

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

It can hardly be denied that man is by nature religious. This being the case many "professing Christians" are confused in their beliefs, especially where the authority and infallibility of Scripture is concerned. Because their confidence is largely placed in the traditions, rituals, and creeds of organized religion rather than Scripture alone, they have no sound foundation on which to stand, and are confused about who God is, why His Son took on flesh and came to earth to die on a cross, and what God is doing today? And, because of this, there is such a hodgepodge of preaching that abounds far and wide that far too many believers have the idea that it is impossible for them to understand the Bible for themselves, but think that they have to leave doctrinal studies to the intellectuals, scholars, and theologians. They are sure that they could never understand the Bible because of all the contradictory preaching and teaching they have heard. Some insist that prophecy is being fulfilled now, while others claim that all Bible prophecy has already been fulfilled. Some insist that water baptism is required for salvation, while others see it as symbolic.

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RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

LESSON FIVE - The Law

Part I - The Conscience of Man

THE BOOK OF THE LAW

The term "**the Law**" is used to refer to the book of divine instructions given directly by God to Moses for the nation of Israel, it is also referred to as the **Mosaic Law**. Sometimes the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) are collectively called the "*Book of the Law*." Moses was the human instrument God used to write this portion of Scripture, which is also referred to as the **Pentateuch**, which is made up of two Greek words, *pente* (five) and *teuche* (scroll) and means five fifths of the Law (literally five-volume book).

Historically, this portion of Scripture covers the period of time from the creation of the world until the death of Moses shortly before Israel actually entered into Canaan. Genesis 1-11 tells us of the creation, man's fall into sin, the first promise of redemption (Gen. 3:15), the judgment of the world by flood during the time of Noah, and the tower of Babel which resulted in the confusion of tongues and the dispersion of the nations. Chapters 12-50 brings a narrowing of focus that plays an important part in God's eternal plan for the creation and mankind. This portion of the Pentateuch deals particularly with the history of Abraham and his descendants through his son, Isaac, and grandson, Jacob, who became the nation of Israel under the God-given leadership of Moses.

An Important History

To come to a proper understanding of why God ushered in the Dispensation (administration), of the Law through Moses, it is imperative that we understand some of the events leading to this history changing event.

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Mail Received At Box 40

FROM INDIANA:

"Thank the Lord for an Institute that is preparing Grace pastors. The country needs more of them, and I pray and hope that more and more young men will hear about you and your Institute."

FROM FLORIDA:

"God bless each and every one at the **Berean Bible Institute** for the great work you are doing in teaching and training young men how to rightly divide the Word."

FROM CANADA:

"I enjoy reading your *Bulletin* and I regret that it is not monthly. It keeps me aware of the Institute and contains interesting articles."

FROM WISCONSIN:

"Thanks for your ministry. I'm thankful for your teaching."

FROM PENNSYLVANIA:

"Trusting the work is moving along well in your corner. May the Lord continue to bless this ministry, He will supply all your needs."

FROM FLORIDA:

"Thank you for the *BBI Bulletin*, as I so very much enjoy reading and studying (I'm still learning) the Word of Truth rightly divided, and the updated happenings of the Institute. Hope this small gift will help keep you 'keeping on!'"

FROM WISCONSIN:

"Thanks for the articles in the *BBI Bulletin*. The one on the Rapture is so timely. I'm planning to share it with family and friends."

FROM ILLINOIS:

"Just this brief note to express our appreciation for the ministry you and your staff are carrying on. We have been so blessed with the contacts we have had with you, your staff, and students. May God continue to use the effort there to train messengers to share God's Word rightly divided."

*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 28th, 2002. If you would like an application or a Handbook and Course Catalog, please contact **BBI**.

Just a reminder! **BBI** and **BBS** have different mailing lists, So if you send an address correction, addition, or deletion to **BBS** we will not receive it, as well as the other way around. Thank you for your responses so far in this area.

The MGF Spring Bible Conference

Dates: May 31-June 2

Location: Bethany, Missouri

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

The BBF Conference

Dates: June 15-20

Location: Cedar Lake, Indiana

Contact: BBF
PO Box 6
Collinsville, IL 62234

Rocky Mountain Grace Camp

Dates: August 19-24

Location: Estes Park, Colorado

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

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In the Garden

During their brief stay in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had but one rule or law; *“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it: for in that day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”* (Gen. 2:17). But, in disobedience, they did eat and became sinners. No longer did they have a relationship with God, but were now separated from Him and under the curse of sin.

The Conscience of Man

Along with being ejected from the Garden came the initiation of the blood sacrifice as an offering to God on behalf of the sinner. Man now had the knowledge of good and evil, human conscience had come into being. Man would be held responsible for his response to the Law of the Conscience which had been written in the heart of man. Romans 1:16-2:16 tells us more in regard to this issue.

They Know

*“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead: so they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:19-20). Man, in his foolishness, denies God and His authority over all of the creation, including mankind, and so brings condemnation and judgment upon himself. To deny God, a man or woman must deny the evidence that is found everywhere in nature that God is indeed the Creator of all things. Indeed, he or she must deny what they know in their innermost being to be true. This is a violation of the conscience; it is sin. Romans 1:24-32 explains that man has been given over to practice all sorts of evil *“because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful... and even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind...” (Vs. 21, 28). Following a list of wicked acts that are performed by men and women (vs. 29-31), verse 32 explicitly states that “who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” Yes, mankind instinctively knows good and evil; that there is right and wrong, and that there are dire consequences, but man chooses to do that which is evil.**

Romans 2:14-15 goes on to tell us that *“when the Gentiles which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves; which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another.”* The fact that man makes rules and laws of order to govern society proves that he has the capability of recognizing right from wrong. He also has the ability to deny what he (or she) knows to be true in order to believe the lie.

Just as the drug or alcohol addict will deny that he or she has a problem as an excuse to continue on in their destructive habit, so does the majority of the human race deny that they have a sin problem in order to reject the fact that they must one day give an account to God for their actions.

What is popularly called “denial” in our culture is simply called “unbelief” in the Bible. Let us never forget that sin is not only the doing of certain vile acts, but is also found in the secret places of the heart. It is not the amount of sin that separates man from God, but the fact of sin. In God's eyes, all sin is a violation of His Holiness.

Man's Failure

Just as Adam failed in the Garden of Eden, his descendants failed in the centuries that followed. As the human race multiplied over the face of the earth, so did sin. The wickedness of man became great in the earth and every intent of the thoughts of the heart of man was continually on doing evil (see Gen. 6:1-5). *“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence”* (Gen. 6:11). Man failed to continue in righteousness just as Adam failed to obey God in the Garden. The murder of his brother Abel by Cain was a foreshadowing of the evil that would control the earth as the population grew. The only authority man recognized was “self” as the collective heart of man hardened itself against its God-given conscience and so against God Himself.

Anarchy Ruled

The implication is that each man was doing what was right in his own eyes. In other words, whatever they thought they could get away with, they did. There was no central government of any kind, hence no government courts, police, armies, etc. etc. to protect the general populace. Wickedness of all sorts was rampant.

JUDGMENT FINALLY COMES

Genesis 6:1-8:22

The long-suffering of God had come to an end, righteousness would prevail, justice would be served. Except for Noah and his wife, their three son's and their wives, the whole world would be destroyed by a great flood. God commissioned Noah to build an ark in which he, his family, and male and female animals from each species were able to survive the Great Flood.

They Were Warned

Noah was a preacher of righteousness, who not only built an ark for the saving of his family, but for a period of 120 years sounded a warning to the world (Gen. 6:3; Heb. 11:7). A warning that fell on deaf ears (I Pet. 3:20). Ears deafened by their own sin hardened hearts (II Pet. 2:5).

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AFTER THE FLOOD

Genesis 9:1-7

The world that Noah and his family found after the waters of the flood had receded was vastly different from what they had known before. Not only was the climate and landscape forever changed, but also man's relationship to animals was changed. In the pre-flood world there was no rain, but a mist came up from the ground (Gen. 2:6). This indicates that the entire world was probably tropical in climate. But Noah and his descendants would experience more pronounced seasons, just as we do to this day (Gen. 8:22). In addition, the animals began to fear man who was no longer a vegetarian, but would now eat the flesh of animals.

Human Government

The most remarkable change though was the institution of human government by a divine decree of God. Mankind had proven itself unable to maintain order or to refrain from evil. Left to his conscience alone, man had filled the earth with so much wickedness and violence that God was compelled to destroy the whole world. Now, added to the Law of Conscience was Human Government as a means of checks and balances against the wickedness of men. God promised to never destroy the world by flood again, but He did not say that He would cease to judge sin.

After leaving the ark and offering burnt offerings (blood sacrifices), Noah and his sons received a new responsibility. By a directly given commission from God, they were told that "whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made

he man" (Gen. 9:6). This was a charge to maintain peace on earth, by force if necessary. This inauguration of human government upon the earth prepared the way for civil government to rule over the general populace as a barrier against unbridled evil.

With the introduction of human government, man's approach to God had not changed nor was man's conscience in abeyance. In fact, the opposite was true. With the threat of immediate legal reprisal for his evil from a human source, man would be more apt to listen to the voice of his conscience, if not from the heart then at least out of fear of being caught. One dispensation had not ended and another begun, but a new dispensational dimension had been added, a dimension which would continue throughout human history.

Our Response

In times past, as now, a proper response to one's conscience is to acknowledge the truth that man is a sinner. While the degree or extent of willful transgression against our God-given consciences may not be the same, the fact remains that every son and daughter of Adam has willfully done what they knew was wrong. What we know about ourselves is enough to confirm in our own hearts the truth of Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." God simply asks that we acknowledge this fact and put our trust in Christ alone to be redeemed from the awful curse of sin. We are not to offer burnt sacrifices on an altar as in past dispensations, but to trust in Jesus Christ as the final sacrifice for sin whose death was sufficient to save all who come to Him "in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7).

God has revealed Himself →

Rejects God as Creator →

Brings judgment of God

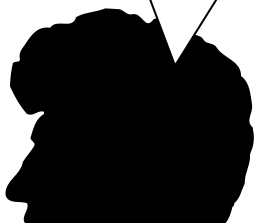
Only in Christ can man be forgiven and renewed

Knowledge of God as Creator (Rom. 1:18-23) basis of man's knowledge of good & evil (Rom. 2:14-16)

Knowledge of God suppressed in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18) results in idolatry and loss of all moral restraint (Rom. 1:24-32)

Get ahead-If it feels good, do it!-Me first-Get even-Who cares-Death is the end

Love-Peace- Spiritual Strength-Kindness- Joy-God's Power-Helpful-Eternal Values



Courses Offered for the Spring 2002 Semester (January 28th-May 23rd)

102 - APOLOGETICS: (Two credit hours) Apologetics is a defense of the origin and absolute reliability of the Bible as a Book uniquely inspired by God. This course offers a comprehensive and systematic survey of the evidences of the truth and authority of the Scriptures. It will help to confirm the students faith and equip him or her to stand against the attacks of humanistic unbelief, to be knowledgeable in order to effectively witness in our high-tech and evolutionary thinking culture, and to maintain a strong and uncompromising

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.

202 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION I: (Two credit hours) This course provides a general overview of the purposes, principles, and practices of Christian education within the local church. This course covers the history of Christian education and the importance of

AN EXPLANATION OF CREDIT course for 64 class

1002 - BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF MARRIED LIFE: This semester, **BBI** is offering a special class on the Biblical principles of marriage. With the institution of marriage under assault because of the increasingly secularist/humanistic worldview that has permeated our society, it is vitally important that those who want a secure marriage understand the Biblical principles of marriage, and how to apply them in their own relationship. The roles and responsibilities of husbands, wives, and couples as well as how to solve the most difficult problems of married life will be covered. Participants are not required to make the normal formal application to take this special class. However, they must sign up by the 23rd of January if they plan to attend. Class size is restricted, so those who are interested are encouraged to sign up for the class as soon as possible. Single people are allowed to attend. Married couples are strongly urged to attend together if at all possible.

~~This past semester at the Berean Bible Institute, I~~
took a class called "Major Prophets 207" with Dr. Bedore as my instructor. I can't stress to you enough how I've been helped from the instruction I have received at **BBI** and the benefits that come from the kind of study that **BBI** asks a student to do. This class was particularly eye opening and encouraging for me as I learned through studying the books of Isaiah

forerunner, and the Messiah's birth, Deity, ministry and message, rejection, suffering, death, burial, resurrection, exaltation, Second Coming, and His millennial and eternal kingdoms. Isaiah's name means "salvation of Jehovah" which in many ways reflected the central theme of his book, as his prophecies and message focus in on the Messiah, who is the Redeemer,

Isaiah's prophecies against Judah struck at the root of the nation's trouble in its apostasy and idolatry, as he sought to bring Judah out of its moral, political, and social corruption. He became very specific and graphic in dealing with Judah's sins, as he confronted them with being guilty of murder, taking advantage of widows and orphans, drunkenness, liars, haters of good, and idolatry (Isa. 1:15; 10:1,2; 28:7,8; 30:8-11; 44:14-17).

Isaiah then proceeds to contrast the foolishness and folly of idolatry with the greatness of the One True Living God, which is why we find all those wonderful

answered as expected live defeated lives of unbelief. They reason that if God does not, or cannot, keep His promises how can we trust His Word on other things. The saddest part in all this confusion is that there is a vast number of "professing Christians" sitting in churches week after week and year after year listening to sermons and teachings from the Bible who simply do not know what the Gospel of Grace is. Lost souls who are striving to "persevere" in the faith that they might somehow find acceptance with God, while Jesus Christ has already done everything that needs to be done, indeed everything that can be done, to make the

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

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Many are confused because they believe that the Bible is true, but are told by "learned" pastors and Bible teachers that the Holy Book is full of error and cannot be trusted as being reliable in all that it says. Others are told by their preachers that the Bible is indeed the infallible Word of God, but that it doesn't really mean what it says. But instead the truth is hidden in its allegorical meaning. And then there is the history of the "date setters," who, claim to have uncovered the secret formula as to how to determine the time of Jesus Christ's return. Without fail, these have left a trail of disillusioned believers in their path. Many who have prayed earnestly and have not had their prayers

the **Berean Bible Institute Inc.**, and is sent free of

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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