

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

January 2024



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This month’s cover features Povorotny Lighthouse, Vikhrevoi Island, Gulf of Finland.

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

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A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

The reason I close all my letters with “Grace and peace” is that “our letters from home,” the Pauline epistles, all begin with a mention of grace and peace.

“Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:3).

“Grace and peace” is much more than just a greeting; it reveals God’s heart and dealings with mankind in the dispensation of grace. It declares that grace and peace are being shown to all by God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is in this declaration as well; He’s just behind the scenes! Grace and peace are declared to us 13 times in Paul’s letters under the inspiration of the Spirit. Therefore, grace and peace are declared to us by the entire Godhead and the highest Authority of all.

Thus, I close my letters this way to recognize God’s current dealings with the world, but I also do so because of what these two words mean to me personally. Like you, I don’t deserve God’s grace. We deserve God’s judgment and to spend eternity in the lake of fire, separated from His presence because of our sins. But in grace, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, Who took our place and died for our sins personally and then rose again. When I trusted God’s provision, God saved me from all my sins by His grace and gave me eternal life. This means *everything*.

By His grace, God saved me, and by His grace, God also continues to work, training and empowering me so that I might be the kind of husband, father, brother in Christ, pastor, president, and neighbor that He wants me to be (Titus 2:11-14). You and I *need* God’s grace for His sanctifying work in us.

As a result of God’s grace in saving us, we have the supreme blessing of being eternally at “peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1). Not only that, but we can live daily in “the peace of God” (Phil. 4:7). As we know, this world is not a peaceful place, but our true home is a place of perfect peace. Can you imagine how peaceful God’s heaven will be? Thus, as we focus on things above (Col. 3:1-2) and live by faith in our relationship with “the God of peace” (Phil. 4:9), we can each “let the peace of God rule in [our] hearts” (Col. 3:15). May your year be filled with...

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President



Berean Bible Society **CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

NORTHERN WISCONSIN BIBLE CONFERENCE, February 17-18, Lena, Wisconsin

Speakers: Pastor Kevin Sadler, Pastor Jim Harley, and others!

Contact: *Community Bible Church* at 262.689.6890

communitybiblechurch.lena@gmail.com

WEST VALLEY GRACE FELLOWSHIP CONF., March 22-24, Sun City West, Arizona

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Sadler

Contact: Jim Humphrey at 602.769.4262 or jhumph783@gmail.com

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH CONFERENCE, March 22-24, Banning, California

Speaker: Pastor Don Hosfeld

Contact: Michael TerBush at 951.285.1878/michaelterbush@yahoo.com

BBS REGIONAL CONFERENCE—IOWA, April 13, Guttenberg, Iowa

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Sadler

Contact: Tom & Nancy Hausler at 319.464.4109/nthausler@gmail.com

KENTUCKY BIBLE CONFERENCE, May 11-12, Alpha, Kentucky

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Sadler

Contact: Pastor Jeff Bertram at 606.307.4396/jeffrey.e.bertram@gmail.com

BBF SUMMER CONFERENCE, June 16-20, Tipp City, Ohio

Speakers: Pastors Kevin Sadler, Don Hosfeld, John Fredericksen, Jeff Seekins, Ken Lawson, David Havard, and others!

Contact: *Community Bible Church* at 937.667.2710/cbctipp@gmail.com

MIDWEST GRACE FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE, July 12-13, Wellsville, Kansas

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Sadler

Contact: Pastor Tom Schwartz at 918.499.0276 or

Byron Finley at finfarm@gmail.com

MISSOURI BIBLE CONFERENCE, July 18-20, Salem, Missouri

Speaker: Pastor Don Hosfeld

Contact: Pastor Wayne Werline at 573.247.9748

BBF FALL CONFERENCE, October 4-5, Friendship, Wisconsin

Speakers: Pastors Kevin Sadler, Don Hosfeld, and others!

Contact: Pastor Ken Lawson at 352.423.1051 or 352.726.9972/

kandblawson@sbcglobal.net

There may be changes and additions to these conferences. The BBS website and the BBS app have more comprehensive information on these conferences and will be kept up-to-date.



The Call of ABRAHAM

(Taken from Episode 321 of *Transformed by Grace*)

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee” (Gen. 12:1).

One definition of the term *watershed* is “a crucial dividing point, line, or factor: a turning point.”¹ We have a watershed moment in Genesis 12. It is a crucial dividing line in how God dealt with mankind. There is great dispensational significance in the call of Abraham.

During the time of the first 11 chapters of Genesis, God dealt primarily with *the earth* and mankind *as a whole*. This can be observed by reading the accounts of the creation, the family and generations of Adam, the flood of Noah’s day, and the tower of Babel. These 11 chapters also demonstrate that, after sin entered the world, mankind spiraled down and was bent toward corruption, wickedness, and destruction.

Beginning in Genesis 12, however, God launched a brilliant plan to provide salvation for mankind. With this passage, the

focus of Genesis narrows from the wider history of humanity to that of one family. And the story of that family continues in and through much of the rest of the Bible. Abraham was called to be the founder of that one family, the family that would become the nation of Israel.

GET THEE OUT

“And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son’s son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram’s wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there... Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee” (Gen. 11:31; 12:1).

Abraham lived in the city of Ur in the land of the Chaldees with his father, Terah; his wife, Sarah; and his nephew, Lot. Ur of the Chaldeans was in southern Mesopotamia. It was a significant and prosperous city in that day,

situated on the banks of the Euphrates River close to the Persian Gulf and near Basra in modern-day Iraq. Ur was also a place of pagan idolatry. In the Book of Joshua, we read this:

“And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood [the River Euphrates] in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods” (Josh. 24:2).

Abraham’s father, Terah, was not a believer who brought up his son, Abram, to believe in the one true God. Instead, Joshua reminded Israel that their forefathers came from Ur, where Abraham’s father and family worshipped false gods.

The reason that Abraham (who was called Abram at that time), with his family, left Ur in the land of the Chaldees was, as Genesis 12:1 tells us, “Now the LORD HAD said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country...” A couple of verses before Genesis 12:1, we see that Abraham and his family had already left Ur and were in Haran at the end of chapter 11. The past tense, “had” in Genesis 12:1, means that this verse is a flashback to when Abraham was still living in Ur. There, God had appeared to Abraham and spoke to him. This is confirmed in Stephen’s discourse before the Sanhedrin in Acts 7.

“...The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran [Haran], And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred,

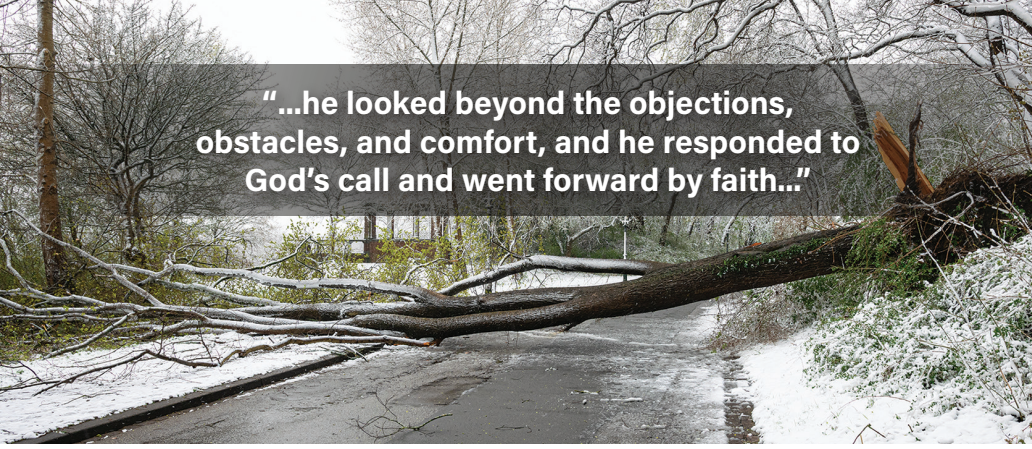
and come into the land which I shall shew thee” (Acts 7:2-3).

Abraham’s life changed forever when the God of glory unexpectedly appeared to him and spoke to him in Ur. When God appeared to Abraham, God called him to leave his “country...kindred, and...father’s house” (Gen. 12:1). These are three levels of increasing demand, which go from broad to narrow. Abraham’s “country” was the region of his dwelling, his “kindred” were his relatives, kinfolk, and broader family, and his “father’s house” was his immediate family and home.



God’s call to Abraham was further a calling to separate himself *from* the corruption and idolatry around him and in his family in Ur, and to separate himself *to* the living God (2 Cor. 6:17-18).

God called Abraham to leave his homeland and to move to a different country, “unto a land that I will shew thee” (Gen. 12:1). God told Abraham to leave Ur but, at first, God didn’t tell him where he was going! Hebrews 11:8 confirms this: “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place...he went out, not knowing whither he went.” God required faith from Abraham, and God desired that Abraham uproot his whole life



“...he looked beyond the objections, obstacles, and comfort, and he responded to God’s call and went forward by faith...”

and just follow God’s leading by faith. Later, He would show Abraham the place he was to go.

It’s been well said of this call that “Abraham was being asked to forsake everything in order to follow God’s call. What would you do? You’re in the prime of life, you’ve got a good job, a nice nest egg, a home you like, friends you admire, neighbors who respect you. You’re an upstanding, valuable part of the community. You’ve got a good future ahead of you. The last thing you want to do is move. And now God—whom you’ve just met—wants you to leave everything. Your family... your friends...your country... your home...your business...your security.”²

What would you do? Is God calling you to the ministry to be a pastor? Or perhaps is He calling you to the mission field? Maybe He’s calling you to go to Bible school. Or do you feel a desire from God to serve as a teacher at your local church, to lead a Bible study, or to become an elder or deacon? If your first thought is “I can’t” or “I’m not qualified,” that’s a great first step! Because then you have to rely on the Lord by faith to go forward.

There were legitimate objections Abraham could have raised and real obstacles to overcome when God called. Staying in Ur, where he was comfortable, was the easiest thing to do for Abraham. But he looked beyond the objections, obstacles, and comfort, and he responded to God’s call and went forward by faith and, as a result, he was blessed, and he became a blessing to others—just like we can in our lives when we serve the Lord!

GOD’S PROMISED BLESSINGS

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:2-3).

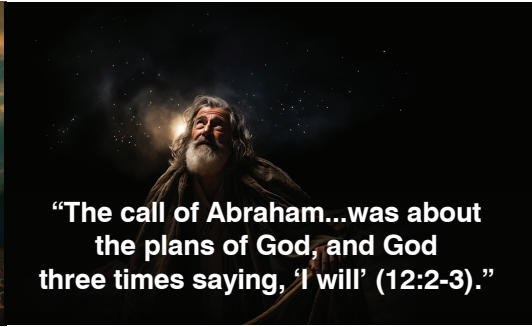
God made three promises of blessing when He called Abraham to leave Ur. First, God said, “*I will* make of thee a great nation”; second, “*I will...*make thy name great”; and third, “*I will* bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

When Abraham was in Ur, Genesis 11:30 states that “Sarai was barren; she had no child,” so Abraham was childless. Thus, when God promised that He would make Abraham a father of many nations, it took great faith to believe God, for Abraham to believe that he would have children and grandchildren and that his multiplied seed would become a great nation (Rom. 4:17-21).

Protection also was promised to Abraham, God saying that He would bless those who bless Abraham and curse those who curse him. This promise was made specifically to Abraham, but it also applied in a broader sense to his descendants through Isaac and Jacob. We find examples of this in Scripture, such as when Potiphar’s house and all of Egypt were *blessed* because of



“Babel was about the plans of man and three times saying, ‘Let us’ (11:3-4).”



“The call of Abraham...was about the plans of God, and God three times saying, ‘I will’ (12:2-3).”

God also promised to make Abraham’s name great. The promise of a great name reminds us of the Tower of Babel in this context, that they said, “and let us make us a name” (Gen. 11:4). Babel was about the plans of man and three times saying, “Let us” (11:3-4). The call of Abraham, however, was about the plans of God, and God three times saying, “I will” (12:2-3).

Abraham’s great-grandson, Joseph. Later though, Egypt was *cursed* because they cursed the descendants of Abraham when they were in bondage.

Not only was Abraham promised personal blessing, but God also promised to make him a blessing, even to the point where all the families of the earth would be blessed in Abraham and through his seed (Gen. 18:18).

GOD’S PLAN FOR ABRAHAM’S FAMILY

Those at Babel sought blessing through their own labors apart from God, selfishly wanting to make a name for themselves, but they failed utterly. God promised Abraham a great name as a result of leaving Ur and trusting Him, and when Abraham obeyed, God did for Abraham what those at Babel tried so foolishly to do for themselves: God blessed Abraham and made his name great.

Genesis 12:2-3 is God’s stated purpose for the nation of Israel: for Israel to be a blessing to all the families of the earth. This was God’s plan all the way through early Acts, and it will pick up again after the Rapture of the Church: that one nation would be a light to all the other nations,

that one family would be a blessing to all the other families of the earth. God has always loved the whole world, and this plan was for the purpose of reaching and leading the nations to the one true God and the proper worship of Him.

The call of Abraham helps us to understand our Bibles when we understand this plan of God and the importance of His purpose for the nation of Israel.

Moses ministered under this plan. The law was given to Israel that she might be a blessing to the nations by being a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Ex. 19:6) who lived, worshiped, and ministered according to God's law (Deut. 28:1-14).

The kings of Israel reigned under this plan. The glory of Israel in the days of King David and King Solomon made Israel the blessing that God intended them to be to the families of the earth (1 Kings 4:21; 2 Chron. 9:22-27).

The prophets ministered under this plan. God sent the prophets to Israel to call her back to God and to His law that, through repentance, faith, and obedience, she might be blessed by God and be that blessing to the nations (Jer. 7:25-28; 25:4-5).

The Lord Jesus Christ ministered under this plan. Christ came to make Israel a blessing and a light for the nations. That's why He taught His disciples that He was "not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 15:24) and told Israel, "Ye are the light of the world" (5:14). Matthew 1:1 reminds us that Jesus Christ is "the son of Abraham." Ultimately, all the nations of the earth will be blessed by

Jesus Christ, the son of Abraham, through the worldwide kingdom of peace He will establish on the earth. One day, the Messiah will make Israel all that God intended her to be in fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12.

Peter and the apostles ministered under this plan. After healing the lame man, Peter preached to those in Jerusalem, telling them, "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities" (Acts 3:25-26).

Those in the Tribulation and the Millennium will minister under this plan. After the Rapture, Genesis 12:2-3 will be the plan for the Tribulation period and the Millennial Kingdom. In that day, Israel will be called to be a blessing to lead the nations to Jesus Christ, the true God, and to find salvation and life in His name (1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6).

The Body of Christ does NOT minister under this plan. After Israel fell in her unbelief of Jesus Christ and her rejection of the Holy Spirit's ministry, God temporarily set her aside until the Rapture. Genesis 12:2-3 is *not* God's plan today. Instead, God's plan is for the Church, the Body of Christ, made up of believing Gentiles and Jews, to be His light and ambassadors for Christ. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-21). We



**“If you ever carved the
Mt. Rushmore of faith, you would
have to start with Abraham.”**

are called by God to go out to the world with the gospel of grace, to make the good news known that Christ died for our sins and rose again, and that anyone can be saved from all their sins by faith ALONE in Christ.

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

“So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, Who appeared unto him” (Gen. 12:4-7).

God called and Abraham obeyed in faith. After God appeared to Abraham in Ur, he and his family traveled out of Ur in Mesopotamia over 600 miles northwest to Haran. The patriarch of the family, Terah, Abraham’s father, stopped short of Canaan, instead

settling down and dwelling in Haran (11:31). Haran was another prosperous city that was located on an important trade route in what is modern-day Turkey, near its border with Syria. It was a city, like Ur, that was known for its idol worship.

Abraham and his family stayed in Haran until his father, Terah, died (Gen. 11:32). After Terah’s death, Abraham acted in faith and continued the journey to the land as God led him (Acts 7:4). Abraham departed Haran with his wife, Sarah, and his nephew, Lot. They, with their servants, all set out for Canaan, which was another long journey of around 400-500 miles to the southwest.

As Abraham entered Canaan, he stopped for a time at Sichem (or Shechem), near the center of the land. Here “the LORD appeared unto Abram” and blessed him, telling him, “Unto thy seed will I give this land” (Gen. 12:7). Abraham was then about 75 years old (v. 4) and his wife was still barren, yet the Lord told him that his “seed” would be given this land. It took faith to believe this promise.

Verse 6 points out that “the Canaanite was then in the land,” meaning they were the possessors of the land at that time, but verse 7 states that the Lord appeared to Abraham to promise and assure

him that this land would belong not to the Canaanites, but to Abraham's posterity. God's promise to Abraham was of *future* possession of the land by his descendants (Acts 7:5). Abraham was promised both a great nation and the land for his seed, but he had no outward proof of either. He could only trust God for the fulfillment of these things.

Abraham was called to this land of Canaan, but he was not told until *after* he arrived there that his seed would be given the land. It wasn't the promise of the land that brought Abraham to Canaan, but just his faith in God. After he arrived in the land, then God blessed him and promised the land to his seed, the land which is often referred to as "The Promised Land."

It's important to remember, too, that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis. And the ones who first read this book, the children of Israel in Moses's day, were about to take possession of the land which God promised to Abraham's seed. The

account of the strong faith of their father Abraham would've been a great encouragement for them to act in faith to go forward and take possession of it.

After the Lord's appearance and promise to him, Abraham built an altar to the Lord. When we first read of him, Abraham lived in Ur with all of its idol worship. As we conclude this particular account, we find Abraham worshipping the true God in Canaan. God called, Abraham obeyed, and stepped out in faith. When Abraham arrived, God blessed him, and Abraham worshipped God.

Abraham is a powerful and great example, if not the greatest example, of a man of faith in Scripture, and he challenges us to grow in our faith in the Lord. It's been said well that "If you ever carved the Mt. Rushmore of faith, you would have to start with Abraham."³



1. "Watershed," definition no. 2, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/watershed>.
2. Ray Pritchard, <https://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/the-incredible-adventure-begins/>.
3. *Ibid.*, quoting Ray Stedman.

Northern Wisconsin Bible Conference

February 17-18, 2024

Location: *Community Bible Church*
7560 US-141, Lena, Wisconsin

Speakers: Pastor Kevin Sadler, Pastor Jim Harley and others!

For directions and additional information, please contact
Community Bible Church at 262.689.6890

Question Box

“In 2 Thessalonians 1:8, why does it say ‘obey’ not the gospel instead of ‘believe’ not the gospel? I was always told simply to believe.”

Considering that a person’s eternal life hinges on it, nothing can be more important than having a biblical understanding of not only what the gospel is but also the situation in which it is being offered.

We often think of the gospel as purely an invitation, like when Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:20, “...as though God did *besech* you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.” However, God is not merely asking mankind to believe; God has issued a warning of what will happen to all who refuse.

God has “*commandeth* all men every where to repent [change their mind]: Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).

To consider the gospel simply an invitation would be like saying that God was merely *asking* Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go. We are saved by faith in the gospel, but that gospel is a *command* from God, and those who refuse to believe will be judged according to their works.

—Pastor Don Hosfeld

Transformed by Grace now has its own YouTube channel!

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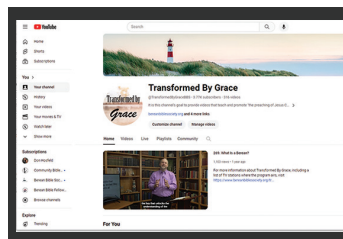


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It is this channel’s goal to provide videos that teach and promote “the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.”

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TRUTH

— or —

Consequences

PASTOR DON HOSFELD
Berean Searchlight Editor

I have a riddle for you: *Crack this riddle, take the prize; Cheat, and I shall know your lies; For I hide in your words, you see; A bond that begets your honesty. What am I?*

Answer: *Truth.*

Most would agree that television is not the usual place you would want to look for Godly principles and moral absolutes (unless we were looking for absolute immorality). However, as they say, “Even a broken clock is right twice a day,”—meaning even if someone or something is unreliable, it can be right sometimes. Such is the case with one of the first game shows to appear on television, *Truth or Consequences*.

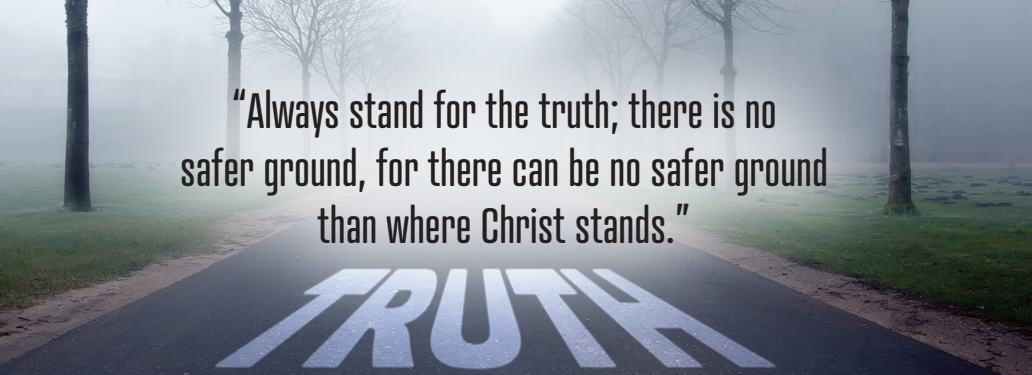
The concept was simple enough: people were asked a question, and if they didn’t tell the truth, there would be a consequence. The show, which began on the radio in 1940, was so successful that a small town in New Mexico changed its name from Hot Springs to Truth or Consequences after the show’s producer, Ralph Edwards, said during its tenth anniversary that he would broadcast live from any town that would change their name to Truth or Consequences. The small New Mexico town was quick to accept.

How absolute is it that truth is *always* the best policy? Is it as simple as *truth or consequences*? Yes, though sometimes those consequences might not be seen right away!

A POST-TRUTH WORLD

“None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity” (Isa. 59:4).

There may be nothing outside of Scripture as accurate as the words of Henry Wheeler Shaw, also known under his pen name, Josh Billings, who said, “As scarce as truth is, the supply has always been in excess of the demand.”



“Always stand for the truth; there is no safer ground, for there can be no safer ground than where Christ stands.”

We live in a world that cares little for what is true, preferring instead what is convenient or advances an agenda that satisfies feelings and desires. It’s been referred to by some as a *post-truth* world. The accuracy of that title depends wholly on how much one believes the world has ever cared for truth. But one can hardly deny that mankind seems to have recently taken a giant leap in accepting even the most blatant lies and calling them true.

Truth is simply not as important to society as it once was. For many, the truth must be rejected because it is too offensive; a new truth, “your truth,” must replace it, regardless of how absurd it may be. No longer is something like sex or gender considered a binary situation—consisting of only two things: male or female. The world today not only embraces gender fluidity and the notion of infinite genders but says the idea of two genders is a lie. It wasn’t enough to reject the truth; they determined to call the truth a lie.

Ours is a hypocritical world, claiming to embrace truth and science while altogether rejecting both at every convenient opportunity. Thus presenting a false assumption of piety or virtue. The same world that says, “I cannot see God; therefore, He must not be true,” also says, “A man is a woman simply by saying so; I don’t care what my eyes tell me.”

But saying something is true doesn’t make it so. Abraham Lincoln, famous for his stories that demonstrated simple but meaningful truths, illustrated this point quite well when he asked a group, “How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg?” After someone said five, Lincoln responded, “Four; calling a tail a leg doesn’t make it a leg.”

Truth is real; it exists regardless of who believes it or doesn’t. It’s not negotiated into existence; it’s not biased or affected by majority decisions. Christ said, “I am...*the* truth” (John 14:6). How accurate then is another of Lincoln’s famous quotes, “My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God’s side, for God is always right.”

We do ourselves and the world a great disservice when we fail to remember the warning of Christ regarding Satan being the father of lies (John 8:44). Because Christ is *the truth* and Satan the father of lies, truth matters and we should *never* embrace a lie, no matter how

insignificant we wish to believe it is, or based on how it makes us or another feel. Always stand for the truth; there is no safer ground, for there can be no safer ground than where Christ stands.

CONSEQUENCES

“Hear the Word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is *no truth*, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

“By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn...” (Hos. 4:1-3).

Just as there is a consequence to sin, there *is* a consequence to lies. And just as there was a consequence for Israel for rejecting truth and embracing lies, there will also be a consequence for the world under grace.

Our universe operates on *fixed truths*, and to violate these truths is to invite consequence. No matter how much someone wishes to deny gravity exists, he will quickly discover how fixed that truth is the moment he decides to put it to the test. The fixed truths we see in the natural world testify to the fixed *spiritual truths*.



But because the spiritual consequences don't always appear immediately like those of the natural world, man ignores them and even boasts that he is above them. He claims that he can live however he wants. He sings songs bragging, “I did it my way” or “This is my life.”

Lies always have consequences, even if we aren't the ones to see them. Every road to alcoholism begins with one drink, and a life or world full of lies has its beginning by accepting just one.

It would be easy for the Christian to blame the unbeliever for the degree of evil this world has embraced. However, the problem is not because the unsaved or unbeliever embraced lies; which is to be expected, but rather it's because those who know the truth are embracing lies.

Romans 1 describes a world that holds “*the truth* in unrighteousness” (v. 18). They “changed *the truth* of God into a lie” (v. 25). The result: three times in Romans 1, we are told that God's response was to “give them up” or “over” (vv. 24,26,28).

We're told Israel was set aside because of *their* "unbelief" or rejection of the truth (Rom. 11:20). Has God changed? Is He any less repulsed by man's embrace of lies and rejection of the truth? Or does Israel's situation serve as a *warning* to us today? Paul said not to be "highminded" about Israel's current situation, but to "take heed" lest this dispensation of grace be "cut off" (cf. Rom. 11:20-22).

"The Christian must ask himself if there is any area of his life where he is listening to the father of lies instead of Christ."



We don't know when, but we know that the day is coming when God will respond to the world's rejection of the truth by instituting a change. The Christian must ask himself if there is *any* area of his life where he is listening to the father of lies instead of Christ.

COME TO THE TRUTH

"These things write I unto thee...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, *the pillar and ground of the truth*" (1 Tim. 3:14,15).

We have a truth problem in the church, and it's not confined to the issues we feel most comfortable challenging: baptism, speaking in tongues, Bible translations, etc. Many Christian parents today consider the pediatrician or public school a better resource for raising their children than the Word of God. Many Christians allow themselves to be more influenced by their co-workers, neighbors, or news outlets than their pastor, elder, church family, or more importantly, the Word of God.

How can so many Christians be so divided on so many basic societal issues? I would propose two common causes:

- Disinterest in what Scripture says on the matter.
- Rationalization.

Many have concluded that the Scriptures are insufficient to speak on certain matters and relegate it to areas where *they* deem it useful. Or, Christians rationalize that it is okay to side with something (or someone) that they know does not meet the test of Scripture because it is for some greater good.

All of us have certainly been guilty of both of these on some level; however, we must understand the severity of such action. We must

know that these are insulting to God *and* that they will have a direct impact on the world. We have a job, and that is to be a “pillar and ground of the *truth*.”

Our job is *not* to fix this world but to prepare people for the next. We are bound to Christ and Him above *all* things.

“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened....But ye have not so learned Christ.... If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the *truth is in Jesus*:

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another” (Eph. 4:17-25).

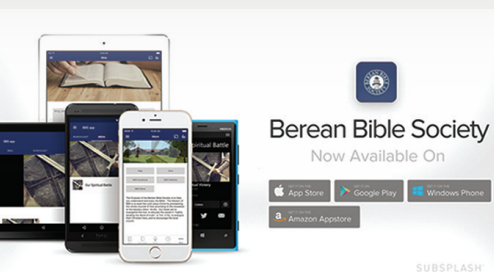
We are a “called-out” group, called out of the world and *to* Christ. The *only* way we will have a positive effect on this world is by advancing the cause of Christ—and Christ *is the truth*. Advancing the cause of Christ should be our motto in our marriages, in our children, in our churches, and beyond. Never should we embrace the lies of secular society. We should be cautious of worldly wisdom and on guard against the father of lies.


We need to “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding” (Prov. 23:23). We need to seek to do God’s will, not our own. How do we know God’s will in *any* given situation? Point out the lie and insert the truth. Find where Christ is and go there.





Speaking of Christ, Paul says, “Who will have all men to be saved, and to *come* unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). The word “come” (Greek *erchomai*) means to come from one place to another. And where must we go for truth? The same place we go for salvation: Christ.

Each of us will impact this world and those in it; the question is, are we impacting it with truth or consequences? 

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Keep updated with all events and conferences, as well as podcasts of *Transformed by Grace* episodes.



HEART *to* HEART

Abounding Grace

“...where sin abounded, grace did much more abound” (Rom. 5:20).

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

“Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:25).

Where sin abounded, grace much more abounded by God’s love.

When Jesus for our sakes came down, and left the throne above.

The rich One from the Glory bright, for our sakes, was made poor,
And untold pain and anguish on the cross He did endure.

They mocked Him, and derided Him, with hatred in their face,
But in return, He offers them His wondrous, matchless grace.

They scourged Him, and they buffeted, with cruel, heavy blow,
But Jesus answered not a word, because He loved them so.

The very hatred in man’s heart, which nailed Him to the cross,
He used to bless His enemies. To save their souls from loss.

The very spear that pierced His side, by cruel, hateful man,
Brought forth the blood to cleanse their souls,
by God’s redemptive plan.

When awful hatred—matchless love—at Calv’ry’s cross did meet,
The Saviour wrought a finished work, atonement was complete.

O will you not accept this One, Who suffered thus for thee?

Then peace, and rest, and joy are thine, throughout eternity.

—Author unknown

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

First Corinthians

The Believer's Primer



JIM HUMPHREY
Guest Writer

Benjamin Harris published the New England Primer between 1687 and 1690, designed for the American colonies as their first reading primer. The New England Primer drew many of its selections from the Bible's King James Version (KJV) while having some original entries. This superseded the use of the KJV to train children. The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to write to the Church at Corinth almost 2000 years ago. We can consider this as the Believer's Primer on how to live the life of a Saint—one with a life separated to Almighty God.

The order of the Pauline epistles indicates Divine Perfection; in the epistle of Romans, Paul reveals the Gospel of Grace that saves anyone who believes. Romans lays the foundation for Paul's epistles that follow, stating, "Even the **righteousness of God** which is **by faith of Jesus Christ** unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:22-23).

God extends His love, mercy, and grace to mankind, offering us salvation. Faith alone connects

believers to God in the Person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, the word faith (from the Greek *pis'tis*) occurs 40 times in Romans, the most frequent in any New Testament (NT) book. The two epistles of Corinthians that follow Romans deal with the practical aspects of the believer's walk—manner of living. They are unique because they cover some subjects not addressed in any of Paul's other epistles. And they lay down principles for his other epistles.

This study will deal primarily with 1 Corinthians, which contains 9,462 words in the KJV, the most in any of Paul's epistles.

THE BELIEVER'S FAITH STANDS IN THE POWER OF GOD, NOT IN MAN'S WISDOM

The word "faith" occurs seven times (the number for spiritual perfection) in each of the two Corinthian epistles, and its first occurrence sets the tone for the teaching therein: "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: "That your **faith**



“Nothing the believer does can mitigate the bond of faith that stands in the power of God, regardless of what the wisdom of man may come up with.”

should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the **power of God**” (1 Cor. 2:4-5). This is as true for believers today as it was for the Corinthians; it is indeed the unlimited power of God in which the true believer’s faith stands.

It can’t get any better than that and gives assurance that nothing the believer does can mitigate the bond of faith that stands in the power of God, regardless of what the wisdom of man may come up with.

It’s common for Bible teachers to point out that the Corinthians were the most carnal in all the churches to whom Paul wrote. However, we must keep in mind that his letters to the other churches don’t dwell on the carnality existing in them, as does Corinthians.

The fact is that almost everyone, except the Jewish converts, in all of the churches established by Paul were saved out of the same background as those in Corinth. They were pagan Gentiles, steeped in the same lewd practices, such as offering sacrifices in the pagan temples in exchange for the services of prostitutes. Consider the Book of Ephesians that takes us to the

highest stage of learning for the Body of Christ, that in God’s sight and purpose, we are blessed with all Spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ (cf. Eph. 1:1-23).

THE EPHESIANS WERE CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH AS THE CORINTHIANS

Ephesians does mention that before being saved, they walked according to the course of this world and Satan, fulfilling their lusts and desires of the flesh (Eph. 2:1-3), and the later chapters provide lessons in righteous living. But Ephesians does not get into the nasty nitty-gritty of life as do the Corinthian epistles.

In the Acts account of Paul’s ministry in Ephesus, we learn that Ephesus held the great temple to the goddess Diana. Secular history considered it one of the seven wonders of the world at the time. As a result of Paul’s preaching, the craftsmen in Diana’s temple who made the many-breasted silver idols for sale became upset that their trade would be diminished, and the Ephesians rioted shouting, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians” for two hours (Acts 19:23-41).

I observed signs of the Ephesians' carnal lifestyle in the ruins of Ephesus when visiting in 2006. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write each epistle for a specific reason so that the total provides everything a believer needs to know and live a life pleasing to God. Anyone who has been in churches for as long as I have, has likely observed that the Corinthian lifestyle is still active today.

All true believers since Paul have begun their lives in Christ with a need for the lessons taught in Corinthians: "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able" (1 Cor. 3:1-2).

Just as parents should teach their children how to live moral, honest, upright lives in society, anyone who has just come to believe the Gospel, whether a youngster or a grown man or woman saved after living years in sin, needs the lessons of 1 Corinthians.

Believers must learn that "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart" (2 Cor. 3:2-3). And: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1).

First Corinthians addresses the subject of baptism distinctly from Paul's other epistles in several ways. The Law of Moses required washing by water under the Kingdom Gospel, as evidenced in Matthew through John and the first part of Acts. On the other hand, 1 Corinthians contains Paul's only communication regarding water baptism.

At the beginning of Paul's ministry, he did baptize a few, but he thanked God that he had baptized none of the Corinthians except Crispus, Gaius, and the household of Stephanas. He could not remember if he had baptized any others because he writes that Christ did not send him to baptize "but to preach the Gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect" (1 Cor. 1:14-17).

In Paul's other epistles, baptism always refers to baptism into Jesus Christ's death, having nothing to do with water (cf. Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12). First Corinthians provides a foundation for these passages: "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many" (1 Cor. 12:12-14).

First Corinthians contains Paul's only epistle that mentions the miraculous sign gifts of prophecy and tongues; prophecy being the ability to speak the Word of

God with the Holy Spirit’s inspiration prior to the completion of Scripture. Tongues gave the ability to speak in languages foreign to an individual. It was part of the Kingdom message (Acts 2:1-5), but lasted throughout the time recorded in the Book of Acts.

Paul had the gift of prophecy, and he testified that he spoke more in tongues than anyone. As an Apostle, he used this gift during his travels, where he met people speaking many different languages. In fact, he possessed all the signs, wonders, and mighty deeds God bestowed on Apostles and had the same power and authority as the 12 Apostles (cf. 2 Cor. 11:5; 12:11-12; Rom. 15:18-19; 1 Cor. 9:1; Gal. 1:12; 3:5).

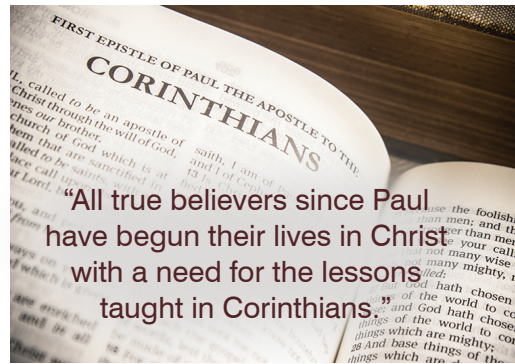
Some of the Corinthians had the gifts of prophecy and tongues, and Paul gave them instructions on their proper use (cf. 1 Cor. 14:1-40), but he foretold their disappearance as sign gifts possessed by believers (cf. 1 Cor. 13:8-13).

First Corinthians provides the only account in any of his epistles of the celebration of the Communion Table. It comes up because the well-to-do believers feasted while the poor went hungry (1 Cor. 11:17-34). As far as I can determine, 1 Corinthians 11:24-25 is the only place in Paul’s epistles where he quotes the Words of Jesus while Jesus was on earth.

IN SPITE OF THEIR CARNALITY, THE CORINTHIANS WERE SAINTS IN GOD’S SIGHT

The Corinthians who believed the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4) were saints—holy, set apart by God:

“Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours” (1 Cor. 1:2). This, in spite of their former lives: “Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:10-11).



However, despite their righteous standing before God, carnality existed within their midst, as evidenced by the following:

- Divisions among the saints that needed correction (1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:1-9).
- Sexual immorality that should not occur (1 Cor. 5:1-13; 6:12-20).
- Lawsuits against fellow believers that should be handled internally, noting that they will judge the world, which is a far greater responsibility (1 Cor. 6:1-11).
- Instructions for married and unmarried believers (1 Cor. 7:1-16; 25-40).

- A call for contentment in the believer's calling in life in the workplace and in relation to other believers (1 Cor. 7:17-24).
- The necessity for mature believers not to engage in activities, despite legality, that could cause believers weak in the faith to stumble and to avoid idolatry in any form (1 Cor. 8:1-13; 10:1-33).
- The necessity to recognize Paul as God's chosen Apostle for believers today (1 Cor. 9:1-27; 11:1).
- Instructions for the conduct of men and women in the church (1 Cor. 11:2-16; 14:34-40).
- Instructions for the believer's use of various spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1-11; 28-31).
- Recognizing how each individual member operates with others in the Body whose Head is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-31).
- The way of God's love and how it should manifest in each believer (1 Cor. 13:1-13).
- An essay proving Jesus Christ's resurrection and all it accomplished, guaranteeing the believer's resurrection to eternal life (1 Cor. 15:1-58).
- Establishing Sunday for the day of meeting (not the Sabbath as under the Law) and encouraging giving to the saints in need (1 Cor. 16:1-3).


All believers begin their lives in Christ similar to a child who needs to grow and mature: "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now

I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity [love], these three; but the greatest of these is charity [love]" (1 Cor. 13:11-13).



By studying and growing in God's Word, the believer increases in faith, hope, and love until caught up to be present with our Lord. Then *will be* seen what cannot *now* be seen, when hope will be reality, and all members of Christ's Body are embraced for eternity in God's love.

From the primer of Corinthians, Paul proceeds to correct the Galatians for falling back under the law and then to what mature believers should understand in Ephesians and Colossians, appropriately recapped:

"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth" (Col. 1:3-6). 



Two

“[Albert] Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train, when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn’t find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets.

“It wasn’t there. He looked in his briefcase but couldn’t find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn’t find it.

“The conductor said, ‘Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I’m sure you bought a ticket. Don’t worry about it.’

“Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

“The conductor rushed back and said, ‘Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don’t worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don’t need a ticket. I’m sure you bought one.’

“Einstein looked at him and said, ‘Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don’t know is where I’m going.’”¹

Many believers in the Church today don’t know where they’re going when they pass from this life, whether they are heading for the Kingdom on the earth, or to heaven above, or to heaven for a while but then coming back to the earth. When you rightly divide the Word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15), all is made clear, and you can *know for sure* where you’re going.

Christ’s earthly kingdom is a hope that is prophesied and plainly spelled out in God’s Word (Jer. 23:5-6; Luke 1:32-33). The ultimate theme of all prophecy is Christ’s reign on earth and Israel’s exaltation with Him in His earthly kingdom. This is the hope for the nation of Israel in accordance with the promises and covenants made with her by God. And it will still most certainly come to pass. As Isaiah 9:7 says of that kingdom, “The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

However, when Israel rejected her Messiah (Acts 2:22-24; 3:14-15) and then continued in her unbelief by rejecting the ministry of God the Holy Spirit (7:54-60), God temporarily “paused” His program with Israel and set her aside in unbelief (Rom. 11:11-15). He then ushered in a new dispensation, “the dispensation of the grace of God” (Eph. 3:2). This is how the Church, the Body of Christ, a previously nonexistent agency (2:15-16), came to be.



Hope

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

During this dispensation, this parenthetical time of unknown length, we who trust the gospel of the grace of God—that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4)—become members of the Body of Christ and are saved from our sins by grace through faith alone in Christ (Eph. 2:8-9).

As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, we are not Israel. The hope for the Church, the Body of Christ, is not earthly. Our hope isn't to rule and reign with Christ on earth; it is to rule and reign with Christ in heaven.

When we turn to the epistles of our apostle, the Apostle Paul (Rom. 11:13), we learn about a new program, “the mystery,” never before revealed prior to Paul (Col. 1:25-26). Under this program, God has revealed a *new* heavenly hope and calling for the members of the Church, the Body of Christ. In the truth revealed to the Apostle Paul, we learn about Christ's reign in heavenly places (Eph. 1:20-23), and the Body of Christ's exaltation with Him in His heavenly kingdom above.

In Colossians 1:5, the Apostle Paul refers to “the hope which is *laid up for you in heaven*, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.” Paul doesn't say the hope which is laid down here for you in the Millennial Kingdom on earth; rather, he says that the truth of the gospel for today declares a hope laid *up* for us in heaven. In his letters, Paul teaches the Body of Christ that:

- *Our spiritual blessings are in heaven.* “God...hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings *in heavenly places* in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).
- *Our exalted position is with Christ in heaven.* “[God] hath raised us up together, and made us sit together *in heavenly places* in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6).
- *Our citizenship is in heaven.* “For our conversation [citizenship] is *in heaven*; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 3:20).

We will not be coming back to the earth with Christ at His second coming when He comes to establish His earthly kingdom. That is the hope for the nation Israel. Our eternal hope and home is heaven above and we, the Body of Christ, will reign with Christ forever in heavenly places. Praise the Lord!

BBS Letter Excerpts



From Florida:

“Pastor Sadler, thank you for your continued preaching of God’s Word. You explain the love of God so well and so simply that any age group can learn and understand.”

From Facebook:

“We...in Indiana are so excited about the Grace Study Bible project. I personally can’t wait to place my order for one.”

From our Inbox:

“I love these emails of *Two Minutes with the Bible*. I look forward to them each morning. Thank you for providing them.” (Our pleasure, and don’t forget to sign up for *More Minutes with the Bible*. –Ed.)

From Oregon:

“Dear friends at *Berean Bible Society*, I love my *Berean Searchlight*.... Thank you for your faithfulness all these years, through good times and lean years.”

From YouTube:

[Responding to *What it Means to be a Grace Believer Episode 7* “The Future Returns of Christ”] “Ever since I heard this glorious gospel of grace and began to study and learn, my life and faith changed completely. Always desiring and striving to do so daily till the end. God bless.”

From YouTube:

“Love your stories; they really make you think.”

From our Inbox:

[Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible* “The Unpardonable Sin”] “I turned 85 yesterday, and this was the best birthday gift I could have received. Thank you so much.”

From Myanmar:

“This letter of thanksgiving has been in my heart since I started receiving and reading your *Berean Searchlight* booklet...It really helps us in our ministry of teaching here in our mission field in Myanmar. The teaching of rightly dividing the Word is very new in this country....To help them understand this teaching more, we give them the *Berean Searchlight* that you send to us monthly. Thank you very much for sending us this book regularly. It helps us spread the right and clear teaching of God’s Word while spreading the gospel of the grace of God to the people here in Myanmar.

“We are happy to know that BBS’s *Transformed by Grace* videos will have subtitles. It will be a blessing to them. This ‘Language Barriers Being Broken’ project is one of the answers to our prayer. In this way, they can read in Burmese the teaching of God’s Word according to the revelation of the mystery. Praise God for your ministry. God bless you all.”

From Texas:

“I appreciate Pastor Kevin Sadler’s Bible teaching on the gospel of the grace of God and his timeline for Christians today.”

From North Carolina:

“We continue to reap the benefits from your ministries! Thanks for standing firm.”

From Nigeria:

“I have been receiving the *Berean Searchlight* for the past number of years, and they are helping me with a more spiritual understanding of God’s Word. Keep sending them, for whenever I digest a copy, I feel as if I am in your church hearing sermons. Thank you once again.”

From California:

[Responding to *More Minutes with the Bible* “An Adversary Arrives”] “Thanks, very encouraging. I sent this on to a lifelong friend of mine. His wife just finished cancer treatment. He is very discouraged and fearful of being alone without her.”

From Florida:

“[June’s] issue was amazing and contained two articles that I found deeply edifying. Please share with Pastor Kevin Sadler how much I enjoyed his article ‘One More Year.’... This was an amazing synopsis and pulled together what is needed for a deeper understanding.

“The second article that I found so enriching is by Pastor Don Hosfeld, ‘Take a Seat.’ I loved how he used identity, beginning with Pontius Pilate asking Jesus where He was from. In the middle of the article, I LOVED his answer as to why God should let him into heaven: BECAUSE I AM IN CHRIST. That’s beautiful. His emphasis on knowing our position in Christ is truly something for all believers to reflect upon daily. Thank you for all the hard work you accomplish in furthering the gospel.”

From Ohio,

“I rejoice when I read the *Searchlight*—you continue so faithfully sharing grace truth. Thank you!”

From Arizona:

“We are so blessed to have a daily *Transformed by Grace* broadcast. We learn immensely from the clear, detailed studies presented by Pastor Kevin. We find especially helpful the ‘Searchlight Scripture Index.’ We thank God and our Lord Jesus Christ for your faithful service to the glory of God.”

From Indiana:

[Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*] “Thanks so much...God bless you for all you do for us!”

From Idaho:

“I thank God that He led me to BBS. I have grown so much in the last eight years. The Word of God rightly divided has absolutely transformed my knowledge and understanding of the Bible, and sharing that knowledge with my family and friends led to some spirited debates with brothers and sisters in Christ.”

From YouTube:

“I really enjoy listening to your teachings as you are filled with joy and zealous to explain the verses. God bless you and your loved ones, as well as your ministry.”

From Facebook:

“I watch this [*Transformed by Grace*] on my Roku TV. Good programming.”

From YouTube:

“Thank you and God bless you and your continued teaching!!”

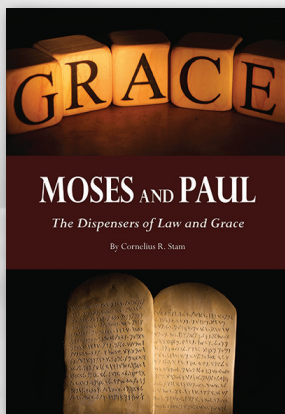
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—C. R. Stam, BBS Founder



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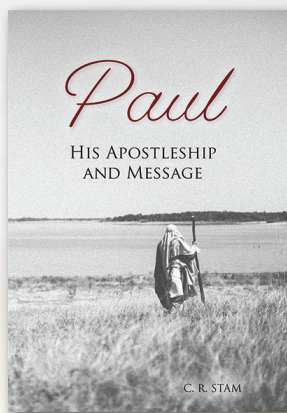
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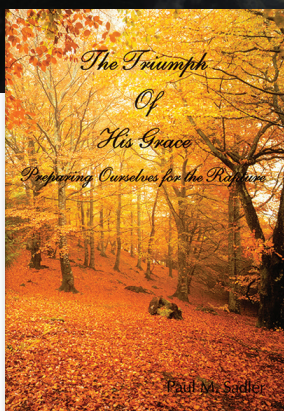
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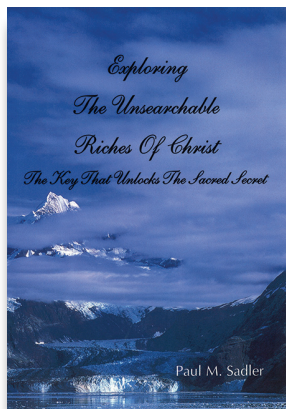
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News & Announcements



Did You Find It: Were you able to locate the error in the November *Searchlight*? Even with so much effort placed into finding and correcting every misspelling, something still makes it past us every now and then. Last month, we told you there was a mistake and even hinted at what that might be: *"Take a break from your morning coffee,"* along with a picture of a Folgers container. Well, sure enough, if you read the Excerpts on page 26, you would have seen "Foldgers" instead of Folgers.

Northern Wisconsin Bible Conference: Are you ready to start the new year with a Bible conference? Join BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler and others at *Lena Community Bible Church*, February 17-18 in Lena, Wisconsin. For more information, you can contact the church at 262.689.6890 or communitybiblechurch.lena@gmail.com. You can find them on Facebook or online at <https://communitybiblelena.weebly.com/>.

New TBG YouTube Channel: We are happy to announce the start of a separate YouTube channel dedicated solely to *Transformed by Grace*. By having its own channel, we can better group the various TBG videos into playlists for easier navigation which should provide a much better experience for those searching through our content. All other BBS videos have been moved to another channel, which you can find by searching for Berean Bible Society on YouTube. If you would like a simple way to help us share the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery," consider subscribing to both channels.

Sharable Content: People often ask us if they can freely share our content with others. Please know that any articles online or through email can be shared, and we hope you will. This includes printing them to hand out. We ask only that our published material *for sale* not be reproduced except for brief quotes.

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 California, March 22-24, Banning, CA

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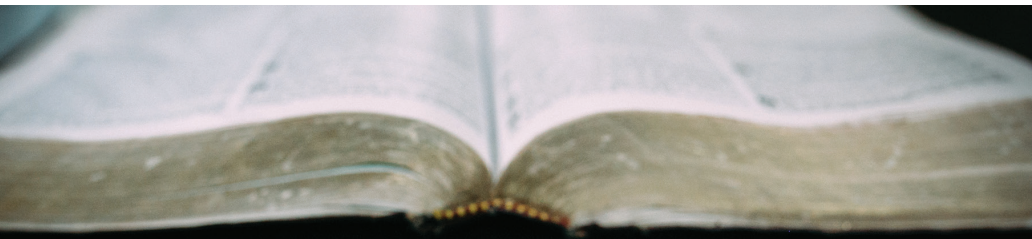
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and of all our enemies, it is that which
dies the slowest and hardest.” -J. N. Darby.

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