

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

Recently a major highway bridge in Milwaukee failed during morning rush hour traffic. Thankfully, the bridge only "sagged" and did not fall to the ground when a main supporting girder broke in two. When the girder failed, the concrete roadway it was supporting sank four feet resulting in a huge "dip" that was promptly reported by attentive motorists. Traffic was quickly closed down by an officer of the law who was in the area. While serious injury or death to unsuspecting motorists was averted, the city of Milwaukee was left with the problem of what to do with a sagging bridge section that could fall at any time. Compounding the problem was the fact that, on inspection, it was found that not one, but two of the three supporting girders had completely failed and the third was severely damaged. In addition, part of a major sewer treatment plant is located under the bridge and would be severely damaged if the unstable section fell.

It was determined that any effort to temporarily support the bridge in order to make repairs would be far to risky as workers would have to position themselves under the damaged bridge section which could collapse at any time. So, it was decided to call

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RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

PART ONE

OUR AUTHORITY

II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21

The first requirement for Bible study that is profitable to the student is the firm conviction that the Bible is indeed God's very Word. The Bible is the only means by which we can know God's plan and purpose for mankind. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16).

Second, we must "rightly divide the Word of Truth" (II Tim. 2:15b) if we are going to acquire a proper understanding of what we read and study in the Holy Scriptures.

PERSONAL STUDY IS INDISPENSABLE

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

The obvious conclusion from this passage of Scripture is that the individual is to diligently study the Bible for himself. While Bible study books, commentaries, and other aids are good and useful, they are not to take the place of personally reading and studying the Bible. There is blessing, enjoyment, and understanding that comes through personal Bible study that simply cannot be achieved any other way.

DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

The questions that naturally follow the Apostle Paul's admonition to "Rightly divide the Word of Truth," are "What does that mean?" and "How and where do we divide it?"

As we approach the answer to these questions we must determine that division is not the same as adding or subtracting. In division, the sum of the parts are equal to the original whole. When we add or subtract from the original whole it is changed. This can be seen in the following illustration of pies that have been cut or divided into pieces.

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Mail Received At Box 40

FROM COLORADO:

"I would just like to thank you for the fine job you are doing for our Lord Jesus Christ and for the Bereans at **BBI**. I pray for you daily that the Lord will give you strength and wisdom to carry on. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year filled with God's richest blessings and encouragement."

FROM INDIANA:

"I am indeed thankful for the **Berean Bible Institute**, that young men can be instructed in the Word of God so they can become pastors. The **BBI** is always in my prayers that this organization may have everything they need for the training of young men. I also ask the Lord to draw young men to this organization. I enclosed a gift for the building fund and pray the Lord will provide whatever it takes to accomplish your goals."

FROM PENNSYLVANIA:

"Thank you so much for the faithful work that has been done in training men and women for the ministry."

FROM FLORIDA:

"Enclosed is a small contribution for **BBI**. I want to be counted among those who have a concern, to the glory of our Lord, that this ministry committed to the Apostle Paul may establish believers in the Word. I pray the students will walk according to this blessed truth."

FROM PENNSYLVANIA:

"Hope all is well. We are thankful for the work you are doing training pastors."

FROM WASHINGTON:

"We know the rewards are most gratifying in ministering to young men and women 'the message of the grace of God' so that they in turn 'can teach others also.' We pray that there are no discouragement's but if so, we know the grace of God will strengthen and carry you on. You all involved are in our prayers as you 'keep on, keeping on!'"

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

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements



We would like to send a special thank-you to all those who support this ministry whether it is with prayers, encouragement, or financial support. You are very much appreciated and needed to keep **BBI** ongoing to the praise and glory of His name!



Grace Bible Church in Nokomis Florida is planning to hold their annual Bible Conference on January 19-21, 2001. For more information please contact:
Pastor Elvin Myers
(941) 496-8051



The Spring Semester of **Berean Bible Institute** begins January 29th. It's not too late to send in your application, for this or next semester!



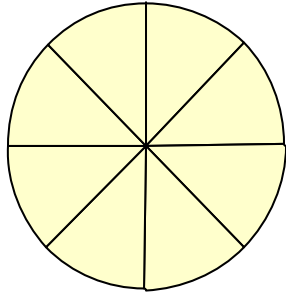
The dates for Rocky Mountain Grace Camp will be June 25-30, 2001. Come and enjoy a great time in God's Word in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado! It's a vacation that the whole family will enjoy! For more information please contact:
Pastor or Mrs. Jim Harley at
(303) 452-9148



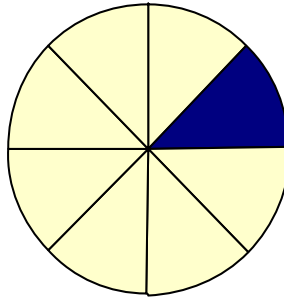
"We prove our faith in God by making plans to serve Him in the future!" What is planned for your future? Is **BBI** in your future? If so contact us at
(262) 255-4094



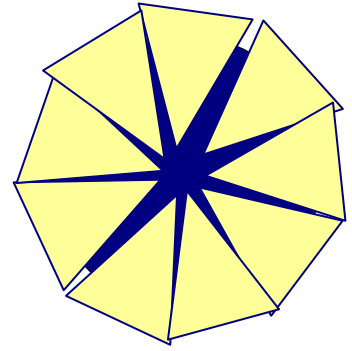
Celebrate Grace Camp dates will be July 8-13, 2001 at Rifle, Colorado. Come for an exciting time around the Word of God in scenic Colorado and fellowship with fellow members of the Body of Christ. For more information, please contact: Jerry or Judy Worthley (719) 276-2469



Pie #1



Pie #2



Pie #3

Pie #1 is cut into eight pieces and separated for inspection. It can then be returned to its original container and fits very well.

Pie #2 is also cut into eight pieces. However, one piece has been removed, or subtracted, from it. When it is returned to its original container, it does not fill it up. There is an open space left.

Pie #3 has been cut into eight pieces as well. But the missing piece from pie #2 has been put with its disassembled parts. When the effort is made to return this pie to its original container, with the extra piece, they simply will not fit properly.

And so it is with the Word of God. To add to it or subtract from it results in Bible study that is empty (a part left out) or confusing (too many parts). This, of course, can only lead to an improper and distorted understanding of the Bible, which of course results in misapplication of what it actually teaches.

THE DANGERS OF ADDING OR SUBTRACTING

At times, God has specifically warned against adding to or subtracting from His Word (see Deut. 12:32; Rev. 22:18-19). And it is taught as a binding principle throughout the Scriptures. While there are those who actually change or remove parts of the Bible, there is a more common and subtle way that people add to or subtract from God's Word.

"Subtracting" from the Bible is often done by either ignoring certain parts of it as if they were not there, or flatly denying that clearly stated passages of Scripture actually mean what they say. "Adding" to the Word of God is done by putting meaning into a passage of Scripture that simply is not there. The Apostle Paul refers to these kinds of mishandling as the corrupting, or perverting of God's Word (see II Cor. 2:17, 4:2; Gal. 1:6-7).

Mishandling the Eternal Word of God can have eternal consequences. Of the many things that can be misunderstood or confused by the wrong understanding and misapplication of Scripture, the subject of salvation is the most important. To misunderstand that salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins is to miss everything. Each individual must make their own decision to trust in Christ alone for their salvation from the power and penalty of sin in order to receive the gift of eternal life (Rom. 6:23; I Cor. 15:3-4; Eph. 2:8-9).

TO DIVIDE THE WORD

"Rightly dividing the Word of Truth" simply means to separate from each other the distinctly different parts of Scripture for study and application. In other words, it means to handle God's Word in a proper manner so that what it teaches can be properly understood and applied. The two primary divisions found in the Bible are "prophecy" and "mystery."

PROPHECY

Prophecy is that part of God's program of redemption that has been foretold or revealed beforehand, in the Bible. It could be said to be God's predetermined agenda which has been previously and openly revealed and proclaimed. It could never be considered to be a mystery or secret program. The greater part of the Bible deals with and explains God's prophetic program as He has progressively worked it out and revealed it to and through the Children (nation) of Israel.

The first eleven chapters of Genesis (the book of beginnings) are important to prophecy because they tell us about the creation (1:1-2:25); man's fall into sin (3:1-8); the curse because of sin (3:9-19); the first promise of the Redeemer (3:15); continued individual rebellion against God (4:1-16); the judgment by flood (6:1-8:22); the establishment of human government (9:1-7); the national or organized rebellion against God at the Tower of Babel (11:1-4); and the confusion of languages by which the Lord scattered man abroad over the face of all the earth (11:5-9). These chapters give us the general history of mankind up until the time of Abraham.

ABRAHAM

Toward the end of chapter eleven of Genesis we are introduced to Abraham, and in the beginning of chapter twelve we find God initiating a covenant with him (Gen. 12:1-4). This covenant is called the Abrahamic Covenant and is the basis for the other covenants that God would later make with the nation of Israel. These covenants deal with the land to be occupied by Israel as a nation, and the righteous reign of Messiah on earth and spiritual renewal for the nation (see Gen. 12:1-4, 13:14-17, 15:1-21; II Sam. 7:4-16, Jer. 31:31-34).

To understand these covenants, it must be recognized

that they all concern the descendants of Abraham who became the nation of Israel. Their ancestry is traced from Abraham through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (who was renamed Israel) whose twelve sons became the fathers of twelve tribes known as the children of Israel. It was these twelve tribes that God brought out of slavery in Egypt under the leadership of Moses to form the nation of Israel in the Promised Land of Canaan. Through Moses, God gave Israel the Law which is also called the Mosaic Covenant. This was a conditional covenant (Ex. 19:5-6). This was a temporary covenant that was later to be replaced by a New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34).

THE NATION OF PROMISE

It is through the nation of Israel that God has chosen to work out His prophetic program of national and personal redemption. Most of the Bible is concerned with the history of this nation and God's dealings with it. Of course, the main theme of this prophetic program was, and is, the Person of Jesus Christ. He came as the promised Redeemer of Israel and Savior of the world as foretold in the Old Testament.

The prophetic program is not yet complete however. The Bible gives us the assurance that God will one day bring it to completion. The major events that are yet to take place are the rise of the Antichrist, the Great Tribulation (also known as Jacob's trouble), and the return of Jesus Christ as Israel's King to establish His Kingdom of Righteousness on earth.

THE MYSTERY

A mystery is something that is hidden from view, a secret. It is that which is not revealed. This is in contrast to prophecy, which is revealed.

GOD'S SECRET IS NOW REVEALED

"For this cause I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the Grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" (Eph. 3:1-4).

Paul's words (given by inspiration and preserved by God as part of His Word) tell us that the mystery (or secret) of the Dispensation of Grace has been revealed to him. This is an important distinction that we must recognize if we are to *"rightly divide the Word of Truth."*

A SECRET SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME

This secret or mystery program of God was kept hidden, it was not revealed until it was given to the Apostle Paul. *"Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began"* (Rom. 16:25).

Paul also boldly proclaimed that the message he

preached was revealed directly to him by the glorified Lord Jesus Christ Himself (see Gal. 1:11-12).

A CONTRAST OF DIFFERENCE

Peter's message in Acts chapter three contains some remarkable words when compared to Paul's. *"And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached to you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began"* (Acts 3:20-21). *"Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. Ye are 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"* (Acts 3:25).

That which has been preached by the mouth of all the prophets of old had to do with the covenants made with Abraham and the nation Israel. As part of prophecy it cannot be the same as that *"which was secret since the world began,"* until it was revealed to Paul sometime after Peter preached this message.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Prophecy has to do with the nation Israel and Christ's coming Kingdom on earth. Personal salvation is presented in the context of a national revival in Israel. Israel is seen as a chosen and special people who are to minister to the other nations of the earth.

Mystery has to do with personal salvation without national distinction (Rom. 3:21-26). Israel and the prophetic program connected to that nation have now been set aside temporarily during the Dispensation of God's Grace that is taking place at the present time (Rom. 11:25).

CONCLUSION

We must not in any way minimize the fact that the entire Bible is for our learning and spiritual growth. However, at the same time, we must recognize that there is a distinctive and vitally important difference between the mystery and prophecy programs. Mixing the two programs together serves to confuse and frustrate the believer. Promises and covenants made to the nation Israel are not to be directly applied to the Body of Christ, which is jointly made up of both Jews and Gentiles without national distinction.

With the nation and God's prophetic program put on hold because of national Israel's rejection of Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah, peace with God is now being offered to any and all who will, by faith, put their trust in Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life (Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-9).

The message of God's grace can only be clearly presented and understood when we rightly divide the Word of Truth as God has directed us to do in His Holy Word.



COURSES FOR THE SPRING 2001 SEMESTER

(January 29th—May 24th)

104, 304 – BIBLE EXPOSITION I, VI: (*Four credit hours*) This systematic expositional survey is divided into six courses that take the student through the Bible in three years (the books of Daniel, Acts, Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Revelation, the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets are also offered in separate study courses). Each book will be studied in its dispensational setting as part of all Scripture (II Tim. 3:16). The primary textbook for these courses will be the Bible.

104 – This course begins with Joshua and moves through II Chronicles giving the student a working knowledge of the history of Israel as a nation in the Promised Land. The special purpose of God's chosen people, the establishment of the kingdom under David, the apostasy of Israel, the prophets God sent to Israel, the Babylonian Captivity, and how these things relate to the Millennial Kingdom and the present Dispensation of Grace is emphasized.

304 – This course deals with the Poeticals, or Wisdom Literature of the Bible and cover the books of Job through Song of Solomon. Each book will be studied in its dispensational setting as part of all Scripture (II Tim. 3:16).

106 - BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINES II: (*Two credit hours*) A concise study of the important major doctrines of Scripture from a dispensational point of view. This course covers the Gifts, the Believers Walk, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Resurrection, the Second Coming of Christ, the State of the Dead, and the Mission and Commission of the Church.

108 – ROMANS: (*Two credit hours*) This course systematically works through the important epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans. The study of this book is vital to the understanding of man's universal need of salvation, God's provision of salvation through Jesus Christ, God's offer of salvation by faith alone, the dispensational nature of the Bible, God's dealings with Israel, and living the Christian life by faith.

110 – ACTS: (*Two credit hours*) This course is an expositional study of the book of Acts with special emphasis given to the importance of its historical aspects concerning the beginning of the Church (the Body of Christ), the dispensational transition into Grace, and their harmonization with the epistles of the Apostle Paul.

112 - CULTS: (*Two credit hours*) This course gives special attention to the distinctive errors that characterize the religious systems of the cults. The main emphasis is given to the true message of God's Word enabling the student to recognize erroneous teachings whenever and wherever they are encountered. An overview of the beliefs of the major cults in America and how to reach individuals caught in the spiritual darkness of a cult or false religious system with the message of God's grace in Jesus Christ is also given.

116 – BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW: (*One credit hour*) The major worldviews are compared and contrasted with Biblical Christianity. This study shows how non-Christian values and belief systems have negatively influenced the thinking of our times. The incredible clarity, coherence, and truthfulness of the true Christian worldview is highlighted and affirmed.

302 – CHRISTIAN EDUCATION II: (*Two credit hours*) This course covers the organization, development, and maintenance of educational ministries for children, youth, and adults within the context of the local church and its outreaches. The establishment and operation of Christian day schools and camps will also be dealt with.

306 - DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IV: (*Two credit hours*) Theology is the study of God. Systematic Theology is the ordered study of the great doctrines of God's Word, the Bible. Dispensational Theology is the systematic in-depth study of the great doctrines of Scripture according to the Biblical

principle of right division (II Tim. 2:15). Dispensational Theology 306 covers the doctrines of Ecclesiology (doctrine of the Church, baptism, and the Lord's Supper), and Eschatology (the doctrine of future things—death, the intermediate state, the resurrection, the judgments, and the final state).

308 – DANIEL AND REVELATION: (*Two credit hours*) Because of their intricate relationship to each other these two important prophetic books will be studied together and compared. Emphasis will be given to their dispensational perspectives and how they relate to other Bible books, as well as the prophecies found in them concerning the fulfillment of God's purpose for the nation of Israel, and the Lord Jesus Christ's Second Coming in power and in glory.

310 - BASIC GREEK II: (*Two credit hours*) This course is designed to expose students to elementary New Testament Greek and equip them to utilize lexical and grammatical tools in order to enhance their individual and independent study of God's Word. And the introduction to translation work of the Greek New Testament .

312 - CHRISTIAN WRITING: (*One credit hour*) This course presents the need to effectively communicate by encouraging letter writing. Beyond this, it promotes formats for writing articles, newsletters, tracts, printed Bible studies, etc.

314 – MUSIC AND SONG LEADING: (*One credit hour*) Students are taught how to lead/conduct congregational singing. It includes how to choose appropriate hymns to enhance sermonic themes in worship and church services. Some time will be spent in researching the history of sacred classical music for use in the local church services.

316 – THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: (*One credit hour*) In this course, the three major millennial views are compared with each other and the Scriptural teaching about the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. A presentation of the nature and notable features of Christ's kingdom on earth and its relationship to the Body of Christ and the eternal state is included in this study.

INSTITUTE UPDATE continued

in a demolition company to drop the damaged section by the use of explosive charges. After several days of delay because of cold and snowy weather, the section was successfully brought down in a controlled manner without personal injury or damage to the sewage disposal plant.

There is an investigation currently underway to

This is why **Berean Bible Institute** exists. Having come to an understanding of the doctrines of Grace which were exclusively revealed to the Apostle Paul, we believe that we have a responsibility to make it known as far and wide as possible. And we also believe that this should primarily be done through the ministry of local Grace churches. Of course, for this to take place, we must have pastors and Bible teachers who are securely grounded in sound Bible doctrine and are adequately trained for



The BBI Bulletin is the official newsletter of the **BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE Inc.**, and is sent free of charge to any who request it.

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE exists as a non-degree granting school of adult education which endeavors to provide advanced Biblical and doctrinal studies in accordance with the Biblical principle of right division and the revelation of the mystery, along with practical training in ministry and leadership skills in order to help individuals become competent in the ministry and leadership field. The mission of the school is to help individuals



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