

# *The* **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

May 2021



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*This month’s cover features Forty Mile Point Lighthouse in Presque Isle, Michigan.*

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

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## A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

By the vision and faith of the BBS Board under the leadership of my father, Paul M. Sadler, the *Berean Bible Society* founded the *Berean Bible Institute* in 1996. For its first seven years, the institute was based at the BBS headquarters. During the summer of 1996, Dr. Ed Bedore (BBI's Executive Director, 1996-2007) stopped by my office and asked, "Why don't you take a class?" On a whim, I replied, "Okay." Little did I know how much that spur of the moment decision would impact my life.

Fifteen years later, on May 21, 2011, I graduated from *Berean Bible Institute*. It has now been 25 years since the school was founded and, this month, it's been 10 years since I graduated. It took me 15 years to complete a 3-year program at BBI, a record at the school that still stands to this day! My graduation was on the day that Harold Camping predicted that the Rapture and Judgment Day would take place, so I was teased by my instructors and classmates that I might *never* graduate from BBI!

I reassure people that it wasn't because I was a poor student and failed classes that it took me 15 years to complete BBI, but rather it was due to getting married and raising a family. I took only a class or two each semester so I wouldn't miss too much of life with my young, growing family. But actually, I enjoyed the slower pace, because it allowed me to assimilate more and think through the things that I was learning.

During one of the chapel times, a visiting missionary poignantly shared with us that "Rightly dividing is not just a tool for knowing your Bible better; it's for knowing Christ better." This was the greatest blessing of my training at BBI: learning from God's Word and being equipped for serving in the ministry, helped me to know my Savior more. I grew to know Him better, both in His earthly ministry to Israel according to prophecy and in His heavenly ministry to the Body of Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

Please consider attending *Berean Bible Institute*. I highly recommend it! Come to West Bend, Wisconsin, to train in person to become a pastor or missionary. The grace movement *needs* men in these roles. If it isn't feasible to move, then take advantage of the online and distance courses. You can contact BBI at [bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org) or 262-644-5504. Just tell them the longest-tenured student in BBI's history sent you!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President



# Prayer Questions



**WHO can pray?** We all can pray. You don't need a pastor or spiritual leader to do your praying for you. God wants *you* to pray and personally bring your requests to Him. Prayer does not have a formula. It doesn't have to be done perfectly using particular words or phrases for God to hear or respond. God does not only hear your words but also your heart and emotions.

**WHO do we pray to?** We pray to God (Col. 1:3). Praying to God the Father (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6) honors Christ's faithfulness and shed blood which has given us free, bold, confident access to the Father (Eph. 2:18; 3:12,14).

**WHO do we pray for?** We pray for all people (1 Tim. 2:1). We pray for unbelievers to be saved (Rom. 10:1). We pray for the needs of believers (Eph. 6:18). And we are taught to pray specifically for leaders in government (1 Tim. 2:2).

**WHAT do we pray for?** We pray for everything. Any spiritual need (Col. 1:9-11) or physical need (Rom. 1:9-10; Phil. 1:19) is a matter for prayer. We give thanks for all things (Eph. 5:20) and take every request to God (Phil. 4:6). And we are to pray and thank God for our food (1 Tim. 4:4-5).

**WHEN do we pray?** We pray "always" (Eph. 6:18) and "without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17), which means to pray anytime and to have a faithful, running conversation with God. We pray when we are anxious (Phil. 4:6-7), in need of God's intervention (2 Cor. 12:7-8), and in every circumstance (1 Thes. 5:18).

**WHERE do we pray?** We pray anywhere and everywhere. We don't just pray in church. "Praying always" (Eph. 6:18) means we pray wherever we are, in public or private. We can always pray anywhere within the quietness of our hearts and thoughts.

**HOW do we pray?** We pray with a spirit of thanksgiving and praise to God (1 Thes. 1:2; Eph. 3:21). There is also no required position for prayer. The Bible mentions different prayer positions (Eph. 3:14; 1 Tim. 2:8), but none of them are prescribed as how we must always do it.

**WHY do we pray?** We pray because God tells us to pray in His Word (Col. 4:2). We pray because God is able (Eph. 3:20), and the God Who answers prayer can change things according to His will. We pray because it draws us nearer to God and increases our faith in Him and our love for others. We pray because it changes us.

—Pastor Kevin Sadler





# Losing Religion to Find SALVATION

PASTOR KEVIN **SADLER**  
BBS President

“Dr. H. A. Ironside, longtime pastor of Chicago’s Moody Church, was told by a woman that she expected to get to heaven by faith plus her good works. ‘It’s like rowing a boat,’ she explained. ‘It takes two oars to row a boat; otherwise you go around in a circle.’

“Dr. Ironside replied, “That’s a good illustration except for one thing: *I’m not going to heaven in a rowboat!*”<sup>1</sup>

We’re going to heaven in Christ, because of Him and what He has done for us at the Cross. By faith in Christ alone, we’re going to heaven. Most believe salvation is a work of man for God. God’s Word, however, declares that salvation comes by grace, a work of God for man.

Religion, with its rules, obligations, rituals, and observances, doesn’t save anyone. Only Christ saves. There’s nothing we can do to save ourselves and *no one* can earn their way to heaven by their good works. We need to lose religion to find salvation, because the only way anyone is saved from all their sins and has eternal life is by trusting the perfect provision made for our sins at the Cross,

trusting that Christ died for our sins and rose again.

## **WE ARE THE CIRCUMCISION**

**“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more” (Phil. 3:3-4).**

Paul wrote, “For *we*,” that is, we in the Church, the Body of Christ, spiritually speaking, “are the circumcision.” In time past, under God’s prophetic program, the “circumcision” was a physical one and referred to the Jews. Today, under grace, the circumcision is spiritual and refers to all who have trusted Christ as their Savior.

We are the circumcision, not because we happen to be born of Jewish parents. Rather, we are the circumcision because of what Colossians 2:10-11 teaches the Body of Christ:

**“Ye are complete in Him...In Whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision *made***

***without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.***

The believer is complete in Christ apart from religion and ritualism, entirely by virtue of the Cross of Christ and His resurrection. "The circumcision made without hands" refers to a *spiritual* circumcision, a spiritual cutting off. "The body of the sins of the flesh" in Colossians 2:11 refers to our sinful, fallen, Adamic nature. "The circumcision of Christ" refers to Christ's death at the Cross.

This verse teaches that the moment we believed and were placed into Christ, we underwent a spiritual circumcision in which, positionally and judicially before God, "the body of the sins of the flesh," or our old, sin nature, was *cut off* by Christ's death for sin. By the Cross of Christ, "we are the circumcision," because the flesh, our sin nature, was crucified with Christ and cut off before God. And thus, in Christ, we are sinless and righteous.

Philippians 3:3 gives *three* characteristics of the circumcision: 1) we "worship God in the Spirit"; 2) we "rejoice in Christ Jesus"; and 3) we "have no confidence in the flesh."

First, we "worship God in the Spirit." We worship God, not by the deadness of ritualistic ceremonies of religion. True worship of God is not based on externals, but on the attitude of the heart. In John 4:24, the Lord taught, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." We "worship God in the Spirit" by faith and obedience to the *truth* of His Word. And worship in its truest sense

involves the whole of our lives. A believer worships God by being an authentic, consistent testimony which brings honor and glory to our Savior.

Second, we rejoice, not in religious observances or in ourselves or what we've done; instead we "rejoice in Christ Jesus" and what He's done for us by His grace, compassion, and kindness. Our boast is Christ and we glory in His Cross. All that we are, and all that we have spiritually and eternally, is because of Christ Jesus. As 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 reminds us, "But of Him [God] are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption... He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

Third, we "have no confidence in the flesh." We do not rely on our own religious attainments, accomplishments, or external works for acceptance with God. We are God's because we have not placed our confidence in these things of self and instead have placed our confidence solely in Christ and what He has done on our behalf to save us.

While those who are religious often display great confidence because of their achievements and good works, it's a deceitful and dangerous confidence. Sinful men, in their flesh, have no grounds for confidence before God. Each person must come to the point of having no confidence in the flesh and humbly trusting in Christ alone.

Writing about having "no confidence in the flesh" triggered memories and emotions in Paul as he recalled when he himself

placed confidence in the flesh for his salvation. This led Paul, by the Spirit, to give us his personal testimony, and to give a self-portrait of a religious unbeliever.

In Philippians 3:4-6, Paul showed the Philippians that his attainments and heritage surpassed everyone. If anyone could boast about strict observance of religion, it was he. If anyone had a reason to trust in himself and believe that his religious credentials could earn righteousness and be deserving of eternal life before God, it was Paul. And he laid his merits on the table; in effect, he pulled back the curtain revealing his large trophy case for all to see and showed the Church how he had more ground for boasting

drives him to commit sin and live for self. However, here we learn that “the flesh” is also pridefully religious. And when the flesh tries to do good and be good or be



better than others, that is when it is the most dangerous. The religious proudly think that God must accept them and that they need no Savior.

### **SEVEN REASONS TO BOAST**

**“Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless” (Phil. 3:5-6).**

In these verses, Paul listed his seven personal reasons to boast in the flesh. The first four he had by birth apart from choice; the last three he voluntarily chose. The first four are in relation to Israel; the last three in relation to the law.

#### **1. Circumcised the Eighth Day**

Paul testified that he was “circumcised the eighth day.” Paul was a Jew and child of the covenant. He was not a proselyte to the Jewish religion who was circumcised later in life. And he was not an Ishmaelite who was



than anyone else. He opened the book of his life like an auditor to show us his wealth according to the law, but then he revealed the truth of how he was in every way spiritually bankrupt.

Paul wrote this part of his letter like a challenge and a showdown. And even before he got specific, he concluded ahead of time that he had exceeded any advantage or credential of any competitor: “If any other man thinketh he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more”!

We often think of the flesh only as that part of people that



circumcised in the thirteenth year. At the proper time, he had gone through the physical ceremony that initiated him into God's covenant people (Gen 17:9-14). Paul bore in his body the mark that he was one of the chosen people, marked out by God as His own, and set apart from other nations. He possessed this important pedigree and his parents started his life in strict adherence to the law.

## **2. Of the Stock of Israel**

By birth, Paul was "of the stock of Israel." Paul was a member of the nation who were in a covenant relationship with God. No other nation or people had this special relationship. Paul inherited all the blessings of being a member of the covenant nation. In Romans 3:1-2, Paul wrote, "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way...." Paul had these advantages, being of the stock of Israel. Paul was a physical descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was not descended from Ishmael (Abraham's son by Hagar) or Esau (Isaac's other son). The blood of Jacob flowed in his veins.

## **3. Of the Tribe of Benjamin**

From Jacob, Paul was "of the tribe of Benjamin." Benjamin was one of the two sons born to Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel. This tribe had a rich history, including the honor of Israel's first king, Saul, being a Benjamite (1 Sam. 9:21). When the kingdom split after Solomon's death, the tribe of Benjamin, with Judah, remained loyal to the Davidic dynasty and

stood true to the temple as God's rightful place of worship. Mordecai was used by God, with Esther, to save the Jews from genocide, and he was of the tribe of Benjamin (Esth. 2:5). This was a prominent and prestigious tribe! Being "of the tribe of Benjamin" was worn with pride as a badge of honor for Paul.

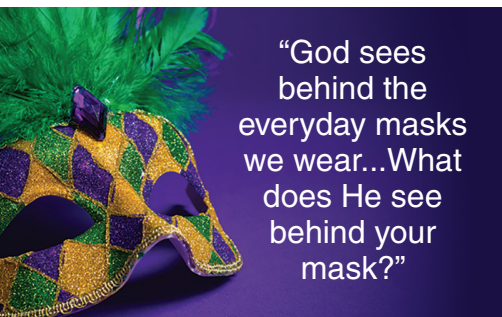
## **4. An Hebrew of the Hebrews**

Paul was "an Hebrew of the Hebrews." Paul was a Hebrew son of a Hebrew father and Hebrew mother. He was a pure-blooded Jew, having a pure Hebrew lineage with no unclean Gentile blood in his family line. Being a Hebrew of the Hebrews, he was thoroughly acquainted with the Hebrew language, customs, and Scriptures. In the flesh, Paul could and did trust in his rich heritage of being one of God's chosen earthly people.

## **5. As Touching the Law, a Pharisee**

"As touching the law, a Pharisee" meant that Paul was a devout Jew, belonging to the sect who were known to be the most strict, meticulous observers and defenders of the Mosaic Law. Unlike the more liberal theologians of the Sadducees, Paul was orthodox to the core. His father before him had been a Pharisee. Before the Sanhedrin in Acts 23:6, Paul testified, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee." Before Agrippa, Paul testified, "that after the most straitest [strictest] sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee" (26:5). Paul trained and studied under

Gamaliel (22:3), a celebrated and revered Pharisee” (5:34). Paul had lived to know, interpret, guard, and obey the Law.



“God sees behind the everyday masks we wear...What does He see behind your mask?”

## **6. Concerning Zeal, Persecuting the Church**

“Concerning zeal, persecuting the church,” teaches us that Paul was an activist, and not a passive religionist. Paul ardently, militantly put his belief into action. He was a zealot of Judaism. He punished those who believed in Jesus Christ and His resurrection. He was the ringleader of the persecution of the Kingdom church, from the death of Stephen (7:58) until his own conversion (8:3). Paul was relentless and willing to go to any length to please God.

## **7. Touching the Righteousness Which Is in the Law, Blameless**

“Touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.” By all outward appearances, Paul conformed perfectly to the law. When judged by men according to the righteousness that the law demanded, he was blameless. Paul didn’t say he was sinless, but where and when he failed, he brought the prescribed sacrifice. To those who knew him, and in his

own eyes, he was a model Jew who lived faultlessly and meticulously by Jewish law and tradition. You could say that he scored a hundred in Judaism! As a result of his own self-effort and self-righteousness, Paul believed himself to be righteous before God.

## **ALL RUBBISH**

**“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith” (Phil. 3:7-9).**

Paul once put the aforementioned seven credentials in his spiritual profit and gain column, but now he placed them in the loss column. All his religious achievements and privileges were now worthless to him when compared to Christ.

Paul had much to lose by placing his faith in Christ, and he did lose everything in the way of power and prestige among his peers and in his religion. However, after Paul met the risen Christ on the Damascus Road, all his cherished religious achievements and gains became deficits and losses. This proud man was humbled and his robe of law-righteousness became a filthy rag (Isa. 64:6), and he abandoned his works-righteousness for Christ’s righteousness. Paul may have

lost some things, but his gain was infinite: gaining Christ, life eternal, and God's righteousness.

In putting these seven credentials in the loss column, Paul saw how salvation no longer came by ritual or ceremony like Jewish circumcision. Thus, we know that salvation does not come through the ceremonies of Catholic mass, water baptism, the Eucharist, confirmation, giving up this or that, or any other rite or ceremony.



Paul learned that standing with God is not gained by birth, family status, race, or nationality. What your race or nationality is, where you were born, and who your father, mother, or grandparents are bear no weight on your personal salvation. You are not a Christian because your parents were Christians. What matters is whether *you* have trusted Christ or not.

Paul learned that righteousness is not achieved by being a scholar or a devout, religious person, nor is it earned by keeping the law. Paul learned that religious zeal guarantees nothing and means nothing when it is misguided. Likewise, the religious, who by all outward appearances appear pious and good, who keep the Ten Commandments and are

willing to make any effort and pay any price to please God, who zealously pray, fast, serve others, go to church, feed the poor, and give to charity, all without trusting Christ alone to save them, are dead in their sins and headed for the judgment of everlasting fire in hell.

Religion and zeal for religious works count for *nothing* toward salvation or righteousness. Paul learned that he had to lose his religion to find salvation. What Paul gained by losing his religion and religious achievements was Christ. And a personal relationship with our Savior is infinitely superior to all other things in every respect. Following his conversion, Paul's misguided passion for religion then became a well-guided passion for His Savior. And it was following his conversion that Paul really started *living*.

In Philippians 3:8, Paul considered as "loss" not only the seven things listed in verses 5-6, but he expanded it to include "all things." He counted anything and everything that might conceivably be a rival to Christ—all works, privileges, achievements of the flesh—as a loss, a liability, and a disadvantage.

Paul did not want to deprive himself of "the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." Paul counted all religious things as loss, that he might gain the surpassing greatness of knowing personally Christ Jesus his Lord, and to grow in knowing Him more and more. The personal, experiential knowledge of Christ that came from his relationship with Him was superior to all things in Paul's life. And



as that faith-based relationship with Christ is preeminent over all things in our lives, we'll find the same joy, purpose, and blessing that Paul did.

Paul wrote, "for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (v. 8). Paul had thrown aside everything he had previously counted on and worked for in trying to gain favor with God. Everything on which his heart had been placed, all his hopes and dreams of honor and distinction, and all his religious credentials and accomplishments, Paul saw much differently after trusting Christ.

Now he counted it all as just "dung," or waste, rubbish, refuse, and garbage that is thrown out or to the dogs. Using the strongest language, Paul expressed his disdain for all the religious works by which he had sought to impress men and God. In view of and in comparison to the surpassing value of gaining and knowing Christ, it was all worthless and detestable.



All that mattered to Paul was to "be found in Him" (v. 9). And that is a precious place to be found: "in Him," trusting in Him, our life hidden in Him, a member of His Body, and losing ourselves and our identity in Him.

Righteousness had been the great goal of Paul's life as a Pharisee, and he thought he would obtain it on his own by religiously keeping the law. But being in Christ, he was no longer clinging to his self-righteousness in keeping the law. He had true, complete, undisputed righteousness now, the gift of God's righteousness. This is given and received "through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (v. 9), or by the faithfulness of Christ and our faith in Christ. Salvation requires the righteousness that has its source, not in ourselves, but "of God." And we are given God's righteousness "by faith" and faith alone.

### **WHAT IS BEHIND YOUR MASK?**

"In the city of Basel, Switzerland, each year there is a carnival that takes place at the beginning of Lent. It is much like the Mardi Gras...it is always a wild affair with all of the debauchery that one associates with a carnival season. And everyone knows what goes on, even though they may not know exactly who does it because the people wear masks. Each year the Salvation Army uses the carnival season to advertise the Gospel. And it does so in a striking way. All around the city the Salvation Army places billboards and posters containing the German words, 'Gott sieht hinter deine maske!' This means, 'God sees behind your mask.'"<sup>2</sup>


God sees behind the everyday masks we wear. God is looking on your heart and mine. What does He see behind your mask? Does He see religious deeds that

are not backed up by divine life within? Does He see the belief that you can earn His favor? Does He see your rejection of Jesus Christ as your Savior?

We need to come to the same realization that Paul did, that salvation and eternal life are not found by trying and not by being religious or working for them, but by receiving the free gift of

salvation by trusting Christ alone as our personal Savior.

1. Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Bible Study Series—Faith Brings Us On* (v. 9), Bible Gateway, accessed April 2, 2021, <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/wiersbe-be-bible-study/faith-brings-us-v-9>.

2. James Montgomery Boice, *Philippians, An Expositional Commentary* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971), pp. 204-205. 

If you would like to view the corresponding video for this article on *Transformed by Grace*, visit our website at <http://www.vlifetech.com/berean-bible/archive/331>

## Question Box

*“What are your thoughts on passing a collection plate? I went to a grace fellowship recently where they did that. I believe that is a ritual that causes some to feel obligated to give, and not with a cheerful heart (2 Cor. 9:7).”*

At the church that I pastor in addition to my duties here at *Berean Bible Society*, we receive offerings using an offering box, similar to what we read about in 2 Kings 12:9. But passing an offering plate is not incompatible with grace. “Concerning the collection” (1 Cor. 16:1), the apostle of grace told the Corinthians,

**“Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come” (v. 2).**

The words *lay up* in Scripture suggest putting something in a container (Gen. 41:35; Ex. 16:23; Deut. 11:18; Job 22:22,24; Psa. 33:7; Matt. 6:20; 1 Tim. 6:19), while the word *gatherings* suggests passing an offering plate (Amos 7:14; Matt. 13:30). In using both words, Paul is teaching that there is no one way to support the church financially.

That’s something we know by experience, for these days you can contribute online, you can ask your bank to send your church a check every month, and give in other ways as well. The members of my church who stayed home during the pandemic maintained their support of our ministry by sending us a check in the mail. If the Lord tarries, who knows what new ways to give technology will come up with? God is more concerned that we honor Him with our finances than He is in how we do it, and plans to reward us for it (2 Cor. 9:6). —Pastor Kurth

# Grace Takes Over Where Mom Leaves Off

PASTOR RICKY KURTH

Berean Searchlight Editor



**“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,**

**“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11,12).**

When I was a boy, my mother taught me to be good. I wasn’t under grace, I was under law—the law that Solomon called “the law of thy mother” (Prov. 1:8)! When I obeyed her, she’d reward me, but when I didn’t, she’d punish me—just like Moses’ law did for the Jews (Lev. 26). Mom’s “rod of correction” (Prov. 22:15) was one of those long leather straps that barbers used years ago to sharpen their razors, and I can assure you it sharpened my behavior on many occasions!

But as every parent eventually learns, the day comes when a child is too old to take over your knee. The Apostle Paul had that in mind when he wrote, “a child...is under tutors and governors *until the time appointed of the father*” (Gal. 4:1,2). In those days, children had tutors who taught them, and governors who punished them with a rod of correction. But that only went on until Dad realized his boy had become a young man. After that, he’d correct his son with *words*, the way you parents of older children correct your adult sons.

In the rest of Galatians 4, Paul uses this as a simple illustration of the difference between law and grace. Under the law, God treated His people in Israel as *children*, rewarding them when they obeyed Him, but spanking them when they *disobeyed* Him, using the correcting rod of droughts, famines, pestilences, and—when all else failed—by allowing their enemies to take them captive (Deut. 28). But under grace, God treats *us* as adult sons, correcting us with *words*—the words of the Bible. The apostle of grace wrote, “All *Scripture*...is profitable... *for correction*” (2 Tim. 3:16).

See the difference? Under the law, God corrected the Jews with the *rod* of correction. Under grace, He corrects us with *words* of correction—the words found in His rightly divided Word. That means when



you get some pestilent disease, or your community is going through a drought or famine, you don't have to wonder if God is punishing you. He's not!

### The Need for a New Teacher

Now there's no question that God's people in Israel learned to obey Him under the law. They often fell into idolatry (Lev. 26:30), but after God spanked them with 70 years of captivity in Babylon, they never messed with idols again. So the law used to work well in making God's people godly. That's probably why legalists insist that the law be taught *today*.

What they fail to recognize is that God is no longer punishing His people when they disobey Him. Because of that, the law is completely ineffectual when it comes to helping us deal with sin and learn to obey God. That's why the apostle of grace tells us who are "not under the law" (Rom. 6:14,15) that "the law worketh wrath" (Rom. 4:15). Today, in the dispensation of grace, "the *strength* of sin is the law" (1 Cor. 15:56). The law cannot help believers to be godly if God is not enforcing it with the rod of correction as He did with the people of Israel. Every parent of young children knows how ineffectual parental laws are in teaching obedience if the rod is spared.

Legalists also insist that the law be taught today because they just don't seem to understand how *grace* can teach us to be godly. If you're not sure that *you* understand it, consider how Paul spoke to the Ephesians about "fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness" and "filthiness" (Eph. 5:3,4), and then added,

**"...because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not YE therefore partakers with *them*" (vv.6,7)**

Paul is saying, "Someday God's wrath will come on unsaved people in hell because of their sins, so don't *you* partake of sin just because you're saved and you know His wrath won't come on you." What kind of person would continue in sin just because he knows he won't be *punished* for his sins?

There is an answer to that question. In New York City, diplomats from all over the world meet to represent their countries in the headquarters of the United Nations. These ambassadors have what is called "diplomatic immunity." That means they can *break* the law without being *prosecuted* by the law. Occasionally diplomats take advantage of this by flagrantly violating our laws. We have words for people like that, and none of them are very pretty! The word "ingrate" comes to mind, because you have to be pretty ungrateful to your host country to act like that.

"...you don't have to wonder if God is punishing you. He's not!"



But the same word applies to us when we choose to break *God's* laws just because we are immune from *His* prosecution. Grace should teach us to *deny* ungodliness out of gratitude to God for saving us by grace (Titus 2:11,12), and follow Paul's exhortation to "exercise thyself unto godliness" instead (1 Tim. 4:7). The word "godly" is a contraction, an abbreviated form of *God-like*. So to be *godly* is to be *like God*, and *ungodliness* refers to anything that is *not* like God. We should be denying *all* ungodliness, and something Paul calls "worldly lusts" (Titus 2:12).

### The Wrong Kind of Lust

When we think of the word *lust*, we always think of it as something sinful, but it just means *to eagerly desire something*. God told His people in Israel that when they got to the promised land they could eat "whatsoever thy soul *lusteth* after" (Deut. 12:15). So lusts in the Bible weren't always a bad thing. But when Paul cautions us about "*worldly* lusts," well, what does the Bible teach us about the world? In speaking of how we walked before we were saved, Paul wrote,

**"...in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to...the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh" (Eph. 2:2,3).**

The course of this world is heading *downward*, spiritually speaking. The *reason* it is heading downward is that it is filled with unsaved people who are busy fulfilling their worldly lusts. Before you were saved, you walked with them according to the course of this world, and your life was going downhill for the same reason, whether you realized it or not. You too once fulfilled the worldly lusts of your flesh, but now that you are saved, God calls on you to *deny* those worldly lusts.

And God doesn't call on us to do this just to make *Him* happy. It's for our own good! It's the only way to turn your life around and set it on an *upward* course, instead of the downward path you were trodding when you were unsaved.

God calls on us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and there is a difference between the two. Ungodliness refers to *actions*, while lusts are *thoughts*, "the desires of the flesh and of the mind" (Eph. 2:3). So in saying we should be denying ungodliness *and* worldly lusts, Paul is saying, as it were, "Don't sin, and don't even *think* about sinning!" This reminds me of the sign I saw on the garage door of a firehouse years ago that read, "Don't even *think* about parking here!" They didn't want any cars blocking their firetrucks in the event of an emergency.



Do you know why God doesn't want you even thinking about *sin*? It's because sinful thoughts lead to ungodly actions, as James wrote:

**"...every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin..." (James 1:14,15).**

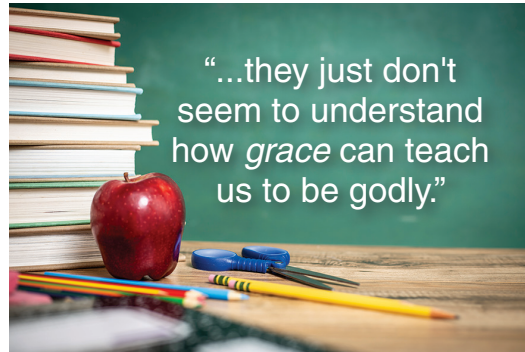
Thoughts lead to actions, and ungodly thoughts lead to ungodly actions. *That's* why you should want to be *denying* worldly lusts, and living "soberly" instead (Titus 2:12).

### It's Time to Sober Up!

The word "sober" means *not drunk*, of course. The reason you want to live soberly is that when you're drunk, you're not just under the *influence* of alcohol, you're under the *control* of alcohol. That's why Paul wrote,

**"...be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18).**

Did you ever wonder why Paul drew that contrast? It has to do with how alcohol used to be called *spirits*. When you're *drunk*, when you're *filled* with alcohol, it doesn't just influence you, *it controls you*. Paul says we should be filled with the Spirit instead! Let *Him* be what controls you as you obey the things He wrote in His rightly divided Word.



But Paul gives us another definition of soberness when he wrote,

**"...I say...to every man...not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly" (Rom. 12:3).**

Do you see how that verse defines sobriety as not thinking more highly of yourself than you ought?

With that definition in mind, do you know who *doesn't* think soberly? A drunk! He'll pick a fight with the biggest guy in the bar, because he's thinking more highly of himself than he ought. In such a case, sobriety would have helped him more accurately assess his chances of overcoming such a formidable opponent. But thinking of yourself more highly than you ought like that is no way for a child of God to think.

Alcohol also makes you think you won't have to pay the *consequences* for your actions. A drunk thinks he can drive home from the bar safely because he thinks his legendary driving abilities won't be impaired by his state of inebriation. That's thinking more highly of himself than he ought as well.



Do you know who thinks that way *spiritually*? A Christian who believes he can *think* about sin without falling into the *action* of sin, like James warned. A Christian who believes he can *think* about sin without having it lead to the *commission* of sin. A Christian who imagines he can think sexually lustful thoughts without falling into immorality, or one who has convinced himself that he can think *greedy* thoughts and not fall into dishonest ways of *satisfying* that greed. Now *that's* thinking *way* more highly of yourself than you ought.

Do you know who *else* isn't thinking soberly? A Christian who then thinks He can commit the *action* of sin without the *consequences* of his actions. A saint who thinks he's so smart he can get away with sin despite the countless warnings in God's Word that say otherwise. When you live in sin there are *always* consequences that go beyond merely reaping what you sow (Gal. 6:7). You grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:30), damage your testimony, and give occasion to the enemies of the gospel to blaspheme. You also hurt yourself spiritually, for sin has a deadening effect in your life (Rom. 8:13), and you hurt the people in your life, your family and your church as well. Paul says we should live "soberly" instead.

### The Right Way to Live

When the apostle adds that we should live "righteously" (Titus 2:12), the word *righteous* often means *sinless*, as when Paul says that we have been "made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21), speaking of Christ. In Christ we've been *made* righteous, so we should *live* righteously. That's the essence of the Christian life—just be who you are. Be who God has made you to be in Christ.

This is why Paul tells us to "purge out therefore the old leaven...as ye *are* unleavened" (1 Cor. 5:7). In the Bible, leaven is a type of sin. Thus Paul is telling us to purge sin out of our lives because in God's eyes *we are sinless*. Similarly, before you got saved you were unacceptable in God's sight, but God has made you "accepted in the Beloved" (Eph. 1:6), speaking of Christ. With that in mind, you should present your body to God as "a living sacrifice, holy, *acceptable unto God*" (Rom. 12:1). See the connection? You *are* acceptable to God in Christ, so you should *live* in a manner that is acceptable to Him.

Did you ever hear someone say, "John is not himself today?" What that means is that John isn't acting in a way that reflects the person he really is. Well, when you sin, *you're not being yourself*. You've joined the ranks of Christians who "oppose themselves" (2 Tim. 2:25), that is, oppose who God has made them in Christ. You're not reflecting the person you really are in Christ. Instead, why not choose to be *godly* or God-like "in this present world"?

"But Pastor, I find it so *hard* to live godly!" If that's what you're thinking, it is probably because you spend your time looking at the

ungodliness all around you, and let your lusts conceive and bring forth sin. The only way to *stop* living like that is to stop looking at those things, and start looking at the thing Paul went on to tell Titus to look for:

**“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).**

That’s talking about the Rapture, when we’ll be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thes. 4:16,17). Titus 2:13 is a favorite verse among God’s people, but don’t forget the context! There’s a *reason* this verse comes right after a verse that tells you how to live your Christian life. It is because the only way to stop living in sin is to stop *looking* at sin and start looking for the coming of the Lord! It’s the same reason tightrope walkers are told not to look down. They know that if they *look* down, they’re *going* down.



### Good-Looking Christians

And if you keep looking at sin, you’re going down as well, spiritually speaking. So instead of looking at the ungodliness in this present world, start looking for the thing that is going to take you *out* of this present world, the blessed hope of our Lord’s return! In other words, start living with eternity in view.

Paul recommended this again in his letter to the Colossians,

**“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

**“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:1,2).**

“Affection” is just another word for *lust* (cf. Gal. 5:24). If you are lusting after sin, you’re going to sin. If you are lusting after the coming of the Lord, *you’re going to live for the Lord!*

The Rapture is called our hope because if you die before the Lord comes, the resurrection of the Lord’s coming is your hope! The resurrection of the dead has *always* been the hope of God’s people (Acts 23:6; 24:14,15; 26:6-8). But the Rapture is our “*blessed hope*,” the hope that He might come *before* we die! As has been well said, we’re not looking for the undertaker, we’re looking for the Uppertaker!

If you keep looking for Him, you’ll be a good-looking Christian! And if that’s not something you’re striving for in life, why not take some time and pray about it *right now*?

You’ll be eternally glad you did.





# From a Pastor's Heart

PASTOR WES BARTECK

*Guest Writer*

**“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” (Eph. 6:16).**

Since we, as pastors, are human, we are not exempt from the fiery darts of Satan. In fact, I believe that because of what God has called us to do, the devil throws more of them our way in an effort to distract us from ministry. I want to share with you in this article, from the depths of my heart, some of the fiery darts that have been sent my way, and how the Lord used the shield of faith and the Bible to put them out.

The first one he sent was that of disappointment. One church, where I was the pastor, planned an open house upon the completion of a new building addition. Plans were made, food prepared, and we let the community know about it. On the given day, no one from the community came!

The next two churches where I served wanted to reach out to the community. In one case we went door-to-door with a brochure that gave information about our church. We did have one person who came for a Wednesday Bible

study, but when the teaching didn't agree with what he had been taught, he branded us as being part of a cult and never came back. Another church went to each home on two different occasions inviting our neighbors to attend a crusade at our church, and their children to attend our Vacation Bible School. Once again, no one from the community came. After moving to a new location, we again shared the gospel message and information about our church with our neighbors with no visible results. In all of these cases, Satan tried his best to get me discouraged until the Lord used the following passage to put these into His perspective.

**“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28).**

What the Lord showed me in all of these cases was that even though we didn't see the results of our efforts, God was able to use them for good. The first good thing that happened was that all of those households knew that our church was alive and well.

Another good thing that the Lord brought to mind was that each of these homes received a clear gospel message. We were being faithful in proclaiming the gospel of the grace of God, and only He knows what fruit will come from these efforts.



The second dart Satan fired was that of discouragement. This can take many forms and I'll share only one with you. I was involved in a prison ministry through one church. On the positive side, these men reminded me of the Bereans.

**“These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).**

Two things stand out in my mind with regard to these incarcerated men that were an encouragement to me. First, they spent time in the Bible since they had the time to do so. The second thing that was an encouragement to me was their willingness to learn. I oftentimes wished that I could have transfused that to others!

While they were a tremendous blessing to me, there was also an element of discouragement.

Coming to the class week after week, I got used to seeing their familiar faces. After not seeing some of the men for a few weeks, I learned that they had been transferred to another facility. At first this was disheartening for me until, once again, the Lord opened my eyes to what He was doing.

**“But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks” (Acts 19:9-10).**

Because Paul taught in the school of Tyrannus for two years, those in Asia were able to hear the gospel of grace from those who had heard Paul teach it. This is what was happening with those men who were transferred to other prisons, they were taking the message of the gospel of grace with them! In fact, I got letters from some of them asking about grace-centered Bible lessons. I was able to refer them to Prison Mission Association for help.


The last fiery dart that Satan tried to get me with was that of failure. If you have ever been a part of a ministry that made the decision to close, you may know what I was feeling. This weighed on my heart for a long time. Satan tried his best to make me think that I hadn't done enough to keep the church open, but God is faithful and once again reminded me of Romans 8:28. In addition, He brought to mind another passage that helped me to rise



above this fiery dart and quench it once and for all.

**“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9).**

This verse, coupled with Romans 8:28, helped me to see that even with the closing of a ministry, God can and did bring good out of it. Other grace churches and ministries benefited by receiving the physical property of the ministry that closed. This helped them with their needs. In addition, many grace organizations were helped financially through the gifts given to them. Finally, another good thing that came from this was that the folks from that assembly did the same thing as those men from the prison did: they carried the grace message to others in ways that would not have been possible before.

There are several things that I learned from these darts being fired at me. First, when we use the shield of faith, all of them can be put out before they lead to distraction and the disruption of your ministry. Secondly, the Word of God never fails, and has the answers to everything that Satan can throw at us as pastors. Next, I am reminded of something I learned from Tim and Debbie Meier, who were long-time missionaries to Africa. They used to start all of their services with this reminder: “God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.” As pastors we need to bring this to mind when the fiery darts of the devil come at us. Finally, whether we see results from our efforts or not is not what is important. What is important is that we “keep on keeping on” and continue to carry out the work the Lord has given us to do wherever that may be. 

## SPOTLIGHT on Grace Churches

### GRACE CHAPEL OF WEST LARAMIE

324 Taylor St.  
Laramie, Wyoming

**Pastor Dennis Moore**

#### Meeting Times:

Sunday School: 9:30am

Fellowship: 10:30am

Worship: 11:00am

*They will be hosting our Regional Bible  
Conference this August with Pastor Kevin Sadler.  
We hope to see you there!*

**Contact: Pastor Moore (307) 745-5801**



# FATHER TO FATHER

I once read a testimonial from a father who lamented being so consumed with his career that he did not share his faith with his children. The result was that one of his sons plunged himself into a lifestyle of atheism, drug addiction, immorality, and other destructive behaviors. Some estimate that six out of ten who were raised in sound fundamental churches become 100% spiritually disengaged once they become adults.

It is amazing that only one generation after the nation of Israel was miraculously given their prosperous “promised land,” the next generation was spiritually lost. Judges 2:10 describes it this way: “...and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which He had done for Israel.” How could this have happened after so many blessings and dynamic miracles?

The answer is the older generation, and the men in particular, failed that generation spiritually. When they sat in their houses with their families, walked or worked together, retired for the night, or rose for the day, they were to “teach them diligently” the things of the Lord (Deut. 6:7).

We who know the Lord must awaken to our spiritual responsibilities to bring up our children, and grandchildren, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. With no excuses, we men need to “man up,” making this our top priority. Will you join the rank of the faithful who pass on their faith to the next generation?

—Pastor John Fredericksen



## WE LOVE THE SEARCHLIGHT!

That’s what the subject line said in the email we received from our former co-worker Kelly, along with this adorable picture of her daughter learning to love it as much as her mom and dad. Kelly ran the tightest ship in the shipping business when she reigned over the mailroom here at BBS, but she is now doing her greatest work as a mom, and as a wife to her husband, Warren.

# What's the Difference?



PASTOR RICKY **KURTH**  
*Berean Searchlight Editor*

What's the difference between a piano and a fish? You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish!

While you may have never wondered about the difference between a piano and a fish, you may have wondered about the difference in the various types of prayer that Paul mentions in 1 Timothy 2:1:

**"I exhort therefore, that, first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."**

The word "supplication" means to ask someone for something (1 Kings 8:52; Esth. 4:8). Some grace believers are uncomfortable asking *God* for things, but it is our own apostle Paul who encourages us to "let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6). Just try not to be as selfish as unbelievers are when they pray. I once saw a comic strip that featured God sitting at a computer and saying to an angel, "I need to set up a spam filter to block requests to win the lottery!" While Paul says to let your requests be made known unto God "in every thing," the more you *mature* in Christ, the less your prayers will include selfish requests like that.

If you're wondering what the difference is between "supplications" and "prayers" (the next category Paul mentions)—don't tell anyone! You see, if you are wondering that, it means you think the word prayer *means* to ask God for things. But there are lots of other things you can say to God in prayer. For example, you can *praise* Him for His goodness and His grace. Speaking of tuning things, an old hymn contains the powerful prayerful line, "tune my heart to sing Thy grace."

"Prayers" can also involve just *talking* to God about whatever is on your heart. Christians who think God invented prayer just so they could call Him to ask for things are similar to selfish adult children

who seem to think the telephone was invented so they could call and ask their parents for things.

The “intercessions” that Paul mentions next are selfless prayers prayed to God solely on behalf of others, the kind of prayer *the Lord* prays *for us* (Rom. 8:34). If you want to live as unselfishly as the Son of God, reflecting Him in your prayer life would be a good place to start. An old poem says, “Others, yes others, let this my motto be. Lord help me live for others, that I may live like Thee.”



The final type of prayer Paul mentions is the “giving of thanks.” This kind of prayer needs no explanation, but it can usually use some exhortation! With that in mind, I invite you to consider that Paul mentions the different forms of prayer in 1 Timothy 2:1 in a specific sequence that reflects the order of spiritual maturity, and the place in which he

mentions *thanksgiving* in that sequence just might motivate you to include more thanksgiving in your prayers.

He mentions “supplications” first because when a believer is first saved, his prayers mostly consist of asking God for things. But as he matures in the Lord, he begins to “pray” more, just praising God and talking to Him about what is on his heart. Then, more and more, the focus of his prayers moves away from himself to others, and he begins to make “intercessions” for them.

In fact, our text directs that all four of these different types of prayers “be made *for all men*.” You yourself are *part* of “all men,” of course, so there is certainly nothing wrong with praying for yourself. But the more Christ-like you become, the more the focus of your prayers will shift away from yourself and settle on others.

Finally, since Paul mentions the “giving of thanks” last in this list of prayers that reflects the order of spiritual maturity, I believe it to be the highest form of prayer you can pray to God. That’s why Paul almost always began his epistles by thanking God—most of the time for the saints to whom he was writing (Rom. 1:8; 1 Cor. 1:4; Eph. 1:16; Phil. 1:3; Col. 1:3; 1 Thes. 1:2; 2 Thes. 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 1:3; Philemon 1:4).

If you’re already following Paul as he followed Christ in every other area of your life (1 Cor. 11:1), why not consider following him in making thanksgiving your top priority in prayer? It’s high spiritual ground, but if you mean it when you sing “Lord plant my feet on higher ground,” then it’s an upgrade in your prayer life that you’ll sincerely wish to make.





52nd Annual Conference  
of the Berean Bible Fellowship  
June 20-24, 2021

# The Dawning of a New Dispensation

*Acts 9-18*

Community Bible Church  
1427 W. Main Street  
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## ENCOURAGING FEEDBACK FROM OUR VIEWERS

"I have DirecTV and watch almost every Monday, 6pm, on channel 376. Thank you for broadcasting the Word, rightly divided. Pastor Kevin is truly gifted. I've learned more in the last 2 years how to properly understand

the Bible than in the rest of my 60-plus years of denominational 'religion' that blenderized the truth from Genesis to Revelation, mixing it all together and teaching that everything Jesus said, He said to us Gentiles today, in addition to the Jews. Between your teaching and that of Les Feldick's lessons every night, I've developed a correct perspective, by the grace of God, and I have more eagerness than ever to dig into the Word to discover the truth in a new and proper way...Thank you for presenting the Gospel of grace so clearly."

# BBS Letter Excerpts



## **From Facebook:**

“Thank you for being light in a very dark world. As believers we may not all agree politically, but we should agree on the One True Leader.”

## **From Tennessee:**

“Thank you for your help. Your *Searchlight* magazine is of much value to me and fills the theological gap that is much needed in traditional fundamental churches. Keep up the good work and stay strong in the battle!”

## **From the Philippines:**

“Thank you so much for the free booklet that I receive monthly. I love reading such interesting topics coming from BBS. I’ve come to the point in my life where sometimes I don’t want to go to church because I feel that someone inside the church hates me. But after reading the article ‘Why Do I Have to Go to Church?’ it brought me into many realizations in life. I am a church leader in our local church, and it helped me to appreciate more the value of going to church every Sunday. May God bless BBS.”

## **From New Jersey:**

“I’m just now finishing up lesson one of your MP3 audio messages on the gospel of John. The summary that goes along with each is especially helpful. One down, 107 to go!...I’ve been blessed by your ministry and that of pastors Sadler, Stam, etc, for 30 years and more.”

## **From our Inbox:**

“Pastor Sadler, your article on ‘The Unpardonable Sin,’ explaining Israel’s rejection of the Father, the Son, and finally the Holy Spirit, is one of the best I’ve seen. Pastor Stam’s favorite hymn made for a fitting ending.”

## **From Facebook:**

“Wonderful, encouraging words of hope and courage [*Two Minutes: ‘When The Lord Asked Why,’* by C. R. Stam].”

## **From our Inbox:**

“This *Two Minutes* is very well stated. [*‘A True Catholic,’* by Paul Sadler]. I’ve never read a more precise explanation.”

## **From Facebook:**

“Excellent article. So refreshing. Praise God!” (In response to the *Two Minutes* article ‘Baptism and the Lord’s Supper’ by C. R. Stam).

## **From Florida:**

“Thank you for another wonderful *Two Minutes With the Bible*. [*‘The Limiting of a Limitless God.’*] Please tell Pastor Kevin Sadler that I have been watching his videos on YouTube and find them so spiritually uplifting.”

## **From our Inbox:**

“Praise the Lord! And a giant ‘attaboy’ to Pastor Ricky.” (All I did was tell him how to enlarge the print on his online copy of the *Searchlight*, but I’ll take it! –Ed.).

### From our Inbox:

"I happened to be channel surfing and landed on your program that aired on March 14, 2021 regarding Pentecost....As a person of the Jewish faith, I take great issue with your numerous statements that 'Jews killed Jesus.' This is a blatantly false statement. In 1964 Pope Paul VI discredited the notion that Jews killed Jesus at the Second Vatican Council...Pontius Pilate who was a Roman governor ordered Jesus to be crucified, not the Jews....I feel that you're perpetuating this myth about the Jewish people and our faith that is just wrong....As a person of the Jewish faith, I know that Jesus was a great teacher (rabbi), but he is not the Messiah." (Pastor Kevin was pressing *Peter's* point at Pentecost that the Jews were responsible for Christ's death [Acts 2:23; 3:13-15], but we also believe and teach that Pilate and the Gentiles were in on it as well [Acts 4:27] -Ed.).

### From Liberia:

"These introductory papers are great, thank you! I will be in touch. I'm a pastor in Liberia and read an article from you. I also received these wonderful insights. I am grateful."

### From our Inbox:

"This is the second time my husband and I are going thru these *Searchlights*. Perfect timing on the article by Sadler, 'The Life and Letters of the Apostle Peter,' as we're doing a study on that part of the Scripture."

### From our Inbox:

"Terrific paper on salvation! Thank you for sharing this with us. Will be sure to share it with our daughter and her fiancé."

### From Florida:

"Thank you for a wonderful reading this morning and an excellent analogy ['Show the Lord's Death']. Our Lord's face is one area of His body that I had not envisioned. My BSF group is still studying John. Currently we are on chapter 13, and I supplement my study with your MP3 messages on John....It's a blessing to have BBS to expand my understanding."

### From Arizona:

"Your *Transformed by Grace* messages about 'The Cleansed Leper' and 'The Philippian Jailer' were a real blessing."

### From New Jersey:

"I've been watching during the whole pandemic. Thank you. I only wish I could give more."

### From Illinois:

"I do want to express the impact Pastor Kilgo's message 'Are You A Lot Like Lot?' had on me....After reading his article, I felt as if a magnifying glass had been taken to my memories, outings with unbelieving friends, and how my actions may have been a positive or negative testimony for them. I was saddened to consider how many times my actions had been found wanting. It is so important to strengthen ourselves by being around friends and family of like faith."

### From our Inbox:

"I have received my *Berean Searchlight* for a couple months now and wanted to give a donation. At a café you always pay for your food, and I got fed, and I always pay when I eat, so that's what I'm doing. Thank you all."



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

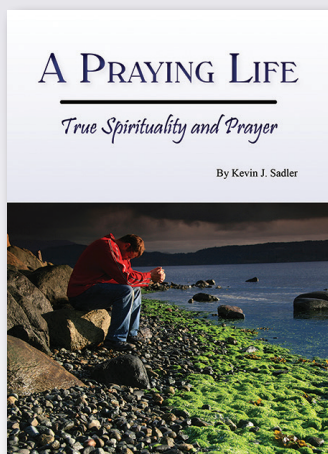




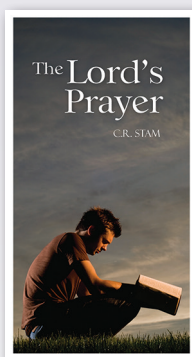
pray.

## Studies in Prayer

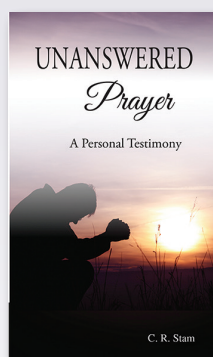
If our brief articles on prayer in this issue have you hungering for more in-depth studies on this crucially important subject, here are some works that can help.



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# News and Announcements

**Kentucky Revival Meetings:** “United We Stand” is the state’s slogan, and the saints of the *Old Bethel Bible Church* in Alpha have asked BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler to further unite their hearts with the teaching of the mystery, “that their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love” (Col. 2:2). If your heart could use some knitting from the silver thread and golden needle of “the full assurance of understanding,” block out May 15,16 on your calendar, and let Pastor Jeff Bertram know you’re coming: (606) 348-3071 or [bertramlumber@windstream.net](mailto:bertramlumber@windstream.net).

**Missionary Shirley Keiper** has left the mission field of this world, now that the Lord has called her home. She and her husband Warren were missionaries to Brazil for most of their lives, and their daughter Carol Craesmeyer continues their work there with her husband Bernardo. The sons that he and Carol now have in the ministry are a testimony to how the spiritual impact of Shirley’s life will continue to unfold, even now that she herself is singing her Savior’s praises in a nobler, sweeter song.

**BBI is on the Move!** After our *Berean Bible Institute* learned that their building, the cornerstone of which was laid during the Civil War, was looking at some pricey repairs, they elected to invest the Lord’s money into moving to a new location instead. They were pleased to find that *Kettle Moraine Bible Church* of nearby West Bend, Wisconsin, had outgrown their facilities and were also moving, so BBI now calls the former KMBC building home. If you’d like to get serious about studying God’s Word, contact them at [BBI@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:BBI@bereanbibleinstitute.org).

“**By faith** Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain... and by it he being dead yet speaketh” (Heb. 11:4), but the blood of the Lord Jesus “speaketh better things than that of Abel” (12:24). If you’d like to offer a financial sacrifice that will continue to speak to others about those better things long after you’re speaking with Him in heaven, why not remember *Berean Bible Society* in your estate? Your bank or your attorney can help you set things in order, and Pastor Jim Tollar can help as well: (262) 255-4750, [businessmanager@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:businessmanager@bereanbiblesociety.org).



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**Kentucky Revival Meetings**, May 15-16, Alpha, KY

**BBF Summer Conference**, June 20-24, Tipp City, OH

**California Special Meetings**, July 11 & 18, Anaheim, CA

**BBS Regional Conference—Wyoming**, August 14-15, Laramie, WY

# Bible Study Books

## Written by BBS Presidents

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

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*\*Revelation, Volume 4 was authored by Kevin J. Sadler and Paul M. Sadler*

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# *Memorial Day*

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*Grace*

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Sunday 11:30 am ET: The Walk  
Sunday 9:00 pm ET: DirecTV Channel 367  
Monday 6:00 pm ET:

- DirecTV: Channel 376
- Dish Network: Channel 267
- Glory Star Satellite: Channel 117

Monday 9:30 am ET: Entertainment Studio Networks  
BBS Network 24/7 streaming channel Roku and Apple TV