

# The BBI BULLETIN

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*Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*

*Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed*

## THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

On Friday morning, October the 11th, about twelve miles north of where I live, there was a multiple vehicle pile-up in the southbound lanes of Interstate 43. By the time cars and trucks quit crashing into the pile, there were 45 vehicles involved with 10 people dead and 38 more injured. To make matters worse, a fire was ignited that engulfed the entire crash site. When it was finally extinguished, the vehicles at the center of it had been reduced to a twisted unrecognizable mess. It was so bad that it took over 24 hours before it could be determined how many different cars and trucks were actually in the pile.

There is no doubt that when the total financial losses caused by this horrific wreck are finally tabulated they will be tremendous. But, regardless of the material loss involved, it is minor when compared to the 10 people who lost their lives in the crash. Our hearts go out to those who lost family and friends in this tragedy as well as to those individuals who were injured.

The pile-up began when some vehicles slowed down after driving into a heavy fog that severely limited their visibility, while others did not. Those traveling too fast for the conditions crashed into those who had slowed down resulting in the chain reaction pile-up.

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## RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

*by Dr. W. Edward Bedore*

### LESSON EIGHT - The Law

#### *Part IV - The Call of Abraham*

With the nations (Gentiles) cast away because of the rebellion at the Tower of Babel, the Bible record takes on a distinct change. Up to chapter twelve the Bible deals with the general history of the human race. These chapters cover many years in a quick overview only slowing down to give details of uniquely important events such as the fall of Adam, Cain and Abel, the Great Flood, and the Tower of Babel. These chapters are, in reality, an introduction to the rest of the Bible.

From chapter twelve on we find this swift chronology suddenly slowing as the Bible begins to deal with one man and his descendants. The first three verses of chapter twelve records the calling of Abram (exalted father), who would later be known as Abraham (father of a multitude).

*"Now the LORD had said to 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: 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 the families of the earth be blessed"* (Gen. 12:1-3). God made an unconditional covenant with Abram that his descendants would become a nation through whom all the nations would be blessed. This covenant, or promise, of God to Abraham is sometimes called the Abrahamic Covenant. It is this covenant that is the basis of the later covenants God would make with national Israel.

#### **An Unconditional Covenant**

This covenant was not based on Abraham's performance but on God's sovereign decree that He would carry out the provisions of the covenant. Four things stand out in this promise to Abraham.

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# Mail Received At Box 40

**FROM OHIO:**

"I'd like to receive the *BBI Bulletin* as soon as possible. I believe in the Pauline theology and eagerly wait on more information involving the revelation given only to Paul during this present dispensation."

**FROM MICHIGAN:**

"Thank you so much for your faithfulness in teaching and training men and women for the ministry that know how to rightly divide the Word of God."

**FROM PENNSYLVANIA:**

"Just a few lines to let you know that we pray for the students, teachers and administrators in this ministry. Enclosed is a gift to help along."

**FROM MISSOURI:**

"Thanks so much for educating those who will help spread the Gospel."

**FROM NORTH CAROLINA**

"Thanks for the letters you send with each receipt. I like to be updated about what's going on at **BBI**. It is a wonderful and worthwhile work you and the staff members are doing."

**FROM INDIANA**

"Thanks for all you do to promote Bible teaching. I love to hear news on the **BBI**. If you ever have a young student who needs a little encouragement please send their name to me. It would bless this ol' Granny's heart to do so!"

**FROM IOWA**

"It is always so good to hear from you and read your **BBI** report. It is great to hear that young men and women are so interested in learning God's Word rightly divided. I just pray that your school will continue to grow and souls will become very concerned in rightly dividing the Word."

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

## THE BULLETIN BOARD

*\*News & Announcements\**

Spring Semester at Berean Bible Institute begins January 27th, 2003. If you would like an application or a Handbook and Course Catalog, please contact **BBI**.

Check out the updates on our **BBI** Website at [www.bereanbibleinstitute.org](http://www.bereanbibleinstitute.org) You'll find our Handbook & Course Catalog, an Application, the latest copy of the *BBI Bulletin*, our doctrinal statement, Biblical charts and much more!

**PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Praise*—We have 32 students this semester.  
*Prayer*—**BBI** instructors & students  
*Prayer*—Grace churches without pastors.  
*Praise*—With the money donated to the **BBI** Scholarship fund we were able to give the students a 50% discount on tuition this semester.

**GRACE SINGLES CONFERENCE**

**Date:** Dec. 28, 2002-Jan. 1, 2003  
**Location:** Kettle Moraine Bible Church, West Bend, Wisconsin  
**Theme:** Becoming a Profitable Grace Believer  
**Contact:** Pastor John Fredericksen at: (605) 341-9692 or Pastor Mike Keshan at: (262) 306-1982

### *(RIGHTLY DIVIDING continued from page 1)*

1. **He would become a great nation.** A nation exists inside of geographical boundaries and is made up of people. This indicates that the possession of land by a national people is involved here.
2. **His name would become great.** For Abraham to become a great nation that would be known and honored among the nations of the world, he would have to have descendants or "seed" to populate the land.
3. **He would be blessed.** Abraham and his descendants would occupy a place of special privilege and honor in God's program of redemption. He would become a renowned nation, a great name on earth.
4. **He would be a blessing.** Through this nation that Abraham's descendants would become, all the families (peoples, races, tribes, etc.) would one day be blessed.

The promises of this covenant were prophetic in nature and none would be fulfilled in Abraham's life time. In fact, the total fulfillment is still future as only partial fulfillment was ever achieved for this covenant in times past. But we can be assured of the fact that they will come to complete fulfillment one day. In fact, the Bible contains numerous promises that these and other prophetic events will one day take place. In Genesis 12:5-7 and 13:14-18, we find the Lord promising to Abraham and his descendants the Land of Canaan. This land would one day belong to Abraham and his seed, who would become a great multitude.

#### **An Everlasting Covenant**

In Romans 11:29 the Apostle Paul assures us that *"the gifts and calling of God are without repentance (irrevocable)."* He is specifically referring to God's promises for His covenant people, Israel (Abraham's seed). Looking again to Genesis 13:14-18, we see that the Promised Land, when it is given in fulfillment of this God-breathed prophecy, will become a possession of Abraham's seed (national Israel) forever.

#### **The Covenant Confirmed**

In Genesis 15 we find God again confirming His covenant with Abraham. Abraham was a childless old man and was concerned as to how God could make him a great nation if he had no son. Abraham suggested that he might make his servant Eliezer his heir. But the Lord told him NO, and specifically promised him a natural born son (Gen. 15:1-4). The Lord then took Abraham outside and told him that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the heavens (Gen. 15:5), Abraham simply *"believed"* what God had revealed to him and, through the channel of simple faith, Abraham was accounted righteous in God's sight (Gen. 15:6). Then the Lord declared that His purpose in bringing Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldeans was to give him this new land as an inheritance (Gen. 15:7). Let us note at this point that Ur was in the vicinity of the Tower of Babel where the nations rebelled against

God (Gen. 11:1-9). It is important to understand that with the nations (Gentiles) set aside in unbelief and worthy only of judgment, God is, at this point, setting in motion the groundwork for creating a **new nation** through Abraham. A nation set apart as His own, a nation through which He would work out His plan of redemption for fallen man.

Now we find Abraham asking the question: *"Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?"* (Gen. 15:8). Abraham wanted to know if there was something to be done to confirm this promise of inheritance. In effect he was asking, Lord, what is my responsibility in this covenant? What must I do to earn or merit this great thing you are going to do? The Lord's response was to direct Abraham to bring sacrifices consisting of a three-year old heifer, a three-year old female goat, a three-year old ram, a turtle dove, and a young pigeon. These animals were taken before the Lord and killed. All but the two birds were cut in half and placed opposite each other. The turtledove and pigeon were placed one on each side (Gen. 15:9-11). This was done in preparation for the ratification of this covenant as was the custom of the day. When the sacrifices were prepared, the covenanting parties would publicly declare the terms of the covenant and then walk between the halves of the sacrifice. In this way each party pledged to keep his part of the covenant. He would do what was required. This was as binding as a duly signed, witnessed, and notarized contract is between two parties today. In fact, it was more binding as there was no legal process by which either party could be released from their responsibilities.

Next we find the Lord placing Abraham into what must have been some kind of a trance as the sun went down (Gen. 15:12). While he was in this state, the Lord added to the prophetic picture associated with the covenant and assured Abraham that his descendants would one day return to the Land of Canaan (Gen. 15:12-16). Then the Lord appeared to Abraham as *"a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp (torch) that passed between those pieces"* (Gen. 15:17). Abraham was left in his trance-like state. This indicated that the Lord God was pledging Himself alone for the full responsibility of carrying out the conditions of the covenant. Abraham's only responsibility was to believe, or trust, the Lord to carry out His promise. At this point God also marked out the land area that He was promising to Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 15:18-21). Abraham's descendants (the nation Israel), even during their glory years under King David and his son, Solomon, never completely controlled or occupied all of the Promised Land that lays between the River of Egypt (the Nile) and the Euphrates River. But since the Living God, who is the Creator of all things, has unconditionally covenanted with Abraham, and sealed the pledge by Himself to one day make it theirs as an inheritance, we can rest assured that Abraham's seed will one day possess all of the land that has been promised. It is theirs by an everlasting covenantal decree of the Lord God Almighty.

## The Basis of Prophecy

All of Old Testament prophecy is related in some way to this covenant God made with Abraham. In fact, from Genesis 12 through the end of the Old Testament and even through the Gospel accounts of the New Testament and into the early Acts period, we find the Bible dealing particularly with Abraham and his descendants, the nation Israel. The Old Testament records for us the history of Israel and the words of God's prophets sent to Israel. Other covenants (promises) would be made with Israel based on this foundational covenant made with Abraham. In reality, the later promises are all extensions of this covenant (see chart below). This covenant was reaffirmed to Abraham's son, Isaac (Gen. 26:3-4) and grandson, Jacob (Gen. 35:9-12) and to Jacob's descendants through Moses (Ex. 3:6-17; 6:2-8). The term "*children of Israel*" refers to the descendants of Jacob's twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel. They are called "Israel" after Jacob whose name God changed to Israel, which means "prince of God."

Later, after Israel was an established nation, the tribes split into two kingdoms with ten tribes in the north, which retained the name Israel, and two tribes in the south, which made up the Kingdom of Judah (I Kin. 12:1-9; II Chron. 10:16-11:4).

God's prophetic program concerns not only the promised Redeemer but is also tied to the people through whom He would come. These people are the Children of Israel and they have a special place in the Righteous Kingdom on earth that the Messiah will one day rule over. The covenants God made with Abraham and his descendants cannot be separated from prophecy nor prophecy from those promises.

## All Prophecy will be Fulfilled

The promise to Abraham is **unconditional, literal, and everlasting**. It has not been fulfilled, but God has made numerous promises that one day it will be literally fulfilled in its entirety. "*Thus saith the Lord; 'If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return and have mercy on them'*" (Jer. 33:25-26; also see Isa. 14:1-2; Jer. 23:5-8; 31:31-37; Zech. 8:11-12). As long as the heavens and earth remain, we can rest assured that God's prophetic program dealing with the nation Israel and her Messiah will one day be completed.

### WHY NOT YET?

Jesus Christ came to the nation Israel as her promised and long awaited Messiah and King. While there were many believers, the nation as a whole, including its leaders, rejected Him as their promised Redeemer. But, instead of ushering in the time of Tribulation, which is to be followed by the Kingdom of God come to earth, the prophetic program was temporarily set aside and the Dispensation of Grace was put into effect. The Apostle Paul was raised up especially as the channel through whom God would reveal this "*mystery*" or secret program (Eph. 3:1-13; Acts 26:14-18). Israel's place of national privilege has been taken away. So, today, Jew and Gentile alike can come to God through faith in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins. But one day, after the last member of the Body of Christ is saved, the Dispensation of Grace will end and God's covenant based prophetic program will be renewed.





(INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

Of course, this sensational crash dominated the local news in the Milwaukee area for several days. While reading and watching the accounts of the wreck, I could not help but think about the road to spiritual disaster that so many people are on. Some are fearfully trying to find their way through the fog of religious confusion that has obscured the truth. At the same time, others are speeding blindly through the same fog with a false sense of security, totally oblivious to the danger that lies ahead of them. It is sad, but true for multitudes, that by the time they realize the danger they are in it will be too late to avoid the pile-up of lost and needy souls. That results from lives lived apart from Christ. God's remedy for this dangerous spiritual situation is the "preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery." And those of us who know and love this wonderful message of God's grace are called to faithfully make it known to the whole world.

This semester there are 32 students enrolled at **BBI**. This is an increase of 100% over last fall. We thank and praise the Lord for this growth of the school. Please pray that **Berean Bible Institute** will continue to grow and will be as efficient as possible in training men for the work of ministry.

**Berean Bible Institute** is a faith ministry that depends on the gifts of God's people as its primary source of financial support. Your prayers and consideration of **BBI's** needs would be greatly appreciated.

Because Christ Lives,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director



**Spring Semester 2003**

January 27th-May 22nd

- 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)

**Total..... 15 hrs**

- 302 - Christian Education II.....(2 hrs)
- 304 - Bible Exposition VI.....(4 hrs)
- 306 - Practical Disp. Theology IV.....(2 hrs)
- 308 - Daniel & Revelation.....(2 hrs)
- 310 - Basic Greek II.....(2 hrs)
- 312 - Eph./Phil./Col.....(2 hrs)
- 314 - The Millennial Kingdom.....(1 hr)

**Total..... 15 hrs**

- 1002 - Biblical Principles of Marriage...(2 hrs)

**THE SINNER'S GIFT**



A young man named Sinner once received from his Father a beautiful bright-red convertible. He named it Salvation-sparkling, new, clean, modern, powerful.

It delighted the young man so much, especially because it was a gift. He could never have afforded it. So delighted, the boy even changed his name from Sinner to Saved.

He polished his car every week. Took pictures of it. Sent it to friends. Looked it over front, back, under, top, bottom, inside out. Never, never tired of telling others about the gift. "My Father gave it to me. It was free!"

Some days later Saved was seen out on the highway pushing Salvation. An individual named Helper walked up and introduced himself and asked if he could assist. "Oh, no thanks. Just out enjoying my new car," he said as he wiped the sweat off his face. "Just had a little trouble because my bumper kept cutting my hands, especially on these hills. But then a nice man helped me. Showed me how to mount little rubber cushions right here, underneath the bumper, and now I can push this thing for hours without a blister. Also, I've been trying something new lately. They use it over in England. You put your back against the car, lift, and it works like a charm, especially on muddy roads."

Helper asked, "Have you pushed the car very far?"

"Well, about 200 miles altogether. It's been hard, but since it was a gift from my Father, that's the least I can do to thank him."

Helper opened the door on the right side and said, "Get in."

After hesitating, he decided it was worth a try and he slid in on the passenger side and rested for the first time since he'd been given the car. Helper walked around, opened the door, slid behind the wheel, and started the car.

"What's that noise?" he said. Moments later they were moving down the highway quietly, at fifty, sixty miles an hour. He was taken aback. It all seemed to fall into place. It was even exciting. He knew he needed this Salvation Car to be admitted through the gate at the end of the highway. But somehow he had felt that getting there was his responsibility.

—Larry Christenson, *The Renewed Mind*

# THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

## *The Virgin Birth*

The incarnation of the Savior of mankind came about through the means of a young virgin named Mary who supernaturally conceived and gave birth to the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:18,25; Lk. 1:26-38; 2:1-7). It was necessary for the Savior of sinful men to be a sinless Man. This could only be accomplished through the virgin birth.

However, there are sincere believers who have had difficulty in accepting the fact that Jesus Christ could have a human mother and still be sinless. This has caused speculation as to how God could have accomplished such a thing. The resulting views have sometimes been doctrinally unacceptable as the following quote explains:

In an attempt to protect the truth of the sinlessness of Christ, some teach that Mary contributed nothing to the body and blood of the babe developing in her womb. They view Mary as nothing more than a channel God used to bring into the world the human body and soul He had created independently of her substance. These are dangerous views. They contradict the plain statements of Scripture. They effectively deny the true humanity of Christ by making His human nature some new species. Thus they imperil the entire Biblical scheme of salvation in which our Saviour and Substitute is one with us in our humanity, though not in our depravity.<sup>1</sup>

Jesus Christ is the promised "*seed of the woman*" (Gen. 3:15). This means that His mother, Mary, conceived by a special miraculous work of God. There was no man, or any other created entity, involved in this conception. Nor did any kind of sexual activity, natural or supernatural, take place in connection with Mary's pregnancy. This miraculous conception resulted in Jesus Christ being born to a virgin mother.

The view usually presented is that a specially created embryo that had no actual genetic connection of any kind to Mary was miraculously implanted in her womb by God. If this was so then Jesus Christ would not have been of "*the seed of the woman*," as Mary would only have been a surrogate mother. In other words, to be of the "*seed of the woman*" Jesus Christ had to be a physical descendant of Mary.

If, in His humanity, the Lord Jesus had no actual genetic, or physical, connection to His mother, as some suggest, then how could He be of the "*seed of David*"? Obviously He couldn't be because, prophetically, the promised "*seed of David*" must be an actual physical descendant of David. Elaborating on His promise to David the Lord God says through the Psalmist that "*I have made a covenant with My chosen. I have sworn unto David My servant, thy seed will I establish forever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah*" (Ps. 89:3-4,33-36). Of course, the subject of Psalm 89 is that God will be faithful in

fulfilling His Covenant of Promise to David that He would establish His throne forever with His "*Seed*," that is an actual physical descendant of David, occupying it (Ps. 89:27-37).

Genetically, when we speak of "*the seed of the man*" or "*the seed of the woman*," we are referring to the male sperm and the female ovum which combine to produce, or create, a human child in embryonic form. The normal, or "natural" way by which this takes place is through the agency of male-female sexual intercourse. But Mary, who was a virgin and a natural descendant of David through his son Nathan, conceived and became with child when her ovum was fertilized by a unique work of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18,25,cf. Gal. 4:4). It was at the instant that this supernatural act took place that the eternally existing Son of God took on the flesh of humanity, which resulted in the miracle of Jesus Christ's virgin birth.

Here we must understand that, as a woman, Mary's seed was inherited by her from Eve, the mother of all of the human race save one, Adam, from whom she herself came (see Gen. 2:7-8, 21-23; cf. I Cor. 11:8-12; I Tim. 2:13). Thus, even though He had no human father, the virgin born Lord Jesus Christ came into the world as a full human descendant of Adam. And, through His family lineage, He was born as the heir of God's Covenant Promise to Abraham and David (see Matt. 1:1-17; Lk. 3:23-38).

The question now is; being conceived of a daughter of Adam who was a sinful woman, how could Jesus Christ have been born without being contaminated by the death producing biological defects and inherent sin nature that affects the entire human race because of Adam's transgression? The simple answer is that "*as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*" (Rom. 5:12ff). Concerning all of humanity, it is clearly stated that "*in Adam all die*" (I Cor. 15:22). Nothing at all is said in the Scriptures of sin and death directly affecting the world through Eve. All women, including Mary, as daughters of Adam, are subject to physical death and have a sin nature, just as all men do. But, they do not pass it on to their offspring as men do. Thus, in His incarnation, the Son of God could become a true man, a descendant of Adam, through the seed of a woman without inheriting either a sin nature or the genetic defects that cause physical death, which is common to every other human being that has lived, is living, or will ever live in this sin cursed world.

Although there are various theories as to how the incarnation took place, it is not necessary for us to search for scientific explanations of how it was accomplished. We can no more understand it then we can understand how God spoke the whole of creation into existence. The Scriptures tell us that the virgin conceived, and it is so. The Word of God tells us that while He took on the likeness of man, He was without sin, and it is so. Our need is not to explain it but to believe it.

The virgin birth of Jesus Christ was actually a result of Mary having conceived by a special and

unique work of God. Therefore it was a supernatural creation of the body in which the Son of God took up residence in Mary's womb at the time of conception that constitutes the great miracle of the virgin birth.

### *The Pre-Incarnate Christ*

Our English word "incarnate" comes from the Latin word *incarnatus*, which means flesh. Theologically it means to be embodied in human flesh or form. Thus, the Doctrine of the Incarnation speaks of Jesus Christ's coming into the world as a man. The very idea of incarnation presupposes pre-existence. In other words, Jesus Christ had to exist as a Personal Entity before being embodied or taking on Himself the physical bodily form of humanity. Central to the Doctrine of Incarnation then is the fact of Jesus Christ's pre-existence in a non-bodily form.

The principle passage of Scripture on the subject of the incarnation of Jesus Christ is found in Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men"* (Phil. 2:5-7). In this passage, we see that not only did the Lord Jesus Christ exist before becoming incarnate, but also that He existed *"in the form of God."* In other words, before taking on the bodily form of humanity, He existed in the same form that God exists in. This can only mean that He who *"was made in the likeness of men"* was a living, personal, spiritual being who was self-existing, eternal, infinite, perfect in essence, unchanging, and possessing all of the qualities, or attributes, that are essential to the essence of God's Being before He *"made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."*

For Christ to have been anything less than God would have made Him to be something less than equal with God. But, that He had such equality before taking the form of humanity upon Himself is clear from Paul's statement that before He *"made Himself of no reputation,"* He existed *"in the form of God."* Thus, the claiming that His essence of Being is equal to that of God does not demean God's character or rob Him of what is exclusively His. The Greek word that is rendered "robbery" in this passage is *harpagmos*, which means to "seize" or to "grasp." Thus, equality with God was not something that Jesus Christ needed to take hold of in order to attain it, because He had always existed in equality with God. Nor was equality with God something that Jesus Christ needed to hold on to in order to retain it because it was His by the very essence of His Being. The Lord Jesus Christ shared equality in form and essence with God in the only way possible, by being God just as the Father and the Holy Spirit are God.

### *The Incarnation of Christ*

Although His Godhood could never be enhanced or diminished in any way, Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, *"made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."* The idea here is that Jesus Christ "willingly humbled" Himself.

The truth expressed in Philippians 2:6-7 is that although His claim of equality with God in no way usurped the glory that belongs to God alone because He is God, Jesus Christ did not consider His most glorious and high position of heavenly existence something that He was compelled to egotistically cling to. Instead, in an act of supreme humility, He chose to become a lowly servant by coming to earth to live as a human being, which meant taking up residence in a body of flesh. In doing so, He was in complete obedience to His Heavenly Father. His was an incomprehensible, absolute obedience that led to His death on the cross. A vicarious death through which the Sinless Son of God paid the penalty for the sins of all mankind, thus making the salvation of the souls of sinful men and women possible.

Kenosis, which means "emptying," is a theological term that is derived from the Greek word *kenoo*. It refers to Jesus Christ's emptying Himself in His incarnation. It does not mean that He surrendered His Deity or any of His divine attributes. Instead, it speaks of Him lowering Himself to the position of a servant by taking on the form of humanity and its limitations. This necessarily involved the temporary veiling of His pre-incarnate glory along with the voluntary suspension of certain privileged rights of honor and authority that belong to Him as the Creator. Christ's emptying of Himself was not by losing or eliminating anything. Instead, it was accomplished by Him taking on something. He was God, He is God, and He will forever be God. But in becoming incarnate, the Eternal Son of God also became the Son of Man.

In regard to the idea of the Kenosis, we must be careful not to misrepresent the Person of Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry by emphasizing His Humanity at the expense of His Deity as some do. In the Incarnation, He did not divest himself of His Godhood, in full or in part. Thus, in coming to earth in the likeness of men, He remained wholly God even as He is wholly Man. Some have embraced a Kenotic Theology<sup>2</sup> that wrongly emphasizes the Humanity of Christ at the expense of His Deity. It is serious error to diminish either of these aspects of the Savior, who is the *"One Mediator between God and men, the Man, Christ Jesus"* (see I Tim. 2:3-6; cf. Rom. 8:34). The Eternal Son of God became Man, is Man, and will forever be Man.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Cairns, Alan, *Dictionary of Theological Terms*, revised and expanded 3rd ed. (Greensville International, 2002) pgs. 514-15.

<sup>2</sup> Kenotic Theology wrongly builds its Christology on the idea that when Christ emptied Himself He became something less than fully divine, some even claiming that He ceased being God altogether when He became Man. This doctrinal error ends up with a Jesus that is not that much different than the Jesus of the Jehovah Witnesses, the Mormons, and other cults. Only the Jesus Christ of the Bible, who is wholly God and wholly Man, has the means and power to reconcile men and women to God.

*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 prepared to do the work of the ministry in local churches and/or the mission field, at home or abroad, with the overall goal of making the Gospel of Jesus Christ known to the lost throughout the world, the edification of believers, and the promotion of personal Bible study.

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

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