

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

How would you answer the following questions? Is a strong stand for the Grace Message really important? Isn't it enough just to preach Christ without making a big deal out of understanding God's Word "rightly divided"? Does taking a dispensational approach to Bible study really make that much difference to our understanding of how God is dealing with mankind today? After all, the Bible tells us that God is unchanging, doesn't it?

Of course, those of us who have understood and embraced the Grace Message understand that the knowledge of "the mystery" of God's grace that was uniquely revealed to the Apostle Paul is vitally important to gaining a proper understanding of the Bible and its message for today. We would say yes, a strong stand for the Grace Message is important because it is the truth, it is God's truth for today. We would say No, it is not enough to just preach Christ because God's Word tells us we are to preach "Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery" (Rom. 16:25). To do otherwise results in spiritual confusion about God's plan and purpose for the present Dispensation of Grace that we are living in. Right division is the key to a right understanding of God's

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RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

LESSON SIX - The Law

Part II - Human Government

As we saw in the last lesson, man is accountable to God and will be held responsible for his actions. The God-given conscience that is universal to the human race brings condemnation to those who transgress it. It is the Law of God built into the heart of man (Rom. 2:14-15). However, man left to his own devices hardens his heart to his conscience and sets out on a course of evil. This was the reason God resolved to destroy mankind in the Great Flood of Noah's day. The earth had become a place of lawlessness and anarchy. The true nature of man was revealed for what it is in "that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only on evil continually" (Gen. 6:5).

A New World

After the waters of the flood had receded and Noah, his family, and the animals had left the ark, Noah built an "altar to the Lord" and offered animal sacrifices upon it (Gen. 8:20). This was a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Creator God for His deliverance from the flood which had ended all other life on the earth. It is important to note that Noah did not pay homage to mother earth, mother nature, or any pagan gods connected with the sea, rain, rivers, animal spirits, angelic beings, or the departed dead, but only to the Living God who has created all that exists and is the true source of all life (Acts 17:25-26).

Evidently, before the flood the whole earth was enveloped in a uniform cloud canopy, causing the climate of the earth to be more or less consistent worldwide, making the entire planet a stable temperate zone. The "mist that went up from the earth" (Gen. 2:6) was probably a heavy morning dew that regularly supplied water for the plant life. But now there would be a change. Rain would now be the

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Mail Received At Box 40

FROM ENGLAND:

"I was wondering if there is any further information that I could receive concerning the **Berean Bible Institute**. I live in England where there is a severe shortage of the preaching and teaching of the Word rightly divided. I know only of one Grace fellowship in the whole UK...I am looking to be obedient to the Lord in what He wants of me, and your information may help in the decision making progress."

FROM CALIFORNIA:

"The *BBI Bulletin* is a source of blessing as I read it from cover to cover. It is a Bible study when I look up all the references. If it weren't for the Word of God and being settled in our hearts and minds, we could have cause to be fearful in times such as these. Truly the harvest is great, but the workers are few."

FROM MISSOURI:

"Greetings, I am no longer a dispensationalist. Therefore, you may remove my name from your mailing list. You should not waste your money sending your *Bulletin* to someone who has no use for it." (It is a shame that so many saints are confused over what God is doing today. To reject dispensationalism, one must reject the literal interpretation of Scripture in favor of allegorizing and/or spiritualizing the Bible. Editor)

FROM AUSTRALIA:

"I am writing to ask that my name be added to the mailing list of the *BBI Bulletin*. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry."

FROM COLORADO:

"So many come to me who are terrified by the events taking place in this world. What a privilege and joy it is to calm their fears, and tell them to fully trust in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to rightly divide the Word of Truth. I thank God for you dear ones, who are training young people in the wonderful Gospel of Grace, so that they too will be able to tell others the way of salvation and the peace only Christ can give to them...I pray for your work of love at **BBI**. May our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ strengthen, bless, guide, and encourage you daily."

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

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements

Fall Semester at
**Berean Bible
Institute** begins
August 26, 2002. If
you would like an
application or a
Handbook and Course
Catalog, please contact
BBI.

BBI's
Award's Ceremony
will be held at *Kettle
Moraine Bible
Church* on May
24th, 2002. For
more information
please contact
BBI at:
(262) 255-4094.

**The MGF Spring
Bible Conference**

Dates: May 31-June 2

Location: Bethany,
Missouri

*The MGF Fall Bible
Conference*

Dates: Sept. 20-22

Location: Des Moines
Iowa

Contact:
Pastor Ken Lawson at:
(217) 623-4014

**Celebrate Grace
Camp**

Dates: July 8-12

Location: Sedalia,
Colorado

Contact:
Jerry Worthley at:
(719) 276-2469

**Rocky Mountain
Grace Camp**

Dates: August 19-24

Location: Estes Park,
Colorado

Contact:
Jim & Judy Harley
at: (920) 829-6021 or
Kevin & Jessica Sadler
at: (262) 268-0940

**The BBF
Conference**

Dates: June 15-20

Location: Cedar Lake,
Indiana

Contact:
BBF
PO Box 6
Collinsville, IL 62234

(Rightly Dividing continued from page 1)

source of distributing moisture to all parts of the globe, and extremes in temperature and changing seasons would be the normal course of events on a yearly basis. The growing season would only be for part of the yearly cycle instead of being continuous. These changes were given along with a rainbow showing God's promise to never destroy all life on the earth by flood again (Gen. 8:20-22). Every rainbow now is a reaffirmation of this promise (Gen. 9:13-17).

Mankind Unchanged

The promise to never again destroy all life on earth was given along with a declaration that the nature of the human race had not changed. The problem of sin was not taken care of by the judgment of the flood. Even though Noah is the father of all human life that has existed since the flood, the sin nature he inherited from the first man, Adam, has been passed on to all mankind. Before the flood it was said of man that *"every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only on evil continually"* (Gen. 6:5). After the flood God declared that *"the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth"* (Gen. 8:21). To keep man's evil in check, so that He would not have to destroy the earth again, God would initiate a new order of things.

God's New World Order

Noah and his sons were charged with the responsibility of reestablishing the human race throughout the entire world (Gen. 9:1). Man would no longer be a strict vegetarian, but would now also eat the flesh of animals (Gen. 9:2-3). But he was not to eat the flesh with the blood of an animal. Blood is the life of the flesh, that is the blood sustains the life of the flesh. Without the blood the flesh dies.

Through Adam the blood sacrifice had been initiated, but now man would sustain his life by eating the flesh of animals. The blood was to be poured out and not eaten. Thus, in every meal that has meat in it, man should be reminded of the fact that an animal had to die in order for him to live. The death of every animal at the hand of man, whether for food or sacrifice, would serve to point out that blood must be shed for the atonement of sin. This concept is further expanded in the Mosaic Law (see Lev. 17:10-14) and we will explore this topic in more depth later. For now it is enough to say that the death of animals for sacrifice and for food pointed to man's need of a Savior. Man's sin brought death and, as the Apostle Paul clearly states, *"death reigned from Adam to Moses"* (Rom. 5:14a). The death of every animal for human consumption continues to point to the necessity of Christ's death for our redemption. We might say that; "What once pointed forward to that which would come, now points back to that which has been done." In other words, what once pointed out man's need now points to the

remedy. The cross is central to the Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ Jesus. His death was sufficient for the salvation of all of mankind. His resurrection guarantees eternal life to all who, for the forgiveness of sins, believe on Him *"in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Eph. 1:7). This is why Paul wrote to the Corinthian church *"for I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified"* (I Cor. 2:2).

Human Government

Man was given the responsibility to populate the entire earth and was commanded not to eat the blood of animals. Along with these directives we read *"and surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man"* (Gen. 9:5-6). Even in his fallen state, God places a tremendously great value on the life of man. And now He would require man to avenge the crime of murder. Before the flood there was no organized deterrent to crime, but now there would be a means of checks and balances by which crime would be punished. With this commission to man to put to death the murderer, God ordained the agency of Human Government. From this point in history, whenever and wherever mankind lives in any kind of numbers at all, they organize and develop some kind of ordinance to live by which incorporates some form of criminal code. The system may be very simple or highly developed but it will be there in some form, from the simple existence of a jungle tribe to the hustle and bustle of a large city. This is a fact of human life.

Why?

If God had left man without any form of deterrent to crime, man would have followed in the same path as those who lived before the flood. But, by bringing about Human Government to exercise swift judgment upon wrong doers, man would at least think before he acted and perhaps pay heed to his God-given conscience to some degree, even if only by force of law.

Still in Effect

The institution of Human Government is interdispensational. It was not a temporary dispensation but a permanent one which remains in operation during the time all of the temporary dispensations are in force. Human Government began during the Age of the Patriarchs and has continued until the present day and will continue into Christ's Kingdom when He returns to rule on earth (see Rom. 13:1-7; I Pet. 2:13-17; Rev. 20:4). There will be some form of government in which redeemed man will take part even in eternity (see Rev. 21:22-24). Human Government is a perpetual

program of God's by which man is both tested and judged regarding his conduct. Although this judgment is carried out by man, it is ordained by God (Rom. 13:1).

Man has not always carried out his responsibility in government as he should. In fact, the God-given authority of Human Government has been greatly abused over and over by man throughout the centuries. Every form of Human Government man has endeavored to live by has become overtly corrupt in time. The problem is not with any form of government, past or present, but with the men and women who have presided over them. The gross failure of Human Government to stem crime and bring lasting peace and safety for its people serves to reveal man's sin nature. Just as Adam failed in the Garden of Eden, man continues to fail, for man is a sinner both in nature and in action.

CONCLUSION

As Human Government has been ordained by God as a chosen agency by which He deals in the affairs of men, the believer is to honor civil authorities in attitude, actions, and in paying taxes. The Lord Jesus Christ pointed this out during His earthly ministry (Matt. 22:15-22). In His revelation to the Apostle Paul, He gave specific instructions to the Body of Christ in Romans 13:1-7. This does not mean that we are to endorse all that our governments

(local, state, or national) do, but we are to live within the framework of whatever government is in authority for it is ordained by God. However, if the government directs the believer to disobey God, he is to obey God and not the civil authorities (see Acts 4:18-20; the principle taught here is interdispensational in nature just as Human Government is).

While Human Government is an ordained agency of God, we must not expect peace to come to the world through the agency of human rulers. Our hope is not to be placed anywhere but in the Lord Jesus Christ. A secondary purpose of Human Government is to test man. Human history reveals the results of the test. Man has failed under the agency of Human Government just as he did before the flood. The failure of Human Government to uphold righteousness serves to point out man's utterly hopeless condition as a condemned sinner before the Holy and Just God of creation.

There is no nation on the earth that is receiving preferred treatment by God today. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Only in Christ can the lost sinner find forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and real hope for the future (Rom. 5:1-2). Only in Christ can the believer find strength to live a separated life and have real peace of mind (Gal. 2:20; 5:22-25; 6:14; Phil. 4:6-7).

E T E R N I T Y P A S T	<i>DISPENSATION OF THE PATRIARCHS</i> (Rom. 5:14) Death Reigned Adam, Abel, Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, Noah, Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc. Patriarchal Priesthood An Altar No Temple The Promise of a Redeemer	<i>DISPENSATION OF THE LAW</i> (Rom. 5:20a) Sin Reigned Israel=(God's Chosen People) Nation of 12 Tribes Aaronic Priesthood Tabernacle-Temple Written Law Ark of the Covenant Prophets of the Kingdom	<i>DISPENSATION OF GRACE</i> (Rom. 5:20b) Grace Reigns Jews and Gentiles Placed Into One Body (Body of Christ) Christ the Only Mediator (I Tim. 2:5) A Mystery or Secret Program not Revealed Beforehand Ambassadors of Christ	<i>DISPENSATION OF THE KINGDOM</i> (Isa. 11:1-5) Righteousness Reigns Israel the Head Nation with the World under Christ's Righteous Rule Christ the King Israel=A National Priesthood A Temple The Subject of Prophecy	E T E R N I T Y F U T U R E
	The Law of Conscience {from the Garden until Eternity}				

THE SEAL OF Human Government {from the Flood into Eternity}

By Bernardo Craesmeyer

Introduction

"In whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory" (Eph. 1:13b-14).

"I hope that the Green Bay Packers win the game next Sunday" That is a hope that is uncertain. Many people hope to go to heaven in this way. They are not sure, but think that maybe there is a possibility. In their minds there are many "ifs." "Lord willing" they say, "if I obey Him, if I do good works, if I go to church, if I do not sin, if I obey the ten commandments " etc "I may be saved!"

against the deceitful weapons of Satan (Eph. 6:17). One of the enemy's most powerful attacks is the attempt to cause the believer to doubt the security of his salvation.

Sealed and Protected

The seal of the Holy Spirit is the most powerful shield against the fear of death, or the fear of

from the Gospel of the Kingdom. They think that there is only one Gospel in the whole Bible. They mistakenly apply Israel's promises to themselves and claim their hope of the Kingdom on earth. Is it any wonder that they have no sure hope? Israel's kingdom hope does not belong to the believer today, and the hope that does belong to the believer they either don't know about or are confused about

Courses Offered for the Fall Semester

August 26-December 19

101 - Dispensational Survey	(2 hrs)
103 - Bible Exposition I	(4 hrs)
105 - Basic Bible Doctrines I	(2 hrs)
107 - Personal Evangelism & Follow Up	(2 hrs)
109 - Dispensational Hermeneutics	(2 hrs)
111 - Study Skills & Personal Finance	(1 hr)
113 - English	(1 hr)
115 - Public Speaking	(1 hr)
Total	15 hrs

301 - Pastoral Ministry II	(2 hrs)
303 - Bible Exposition V	(4 hrs)
305 - Dispensational Theology III	(2 hrs)
307 - Christian Writing	(1 hr)
309 - Basic Greek I	(2 hrs)
311 - Ephesians, Philippians, & Colossians	(2 hrs)
313 - The Tabernacle	(1 hr)
315 - Music & Song Leading	(1 hr)
Total	15 hrs

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Holy Word. And yes, taking a dispensational approach to Bible study makes a great deal of difference to understanding how God is dealing with mankind today. To ignore the dispensational aspects of God's Word will lead to doctrinal error. And no, God has not changed, and He never will change. But, while He is unchanging, and unchangeable in the essence of His Being, He has

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And we thank the Lord for each of you who have demonstrated your unwavering conviction that the Grace Message is of the utmost importance by standing with us through your giving and prayers. Your participation in the ministry of **BBI** is deeply appreciated. May our Lord bless you richly



HE MAKETH NO MISTAKE

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad to know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make.
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

—A.M. Overton

The BBI Bulletin is the official newsletter of the 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

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