

The BBI BULLETIN

Berean Bible Institute, Inc. admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen That Need Not Be Ashamed

INSTITUTE UPDATE

We are well underway in the fall semester at **BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE** and, as usual, it is challenging to both the students and instructors. This semester we have fourteen students enrolled at **BBI**, eight men and six women. One-half of our student body moved to Wisconsin from out of state to be able to attend **BBI**. It is encouraging to see this kind of commitment being demonstrated in the lives of young men and women who genuinely desire to serve the Lord.

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE held its first annual Bible conference at Grace Bible Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on the 15th, 16th, and 17th, of September. All of the speakers were either **BBI** students, former students, or instructors. **BBI** students also provided the special music. It was a time of edification and challenge for all that attended these meetings. The theme of the conference was "The Body of Christ; Called to Serve," which was very appropriate for the times we are living in. It is sad, but true, that while many give lip service to having a desire to serve in the ministry, there are few that are actually willing to make the sacrifices necessary to become a servant.

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CREATOR & CREATION

By Bernardo Craesmeyer

*The following article was written as a gospel tract for use in personal evangelism. The author has used it for several years in his ministry in Brazil. Bernardo Craesmeyer and his wife Carol serve as missionaries with Word of Grace Mission. They are currently on academic furlough to attend **BBI**. They will return to the field in Brazil in June 2001.*

Man, since the beginning, has always been an inventor. Man invented written communication and several other ways to communicate. He invented transportation and developed over time. He created a very special environment for his own comfort, work, health, entertainment and nourishment. Along these lines we want to share some interesting points about man and his inventions.

Purpose

Yes, everything invented by man was made with a purpose of existence. The purpose may be varied, but, basically, it is to serve man for something. When you see something that you do not know about, two basic questions come to mind: What is it? and, What is it **for**? Finally, everything that was created has a reason to be, a purpose to fulfill! Try to find something that man invented or created that was not made with a purpose and you will see that it is difficult to do.

Dependence

Human inventions are always subject to dependence. To be able to serve their inventors, automobiles depend on them to be fueled, lubricated, etc. Even though cars are called "automobiles" they do not move by themselves. They depend on the driver (creator-man) who drives them wherever he wants to go. No matter how much man automates his inventions, they will always depend on man to exist and to serve. Every creature depends on its own creator to exist and to serve its purpose.

Life and Death

While going down a road years ago I saw a sign posted over a junkyard entrance that said, "Automobile Cemetery." Thinking about it later I concluded that that was very true. Add the thought "lifetime" and we can arrive at some interesting conclusions. The lifetime of any

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Mail Received At Box 40

FROM WASHINGTON:

“Just a note with the enclosure to let you know that we are thinking of **BBI** especially as you enter another scholastic year. Your ministry is so important to the Grace Movement and we do have you in our prayers as we are fully aware of Satan’s devices to sidetrack this very important Message and ministry.”

FROM NORTH CAROLINA:

“Thanks so much for your messages that you return with your receipts and also the latest *BBI Bulletin*.”

FROM PENNSYLVANIA:

“A gift to help sustain this needed school to proclaim the Lord God’s truth so others may learn of Christ’s Salvation Message of Grace in this mystery age.”

FROM WISCONSIN:

“May God’s blessing rest upon your 1st annual Fall Bible Conference. We were delighted to hear of your outreach.”

FROM ZIMBABWE AFRICA:

“I pray that God will bless you and supply your needs so many will hear the Gospel and be saved. I am writing requesting for the *BBI Bulletin*. Our hope and rejoicing is in the return of the Lord to rapture the Body of Christ. Our hearts are aching because of loved ones and friends who have not the Savior. May God help us to witness. Thank you.”

FROM WISCONSIN:

“We will be praying for you and your staff that God’s blessing will be upon your upcoming school year and Bible Conference in September.”

FROM FLORIDA:

“Dear precious friends, I praise our Lord for BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE and the opportunity to help support the Grace Movement. We desperately need more Grace churches.”

*Only one life; 'twill soon be past.
Only what's done for
Christ will last.*

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements



If you live in, or visit the area of Milwaukee, WI we would like to extend an invitation to come visit the school, and if time permits, stay for chapel which is held every night that school is in session from 7:10-7:30. Our class times our 5:30-9:15 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We would enjoy seeing you! Please call ahead so we can arrange a tour (262) 255-4094.



One of our associate instructors at **BBI** is having a Bible study in the Sheboygan Falls, WI area, on Sunday evenings. If you would like to attend please contact: Dave Brown at (920) 467-6257.



The Spring Semester of **BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE** begins January 31st. Have your sent in your application yet??

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE has produced a chart outlining the order, structure, and purpose of the letters of the Apostle Paul. This chart is 11 1/2x17 inches, in full color and can be used in conjunction with personal Bible study or as a teaching aid for group study.

Price: \$3.00 (includes postage and handling)
To Order contact: **BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE**,
PO Box 40, Germantown, WI 53022

Letters Written by the Apostle Paul
ORDER, STRUCTURE, AND PURPOSE

Key Thought	Letter	General Purpose
Forgiving others as Christ has forgiven us	PHILEMON	Gives an example of a godly attitude and demonstration of love through Paul's position as holder of the unpayable runaway slave, Onesimus.
Defending the faith in word and example	1 & 2 TIMOTHY + TITUS	Provides instructions for church leadership with a charge to teach and defend "sound doctrine" and to rebuke those who "stubbornly maintain 'good works' while denying for our 'BLESSSED HOPE'."
Serving the Long God while waiting for His Son from Heaven	1 & 2 THESSALONIANS	To encourage believers to love godly men while enduring times of persecution. Corrects false teaching concerning the rapture or "catching away" of the Body of Christ.
Sending those things which are "ABOUT" whose CHRIST is saved	COLOSSIANS	Colossians warns against the danger of men holding fast to the Head of the Body. Because any departure from the truth will result in loss of rewards, believers are to let their "affection be things above, not on things on the earth."
The spread of God "IN CHRIST"	PHILIPPIANS	Philippians explains that true joy is found in serving Christ. Faithful service ministers to be like men with Christ who will "stand firm" about.
Teared in the heavens with Christ and "IN CHRIST"	EPHESIANS	Ephesians explains the heavenly position and oneness of the Body of Christ and challenges believers to live accordingly.
New LAW, but "LIBERTY IN CHRIST"	GALATIANS	To rebuke and call the Galatian church to repentance for their departure from the Gospel of Grace to return to the Law.
Not human wisdom, but the "WISDOM OF GOD"	1 & 2 CORINTHIANS	To correct divisions among the brethren and the abuse of spiritual gifts, and reminding in the church at Corinth. Paul also defended his apostleship and sought on the resurrection.
RIGHTNESSNESS: has by works, but by "FAITH"	ROMANS	Paul explains the "Grace of God" and the temporary setting aside of Law.

The book of Romans gives us the fundamental truths necessary to understanding the plan and purpose of the Dispensation of the Grace of God revealed through the Apostle Paul. These truths are found only in Paul's writings, and are essential to knowing in full the position, walk, commission, and hope of the Body of Christ.

CREATOR & CREATION

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device, or apparatus, is the average time that this thing will operate satisfactorily. In other words, it is the time in which the device or apparatus works or fulfills the purpose for which it was made. The cars in the junkyard are creations that do not have any more lifetime. They are “dead” concerning the purpose for which they were made. It’s easy to see that when man’s inventions are no longer useful for the purpose for which they were made, then they are dead! We can find many creations of man that are “dead” for various reasons: they are out of style, obsolete, antiquated, worn out, and other fatalities.

A curiosity: when an item that was created does not serve anymore, its natural destiny is separation. In other words, this item is put aside, thrown away, destroyed, or recycled. It is forgotten, it is despised by man! Sometimes an item is restored and put back to use by its creator. Re-adapted, reassembled, reassigned, rebuilt, and recycled are words associated with broken items or other things that for some reason could not serve anymore, but were given new life.

Summarizing, from this point of view, life is the time that a creature serves. Death is the state in which the creature is rendered incapable to serve its creator. Life means action, work, functioning, while death means separation, uselessness and other awful things.

Now, let’s see another point of interest between man and his creations. This mysterious feeling that produces unbelievable effects in man: love. Love is known in many intensities and forms: friendship, family, the opposite sex, etc. But love for material things also exists and sometimes its intensity may cause problems like the guy that loved his car more than the girl he went out with.

Naturally there is affection that grows between man and his creation. This love grows when his creations serve him well. This brings preferences in the midst of men. Some like Ford, while others like GM better, each one according to his desire.

The love man has for his creation is the factor that leads him to rebuild something that he created rather than just buying a new one, which could be easier and cheaper. This same love leads man to keep his things for years and give them another purpose of “life,” sometimes an even greater purpose: the museums!

Aren’t these some interesting points to consider? But it is more important to know that these principles that rule man’s relationship with his creations can easily be seen in the relationship between God, our Creator, and us, as creatures of God!

Let’s look at some of these concepts from the Bible itself. From this Book we get consistent information about ourselves and our Creator: God. If you have never believed in the Bible out of ignorance of it or for other reasons, maybe this is the right time to consider the reality of the facts that we are about to present to you.

Man

Man was created in the likeness of his Creator. That’s why man is so creative. That’s why he is able to make decisions, exercise intelligence and have dominion over most animals. Man, as a creature, was made to serve God, his Creator. He received all the conditions for this purpose. The needs of the spirit, soul, and body were completely

satisfied in Eden - the garden of God. That’s why some say that it was a Paradise.

Man depends on his Creator to *exist* and to serve. God fulfilled all man’s needs and even more by showing a special love for him. He gave not only food, but beautiful and delicious food. He gave him water to drink, clean air to breathe, everything. He gave him a beautiful woman to help him, and a wonderful job. God gave man the privilege to reign over His creation, to administrate it, to take care of it. There was an **earthly** purpose for man: to take care of and cultivate the garden of God. That was the physical purpose, for him to live.

There was a spiritual reason also, a **spiritual goal or purpose** for man. That was to live and serve eternally in harmony with God. And man could fulfill the spiritual goal just by eating of the “*tree of life*” that was planted in the center of the garden. But, in the garden there also was the “*tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*”

Do you serve God today?

Why?

Well, man decided not to go God’s way. He decided to listen to others instead of God. God did not intend for man to know “good and evil” (obviously man, despite his completeness to serve God, was not able to deal with those principles yet). God did intend for man to eat of the “*tree of life*” that was planted in the middle of God’s garden. But, man ate of the tree that God told him not to eat from, putting himself into a miserable condition, useless to God. Just as salt from the sea destroys a car and makes it useless, man was contaminated with evil and its consequences: death, separation, disability to serve. Yes, man was put aside by God. He was forced out of Eden as he was no longer able to fulfill God’s purpose for mankind. He was separated from God’s presence and garden. Man was lost now, useless, and with no reason to live. God said that man is dust and he would go back to dust - no reason to live, just like an old and rusty car goes to a junkyard. What an awful situation!

God

God, the almighty Creator of the Universe, with His wondrous love for His creation, prepared a way so man and the fallen creation could be restored, rebuilt and replaced to be able to serve God again.

First, God established that blood equals life. As a matter of fact, in our bodies, blood is the symbol of life. Through the blood all the cells of the different organs and parts of our body receive what is necessary to maintain life.

God established that man would have to pay for his sins with his own life. Man’s blood is his life. If we take the blood out of man, or stop his blood from running, we stop his life and man is dead!

God demanded a high price for man’s sin, that is man’s blood. Take his life and he dies. Without life no one can serve. Although man is physically alive, spiritually he is dead in his sins. As the Bible says, “*The wages of sin is death*” (Rom. 6:23).

God, however, has a great measure of love towards His creatures. God loves man. God loves you. In order to save man and at the same time fulfill His righteousness, God provided a way. So now, we are going to explain the way, the good news of salvation.

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The Good News

God interfered in the normal procreation of man by putting a seed into a woman's womb that generated a Son that had all of man's characteristics except the sinful nature. Mary, Joseph's wife, while still a virgin, was visited by God's miraculous intervention.

The Bible shows that before God sent Adam out of Eden, He said that mankind would be against God's Son, the descendant of the woman (Gen. 3:15). Mary was that woman and Jesus Christ the blessed Son.

When this Man was born with the nature of God and man, God protected Him until Jesus Christ was ready to perform the most important purpose of His coming.

This Man, Jesus Christ, at the right time, surrendered Himself to men and they crucified Him. He offered His own blood, in substitution of man's blood, to pay the penalty of sin. Jesus Christ shed His blood in our place, arose from death on the third day and went back to His place in Heaven.

God intended that His people, Israel, should be the channel of this good news of salvation to mankind. The twelve apostles were sent with this message but they were persecuted and killed by their own people. When Israel as a nation refused to be the channel of God's message, God sent forth another apostle to preach the good news to the other nations. That's where the apostle Paul gets his title of "the Apostle of the Gentiles," or nations.

Now what?

Well, God glorified His dear beloved Son after His wonderful work of love for us and gave to the Lord Jesus Christ the authority over the whole Universe and passed the world over to Him.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself chose Paul as an apostle to share the gospel with all of mankind. He offered reconciliation through the gospel of the grace of God. That is: the Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of men, was buried and rose again on the third day. He paid for my sins and your sins. When you believe this gospel, when you place your faith, your trust in Christ's redemptive work, then His work becomes valid for you and you are free from the condemnation that brings spiritual death. Believe in the gospel and be saved!

You are lost, but God, your Creator, wants you back. It's up to you to decide if you want to be saved and belong to God forever. It's a matter of faith.

Then you will be able to truly serve Him. Then all your good works will be acceptable and desirable. That is the place of good works, after reconciliation with God.

After knowing and believing this, you will want to know more about Him. That's why the Lord Jesus Christ gave us the Bible. As you study it you will know more about all the other things the Creator has been doing for you. Don't be afraid. There is no greater love than this. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord!

Be a useful creation, let God fix you up completely, go to a Bible church and ask for help. That's why we are here, to help one another, to love one another with the love of the Creator.

God was
In Christ
Reconciling
The world
Unto Himself.



JESUS CHRIST; *The Son of Man*

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

The following is a continuation of an article entitled JESUS CHRIST; Son of Man and Son of God which was published in the Winter 2000 edition of THE BBI BULLETIN.

It has often been pointed out that the Lord Jesus Christ referred to Himself as the "Son of Man" more than any other name or title found in the Gospel Records of His earthly ministry.

The term "son of man" can be used in two ways. First, it can simply refer to one's humanness, that he is of the "man-kind," or a man. It is used this way of the prophet Ezekiel (Ezek. 2:1). Ezekiel is referred to as "son of man" over 90 times in the Book of Ezekiel. Its use here points to the humanity of the prophet who was sent to speak God's Word to His rebellious people (see Ezek. 2:1-10).

In the book of Daniel, we find the term used in a different way. In a vision, Daniel saw an entity coming with the clouds of heaven who was "like the Son of Man" (Dan. 7:13). This one who is "like the Son of Man" is a figure from heaven who appears as a man before "the Ancient of Days" to receive an everlasting kingdom through which He will exercise dominion over "all people(s), nations, and languages" of the world (Dan. 7:13-14). Implied in the giving of this kingdom and dominion is the investment of the power and authority to be the judge of mankind.

The Lord Jesus Christ used the term "The Son of Man" in reference to Himself, some times to emphasize His true humanity and at other times to emphasize the power and authority invested in Him as the Righteous One who will judge all of mankind. In both aspects, His perfect humanity is in view as well as His Godhood. While questioning Him in order to find something to charge Him with, the high priest demanded that He tell them "whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God" (Matt. 26:63). The Lord Jesus' answer reveals that, when applied to Him, the title "Son of Man" was more than simply a declaration of His humanity. "Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: never-theless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see **the Son of Man** sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven" (Matt. 26:64; cf. Mk. 14:61-62; Lk. 22:66-70). He was asked if He claimed to be "the Son of God" and He answered that He was "the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power." There is no doubt that the Lord's answer was in direct reference to Daniel's prophecy of Israel's Messiah (Dan. 7:13-14). This is especially true when we compare other prophecies that He made about Himself when He will come the second time "in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (see Matt. 24:29-30; Mk. 13:24-26; Lk. 21:25-28; cf. Rev. 1:7; 14:14). And from their reaction, it is clear that the high priest and those with him understood that this is what the Lord Jesus had in mind (Matt. 26:65-68).

The first man, Adam, was given dominion over the earth but lost it by default when he fell into sin and brought a curse on all of mankind and the whole creation.

As the Perfect Man, who always does God's will, Jesus Christ has the right to take dominion of the earth and to remove the curse placed on it because of Adam, who willfully disobeyed God (see Gen. 3:17-19; cf. Rom. 8:18-22). The first Adam was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27) but that image was severely corrupted through his fall into sin. Jesus Christ, on the other hand, took upon Himself the form of man that the image of God might be manifested to man through Him. *"No man hath seen God at any time: the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him"* (John 1:18).

The Person of Jesus Christ has always existed as the eternal Son of God, but it was not until the time of the incarnation that He became the Son of Man (see John 1:1-3,14; Phil. 2:5-7). In taking on the form of man, i.e., a human body of flesh, He remained the One Person He has always been, God the Son. Along with a human body, He also took on a full human nature while fully retaining His divine nature. In this unique union of two natures in One Person, there is no blending or confusion of the two, yet they work in unison in the expression of His Person. The incarnation of Jesus Christ was not simply a temporary manifestation of God to mankind. In the incarnation of the Son of God, His divine nature was for all time united with a human nature in One Person. He became a man in order to be the Savior of mankind.

In His incarnation, Jesus Christ is in whole and in perfection, truly God and in whole and in perfection, truly Man. His divine nature and His human nature were, and are, compatible. In His glorification, the Son of God remains *"the Man Christ Jesus"* (I Tim. 2:5).

The first man, Adam, was created in innocence but through disobedience fell into sin. This resulted in him having what we commonly refer to as a sin nature. That is to say, a natural inclination, or predisposition, to sin. Because of his sin, Adam was estranged from God and his sin nature was passed down to the entire human race. In contrast with the first Adam, Jesus Christ, the Second Adam who was virgin born, had a righteous human nature. From birth He was sinless in nature as well as in thought and deed.

When we speak of the nature of a person or thing, we are referring to the innate qualities that define its character, or the essence of its being. Man's depravity is the result of his selfish or sinful nature. Having a universal sin nature means that all of mankind is predisposed to sin. There is only one exception, the Man Jesus Christ. In contrast to Adam, who represents fallen humanity, Jesus Christ represents perfect humanity. Hence, all those in Adam are made sinners and all those in Christ are made righteous (Rom. 3:21-26; 5:12-19; II Cor. 5:21).

The principle of a substitutionary death for the forgiveness of sins that is taught in the Scriptures demands a sacrifice without spot or blemish and certainly man's sin nature is a blight on the human soul. As the Redeemer of mankind, Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, was absolutely sinless in every aspect of His being. If it was possible for the Savior of mankind to have a sin, or Adamic nature then any son of Adam could have been over-shadowed by God from his birth to enable him to live a sinless life in order to provide a sacrifice for the redemption of mankind on the

cross. But that could not be because every descendant of Adam is condemned to both a physical and spiritual death because of the curse brought on by his sin (Gen. 3:7-11,17-19). Because this curse is passed down to the entire human race through Adam, along with his sin nature (Rom. 5:12), it was necessary that the Redeemer not possess Adam's nature, yet, at the same time, He had to be a fully human Son of Adam. The only remedy for the problem of providing an adequate sacrifice was for the Son of God to take on an absolutely sinless humanity through a miraculous conception and virgin birth.

Both the unleavened bread and the lamb without spot or blemish of the Passover Feast picture the absolute sinlessness of Jesus Christ for us. The absence of any yeast in this bread (Ex. 12:14-15ff.) prefigures the absence of all sin in the Lord Jesus Christ, as does the unblemished lamb. His pure *"soul was made an offering for sin"* (Isa. 53:10) as was *"the body of His flesh through death"* (Col. 1:22). The "Son of Man" was not in any way corrupted by sin, thus it was as a wholly perfect Man that He offered Himself as our substitute on the cross. Anything less would have been insufficient, and therefore unacceptable to God. He came *"in the likeness (appearance, i.e., as a man) of sinful flesh, and for (on account of) sin, condemned sin in the flesh"* (Rom. 8:3).

On the cross, the Righteous Son of Man paid the supreme price for the redemption of human souls, *"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";* (II Cor. 5:21; cf. Ex. 12:5; Isa. 53:4-6,9-11; John 1:29; Acts 3:14-15; I Cor. 15:3; Gal. 1:3-4; 3:13; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 4:14-15; I Pet. 1:18-19; 2:21-25; I John 2:2; Rev. 1:5). Having no sin, Jesus Christ had no death to die. His death on the cross was for sinful men (Rom. 5:8; I Cor. 15:3-4). And having been raised from the dead He is the only *"Mediator between God and men"* (I Tim. 2:5-6).

The title *"Son of Man"* as applied to Jesus Christ in Scripture refers to both His true humanity and to the authority and power invested in Him as the perfect Man who has inherited the right to rule over God's creation. It is in Him *"That we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature"* (Col. 1:14-15). The term *"first-born"* here does not refer to any chronology of birth order, but to the priority of Jesus Christ's rank and privilege as Creator and Redeemer. In all things He is the Preeminent One (see Col. 1:14-19) and as such, it is He who will ultimately sit in judgment over mankind. *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when they shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father has life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; and hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 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 resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation"* (John 5:25-29).



COURSES FOR THE SPRING 2001 SEMESTER

(January 29th—May 24th)

102 - Apologetics	(2 hrs)
104 - Bible Exposition II	(4 hrs)
106 - Basic Bible Doctrines II	(2 hrs)
108 - Romans	(2 hrs)
110 - Acts	(2 hrs)
112 - Cults	(2 hrs)
116 - Biblical WorldView	(1 hr)

302 - Christian Education II	(2 hrs)
304 - Bible Exposition VI	(4 hrs)
306 - Dispensational Theology IV	(2 hrs)
308 - Daniel & Revelation	(2 hrs)
310 - Basic Greek II	(2 hrs)
312 - Christian Writing	(1 hr)
314 - Music & Song Leading	(1 hr)
316 - The Millennial Kingdom	(1 hr)

For more information or to receive an application, please contact **Berean Bible Institute**

Thanks to God

*Thanks to God for my Redeemer,
Thanks for all Thou dost provide!
Thanks for times now but a memory,
Thanks for Jesus by my side!
Thanks for pleasant, cheerful springtime,
Thanks for summer, winter, fall!
Thanks for tears by now forgotten,
Thanks for peace within my soul!*



*Thanks for prayers that Thou hast answered,
Thanks for what Thou dost deny!
Thanks for storms that I have weathered,
Thanks for all Thou dost supply!
Thanks for pain, and thanks for pleasure,
Thanks for comfort in despair!
Thanks for grace that none can measure,
Thanks for love beyond compare!*

Give Thanks



*Thanks for roses by the wayside,
Thanks for thorns their stems contain!
Thanks for homes and thanks for fireside,
Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain!
Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow,
Thanks for heavenly peace with Thee!
Thanks for hope in the tomorrow,
Thanks thro' all eternity!*

INSTITUTE UPDATE

(continued from page 1)

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE exists for the purpose of helping sincere individuals prepare themselves to effectively serve God in the work of ministry. Our program is designed to reflect the truth that ministry is a calling and not a profession, and that ministers of God's Word are to be servants, not professionals. **BBI** strives for excellence in education while strictly adhering to the doctrines expressed in our doctrinal statement. We stress not only the foundational doctrines of Biblical Christianity, but also the importance of "*rightly dividing the Word of Truth*" in relation to understanding, standing for, and proclaiming the message of the Dispensation of the Grace of God which was exclusively revealed to the Apostle Paul. We unashamedly and without reservation teach and preach "*Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.*"

Yes, **BBI** is a relatively new ministry of only four and a half years. And it is a small school by the world's standards. But what is important in God's eyes is that, as ministers of Jesus Christ, we would be faithful stewards of the "mystery." This, by God's grace, we are endeavoring to do by teaching "*faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*" (see II Tim. 2:1-2). **BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE** is for real and it is growing and making a difference. For this we thank God who has enabled us to establish this important ministry through the prayers and faithful support of His people. We praise the Lord with deep gratitude for all of those who have made **BBI** possible through their sacrificial giving.

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE is an independent faith ministry. As such, we have no denominational or organizational backing from any group. And we have kept our tuition as low as possible to make **BBI** affordable to our students, so only a small fraction of our financial needs are met in this way. This means that for our primary means of monetary support we are dependent on the gifts of those who are like-minded and wish to stand with us for the truth of God's Word and make Jesus Christ known "*according to the revelation of the mystery.*" So, if you agree with what we are doing and believe that understanding the grace message is important, we would like to ask you to consider becoming a partner of the ministry of **BBI** through regular financial support. Your help would be truly appreciated and there is no wiser investment than to give to the Lord's work.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

P.S. Please remember to pray for the ministry of **BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE**. Thank you very much.

SLOUCHING TOWARD HOLINESS?

The following quotes contain some interesting observations which provide food for serious thought, especially in light of the times we are now living in.

~The Editor

"People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated."

From the "Love of God" by D.A. Carson

◆.....◆ THE LAST DAYS

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 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; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 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.

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 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. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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.

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. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (II Tim. 3:1-4:5).

From the "Bible" by the Apostle Paul

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