

# *The* **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

February 2024



Feature Article

Established of God, *by Don Hosfeld* .....5

Articles

Co-Workers of Paul—Luke, *by Kevin Sadler*.....15

A True Biblical Grace Church, *by John Fredericksen* .....21

Departments

Three Dangerous Characteristics .....4

Where Do You Stand?.....13

Question Box .....14

Christian to Christian.....20

News and Announcements.....30

*This month's cover features Big Bay Point Lighthouse in Big Bay, 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.

The *Berean Searchlight* is the official organ of the *Berean Bible Society*,  
and is sent free of charge to any who request it.

**President:** Kevin Sadler | **Editor:** Don Hosfeld | **Layout/Design:** Jessica Sadler

**Reader's Rights and Responsibilities:** BBS respects a reader's right to hold views that differ from those of our writers. If a reader has a serious concern with a specific article, it is his or her responsibility to act in a manner that endeavors to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. This can best be accomplished by contacting the editor, who will then forward your concerns to the author of the article in question. We promise to address all concerns in a timely manner.



*You can reach us at:*  
BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
N112 W17761 Mequon Road  
Germantown, WI 53022

Main Office: 262.255.4750 | Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, CT

Website: [bereanbiblesociety.org](http://bereanbiblesociety.org)  
E-mail: [berean@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:berean@bereanbiblesociety.org)

The *Berean Searchlight* (ISSN 0005-8890), February 2024. Vol. 84, Number 11.

The *Berean Searchlight* is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Periodical postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., Germantown, WI 53022 and additional mailing offices.





## A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year, 2024, is a leap year, meaning that there is an extra day in the calendar at the end of this month. It takes approximately 365.25 days for the earth to orbit the sun. In a normal calendar year, the orbit is divided into 365 days. In order to make up for the missing quarter day each year, one day is added to the calendar every four years, and so our calendars accuracy is restored.

In Joshua's day, the Lord gave Israel a leap year of sorts when, at the bold request of Joshua, God, the Almighty Creator, made the sun stand still in its position in the sky for about a 24-hour period so Israel could complete a victory in battle over the Amorites (Josh. 10:12-14). For us today, a leap year reminds us that we have an extra 24 hours, 366 days in 2024 to win spiritual victories for Christ.

**"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16).**

The word "redeeming" means to buy up. And the Greek word for "time" implies an opportune time, and so it is translated as "opportunity" in Galatians 6:10: "As we have therefore *opportunity*, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Ephesians 5:16 teaches us to buy up the opportunities that come our way whenever we can to serve the Lord and to devote the time and effort to make the most of them for His glory.

Bear Bryant, Alabama's celebrated college football coach, told of a time in his early days of coaching at the University of Kentucky when his team fumbled the ball in front of the bench, but in the resulting scramble to recover the ball, someone kicked over a box containing eight more footballs. A free-for-all ensued with Tennessee recovering five balls and Kentucky four. The officials gave possession to Tennessee. The moral of the story: When the ball comes bouncing your way, just grab it. Seize every opportunity.

God wants us to have purposeful and meaningful lives in His service, lives in which we maximize our time and seize the opportunities He gives us. And we are to do so "because the days are evil." By grace, this additional instruction reaches for our hearts while reminding us of something we all know. We are told this so we might not live aimlessly and carelessly, but instead redeeming the time, seizing the opportunities to serve Christ and telling others about Him because the need is great in a dark world that needs the Savior. May we be ready to "leap" at the opportunities we are given in 2024!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President

# THREE DANGEROUS CHARACTERISTICS



**“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers...” (Titus 1:10).**

Our Apostle Paul has nothing good to say in his epistles about false teachers. He states in this verse that there are “many” of them and that three of their most prominent and dangerous characteristics are that they are “unruly and vain talkers and deceivers.”

The first characteristic of false teachers is that they are “unruly,” which describes those who will not be ruled or made subject to authority. These kinds of men refuse to submit themselves to oversight. This is something for each of us to watch for in the Church: men who teach and preach, and who might go all over the place doing it, but having no accountability. By not submitting to authority, false teachers then oftentimes establish themselves as *the* authority and the sole source of spiritual truth for their followers.

We should beware of teachers who have titles of spiritual leadership but are accountable to no one who could remove that title or their position should they fail to honor it according to God’s Word. Even the Apostle Paul was accountable to the church at Antioch who sent him out on his journeys (Acts 14:26-27). No one, and no spiritual leader, outgrows the need for accountability in the Lord’s work.

The second characteristic of false teachers is that they are “vain talkers,” which refers to one who utters empty, senseless things. They talk and talk, and they’re good at it. They excel in talking but not doing; they are all talk but no action. Vain talkers are captivating, persuasive, and what they say impresses, but it has no real substance or foundation. As it’s been said, “You can always spot those who don’t teach the truth by the way they say absolutely nothing beautifully.”<sup>1</sup>

The third characteristic of false teachers is that they are “deceivers,” which literally means a mind-deceiver. The battle for the truth is the battle for the mind. Deceivers seek to control the mind, and they play mind games. They pass their error off as divine truth and cleverly disguise it, deceptively couching their teaching in spiritual terms. They even use the Bible to prove a point, but they twist Scripture or divorce verses from the immediate context or the dispensational context to teach what they want rather than what the Bible truly says.

All this reminds us that, to protect ourselves from the dangers of false teachers, we need to be staying close to the Scriptures and “Holding fast the faithful Word” (Titus 1:9).

—Pastor Kevin J. Sadler

1. Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll’s Living Insights, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus* (Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2014), p. 313.



# Established of God

PASTOR DON HOSFELD  
Berean Searchlight Editor

New Christians are often told they should begin reading their Bible in the Gospels, specifically with the Book of John. This is partly because each Gospel is said to present Jesus differently: Matthew as King, Mark as a Servant, Luke as Man, and John as God. To many, John sounds like a logical place for a new Christian to begin for them to become established in the faith. *But what does the Bible say?*

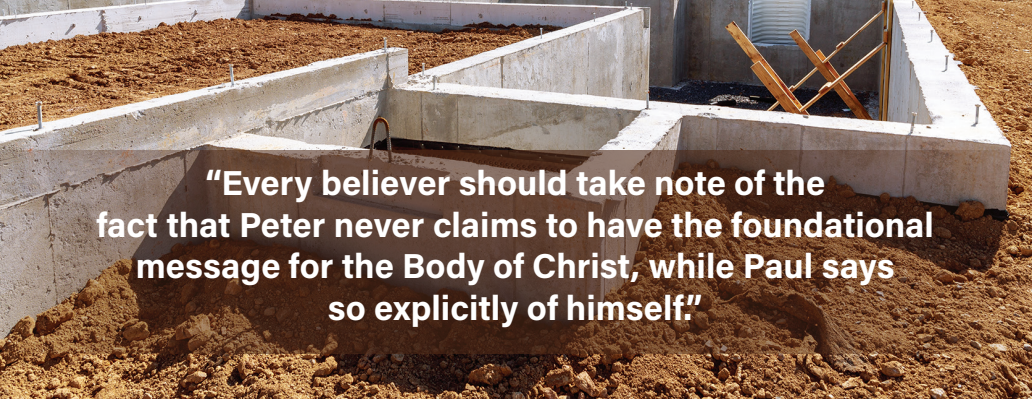
The Gospels are beloved, and for good reason. For in them, Christ Jesus, our Savior, is revealed, and His life while on earth is shared like in no other book ever written. They tell us how our God and Savior humbled Himself and was born in such lowly conditions. How He walked from town to town, teaching, healing, and showing love and compassion for the ones He knew would soon reject Him. And even though He created this world, He willingly subjected Himself to harsher conditions than His creation. He said of Himself that the “foxes have holes, and the birds

of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head” (Matt. 8:20).

However, as precious as the Gospels are, we mustn’t *assume* that is where *God* would have us begin or that it contains the necessary doctrine to establish our foundation in the faith. We shouldn’t, like so many do, esteem the “red letters” more than the rest of the Bible. After all, are not Christ’s words spoken from heaven *just* as important as His words spoken while on earth?

We should remember that God is not neglectful in providing direction, especially on something as important as a believer being established. All too often, people make the mistake of giving their opinion on an issue instead of simply asking, “For what saith the Scripture?” (Rom. 4:3 cf. 11:2; Gal 4:30).

**“Now to Him that is of power to *stablish* you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,**



**“Every believer should take note of the fact that Peter never claims to have the foundational message for the Body of Christ, while Paul says so explicitly of himself.”**

**“But now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:**

**“To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen” (Rom. 16:25-27).**

In reality, every new believer would do well to begin their Bible reading and study in the Book of Romans; it truly is the foundational book of doctrine for the Body of Christ. But you don't need to take my word for it. Consider the words from our text in Romans 16:25-27 and the fact that Paul wrote Romans because he could not go to Rome as he wanted, *and said*, “For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end *ye may be established*” (cf. Rom. 1:11).

### **ESTABLISHED BY GOD**

The word “stablish” in Romans 16:25 relates directly to the word *established* in chapter 1 and is the same Greek word (*sterizo*). It means to make stable, place firmly, or “fixed,” as in the case of the great gulf that was between Lazarus and the rich man in Abraham's Bosom (cf. Luke 16:26).

Unable to go to Rome (cf. Rom. 1:13), Paul instead wrote the Book of Romans, which *is* the spiritual gift Paul longed to give them—the doctrine (instruction) in which they (and we) could be established.

Sometimes, though, people won't listen to the direction God provides. Many churches want to make Peter and his words at Pentecost the foundation for the church. The Catholic church has staked its position as the one true church and the authority of Jesus Christ here on earth on an incorrect belief of apostolic succession from Peter and the words of the four Gospels. Meanwhile, the Pentecostal church claims the message that Peter spoke in Acts 2 at Pentecost is the foundation for the church, the Body of Christ.

Every believer should take note of the fact that Peter never claimed to have the foundational message for the Body of Christ, while Paul said so explicitly of himself. The refusal to listen to God's direction is reminiscent of what the Lord told Israel through the prophet Jeremiah:

**“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the**

good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

**“Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken” (Jer. 6:16-17).**

The words in Jeremiah are a metaphor taken from travelers, who, being in doubt of their way, stop to consider whether the direction they have received from someone is correct or not. To “ask for the old paths” is to inquire in what way those righteous persons before walked and imitate their practices. God was pointing out that He had given Israel directions, but they refused to listen.

He said, “I set watchmen over you.” These are prophets to sound the way and issue warning, which is the sound of the trumpet, but again, He says, they would not listen. Refusing to listen to God is just as much a problem for the church today as it was for Israel in Jeremiah’s day.

The church needs to stop and consider carefully which direction to go. Look for what path the righteous before us took: those like Phebe, Priscilla and Aquila, Titus, Timothy, and many others whom God lists as examples, and all who followed the doctrine and teaching of the risen Savior’s newly chosen Apostle—Paul (cf. Rom. 16:1-3; Titus 1:4; Phil. 2:19-22).

Apollos is a great example. He was a man “mighty in the [Old Testament] Scriptures” (Acts 18:24), who had been “instructed in the way of the Lord” (v. 25).

He knew of Jesus according to *prophecy*, that is, according to His earthly ministry, but not according to the revelation of the mystery. Thus, we are told that when “he began to speak boldly in the synagogue,” Aquila and Priscilla, who learned the mystery from Paul, “took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately” (v. 26).



Not following Paul as they should was a problem for the church in Corinth. To this, Paul declared, “I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I *warn you*. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, *be ye followers of me*. For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of *my ways* which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church” (1 Cor. 4:14-17).

Just as God provided direction and warned Israel, God has done the same for us, the Body



of Christ. God has warned us and told us what direction to follow and how a believer is to be established.

### MY GOSPEL

**“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to *my* gospel...” (Rom. 16:25).**

Words matter, and never more so than in the case of Scripture. So, it's important to note that Paul doesn't merely say *the* gospel but instead says “*my* gospel.” It is evident that Paul is purposely trying to distinguish between *his* gospel and other gospels that had been taught.

Contrary to what some believe, Paul's gospel is different from *any* presented before. Why does this matter? Because there are situations in which believing in Jesus won't save you. It's not *if* you believe in Jesus, but *what* you believe about Jesus that saves. Prior to Paul, the gospel of the kingdom required believing that “Jesus is *the Christ, the Son of God*; and that believing ye might have life through His name” (John 20:31).

Further proof that Paul's gospel is different from that preached in the four Gospels and by the 12 Apostles can be clearly demonstrated by looking at the Book of Luke. In the opening verses of chapter 9, we find that the Lord sent out the 12 Apostles to “preach the kingdom of God” (v. 2); it says they went “preaching *the gospel*” (v. 6). However, later in chapter 18 we're told that when Jesus explained to the apostles that He was going to die and rise

again, they “understood *none* of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither *knew* they the things which were spoken” (18:34).

Obviously, they hadn't been sharing a gospel that involved the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus if they didn't understand or even *know* of those things.

We should not allow the similarities between the gospel of *the kingdom* and the gospel of *the grace of God* to cause us to overlook their differences. Real and counterfeit money have similarities, but it's the differences that define them, and just because a valid gospel was in place at one time, it does not mean that it remains in effect forever.



Those fortunate enough to own a \$100,000 bill (U.S.) in 1944 would have been quite disappointed had they tried to spend it in 1946. Although it was perfectly valid and a legal form of payment at one time, that changed in 1945 when its status as a legal form of payment was revoked, rendering it obsolete for any financial transaction. The same is true for the gospel of the kingdom; it simply is not in effect today, and it cannot help to pay the debt of sin.

On the other hand, Paul's “my gospel,” also called the “gospel

of your salvation” (Eph. 1:13 cf. Rom. 1:16), is that “Christ died for our sins...was buried, and that He rose again the third day...” (1 Cor. 15:1-4)—no requirement to believe that Jesus is Israel’s Messiah, only a belief in His finished work on the sinner’s behalf.

No person today can be established of God without *first* believing Paul’s “my gospel.” Like Israel before us, we have been warned, specifically of a coming day “when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to [Paul’s] *my* gospel” (Rom. 2:16).

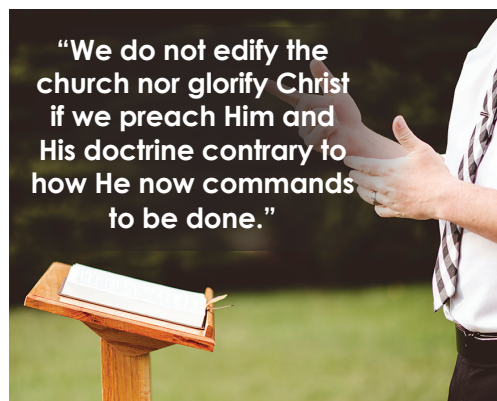
### THE PREACHING OF JESUS ACCORDING TO THE MYSTERY

**“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, *and* the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest...” (Rom 16:25-26).**

Believing the correct gospel is enough to immediately and eternally save us from the condemnation of our sin. It instantly and completely changes our identity and position before God; however, it is *not* enough to keep us from being “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14). For that, we *must* have the correct doctrine that applies directly to *us*; we must have our “loins girt about with truth” (Eph. 6:14).

This is why the second necessity of preaching Jesus, “according to the revelation of the mystery,” is so vital.

Countless churches preach Jesus, but *how* He is preached differs and matters greatly. We do not edify the church *nor* glorify Christ if we preach Him and His doctrine contrary to how He *now* commands it to be done. Paul warns that “as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty” (2 Cor. 11:3), there are those that “preacheth *another* Jesus, whom we [Paul] have not preached” (v. 4).



**“We do not edify the church nor glorify Christ if we preach Him and His doctrine contrary to how He now commands to be done.”**

One of the most common ways people preach *another* Jesus is to preach Him according to *prophecy*, which is to use the Gospels and the General Epistles to teach Christ’s doctrine from His earthly ministry as directly applicable to us today. Romans 15:8 tells us that Jesus *was* a “minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the *promises* made unto the fathers.” Promises made in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the Gospels certainly don’t qualify to be called a “mystery” or “kept *secret* since the world began,” as Paul describes in Romans 16:25.

Paul’s use of the past tense “was” in Romans 15:8 to describe

Jesus's ministry to Israel is noteworthy, especially considering a few verses later, he uses the present tense with the ministry the risen Christ gave him (cf. vv. 15-16). Clearly, a change had occurred.

Regarding Pentecost, Peter clearly establishes the event and his message as one of prophecy and *not* "the revelation of the mystery" when he says, "this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16).

However, Paul makes it equally clear that "the mystery" was given to *him*. He said, "*For this cause I Paul...for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery*" (Eph. 3:1-3 cf. vv. 7-9). When Paul says, "For this cause," he is pointing out that his calling and Apostleship were given to him specifically for the unveiling of the revelation of the mystery.

He tells those in Colosse the same thing: "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you...Even the mystery

which hath been hid from ages and from generations, *but now* is made manifest to his saints" (Col. 1:25-26 cf. v. 23). To our non-dispensational friends, I must say, I'm not sure how "but now" can mean "back then."

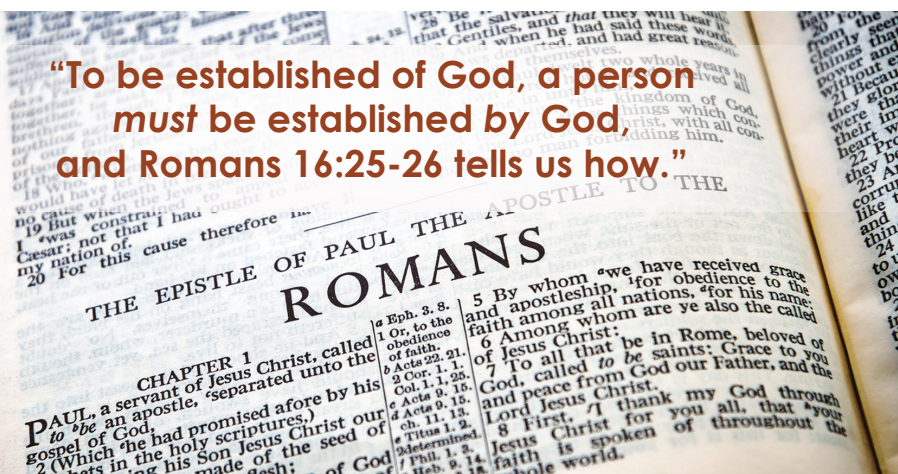
The only way a believer can be established in "the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery" is through the same means that Paul told the Romans, Colossians, and Ephesians—through *his* teaching. Referring to his writing, Paul says:

"...Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed..." (Eph. 3:4-5).

The preaching of Jesus according to prophecy *rather* than the mystery has led to countless errors, and the result has been divisions within the church, which is entirely contrary to Christ's desire for unity (cf. 1 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 1:27; 2:2).

Again, Christians should ask themselves if they want to repeat the mistake of Israel by failing to follow the clear direction given by God.

**"To be established of God, a person must be established by God, and Romans 16:25-26 tells us how."**





## THE SCRIPTURES OF THE PROPHETS

**“Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to... the Scriptures of the prophets” (Rom. 16:25-26).**

The third requirement Paul lists for being established is “the Scriptures of the prophets.” Some suggest that when Paul says this, he refers to *his* writings. Many doubt that the Body of Christ needs the Old Testament writings to Israel in order to be “established.” They point to the fact that Paul was a prophet (1 Cor. 13:2 cf. 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11) and wrote Scripture (cf. 2 Pet. 3:16), and thus he fits the reference. This is certainly a valid point; however, it does not seem to be the best explanation for Paul’s meaning, and it would appear to be a bit redundant, considering his previous point on the revelation of the mystery referenced in his writings.

It’s worth noting that the wording used in Romans 16 matches precisely those spoken by Christ in Matthew 26:56, which is a clear reference to the Old Testament.

I would point out as well that it was Paul who said, “*All Scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be *perfect, thoroughly furnished...*” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). This verse alone emphatically declares that *all* Scripture is necessary for a believer to be *fully* equipped. But this is not the *only* indication that when

Paul says “the Scriptures of the prophets,” he is speaking of the *entirety* of Scripture, and the Old Testament in particular.



Is it possible to be “established” and not have *hope*? Well, interestingly, nestled amongst the many nuggets of truth within Romans is a wonderful passage that tells us that though the mystery and the Body of Christ were “hid in God” (Eph. 3:9) and not revealed until Paul, *we* were still on God’s mind all throughout the Old Testament *and* that the things He inspired to be written were meant to help *us* have hope:

**“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for *our* learning, that *we* through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have *hope*” (Rom. 15:4).**

Certainly, there are no idle words with God, and according to this verse, He has determined the Old Testament as necessary for us because it establishes hope. The Old Testament may not have been written *to* us, and many things do not apply today, but it most certainly is *for* us, and it would be a mistake to neglect the many truths from the Old Testament



that *do* still apply today: things like God's character and that no matter how much time passes, God keeps His promises, and He alone is the Creator and Judge of all things.

Often, it's Genesis that we use to *establish* the basis for one man and one woman in marriage, the role of the family, and the origination and purpose of government. True, Paul also taught some of these things, but I've yet to meet a fellow pastor who doesn't believe that people *need* repetition in teaching, and it seems rather clear that God believes the same.

Another consideration is that progressive revelation is the idea that the current truths are *built upon* the foundation of former revelation (cf. 2 Tim. 2:8), namely, Christ: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11). Though the gospel for today is not found in the Old Testament, the foundation for every gospel began to be laid all the way back in Genesis 3:15 with the first hint of a coming Savior for mankind.

As John Newton beautifully said, "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch


like me!" but how can we truly understand God's amazing grace if we don't have a complete picture of God's righteous standards, which are revealed in the law? "For by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20).

To be established of God, a person *must* be established *by* God, and Romans 16:25-26 tells us how.

- Paul's "my gospel" (v. 25).
- The "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery" (v. 25).
- The "Scriptures of the prophets" (v. 26).

But notice the order Paul gives—no doubt by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Nobody can be established without first believing the gospel that is in effect today—Paul's "my gospel."

Next, we must understand the distinctive message and doctrine that applies directly to us, which is the revelation of the mystery. Misapplying doctrine or using instructions meant for another doesn't help us, but hinders us.

Finally, we must keep our "nose in the Book," as my old pastor used to say. That means the entire Book. God has given us many great things, and this Book, His Book, is among the chief of those. 

# WHERE DO YOU STAND?



**“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant?” (Josh. 5:13,14).**

God had appointed Joshua to lead the people of Israel into the land of Canaan. It was just before the battle of Jericho that the great leader looked up to see a man with a drawn sword facing him. His sudden appearance must have startled Joshua, but he showed no trace of fear—not Joshua!

Advancing toward the man, Joshua demanded, “Art thou for us or for our adversaries?” No wonder the answer brought him to his knees! He had been standing face-to-face with the captain of the Lord’s hosts, no doubt Michael, the angelic prince of Israel (cf. Dan. 10:21; 12:1).

The question was not whose side was the angel of God on, but whose side was Joshua on! Was he himself in harmony with God’s will?

What a lesson to learn! In the constant battle over truth and error, there is a tendency for Christians to demand of other Christians: “Whose side are you on? Are you for us or for our adversaries?”

If this is as far as we have gotten in our service for the Lord, we still have much to learn, for the great question is not “Are you on my side?” but “Am I on God’s side?”

God’s truth will prevail. His purposes will be carried out, and even though we might be on the side of the most powerful and influential of men, we will surely be driven to defeat if we are not in harmony with God’s Word and will.

Should we not all fall on our faces with Joshua, then, and ask, “What saith my Lord unto His servant?” —*Pastor Cornelius R. Stam*



# Question Box

*“Did the 12 Apostles ever start preaching the gospel of grace, or did they continue the kingdom message?”*

If we are to allow Scripture alone to provide the answer, as we should, then that answer must be *NO!*

In order to believe that the Twelve joined Paul in his commission and began preaching the message given to him, we should expect to find it somewhere in Scripture, especially in their writings—the General Epistles of James, Peter, and John. However, that is not what we find.

John clarifies his message has not changed when he says, “This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you... *if we walk in the light*, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:5-7 cf. John 8:12). Notice the condition to “*walk in the light*” that John places for the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse his readers from sin. He adds, “*If we confess our sins*, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (v. 9). He further states, “And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments” (2:3).

None of that matches the gospel of the grace of God and the teaching of the Apostle Paul, which says that we are “justified freely” (Rom. 3:24) “through *faith* in His blood” (v. 25). Other than believing the gospel of the grace of God, there are no conditions for forgiveness; and for the Body of Christ, following commandments does not prove a relationship with Christ.

—Pastor Don Hosfeld

*“Every promise in God’s Word is true,  
but not every promise is meant for you.”*



# BETTER TOGETHER

## *Co-Workers of Paul*

# LUKE

*(Taken from episode 287 of  
Transformed by Grace)*

**PASTOR KEVIN SADLER**  
*Berean Bible Society President*

It's been said of the Apostle Paul's co-worker, Luke, that "He was a beloved Christian, a skilled physician, a devoted friend, and a careful historian, all wrapped up in one!"<sup>1</sup>

Luke was quite the man of God. He was an able and faithful co-worker of the apostle. Paul mentions Luke in three of his epistles (Col. 4:14; Phile. 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:11), and these are the only times he is mentioned by name in the entire New Testament.

Although only three passages name this godly man, he is a central and leading character in all the New Testament by virtue of the two important books he wrote: the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Fifty-two of the New Testament's 260 chapters were penned by Luke, and his two books reveal the capable historian that he was. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Luke skillfully chronicled in his Gospel the earthly life and ministry of Christ to Israel, and then, in the Book of Acts he faithfully recorded the fall and temporary putting aside of the nation of Israel and God's turning to the Gentiles. Luke did not name himself in either of his books as he humbly kept himself a reporter behind the scenes.

### **A Beloved Physician**

**"Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you" (Col. 4:14).**

If anybody ever needed a personal physician, it was the Apostle Paul! The Lord told Ananias after Paul's conversion, "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake" (Acts 9:16). Paul faced much persecution as the apostle of Christ to the Gentiles and for the message of grace that he proclaimed and, as a result, he suffered many physical infirmities and deprivations (2 Cor. 11:23-27; 12:7-10). But God, in His mercy, provided Paul with a companion who was a physician.

Paul was not made of iron. He was made of the same kind of flesh that we are. Paul needed the attendance of a physician who would care for his injuries and infirmities and nurse him back to health. And there were plenty of aches, pains, and wounds for Dr. Luke to attend to (Gal. 4:13; 6:17).

Though Luke was an articulate, educated, and gifted man, he was content to come alongside the Apostle Paul and be a servant so that Paul could continue to zealously make the gospel of grace known to the nations. Luke used his medical training and expertise as a tool to further the gospel. Luke is a glowing example of people who use their professional skills in the service of the Lord and give their life to Him and go wherever He sends and be used wherever they are needed.

Being a co-laborer and traveler with Paul meant that Luke faced his own share of suffering and hardship. The fact that Paul called him the “beloved” physician shows Paul’s gratitude for Luke’s ministry. Luke was beloved because he worked in such a way that he brought glory to God and was a blessing to Paul and others through his service to the Lord. As a result of his selfless ministry and good work as a physician, today we have many hospitals named St. Luke’s in honor of this co-worker of Paul.

It’s interesting to notice Luke’s training as a doctor in how he wrote and what he recorded in his writings (Luke 4:38; 6:6; 22:50). In the parable of the Good Samaritan (only found in Luke’s Gospel), Dr. Luke wrote the Lord’s words concerning the first-aid treatment of his day.

**“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him” (Luke 10:33-34).**

In the Lord’s parable, the Good Samaritan treated the wound expertly. Binding up the wounds and pouring in wine showed recognition of the antiseptic qualities of alcohol. The use of oil helped the skin of wounds to heal better, just as the coating of oil served to protect the wound from infection. Dr. Luke picked up on this in the parable, and the Spirit used Luke’s background when he carefully recorded our Lord’s words, as he was well-versed in wound-treatment as practiced in his day.





## A Fellow Laborer

**“Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers” (Phile. 1:24).**

“Every year in Alaska, a 1000-mile dogsled race, run for prize money and prestige, commemorates an original ‘race’ run to save lives. Back in January of 1926, six-year-old Richard Stanley showed symptoms of diphtheria, signaling the possibility of an outbreak in the small town of Nome. When the boy passed away a day later, Dr. Curtis Welch began immunizing children and adults with an...effective antidiphtheria serum. But it wasn’t long before Dr. Welch’s supply ran out, and the nearest serum was in Nenana, Alaska—1000 miles of frozen wilderness away.



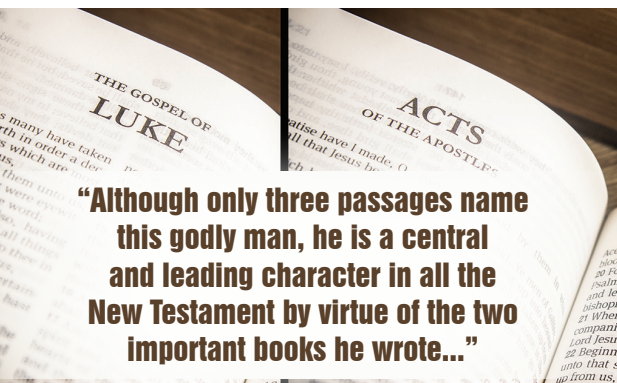
“Amazingly, a group of trappers and prospectors volunteered to cover the distance with their dog teams! Operating in relays from trading post to trapping station and beyond, one sled started out from Nome while another, carrying the serum, started from Nenana. Oblivious to frostbite, fatigue, and exhaustion, the teamsters mushed relentlessly until, after 144 hours in minus 50-degree winds, the serum was delivered to Nome. As a result, only one other life was lost to the potential epidemic. Their sacrifice had given an entire town the gift of life.”<sup>2</sup>

Paul had a team of fellow laborers in the gospel ministry, and Luke was one of them. Through Paul’s perseverance and that of his companions, as they traveled great distances and endured hardships to take the gospel to the nations, they brought people “the gift of life,” the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus. As a doctor, Luke worked to save physical life, but as a servant of Christ, he worked to save souls so that they might have spiritual life.

By his life and writings, Luke labored and ministered to the whole person. Human beings are made in the image of the triune God (Gen. 1:26-27). Thus, we are three-part beings with spirit, soul, and body. As Luke labored to help others, he ministered to all three parts. And his writings in God's Word continue to minister to our spirits and souls to this moment.

### A Comforting Presence

**“Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me...” (2 Tim. 4:9-11).**



After Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment, we don't know what happened to Luke. He may have stayed with Paul for those few years when he was at liberty, or he may not have. We cannot say definitively. However, when Paul was imprisoned a second time in Rome and

condemned to die, Luke was right there with him. Luke was with Paul in both of his Roman imprisonments.

At the end of Paul's life, we read that Paul's co-worker, Demas, had forsaken him, but Luke had remained faithful. Demas left Paul because Demas "loved this present world." Luke, however, stayed with Paul because he loved the Lord most of all. His focus was on Christ, his affection was on things above, and his desire was to comfort and care for his friend, Paul.

In Paul's first Roman imprisonment, he received many visitors (Acts 28:30) but, in contrast to this, only Luke was with Paul in this second Roman imprisonment. This causes us to ask: Where were the Roman believers and all those listed in Romans 16:5-15? Where were the saints that were of Caesar's household that Paul wrote about in Philippians 4:22? They were likely driven into hiding or out of Rome altogether due to the persecution at that time. Nero had cranked up the persecution to a brutal, cruel level and Christians were paying with excruciating deaths.

That being the case, it makes it even more meaningful that "Only Luke is with me." Luke courageously remained with Paul in his darkest hour when so many other believers had fled or were hiding in fear.

Luke remained true to the Apostle Paul to the end. When the morning came that the aged apostle was led away to his execution, Luke was there. When the lictor's blade flashed in the light and Paul's head was struck from his body and his soul soared to glory into the presence of Christ, it was likely Luke who cared for Paul's body.

Kenneth Wuest (1893-1961) wrote the following commendation of Luke: "How beautiful it is to see that the 'beloved physician' should feel that his place was beside Paul when the end was approaching. How true to his medical instinct this was; not to depreciate the grace of God moving him in his heart to the same action. What a trophy of God's grace Luke is. Here is a...doctor of medicine, leaving his medical practice to be the personal physician of an itinerant preacher, to share his hardships and privations, his dangers, and toil. The great success of the apostle whom he attended in a medical way, is due in some measure, to the physician's watchful care over his patient who was the recipient of stonings, scourgings, and beatings, a man whose physical strength was always at the ragged edge of exhaustion because of his incessant and intense work and long difficult journeys...Now, his patient, grown old before his time, was suffering the discomforts of a Roman cell. He had to be guarded against disease. 'Only Luke is with me.' What a comfort he was to Paul!"<sup>3</sup>



1. Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary Volume 2* (Colorado Springs, Colorado: Chariot Victor Publishing, 2001), p. 151.

2. "Dogsled Race to Get Serum," accessed January 2, 2024, <https://Bible.org/illustration/dogsled-race-get-serum>.

3. Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies, From the Greek New Testament Volume II, The Pastoral Epistles in the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983), p. 165.



# SPOTLIGHT

## on Grace Churches

**GRACE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

*Gainsville Civic Center*

830 Green Street, NE Gainesville, Georgia

**SERVICE TIME:**

Worship Service: 10:30AM

For information contact Nathan Bullock at 706.833.8893.

Congratulations to Nathan Bullock for being appointed  
as the new **Development Director** representing  
*Things To Come Mission* in the USA. Please be in prayer for  
Nathan, his wife Lisa, and the entire ministry of TCM.





# CHRISTIAN *to* CHRISTIAN

## COMPLETE IN CHRIST

I had an *aha* moment last year during a time of distress. Something negative happened in a personal relationship, and I found myself thinking negative thoughts continually. Fear, anxiety, and worry overcame me, impacting my sleep severely, and, as a result, my health was affected.

Since I was in an unhealthy state of mind, I decided to temporarily withdraw from people so I could focus on healing through in-depth Bible studies. I also needed a sense of “control,” and I found it in putting puzzles together.

After several weeks of trying to handle my problems, I realized that it was time to seek the advice of a trusted friend. At first, I slowly shared my pain with her. Before I knew it, all my anguish began pouring out. She listened quietly and respectfully without any judgment.

I shared the “lies” that I had been believing about myself. I told her that I was not a good person and that I made too many mistakes. I explained how worthless I felt.

She countered the lies with truth. She reminded me that God loves me and that I belong to Him (Rom. 8:15-17). I am His! She urged me to put away the lies and put on truth (Eph. 4:20-24). Christ died for all my sins, praise God (Rom. 5:6-11; Eph. 4:32). She also reminded me of an important truth—I am complete in Christ (Col. 2:10).

Slowly, the weariness of carrying such heavy baggage fell off my shoulders. I began to feel lighter. I was finally able to connect what my brain had been telling me with my heart. In other words, I had the head knowledge, but I was not applying it to my deceitful heart (Jer. 17:9). Praise God, my “inner man” was strengthened (Eph. 3:16). I realized that I had to completely give my problems over to the Lord. Only He can bear our griefs.

Distress reveals the ugliness of sin that hides itself from others. The Lord allows them to occur so we can rely on *His* strength (Rom. 8:26-39; 2 Cor. 12:9-10). He wants what is best for us, and that is to become like His Son Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29). We *can* cast all our cares upon Him (1 Pet. 5:7).

—Michelle Kilgo



# *A True Biblical Grace Church*

**PASTOR JOHN FREDERICKSEN**  
*Board Member*

**T**ruett Cathy is the founder of the Chick-fil-A restaurant empire. He is a prime example of honoring God and God being able to honor a work. Mr. Cathy's restaurants have been closed on Sundays since 1948. This 93-year-old CEO of over 2,768 restaurants didn't mind losing millions of dollars to honor the Lord and honor his workers by being closed on Sundays so they could attend church. Chick-fil-A does NOT give out Hollywood action figures to the kids. They give character-building materials like T-shirts with conservative slogans on them and VeggieTales books. According to one of his workers who has risen to an executive position, "Mr. Cathy's favorite verse is James 1:22: 'Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only.'" God has richly blessed Mr. Cathy, and we believe it is in part because he chooses to honor the Lord and live what he reads in Scripture.

When King David set up his kingdom, he made several tragic mistakes. When Israel had been

previously defeated in battle by the Philistines, they took the Ark of the Covenant as a trophy of their victory (1 Samuel 5). For twenty years, the Ark remained away from Israel's center of worship (7:2). After David was made king over all the tribes of the Jews, he decided to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. Therefore, with great zeal, he instructed the Ark to be placed on a new cart drawn by oxen. However, when Uzzah put his hand upon the Ark to steady it and keep it from falling, God immediately struck him dead (2 Sam. 6:1-9).

God had given very clear and specific instructions about how to move the Ark of the Covenant. It was only to be carried by the priests of Israel as they put staves, or heavy wooden poles, through strong gold rings placed on each of the four sides (Ex. 25:10-15). God's people were not to make up their own rules and simply ignore God's divine design. God had even warned Israel about what would happen if they chose disobedience in transporting the


Ark. The Lord said, "...but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die" (Num. 4:15). David, the priests, and the people should have known to expect God's strong displeasure when going about God's business differently than doing it God's way.

Long before God granted a king to Israel, He also gave clear instructions about one of the highest priorities for their king: "When he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom...he shall write him a copy of this law in a book... And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God" (Deut. 17:18-19). What made David's actions so inexcusable about improperly moving the Ark was that he had God's Word, and he'd had seven years to read, learn, and follow it. He should have known better than to make up his own design and not follow God's guidelines.

### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP/ LEADERSHIP IN LOCAL CHURCHES**

The Scriptures lay out five essential requirements for elders in every local church. We must not make the same mistakes that Israel made when improperly moving the Ark. We must not ignore or remain ignorant of God's instructions, or simply defy the Lord by devising our own standards. The local church is God's work, and God's work must be done in God's way. If any church constitution is contrary to the standards of God's Word in this area, everyone would be better off if that man-made document

were burned and the leaders of the congregation started over to draft a new constitution that is consistent with God's inspired instructions about elders.



**"When we rightly  
divide...preach a  
clear gospel...  
and comply  
with biblical  
standards about  
local church  
government, then  
we are a true  
grace church."**

First Timothy 3:1 says, "If a man desire the office of a bishop [an elder, or a co-pastor/shepherd of the local flock], he desireth a good work." This verse emphasizes the only proper motive to be in a position of church leadership. Each man's motive must be ministry, not power over other people. His desire must be to do "the work of the ministry" (Eph. 4:12). His attitude must not be to "have dominion over your faith, but [to become a helper] helpers of your joy" (2 Cor. 1:24).

A new elder called a pastor into a back classroom before he was to enter the pulpit and angrily said to him, "I want you to know that when Tom [the chairman of the board] is not here, I AM THE BOSS AROUND HERE." This man had no business being in a position of church leadership and had just disqualified himself. Being an elder is to serve with other servant-minded men as a team of equals, collectively guiding the



congregation with an example of humility, dedication, and trustworthy service in the teaching of God's Word.

Perhaps the most important of all qualifications for an elder is that he "must be...apt to teach" (1 Tim. 3:2). This is not an optional standard that we can ignore and expect God to bless our local church. It does not matter if a man gives a great deal of money to the church, is popular among the people, or simply wants to be on the board. If a man is not "apt [given to, willing, and able] to teach" the Scriptures, then he should never be placed on a church board as an elder. Why does the Lord deem this as such an important, unalterable qualification that "must" be met? Hebrews 5:13-14 explains that many are "unskilful in the Word of righteousness...But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." The only way for an elder to have good discernment in doctrine, proper conduct, and principles of ministry is to become a capable student and teacher of God's Word. We urge every Christian man to aspire and work toward this qualification. With the abundance of available Bibles and sound doctrinal materials as aids, nearly any saved man who can read and desires to serve the Lord can grow into this capability.

An elder must also be "blameless" regarding conduct (1 Tim. 3:2) and have a good reputation that is above "reproach" (v. 7) in his community. This does not

mean that only a perfect man can serve as an elder. None actually exist. It means that an elder "must" have no reason to be justly accused of persistently sinful, unlawful, or unethical conduct. First Timothy 3:4 goes on to say that an elder must have the family that is under his roof "in order" regarding their spiritual walk, conduct, and faithfulness. Then, verse 6 specifies that an elder must "not be a novice." Like growing a strong, sturdy tree, it takes time for a man to grow into a strong, godly leader who is capable of guiding the congregation through the teaching of God's Word. This is why the Lord firmly tells us to "lay hands suddenly on no man" (1 Tim. 5:22) when it comes to placing them into positions of leadership or accepting accusations against them.



These standards for church leadership are not popular and, unfortunately, are not nearly as widely practiced as they ought to be. After studying these qualifications with an open Bible, one man violently shoved the Bible across the table and said, "I don't care what the Bible says." Another man folded his arms and said, "You're never going to convince me that my way is not



**“The Scriptures lay out five essential requirements for elders in every local church....We must not ignore or remain ignorant of God’s instructions, or simply defy the Lord by devising our own standards. The local church is God’s work, and God’s work must be done in God’s way.”**

better.” Still, another man who wanted to be named the pastor of a church said, “I know that’s what the Bible says, but that’s not what the people want.” Others have ignored these Scriptures and referred to their church constitution, which made different stipulations. They demanded it be followed as if it had been written by the very finger of God. Surely, God cannot fully bless such churches or people who wrongly assume church leadership.

### **ELDERS/CHURCH LEADERS SHOULD ONLY BE APPOINTED BY OTHER QUALIFIED ELDERS**

Nowhere in the Scriptures is there even a hint of elders in the local church being chosen by a majority vote of the congregation. Instead, the Apostle Paul sent Titus, who was also an elder and capable in the Word of God, to Crete for the explicit purpose of “ordain[ing] elders in every city, as I had appointed thee” (Titus 1:5). To be certain that Titus chose only biblically qualified men, under divine inspiration from God, Paul repeats the criteria for men who would hold the office of elder. Paul tells them an elder must be “blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children... [be a sound] steward of God, not self-willed, not soon angry, not

given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre, But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate, [and] Holding fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught” (Titus 1:6-9). Titus was not instructed to hold a congregational meeting to vote for new leaders. Instead, as a qualified elder, Titus was to look for biblically qualified men and appoint only these kinds of men as elders.

The concept of electing elders by a vote of the church congregation is NOT biblical and mistakenly stems from us voting in national elections! We applaud the secular concept of voting for our politicians by those who have reached an age of maturity. However, this is not God’s sacred design for placing men in roles of leadership within the local church. We must always remember that the local church is God’s work, furthering God’s cause, and must be done in God’s way, as plainly outlined in the Scripture. If we are determined to operate the local church contrary to the Word of God, perhaps we should just close the doors or rename it some kind of social club with no spiritual connotation.

Imagine you are suddenly stricken with a massive heart attack. While being transported

in an ambulance, you are asked which of the two hospitals you want to be taken to that sit across the street from one another. One is “God’s Grace Way Hospital.” It has graduates from acclaimed medical schools who are trained, experienced, licensed by the state, board-qualified, and selected by similarly qualified people. The other facility is called “The People’s Choice Hospital.” Here, the staff is hired from all walks of life without any formal medical training or education. They are elected at a town meeting based on who is most liked, popular, assertive, generous in community projects, and has run a strong campaign to be voted in. New residents and those with youthful inexperience all have an equal vote in this election. Now, which hospital do you want to be taken to for bypass surgery? If we would not want an unqualified person performing surgery on us, then we should not want unqualified people operating in places of spiritual leadership in our local church.


Remember how successful Chick-fil-A has become, perhaps because the founder sought to fully honor the Lord by being a doer of the Word and not a hearer only? Could it be that our churches are not as fully blessed by the Lord as they could be because they are not doers of the Word when it comes to the kind of church government they have decided to adopt?

### **WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES SEVERAL QUESTIONS**

When David improperly moved the Ark of the Covenant with a cart and oxen, he should have known better because he

had the Word of God to guide him in what he was doing. He also had years to study the Scriptures. Now that we have studied the subject of true biblically based church government, we are equipped to follow the design God has left for us in His Word about the local church. Praise the Lord that the Scriptures are so freely given to us today, not merely to inform us of interesting facts but to transform us into a better image of Christ by being a doer of the Word. That can happen in our lives and in our churches if we ask ourselves some important questions and then respond in submission to the Lord.

Does my church have a biblical form of eldership? Does my church constitution conform to the biblical standards for selecting church leadership? Are we doing God’s work God’s way or man’s way? Do I reverence God enough to comply with Scripture? Can God fully bless the ministry of my church based on obedience to His Word? Will I support a change to a more biblical form of church government? It would honor the Lord for each of us to make a decision now to follow God’s instructions for our local church government, that is, determining who serves as elders and how they are chosen, and supporting any changes that need to be made. God’s way is always the best way.

When we rightly divide the Word of truth, preach a clear gospel of grace, and comply with biblical standards about local church government, then we are a true grace church. 



# BBS Letter Excerpts



## **From Florida:**

"I truly enjoy all the YouTube messages to view. I look forward to the upcoming Grace Bible with study notes...."

## **From Facebook:**

"Merry Christmas, *Berean Bible Society* staff. Thank you so much for your generosity in sending us faithfully the *Berean Searchlight* monthly reading materials. We really appreciate it. God bless you all."

## **From our Inbox:**

"Thank you so much for your ministry and for remaining so steadfast in spreading His Word rightly divided. In this chaotic, turbulent world, I appreciate so much receiving the *Berean Searchlight* and watching the *Transformed by Grace* messages. Your articles 'Knowing the Enemy' and 'Trust in the Lord' have brought spiritual insight and comfort."

## **From Tennessee:**

"Love your program...learn so much. Thank you!"

## **From YouTube:**

[Responding to *Transformed by Grace* #304 "Life Meets Death Part 4: Jairus's Daughter"] "Lovely message! Yes, I am in awe of the Lord Jesus Christ and His loving kindness and mercy to us when we don't deserve it, but because He loves us, we are so blessed. All glory to the Lord Jesus."

## **From our Inbox:**

"Pastor Sadler...I am a student of 2 Timothy 2:15 and have never had the Scriptures open to me like they have since I started to follow rightly dividing. I am a supporter of the BBS, and your recent letter on Revelation 1:10-11 was very interesting. I was recently doing a study on the Body of Christ and came to the conclusion that the seven churches of Revelation were not dispensed at seven different times since Pentecost but that they were prophetic churches. Your letter gave me additional insight into these churches during the Tribulation."

## **From Pennsylvania:**

"I just look forward to your teaching every day. It is really a great blessing to me."

## **From Australia:**

"Dear Pastor Don, thank you for answering my question. I am very appreciative of receiving the *Berean Searchlight*. The contents have provided me with shared wisdom on biblical truth and sound interpretation and commentary of Scripture."

## **From Oregon:**

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

## **From Facebook:**

"Thank you for ministering the gospel of God's grace to others."

### **From North Carolina:**

"What a great ministry you have with sound doctrine, which is so hard to find these days. We claim you as our church, as it is very important to us for our faith to grow in the right direction! We cheerfully choose to support your ministry monthly, plus purchase your valuable literature to share with others. We're really looking forward to the Grace Study Bible!! It's a much-needed source for true doctrine! You are appreciated here in Germantown, North Carolina." (Thank you for your support and for sharing the material with others. —Ed.)

### **From Ohio:**

"I never even thanked you for sending me the *Searchlight*. I really enjoy reading it and listening to *Transformed by Grace*. I cannot wait until your Bible is completed as the wife and I look forward to it. Thanks again."

### **From Uganda:**

[Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible* "Grace Abounding In Paul's Ministry"] "Oh, how I love and cherish that abundant grace which surpasses all understanding."

### **From Missouri:**

"We are especially grateful for the website with everything we need on it since there are no rightly dividing churches in our area, and we have not found a home Bible study group either. We still drive four hours once a month to Oklahoma and have Bible studies with family and friends who attended our home Bible studies we started having after learning about rightly dividing."

### **From our Inbox:**

"Thank you for the article on 'When Did the Gift of Tongues Cease.' It was a brilliant study of miracles and signs during the ministries of the Apostolic period."

### **From our Inbox:**

[Responding to *More Minutes with the Bible* "Helping Those Who Hurt"] "Thank you very much for this instructive letter from Pastor John Fredericksen. I read almost all of these and want you to know how much I appreciate them and am blessed by them. Yours is an excellent ministry!"

### **From YouTube:**

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

### **From Colorado:**

"Thank you for all you do. You are a blessing to me with all the resources you provide."

### **From Iowa:**

"To anyone looking for a great, quick devotional, I highly recommend this *Two Minutes with the Bible* series! Today's message on forgiveness was amazing and particularly on point scripturally."

### **From the Philippines:**

"I've been a subscriber of the *Berean Searchlight* for several years. The publication is of great help to me. As a pastor under *Things to Come Mission*, the *Searchlight* is a good reading aid. Thanks for including me in the list. God bless you and your ministry."



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

# Understanding the Coming Judgment!



The Key to Understanding  
the Scriptures  
Fold-out color chart  
Special Price \$.50 (reg. \$1)



The Judgments to Come  
Booklet | 22 pages  
Special Price \$2.50 (reg. \$4)

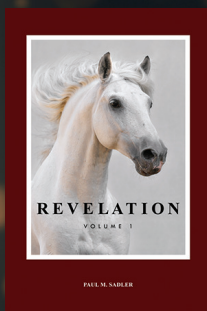


## Special Offers End February 29, 2024

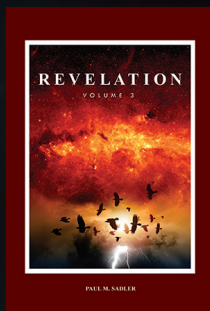
Free shipping! (Wisconsin residents, please add 5.5% sales tax)

262.255.4750 or [bereanbiblesociety.org](http://bereanbiblesociety.org)

The future judgment of God is certain to come and often misunderstood. If you would like to know more about these prophetic events, then consider getting these while they are on sale.



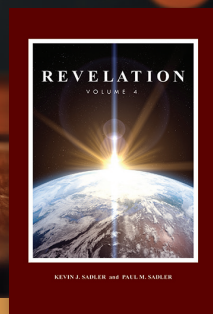
Volume 1 | 208 pages  
Hardcover Commentary  
Paul M. Sadler  
Covers Revelation 1:1–6:17  
Special Price \$12 (reg. \$15)



Volume 2 | 228 pages  
Hardcover Commentary  
Paul M. Sadler  
Covers Revelation 7:1–13:18  
Special Price \$14 (reg. \$17)



Volume 3 | 224 pages  
Hardcover Commentary  
Paul M. Sadler  
Covers Revelation 14:1–19:21  
Special Price \$14 (reg. \$17)



Volume 4 | 250 pages  
Hardcover Commentary  
Kevin Sadler/Paul Sadler  
Covers Revelation 20:1–22:21  
Special Price \$15 (reg. \$18)



# News & Announcements



**The Gospel Made Clear:** I'm sure we all agree that nothing is as important as a clear and accurate presentation of *The Gospel of Salvation*. Because of this, we have added a new page to our website that aims to present the gospel as simply and directly as possible. Pastor Kevin Sadler rightly said, "It is the most important page on our website." You can find it directly under "About Us" on the main menu. "As we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God..." (1 Thes. 2:4).

**Prayer Card:** In Romans 15:30, we see Paul boldly request prayer for himself and his ministry. And here at *Berean Bible Society*, there is probably nothing we covet more than your prayers. Please consider downloading and printing our prayer card, which is designed to help remind you to pray for the ministries of BBS. You can find it at <https://bereanbiblesociety.org/prayer-card/>. Thank you for all your support and for being a part of this work.

**Arizona Bible Conference:** How would you like to join BBS president and *Transformed by Grace* teacher Pastor Kevin Sadler at this year's West Valley Grace Fellowship Conference in Sun City West, Arizona, on March 22-24? For more information, you can visit our Bible Conferences web page or reach out to Jim Humphrey at 602.769.4262 or [jhumph783@gmail.com](mailto:jhumph783@gmail.com).

**California Bible Conference:** If Arizona isn't an option, but you would still like to join BBS for a Bible conference, come on over to the Grace Bible Church Banning Conference in Banning, California, on March 22-24. *Berean Searchlight* editor Pastor Don Hosfeld and others will be speaking on the theme "Having Done All to Stand." To RSVP or for more information, please contact Pastor Michael TerBush at 951.285.1878 or at [michaelterbush@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelterbush@yahoo.com).

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**Northern Wisconsin Bible Conference**, February 17-18, Lena, WI  
**West Valley Grace Fellowship Conference**, March 22-24, Sun City West, AZ  
**Grace Bible Church Conference**, March 22-24, Banning, CA

# GOSPEL TRACTS and CHARTS

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



## TRACTS

25 Pack of One Title .....	\$4.00
100 Pack of One Title .....	12.00
100 Pack of Assorted Tracts .....	15.00

## ROBERT BROCK

- Seven Basic Bible Facts Every Christian Should Know and Believe
- The Teachings of Christ

## RICKY KURTH

- Gambling with Eternity

## KENNETH MORGAN

- Should Water Baptism Be Practiced Today?

## MAURIE REYNOLDS

- God's Insurance Policy

## J.C. O'HAIR

- You Do Need Him

## KEVIN J. SADLER

- Christmas Times
- God's Pumpkin (10 pack)
- Not Too Narrow
- He's Alive!

## PAUL M. SADLER

- An Epitaph
- Rescued by the Blood

## C.R. STAM

- Basic Distinctions Between Prophecy and the Mystery
- A Big Little Word
- Don't Come An Inch Closer
- Going Somewhere
- How To Please God
- If You Keep Trying You'll Never Succeed
- It's Your Attitude
- Mutual Interest
- Priceless Treasure

## CHARTS

Single copy ("Key" or "Timeline") .....	\$1.00
25 Pack of One Title .....	12.00

## KEVIN J. SADLER

- The Timeline of Paul's Ministry, Conversion to Martyrdom (fold-out brochure)

## PAUL M. SADLER

- The Key to Understanding the Scriptures (fold-out brochure)
- According to the Scriptures booklet

Prices for this booklet of charts:  
\$3.00 each -or- 10 pack for \$18.00



## BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY

N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., Germantown, WI 53022

Phone: 262.2554750 | Website: [boreanbiblesociety.org](http://boreanbiblesociety.org)

*Prices and availability are subject to change without notice.  
For detailed descriptions of products, please visit our online store.*

Free Shipping! Wisconsin residents please add 5.5% sales tax

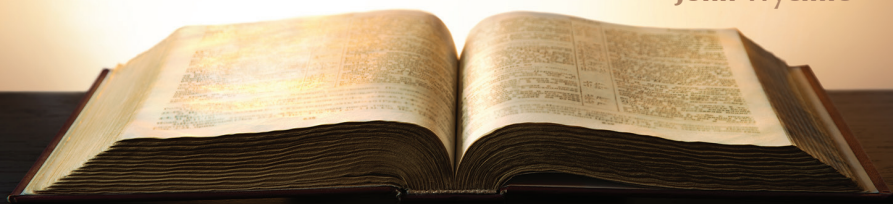


THE BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT  
N112 W17761 MEQUON ROAD  
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022

PERIODICALS  
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI  
AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES

**"Holy Scripture is the *highest* authority  
for every believer, the *standard* of faith,  
and the *foundation* for reform."**

**—John Wycliffe**



Transformed By  
*Grace*

Berean Bible Society  
TV Ministry

Sunday 9:00 am CT: WJYS Chicago

Monday–Friday 6:00 pm ET:

Christian Television Network (CTN)

- DirecTV: Channel 376
- Dish Network: Channel 262
- Glory Star Satellite: Channel 117

BBS Network 24/7 streaming channel Roku and Apple TV

Also available on Facebook, YouTube, and the BBS website