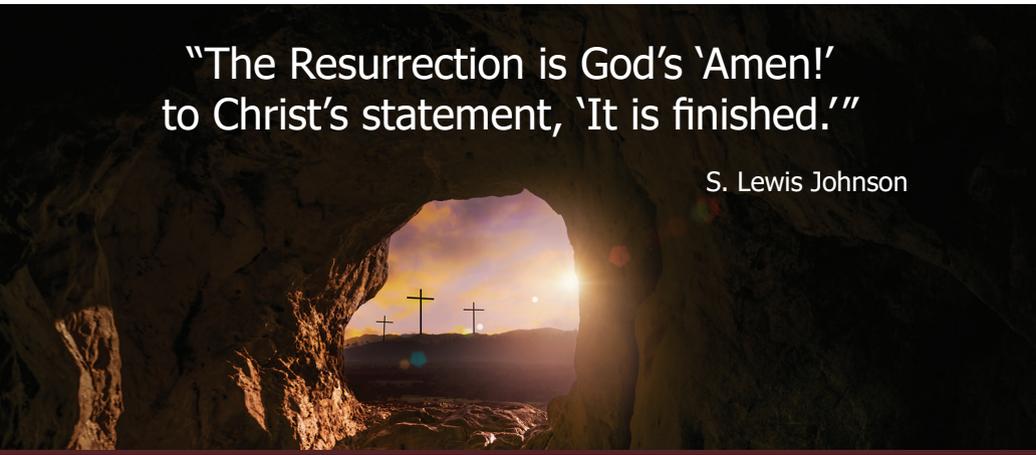
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