

The BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

August 2025



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This month’s cover features Finnish Lighthouse Vuohensalo, Priozersk, Ladoga Lake, Russia.

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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FROM THE EDITOR TO YOU

Dear Friends in Christ,

Serving as Editor at *Berean Bible Society* has been one of the greatest honors of my ministry journey. These pages have allowed me the privilege of pointing hearts to Christ, championing the truth of God's Word rightly divided, and encouraging believers across the globe. Week after week, I've had a front-row seat to what God is doing through this wonderful ministry, and I'm deeply grateful for the support and fellowship of you, our readers.

Something familiar, however, has been stirring in my heart—a leading I know well. I've sensed it is time to return to pastoring a church. God's Word tells us that “*if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work*” (1 Tim. 3:1), and when you have that desire, I believe you ought to listen. And so, after much prayer and conversation with my wife, Valerie, and with both joy and a touch of bittersweetness, I want to share that I will be stepping down as Editor here at BBS to return to the pastorate.

Beginning in September, I will resume my role as pastor of *Grace Bible Fellowship* in Nokomis, Florida—a congregation that Valerie and I dearly love. In fact, it's a homecoming of sorts: I pastored *Grace Bible Fellowship* before coming to BBS, and that church family has remained close to our hearts. This is not a goodbye to ministry but a faithful step toward where we believe we should be.

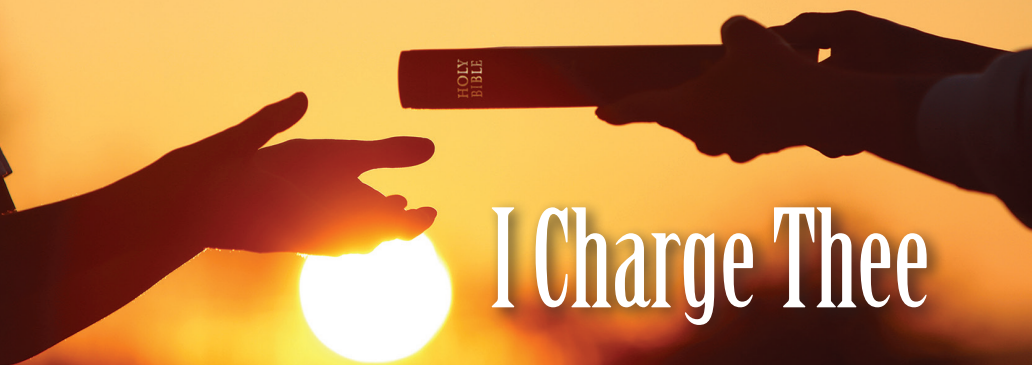
When we moved from Florida to Wisconsin, many asked if we were crazy. Though the weather is certainly more to my liking in Florida (and something I look forward to again), leaving those we have gotten to know here is not without sadness. I am so grateful to have worked with each person here at BBS—they truly are a group of people who love the Lord and ministering to each of you.

Thank you for the privilege of speaking into your life through the *Berean Searchlight*. Your letters, prayers, and encouragement have meant more than I can express. Please continue to pray for BBS as it carries the torch forward and for Valerie and me as we return to a familiar place with renewed strength and purpose.

By His Grace,
Pastor Don Hosfeld



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



I Charge Thee

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:1-2).

Being charged with something is a serious matter. By calling upon God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as witnesses in this charge, Paul is using some of the strongest words possible.

Paul’s charge to Timothy begins with the all-important requirement to “preach the Word” (v. 2). The word “therefore” in verse 1 takes us back to the final verses of chapter 3, where Paul 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 unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The Word of God is the instrument of God to reach the man of God; it’s also the necessary tool to reach the unbelieving world.

“The world is bombarded with message after message offering hope after hope. But above all the messages and above all the hopes that bombard the world, there is one that is more needed by man than all the others—one that is so important that it supersedes all the others combined. What is that message? It is the message of the Word of God. The Word of God offers the only lasting hope for man. For this reason, the Word of God must be preached. The minister of God must commit himself to the awesome charge to preach the Word of God and to minister as never before.”¹

The Word is God’s testimony to the world about Himself. It is similar to the Golden Records placed on the two Voyager spacecrafts launched in 1977, which contained gold-plated records giving mankind’s account of himself and was intended for intelligent extraterrestrial life. Unlike God’s record, the Bible, I expect those Golden Records shall never be used and benefit no one.

The Word of God is not gold-plated but God-breathed, and unlike anything produced by man, it “shall stand for ever” (Isa. 40:8). He declares, “I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure” (Isa. 46:9-10).

—Pastor Don Hofsfeld

1. *The Preacher’s Outline and Sermon Bible: New Testament.*

The Twilight of Grace

PASTOR PAUL SADLER
Former BBS President



THE LAST DAYS

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come” (2 Tim. 3:1).

Paul warns all those in Christ Jesus that in the last days perilous times shall come. Many have taken this warning lightly, but God would have us *prepare* ourselves to avoid becoming a spiritual casualty due to a lack of preparation. If we were engaged in a military operation, it would be prudent to gather as much intelligence on the enemy as possible. For example, the size of their unit, how heavily armed, and how well they are supplied must all be determined before the conflict begins. As the last days loom on the horizon, now is the time to gather spiritual intelligence to prepare ourselves for those sinister times ahead. The apostle says, “This know also....” What do we need to know? What should we expect to face?

First of all, “perilous times shall come.” In Matthew 8:28 the term “perilous” is translated “exceeding

fierce,” when referring to Legion, who was possessed of many devils (see Luke 8:30). Paul characterizes the last days then as being *exceedingly* fierce wherein evil men will wax worse and worse. Whatever we may be called upon to endure at the hands of men will be nothing compared to the wrath of God in the coming Tribulation. As Paul describes some of the characteristics accompanying the last days of the age of Grace in verses 2-4, it could be said that these trends have troubled every generation to some degree. However, the apostle implies that these *trends* will intensify to epidemic proportions resulting in the near collapse of morality and authority.

1. Characteristics of Men

“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers

of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Tim. 3:2-4).

If we did not know better, this almost sounds like an editorial out of this morning’s newspaper! Paul is describing for us the *moral* and *spiritual* condition of the world and its influence on the Church preceding the Rapture. It is not our intent to enter into an exhaustive discussion of the trends set forth here by the apostle. We simply propose to comment briefly on three of these characteristics, so you will be in a better position to capture the sense of the apostle’s words.



“For men shall be lovers of their own selves.” As we approach the end of this age, men will become more and more *self-centered*. A case in point is the present-day teaching of self-love, self-esteem and self-worth. The influence of this unsound teaching has nearly permeated every strata of Christianity today. Like the beat of a drum, this theme is heard almost constantly from the pulpits of America, and frequently appears on the pages of Christian literature. Beware when you hear or read: “It is important to feel good about yourself,” “Learn to love

yourself,” “Probe your innermost being to understand why you think and feel the way you do,” “God sent His Son to die for you because *you* are of great value.” Satan never rests in his insatiable desire to corrupt the Word of God.

On the surface these phrases may seem admirable, but in reality they are diametrically opposed to the Scriptures. The above has been weighed in the balances and found to be wanting. For example: “The heart [innermost being] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). Paul concurred when he said, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) [old nature or self] dwelleth no good thing...” (Rom. 7:18).

The old man (self) is at *enmity* against God (Rom. 8:7). He hates God and the things of God, and left to himself he will not seek God. The Scriptures, from beginning to end, speak with a unified voice that the *old nature* is rotten to the core (see Rom. 3:9-18). Consequently, our old man (self) has been crucified with Christ. Paul made reference to this when he wrote to the Galatians, “I am crucified with Christ [i.e., his old nature]; nevertheless I live [Paul’s new nature]; yet NOT I [self], but Christ liveth in me....” We are to *put off* the old man and *put on* the new, which is created in holiness and righteousness (Eph. 4:22-24). It is futile to attempt to improve one’s self-image, especially since God abhors any attempt to do so. Rather, we are to conform ourselves to the *image* of His dear Son (Rom. 8:29). With that said, those of the household of faith are to live accordingly:

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (Phil. 2:3).

Self takes great pleasure in acclaim, indulgence, approval and praise—it glories in all these things. But are we not robbing God when self is esteemed more highly than His glory? “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore *glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s*” (1 Cor. 6:19,20). Shall we permit the “love of one’s self” teachings to overshadow the love of God in Christ Jesus? God forbid! May God help us to stand against this insidious satanic philosophy.

Also during the last days, a spirit of independence will prevail throughout the land. I can remember a time in my life when everything centered around the home, the church, and the community. A new day brought the milkman or baker to the door, giving everyone an opportunity to chat and share their concerns about the neighborhood. Since everyone knew one another, a walk to the corner grocery store meant stops along the way to visit with friends. Unfortunately, those days have passed and with them our involvement in the lives of others; consequently, we have fewer opportunities to witness for Christ.

In our modern day of advanced technology, man has managed to become so self-sufficient that he has insulated himself from

others. Consider this solemn thought for a moment: We drive to the gas station where we pay at the pump, then stop by an ATM to do our banking, purchase a hamburger at a drive-thru window,



and electronically open and close the garage door upon arriving home. Whether we realize it or not, we have successfully avoided any personal contact with those around us simply for the sake of convenience.

To complicate matters further, our children are taught that man has evolved from the lower life forms, therefore denying the very existence of God. Humanism naturally follows, erecting a philosophy that man is the be-all and end-all—he is the alpha and omega. The humanist claims that human wisdom has brought us to where we are today; as a result, it is important to get in touch with ourselves, they say. After all, “You DESERVE it!” as the commercial says. Little wonder the world is in the state it is! Man has become a god to himself with no room for the true and living God or his fellow man.

“*Covetous*,” means that men will be consumed with the *love of money*, which is an inescapable



**"The pursuit of gain is
observed on every hand."**

fact of our generation. This insatiable desire to have more and more possessions is destroying the family unit. Businesses as well have trodden down this path of no return. Pride in workmanship and product quality has taken a backseat to the all-consuming desire to get rich quick.

The pursuit of gain is observed on every hand. Every time you enter a supermarket, the management is manipulating you throughout the store. Here is a case in point: Have you ever noticed that when you go to the market to purchase milk and eggs, they are seldom at the front of the store? Nine times out of ten, these two items are at the back of the store, which means you must pass the soda, snacks, and those irresistible sale items at the end of each aisle. Products normally priced \$2.29 marked down to \$.99—who could possibly resist? So a trip to purchase two staples ends up costing you a bundle. This has all been engineered by the store management to entice you to buy additional products, which results in a handsome financial profit. It takes discipline to shop these days!

"Without natural affection." Years ago, it would have been

difficult to understand what form this could possibly take. Today, self-love and the lack of *natural affection* are seared into the conscience of our nation. Who would have thought that we would ever see the time that a mother's love and affection for her unborn child would wax cold. Since Biblical times, conception and birth have been celebrated as joyous occasions as a new life was received as a gift from God (Gen. 21:1-8). Today, however, in many cases conception has become a death sentence for the child who is unwanted. On average there are 1.2 million *reported* abortions performed in America annually! The cost of abortions at a 16-week gestation period is approximately \$500. The slaying of the innocents has become a multi-billion dollar industry!

At the time of Christ's birth, King Herod decreed that in Bethlehem all infants two years of age and under should be slain (Matt. 2:16). How many little ones do you suppose lost their lives—40 or 50? It was more likely hundreds. At any rate, throughout history this has come to be known as the *slaughter of the innocents*. Although we are horrified at Herod's insensitive

crime, it pales in comparison to the abortion rate today. The mother of the unwanted child who is contemplating an abortion, along with the physicians who perform the abortions, are disgraceful examples of what it means to be "*without natural affection*." Thankfully, there is forgiveness for those who have had an abortion through Christ and His shed blood.

2. A Form of Godliness

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Tim. 3:5).

Man has always been inherently religious. This may take the form of the animist who worships nature, or the eastern cults that worship idols and practice self-mutilation. With a growing sense of hopelessness in the last days, the world will flock to the house of religion to fill the longing of their souls. However, multitudes will be led astray by religious leaders who merely have a *form* of godliness. They will have the *outward semblance* of godliness, but it will be nothing more than a cheap imitation of the genuine. With their lips they will honor God, but in reality their hearts will be far from Him.

Since the natural man would rather not hear that he is a sinner, these godless leaders will proclaim a *social gospel* mingled with political concerns. Their philosophy has no room for the Deity of Christ or His finished work. Paul says they will "deny the power thereof," that is, they will reject the preaching of the Cross and dismiss the blood of Christ as repulsive. Thus, the

apostle admonishes us, "from such turn away."

Any pastor, teacher, missionary or ministry that denies or questions the finished work of Christ must be avoided. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). It has been correctly said that Hell will be filled with religious men and women.

Obviously this phrase "having a form of godliness" will manifest itself in many ways. A good example may be found in the teachings of the *New Age Movement*. Norman Geisler, professor of theology at *Dallas Theological Seminary* writes: "At least 14 doctrines are typical of New Age religions. While not all New Age groups hold all these beliefs, most groups embrace many of them. And all groups are characterized by the pantheistic perspective reflected in them.

"These beliefs are: (1) an impersonal god (force), (2) an eternal universe, (3) an illusory nature of matter, (4) a cyclical nature of life, (5) the necessity of reincarnations, (6) the evolution of man into Godhood, (7) continuing revelations from beings beyond the world, (8) the identity of man with God, (9) the need for meditation (or other consciousness-changing techniques), (10) occult practices (astrology, mediums, etc.), (11) vegetarianism and holistic health, (12) pacifism (or anti-war activities), (13) one-world (global) order, and (14) syncretism (unity of all religions)."¹ The warning is clear: *Believer beware!*

3. Miracle Workers

“Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was” (2 Tim. 3:8,9).

Prior to our Lord’s return for the Church, there are going to be those who will claim to have the power to perform miracles. Paul swiftly exposes these deceivers by comparing them with Jannes and Jambres who withstood Moses in Egypt (Ex. 7:11,12). The remarkable thing about these two magicians, who stood in Pharaoh’s court, was their uncanny ability to do miracles by the power of Satan. To demonstrate the mighty hand of God, Aaron cast down Moses’ rod before Pharaoh, and it miraculously turned into a living serpent.

But, amazingly, Jannes and Jambres threw down their rods and they, too, became serpents. These evildoers challenged the servants of the Most High, and we can expect the end-time seducers to do the same. “But evil men and *seducers* shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (v. 13). Vine defines the Greek word *goes* (seducer) as one who wails: “Hence, from the howl in which spells were chanted, a wizard, sorcerer, enchanter.” In other words, these impostors will weave their *miraculous* manifestations on the looms of the magical arts.

But what possible purpose could Satan hope to accomplish by having his ministers of darkness perform miracles in the sight of men? This will be one

of the many means whereby he will *deceive* men. While Satan is inferior to God, he does possess extraordinary power to do mighty wonders (2 Thes. 2:9). He afflicted Job just short of causing his death. One can only conclude that he also has the power to remove affliction and heal. In Luke 4:5,6, the devil flashed all of the kingdoms of the world before the Savior in a moment of time. Furthermore,

“While Satan is inferior to God, he does possess extraordinary power to do mighty wonders.”



during the future Tribulation he will empower the false prophet to call fire down from heaven (Rev. 13:13,14). In the last days of this dispensation, the adversary will use pseudo miracles to deceive the world and turn the hearts of men away from the living Word by enticing them to follow *experience*.

4. Three Safeguards

“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose...” (2 Tim. 3:10).

How can the child of God avoid falling victim to the evil influences of the last days? There are *three safeguards* that, if applied daily, will keep us from spiritual harm. First, we must familiarize ourselves with all of the doctrines taught by the Apostle Paul in his epistles. Doctrine always affects

walk. If you believe the Church is going through the Tribulation, then you should be storing food and water, and praying that the Antichrist does not declare himself to be God on the Sabbath (Matt. 24:15-21). However, if you hold, as we do, that Paul teaches the Church will be delivered from the wrath to come, then we should spend our time leading men and women to Christ.

Second, we must follow Paul's *manner of life* even as he followed Christ. Paul loved the Lord and by the grace of God sought to apply the Word of God in every area of his life. His heart's desire was to be more like Christ—patient, humble, kind, and esteeming others better than himself. In addition, diligence should be taken to carry out the *purpose* that was given to our apostle. And what was Paul's purpose in the ministry? To finish his course with joy, and “make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery” (Acts 20:24; Eph. 3:9). May God give us this *same* burden to the praise of His glory.

5. Final Trials

“Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me” (2 Tim. 3:11).

What prompted the apostle to single out these *three cities* from the others he had visited on his

apostolic journeys? The answer is twofold: First, the rejection of the gospel of the grace of God greatly intensified. Second, Paul's persecutions grew increasingly worse in each of these cities. At Antioch, the enemies of the Cross *reviled* Paul and Barnabas, and forced them out of the city. At Iconium, things deteriorated even further when their very *lives were threatened*. And at Lystra, the multitude was so enraged that they dragged the apostle out of the city and *stoned* him—some say, to death (Acts 13:50; 14:5,19).

By relating these thoughts in the context of the “last days,” the apostle implies that the closing days of this dispensation are going to follow the *same* course. He is merely *preparing* us for the inevitable. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). The persecution that the apostle speaks of here will be at the hands of ungodly men who despise the very name of Christ. So naturally the object of their wrath will be directed at those who proclaim the good news of Christ and Him crucified. Undoubtedly, the first wave of oppression will be very subtle. It may simply take the form of *intolerance*. But this will quickly turn into *threats*, and in some cases believers may even be called upon to be *martyrs* for Christ. Standing for the truth in the “last days” could have grave consequences. We must be very


“Paul loved the Lord and by the grace of God sought to apply the Word of God in every area of his life.”



careful here never to confuse these wicked deeds of men with the wrath of God to come; they are two entirely different sets of circumstances.

Many believe the Church probably will be driven underground before the Lord returns. Little by little, we are losing our “religious freedom,” even as we speak. The Bible is no longer welcome in society and is summarily dismissed on the basis that it is not relevant. Prayer and Bible reading once observed in public schools is banned. Many Christian schools have had to close due to nonconformity to *unreasonable* regulations imposed by state and local governments. If you stand against abortion or homosexuality, you are labeled intolerant and identified with so-called radicals on the Christian right. The very tenor of these words should be

cause for alarm throughout the household of God.

The time is soon coming when we may be worshiping in the catacombs of our basements, much like the first century believers. In the midst of this oppression which lies ahead, there is *hope!* Paul says, “But out of them all [persecutions and afflictions] the Lord delivered me” (v. 11). This promise is given to all those who are faithful in Christ Jesus. May the utterance of our lips be in accordance with the words of the apostle: “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death” (Phil. 1:20). 


1. Bibliotheca Sacra, Volume 144, January—March 1987, Number 573. *The New Age Movement*, Norman L. Geisler, p. 85.



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Did Christ Suffer in HELL?

The simple answer to this question is “no.”

The erroneous teaching goes like this: After His crucifixion, the Lord's body was placed in a tomb, and His spirit went to hell. There He suffered all the torments of hell that we would have suffered. But Satan, death, and hell could not hold Him. Acts 2:24-27 is used to support this position: “Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning Him... Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad... Because Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption.” It is taught that, because Christ was not Himself deserving of punishment, the Lord was resurrected from hell and the grave by the power of God. Some will even go so far as to say that, in order to be saved, you have to believe that Christ suffered in hell.

This is a dangerous doctrine. It is actually an attack against the Cross of Christ. The word “hell” in Acts 2:27 is translated from the Greek word *hades*. Hades is in the center of the earth. At the time of Christ's death, it had two compartments: Abraham's bosom and torment. We see this in the account of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. After they died, Lazarus was in paradise in Abraham's bosom (v. 22). The rich man was “in hell [*hades*]... in torments” (v. 23).

Christ *fully* faced the judgment of God against our sins upon His Cross during the three hours of worldwide darkness (Luke 23:44). As He did, Christ experienced the realities of hell *at the Cross*: separation from the Father, darkness, torment, thirst, and the fire of God's wrath against sin. He was our blessed Substitute at the Cross; He paid sin's penalty for us and took God's wrath in our place. When Christ cried out, “It is finished” (John 19:30), He meant that the payment for sin was complete and paid in full. To say that Christ also needed to suffer the penalty for sin in hell for three days and three nights is to teach otherwise.

For three days and three nights our Lord was in the center of the earth (Matt. 12:40). We learn where His soul went after He died when He told the believing thief on the cross beside Him, “Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). He did *not* go to hell when He died. He did *not* suffer in torment in *hades*. His spirit descended into the paradise section of *hades* where the spirit of the penitent thief went also. Three days later, He rose again from the dead, triumphant over sin and death!

—Pastor Kevin Sadler

Question Box



"What is your position on chastisement? Do you feel the Lord chastens believers today?"

We believe chastisement is a transdispensational truth. For example, David was a mighty man of war; consequently, God charged his son, Solomon, with the task of building the temple. Although the house of David had found favor in the eyes of God, the Lord added: "I will be his [Solomon's] father, and he shall be My son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men" (2 Sam. 7:14).

In the Book of Hebrews, we learn, "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" (Heb. 12:6,7). Here again, the principle is set forth. Just as a father chastens his son for unruly behavior to keep him out of harm's way, so God the Father chastens those He loves. This may take on many forms: The Lord can rebuke us through His Word; He may use the disciplinary actions of men; and some have even been turned over to Satan. One thing is certain, when the Lord gets your attention, it's undivided!

Perhaps if we ask three timely questions here, it will help shed some additional light upon the matter: Is God our Father today? Indeed! (see Eph. 1:2,3). Are we the sons of God, as members of the Body of Christ? Yes! (see Gal. 4:6,7). Does God love us? By all means! (see Rom. 8:35-39). I rest my case.

Of course, the chastening hand of the Lord can be avoided by merely heeding Titus 2:12, where we learn the grace of God teaches us that, "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." So then, we thus conclude that God does indeed chasten those He loves today. For examples of chastisement during the dispensation of Grace, please see 1 Corinthians 5:1-7; 11:31,32; 2 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:18-20.

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler

The Mystery of God's Will *and* The Dispensation of the Fullness of Times

PASTOR KEN **LAWSON**
BBS Board Member

“Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him” (Eph. 1:9,10).

As terrorism spreads into our once tranquil lives and conflict heats up in the Middle East, troubled people are beginning to ask, “How far will it go? Are we headed for destruction, another national tragedy?” Those who know the Bible have the answer to these questions and many more. They are little disturbed by the seeming progression of evil, knowing that God has a plan and is working that plan.

Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles, writes by divine revelation when he assures us that God has already made known to us “the mystery of His will” and how it relates to the completion of His plan—“the dispensation of the fullness of times.” What does Paul mean by these terms, and why are people still in the dark

regarding them? Let us begin with an explanation of these key phrases, and let related Scriptures shed additional light on the issue.

The Fulfillment of God's Plan

First, we will look at the dispensation of the fullness of times. What is it? We know that a “dispensation” in the Bible covers a period of time in which God dispenses or administers His program to those who willingly become the recipients of His working. Thus many of the newer translations have rendered it “administration” (Eph. 3:2; Col. 1:25; 1 Cor. 9:17). “The fullness of times” refers to the season when God’s purpose concerning man has reached its conclusion. Three main views have emerged from Bible teachers as to its identity:

- 1) It refers to the present dispensation of Grace.
- 2) It is the Millennial Kingdom.
- 3) It is the New Heaven and New Earth.

Its main characteristic is God gathering together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are in earth; even in Him (Eph. 1:10). The idea of God gathering all people together into Christ would certainly remind us of the Church, the Body of Christ, which is being formed in the present dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:1,2). In fact, a major hallmark of the Body of Christ is its positional oneness in Christ (Eph. 2:15,16; 3:6; 4:4-6; Col. 3:11; Gal. 3:28; 1 Cor. 12:13). However, the passage is not speaking only about the gathering together of all people, but of “all things” in Christ.

These things will be identified in a moment, but for now we must understand that the oneness of the Church, the Body of Christ, is the precursor to an even greater oneness (unity) that God will affect at the end of the ages. Paul tells us of “the fullness of the Gentiles” (Rom. 11:25), but the context is clear that it does not include everything contemplated in “the dispensation of the fullness of times.”

The Millennial Kingdom described in Revelation 20 and numerous other Bible passages comes closer to the realization of the fullness of times. But rebellion, judgment and death will still be manifested at the conclusion of the 1000 year reign of Christ (Rev. 20:7-15). The best candidate for the dispensation of the fullness of times is the New Heaven and New Earth along with the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1-22:7).¹

Governmental Authorities

Next, let's look at the phrase “all things.” It is God's purpose to gather together in one “all things” in Christ. This is inclusive of both heaven and earth. Whenever Paul uses this phrase, it is almost always qualified by the context. In this case, we must leave the near context and refer to a similar passage to see the identical phrase with more information.

“For by Him were *all things* created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: *all things* were created by Him and for Him: and He is before *all things*, and by Him *all things* consist. And He is the Head of the body, the church: Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in *all things* He might have the preeminence” (Col. 1:16-18).

Here we see the phrase “all things,” of which Christ Himself is the Creator. They encompass heaven and earth, visible and invisible. We might think of the beauty of the earth, sea, and sky, or the expanse of space with planets, stars, and galaxies. But Paul has a very specific “all things” in mind. They are thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers. These are governmental positions of rank and authority in heaven and on earth. God created these for the orderly administration of His kingdom. But something went horribly wrong. God's creation rebelled against Him! Untold multitudes of angels followed Satan's scheme to dethrone their Creator-God. The heavenly realm then became the habitation of

wicked spirits whose sole purpose is doing the devil's will and relentlessly opposing the purpose of God (Eph. 6:12).²

God still has His holy and elect angels who remained faithful to Him, but now the heavens themselves are not clean in His sight (Job 15:15). Neither was Satan satisfied with spreading devastation in the heavenly places. When God created the first man and woman, he was there to tempt them into rebellion. All he had to do was dangle the bait in front



of them and trick them into one act of self-will. The eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil seemed like a harmless thing, but it was disobedience to the revealed will of God. As a result, Adam and all his descendants were plunged into sin. What would God do now? What could He do? Satan's evil scheme surely must have been hatched as a result of his realization that this scenario would paint God into an impossible corner. Since God is pure and righteous, His own holy nature would prevent Him from fellowship with fallen creatures. Since heaven and earth were now in a state of rebellion,

Satan (himself a fallen creature) could now rule by default. Satan's promise of an improved status in his kingdom must have been a pull that many of the angels could not refuse. But blessed be God! He that knows the end from the beginning foreknew everything and began to unveil a master plan of redemption that would not only judge sin but restore both heaven and earth to God's eternal kingdom.³

The Manifold Wisdom of God

This plan is not only for restoration but also for further glorification. It will make both Christ and His people eternal beneficiaries. This explains the problem of evil and why a loving God would allow sin to enter the world. I do not believe it would have been allowed unless His plan provided infinite gain for both man's blessing and God's glory.

The Earthly Sphere

The first key step in the revelation of God's plan began with the call of Abraham. The failure of man to rule righteously for God had been fully demonstrated by the rebellion resulting in the Flood of Noah and the Tower of Babel. At this point, God chose Abraham and his seed to be the channel of blessing to the nations. Through Abraham's one Seed (Christ) and his multiplied seed (Israel), God's prophetic program will result in the reconciliation of all things in earth back to God (Gal. 3:16; Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:5-7,18; 17:1-8; 22:17,18). Again, while all people on earth will never be reconciled, all things

“...God has a **plan**
and is working
that plan.”



in relation to governmental authority will someday bow to the power of God.

Today, relatively few Christians are placed in such positions of authority and even they soon find the deck stacked against them when they strive to implement Christian principles. In that day, Christ will place only those who have been faithful to acknowledge His Lordship in their lives to reign with Him in glory (Matt. 19:28; 25:14-23; Luke 19:12-19). What a wonderful day that will be when Christ returns to rule in righteousness on David's throne over Israel and the nations. The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Dan. 2:35,44; 7:13,14; Isa. 11:9; Zech. 14:9).

The Celestial Sphere

But what about the heavenly places? The reconciliation of all things in earth, while the fulfillment of Israel's prophecies, would nonetheless be a hollow victory were the heavenlies to remain alienated and in the hands of the enemy. Christ reigning in holiness on earth while the devil rules through fear and intimidation in heaven? Unthinkable! God's plan only contemplates unconditional and total victory. But Israel's prophecies only cover the earthly sphere. Nowhere do we read until

Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles, of an aspect of God's plan which encompasses the heavenly realm. This is where "the mystery of God's will" comes to the fore. While it is the last part of the plan revealed, it will be the first realized in history. Here is where we must explain how God's will is used in Ephesians 1:9. "Having made known unto us the mystery of His will...."

Often our thoughts of God's will are confined to His will for our lives, our families, our local church or our nation. Certainly these aspects of His will are vitally important, and we get much needed light from God's Word. But, in the context, let's try to expand our thinking of God's will to include a much wider scope of His design from "before the world began" to "the ages to come." In other words, God's will may also be called God's *plan* and is identical to "the eternal purpose" (literally God's plan for the ages—Eph. 3:11). So the *mystery* of His will is the *secret* of His plan for the ages. Whatever this secret is, it is *not* the plan in its entirety, but the key which unlocks God's wisdom and makes the whole thing work.

The Mystery of God's Will

We know that God has already made this mystery known to us in the epistles of Paul, but

a misreading of the grammar of Ephesians 1:10 has often led to a misidentification of its content. The dispensation of the fullness of times in verse 10 is often understood to be either a definition or a further explanation of the mystery of God's will in verse 9. This is *not* the case as we have shown. It all depends on how the first words "That in" are taken in verse 10. They are the Greek preposition *eis*, which carries the idea of a motion toward something (i.e., toward the dispensation of the fullness of times). For clarity, we can read it this way, "Having made known to us the secret of God's plan, according to His good pleasure which He has purposed in Himself: **that in** [i.e., with a view toward, or, with regard to] the administration of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all governmental authorities in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; even in Him."

When understood in this way, the mystery is a part of God's plan (or will) which was formerly kept secret in ages past but now is revealed to His saints through Paul's ministry (Eph. 3:1-9; Col. 1:25-27; Rom. 16:25; 1 Cor. 2:8). This mystery is the spiritual program which God has implemented today for the Gentiles and results in the formation of the Church, the Body of Christ, through faith in Christ's shed blood. It is the final missing piece which completes God's plan for the ages and spells total victory for God in the heavenly places.

The Book of Revelation (chapter 12) describes a future war

in heaven which will take place near the middle of the coming Tribulation. The Church, which is His Body, will already have been caught up to heaven (1 Thes. 4:15-18). Michael and his angels will fight against Satan and his angels, and Satan's unholy horde will be cast down to the earth. This will leave a large vacancy in the heavenly government described in Ephesians 6:12. God could have appointed His holy angels to fill the void but that dignity is reserved for faithful members of the Body of Christ (2 Tim. 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:1; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:4).

Putting It All Together

Paul is the apostle chosen of God to reveal the truth concerning the present dispensation of the grace of God and the formation of the Body of Christ. Not until Paul do we read of the heavenly citizenship, heavenly position in Christ, heavenly home, heavenly blessings, heavenly warfare, or heavenly kingdom (Eph. 1:3,20; 2:6; 3:10; 4:10; 6:12). Thus we see that the Church is the instrument through which God will reconcile the things in heaven while Israel is the instrument by which He will reconcile the things on earth. Satan will be cast out and judged with his angels in the Lake of Fire. Then will God's kingdom be *one in scope*,⁴ reaching the whole universe, and *eternal in duration* by encompassing all future ages. While Israel and the Church will maintain their distinctive identities, there will undoubtedly be a close spiritual kinship and fellowship between them as members of the family


of God. How important it is to be reconciled to God now and enjoy in ages to come the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:7). Eternity will be far too short to utter all His praise. All of this will be due to Christ's sacrificial work on Calvary's cross for us all.



Conclusion

God has provided a plan which assures total victory over sin and evil for both Himself and His people. It extends to every area of creation and encompasses the fulfillment of the prophecies of Israel's program and the secret (mystery) program for the Body of Christ. In this plan, we have revealed to us the reconciliation of all things in the government of God's kingdom. The multifaceted excellencies of His character will be put on display for all creation to appreciate, including His wisdom, knowledge, power, goodness, love, mercy, grace, and holiness.

We who believe have begun to see His glory and can have confidence that the One who does all things well will work out the end perfectly in spite of how things now appear. This is the essence of Christian belief, "for we walk by faith, not by sight." When we are diagnosed with incurable cancer, when we lose our employment, when our spouse leaves, or

a loved one is taken in death, we can encourage our hearts with the assurance that, for the believer, the end will be a participation in that eternal glory whose surpassing splendor no mortal imagination can conceive. 

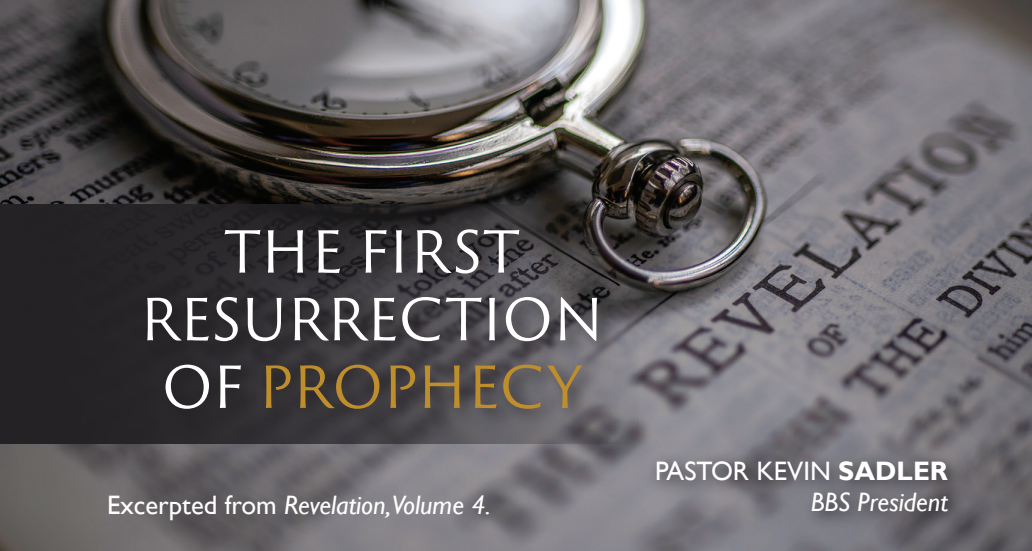
ENDNOTES

1. It is fascinating to me that Paul's history and prophecy cover a wider frame than that of Israel's prophets. It reaches back "before the world began" (Eph. 1:4; 1 Cor. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:9) to the ages to come, and the dispensation of the fullness of time (Eph. 2:7; 1:10). Compare this with Israel's prophetic program, "since the world began" (Luke 1:70; Acts 3:21). Whether Paul's description in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 reaches beyond the New Heaven and New Earth is interesting, but because of a lack of Biblical detail, it cannot be dogmatically asserted.

2. It seems from certain Bible passages that the angelic rebellion included the upper echelons of angelic powers who followed Satan. Only Gabriel and Michael are named as the chief angels who held to the things of the Scriptures of truth (Dan. 8:16; 9:21; 10:13,20,21; Luke 1:19,26).

3. There can be little doubt that the Devil is now "the prince of this world" and "the god of this age" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 1 John 5:19). However, God still maintains His sovereignty over all things (Dan. 4:17,25,32; 5:21; Job 1:6; 2:1; Col. 2:10).

4. This is one area where I depart from some of my fellow grace pastors. However, my departure is more of perception than substance. The Bible never speaks of the *kingdoms* of God (one in heaven and one in earth) but only of the *kingdom* of God (singular). Likewise, the Bible never speaks of the two purposes of God but rather of the *twofold purpose*. God's kingdom is one but is manifested in two different spheres—heaven and earth. God's purpose is to place Jesus Christ on a throne whose authority will gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. This universal kingdom will be formed by the judgment of all rebellious beings and the exaltation of God's people to glory. While this is the *goal* of God's purpose, we do well to remember that the *center* of the purpose is the cross (Col. 1:20).



THE FIRST RESURRECTION OF PROPHECY

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER

BBS President

Excerpted from *Revelation, Volume 4.*

“This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power...” (Rev. 20:5b-6a).

Job asked the age-old question, “If a man die, shall he live again?” (Job 14:14). Yes!! God has given us His Word on the matter.

“For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God” (Job 19:25-26).

The Greek word *anastasis*, or “resurrection,” means a standing up. Someday these old bodies that are lying in their “final” resting place will stand up at God’s command. Some will be raised to everlasting life and others to everlasting condemnation. It matters not whether these bodies of humiliation are placed in the earth, buried at sea, or our ashes scattered to the wind—we live in a closed system—everything is being preserved (Neh. 9:6)! Which is more difficult: creating man from the dust of the earth in the beginning or raising man from the dust of the earth in the last day?

A worthwhile study of things to come is dependent upon a proper understanding of the Word, rightly divided. We must be extremely careful not to confuse what is sometimes called the “secret resurrection” with the “first resurrection,” as many are prone to do. The secret resurrection at the Rapture is the hope of the Church, the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thes. 4:13-18). This is a uniquely Pauline truth. If we were to momentarily lift the special revelation committed to the Apostle Paul out of the Word of God, all the remaining references to the future resurrections would pertain to the prophetic order.

When verses 5 and 6 of Revelation 20 refer to the “first resurrection,” it must be understood as the first resurrection *of prophecy*. Seven years prior to this resurrection, the secret resurrection of the Body of Christ

RAPTURE

"The resurrection of the Body of Christ was a 'mystery,' a secret never revealed before the Apostle Paul and is not found anywhere within prophecy."

will have taken place prior to the Tribulation period, at the Rapture. Speaking of the Rapture, Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:51, "Behold, I shew you a *mystery*." The resurrection of the Body of Christ was "a mystery," a secret never revealed before the Apostle Paul and is not found anywhere within prophecy. John is speaking of a long-prophesied resurrection in the timeline of events for Israel: "This is the *first* resurrection."

Israel was promised resurrection in the last day prior to the Kingdom:

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put My Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD" (Ezek. 37:12-14).

"Thy dead men shall live, together with My dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead" (Isa. 26:19).

Normally the first and second resurrections are mentioned together in prophecy, without any specific reference to the period of time that separates these two great events. For example, the Lord stated during His earthly ministry,

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the [first] resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the [second] resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

Another example is found in Daniel 12:2:

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

John reveals in Revelation 20:4-6 that there will be 1,000 years that separate these two future resurrections. The first resurrection takes place prior to the Millennial Kingdom and the second resurrection takes place following it.

Only the saints of the prophetic program will be raised in the first resurrection and be ushered into the blessings of the Kingdom. (Similarly, at the Rapture, *only* members of the Church, the Body of Christ, under the dispensation of grace are raised and caught up to heaven.) The first resurrection is also called the resurrection of life (John 5:29) and the resurrection of the just (Luke 14:14; Acts 24:15).

The “first resurrection” is the resurrection of all Jewish saints who lived *before* this current dispensation of grace, and the resurrection of all the martyred Tribulation saints who will have lived *after* the close of the dispensation of grace. These saints will all be raised from the dead by the Lord after His Second Coming and prior to the Millennial Kingdom. The souls of these saints will have come back to the earth with Christ at His Second Coming. Jude 14 reads,

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints.”

After Christ’s return to Israel at His Second Coming, the bodies of all these saints will be raised and glorified and joined to their spirits and souls. Peter, James, John, David, Solomon, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Esther, Mordecai, Ruth, and all the saints of the prophetic program—their bodies will be raised from the dead and gloriously changed, and in their new, glorified, resurrected bodies they will then walk right into the earthly Kingdom reign of Christ. In His earthly ministry, the Lord taught “that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 8:11).

The resurrected bodies of these saints will be like Christ’s resurrected body. This is what John wrote about in 1 John 3:2: “Beloved, now are we the sons of God...we know that, when He shall appear [at the Second Coming], *we shall be like Him.*” This will also be the case for the resurrected bodies of the members of the Church, the Body of Christ. Philippians 3:21 teaches us, “Who [the Lord Jesus Christ] shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body....”

The Kingdom saints who are raised at the first resurrection will never die again. Their bodies “shall awake...to everlasting life” (Dan.

“The first resurrection takes place prior to the Millennial Kingdom...”

MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

“...and the second resurrection takes place following it.”


12:2). John writes that “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power.” Those who are raised in the first resurrection truly are “blessed” and have a wonderful hope to reign with Christ on earth for a thousand years and then for eternity, and they are doubly “blessed” because over them “the second death hath no power.” Revelation 21:8 clearly defines the second death as “the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.”

“Death” has to do with *separation* in the Bible. There are three types of death taught in Scripture.

1) *Physical death*: the separation of the soul and spirit from the body (James 2:26).

2) *Spiritual death*: spiritual separation from the life of God (Eph. 2:1; 2 Thes. 1:9).

3) *Second death*: eternal separation from the life and presence of God in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14; 21:8).

Those who are in the first resurrection have the eternal comfort of never being separated from God and never facing the wrath of God. The second death of the Lake of Fire has “no power” on those raised by Christ to enter His Kingdom. They will live forever. They “shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). They will experience the eternal presence of God, and “in Thy presence is fulness of joy” (Psa. 16:11). 



SPOTLIGHT on Grace Churches

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Pastor Denny Kenepf

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WOMAN *to* WOMAN

BEYOND LABELS: LIVING OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST AS WOMEN

For generations, society has dictated to women who we should be, changing the rules every few years just to keep things interesting. In the 1980s, an Enjoli perfume commercial boldly declared, “I can bring home the bacon, fry it up in a pan” (apparently, proving our worth requires both a paycheck **and** a perfectly crisped breakfast)!

More than four decades later, the expectations haven’t eased; we’re still expected to do it all. But Scripture offers a different answer, one that frees us from the pressure to perform. Our identity isn’t found in gender, achievements, or shifting cultural expectations, but in Christ alone.

Our Identity Is Secure in Christ: Colossians 3:3 reminds us, *“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”* Society’s expectations shift, but God’s truth doesn’t.

Instead of striving to fit into cultural molds, we’re called to embrace our identity as members of the Body of Christ, fully accepted and secure in Him, not because of what we accomplish, but because of what He achieved.

Christ, Not Culture, Defines Us: In today’s world, the definition of womanhood is constantly shifting, almost by the minute. But as believers, we’re called to embrace God’s unchanging truth, where our worth isn’t rooted in roles or achievements, but in our identity as those redeemed by Christ.

Rejecting the “Battle of the Sexes” Mentality: Secular thinking frequently fosters tension between men and women, distorting God’s original purpose for both. Yet Galatians 3:28 declares that in Christ, there is *“neither male nor female,”* because our standing before God isn’t based on gender but redemption.

This affirms that our worth and purpose aren’t determined by societal hierarchy but by our identity in Him.

Freedom from External Labels: Feminism often encourages women to define ourselves by career, power, or self-sufficiency, yet this focus leads to pressure, comparison, and exhaustion!

Rather than chasing validation through external achievements, we can rest in the assurance that our true purpose is found in Him, regardless of the roles, labels, or positions we fulfill.

The Freedom of Grace: The world urges us to prove our worth, whether through success, beauty, or influence. Yet this endless pursuit only breeds insecurity.

2 Corinthians 5:17 declares that when we are in Christ, we are *“a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

As believers, we’re fully accepted in Christ. There’s no need to measure ourselves against others. Instead of chasing approval, we can live in the freedom of grace—fully accepted, fully secure, and fully at rest in Him! —Diana Kresnye

BBS Letter Excerpts



From Myanmar:

“My husband and I want to say thank you for consistently sending us here in Myanmar the *Berean Searchlight*. We are thankful and blessed by the way you present the very unique way of studying the Bible according to the teaching of this present dispensation of grace. Our workers and friends who can read and understand English are blessed, too. They started to understand the excellent way of presenting the truth of the Bible, rightly divided. Thank you, and may the Lord bless you for your generosity in spending time and money on this ministry.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “What Must I Do to be Saved?”) “Excellent teaching! So clear on the different requirements for salvation!! Thank you again! I am so enjoying your teachings!!!”

From Our Inbox:

(Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible* “Paul’s Claims”) “Great, thank you for the wonderful Bible truths—rightly divided.”

From Facebook:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “The Apostle of Grace”) “Good work, keep it up. Amen.”

From Our Mailbox:

“I enjoy reading the *Searchlight* and listening to sermons on the flash drive.”

From Our Inbox:

(Responding to *Daily Transformation* “You Wouldn’t Believe”) “Amen, I have changed my life since I accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of my life.”

From Colorado:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace*) “I watch every day. Kevin Sadler is a wonderful preacher chosen by God! I look forward to his jokes; he is so funny.”

From Nevada:

“I appreciate the *Berean Searchlight* subscription as I am hoping to learn more about the Bible, learn how to rightly divide, and read the Bible with context. I want a life serving and living for the Lord.” (It sounds like you are on that path. —Ed.)

From Indiana:

“Thanks for all you do to communicate the grace message worldwide.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Walking with God” Pt. 9) “Brilliantly done.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “The Garden Prayer”) “Very powerful is the Word of God! So encouraging.”

From Florida:

“Thank you for your wonderful inspirational magazine.”

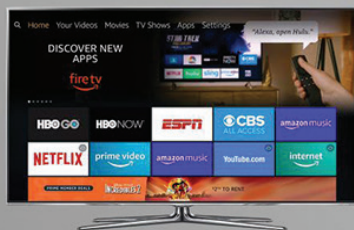


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- 2 Press **left** on the directional pad to enter the search section. Use the directional pad and type **"Transformed by Grace"**, and then select the app from the list.



- 3 Press the button in the center of the directional keypad to select the app. With **Get** selected, press the button in the center of the directional keypad to download the app.



STEPS TO GETTING MORE BBS ON Roku

Roku

1 Press the **Home** button  on your Roku remote.



2 Scroll up or down and select **Search** to bring up the Search Screen. Begin typing in "Transformed by Grace" to search for the channel.



3 Scroll over to the channel icon and tap **OK**. The channel is **FREE**, so after tapping **OK** on the channel, you simply select **Add app** to install the app.



If you have set up a PIN number on your Roku account, you will be asked to provide the PIN before downloading. If you have NOT set up a pin, skip this step.



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STEPS TO GETTING MORE BBS ON

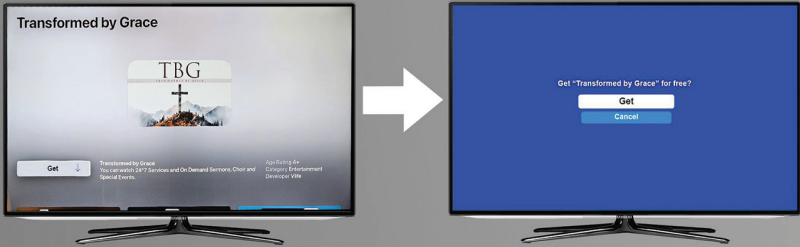
1 Launch the **App Store** app from your Home screen.



2 Move over to the **Search** tab at the end and type in "Transformed by Grace".



3 Click on the TBG Network app icon, then click the **Get** button to download the app for free. Then click the **Get** button on the next page to confirm download.



4 To launch it, go back to the **Home** screen and swipe up, down, left, or right on the touchpad until you reach the Transformed by Grace app. Click on the app to launch it.



News & Announcements



TBG Regional Conference: Mark your calendars for the *Transformed by Grace* Regional Conference on August 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CDT at Great Wolf Lodge, 10175 Weddington Rd, Concord, North Carolina 28027. Join us for a powerful day of teaching with Pastor Kevin Sadler, designed to uplift and encourage your walk in God's grace. Come connect with fellow believers and deepen your understanding of the Word. Call BBS at 262.255.4750 for more information! Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth.

BBF Fall Conference: Get ready for a powerful weekend of faith and fellowship at the 2025 Berean Bible Fellowship Fall Conference, taking place Saturday and Sunday, October 4–5. This year's theme, "Put on the Whole Armor of God," will encourage and equip believers to stand strong in the spiritual battle. Hosted by *Kettle Moraine Bible Church*, 500 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090. Come and be refreshed by sound biblical teaching and meaningful connections with fellow saints. For more information, contact Wes Barteck at 217.820.7098 or visit bbfnews.org. Let this be your weekend to stand firm, rooted in the strength of the Lord!

BBS Mailroom Update: We're excited to share an update with you—Jessica Emmons has joined the *Berean Bible Society* staff as our new Mailroom Manager! Earlier this year, we shared that we were prayerfully seeking someone to fill this important role, and the Lord has faithfully provided. Jessica is relocating from the Chicago area to Wisconsin to step into this position, and we are thankful to have her as part of the BBS team. We are confident she will be a blessing to have on board and to all those we correspond with through the mailroom. Please help us warmly welcome Jessica as she begins this new chapter with us!

Upcoming Conferences to put on your calendar!

BBS Regional Conference, August 16, Concord, NC

BBF Fall Conference, October 4-5, West Bend, WI

West Virginia Bible Conference, October 17-18, Ridgeley, WV



Media Price List

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(E-Books are digital files to read on your devices, not printed books.)



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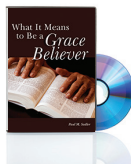
DVD SETS

PAUL M. SADLER

What It Means to Be A Grace Believer..... \$18.00

This series with Pastor Paul M. Sadler will take you through the Grace Message step by step!

The Miracles of Calvary ... \$18.00



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KEVIN J. SADLER

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Single Episode.....\$3.00

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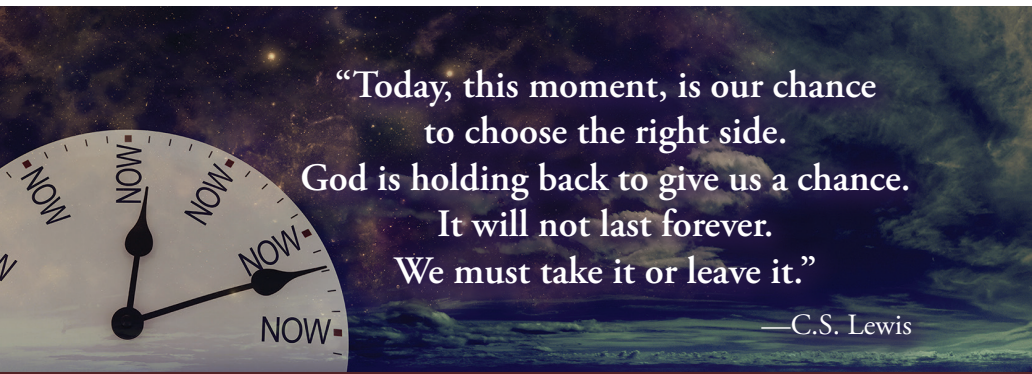
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Also available on TBG YouTube, and the BBS website

