

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore



The new home of Berean Bible Institute

116 S. Kettle Moraine Dr.
Slinger, WI 53086

Berean Bible Institute will have a new home when the fall 2003 semester begins. For the last seven years, **BBI** has been housed at the *Berean Bible Society's* headquarters building. This has been a very good arrangement for the **Institute**. In fact, without some place like *BBS* to get started, **BBI** never would have gotten off the ground. Beginning small, with only eight students, the space available at the *BBS*

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LESSON TEN- The Law, Part VI- Mount Sinai

The Mountain of God

After the crossing of the Red Sea, the children of Israel were led by the Lord to the Wilderness of Sinai where they camped before the Mountain of God (also called Mt. Horeb or more commonly Mt. Sinai; see Ex. 3:1,2). Following a journey of two months, the twelve tribes of Israel would camp here for almost a year. Their time at Mt. Sinai would set the course and destiny of the nation that this tribe of slaves was destined to become.

In accordance with His covenant with Abraham, God had brought Abraham's descendants out of their bondage in Egypt (Gen. 15:7-16). As surely as He had delivered them from Egypt, He would one day take them back into the land He had promised to Abraham. But first these people whom God had claimed for Himself would become a unified people. Here at Mt. Sinai God would initiate a covenant with the people through His chosen vessel for this time, place, and circumstance, the man Moses. God was about to do something new that would affect all of mankind forever.

The Covenant Offered

With the children of Israel camped before the mountain, Moses went up to God who spoke to him from the mountain (Ex. 19:1-3). The message God gave to Moses was directed to the house (descendants) of Jacob. God, who in times past spoke to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel), was now speaking to their heirs, who had become a vast multitude of over two million people. A key chapter in God's prophetic program of providing redemption for the nations of earth was taking place.

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Mail Received At Box 40

FROM COLORADO:

"Just to let you know, that I still pray daily for all you dear ones at **BBI**. Your ministry is vitally needed to proclaim the Gospel of God's Grace to a lost world with no or little hope...May the Lord bless, guide, and encourage you as you serve Him." (It is always encouraging when faithful brethren let us know that they are praying for us. Being watchful in prayer is an aspect of grace; Col. 4:2-3, Editor).

FROM MARYLAND:

"I am writing to thank you for sending me your *BBI Bulletin* every quarter, I enjoy the lessons, they are very enlightening. Enclosed is a small gift of the Lord's money, may it be of help in your fine ministry."

FROM CALIFORNIA:

"My wife and I would like to give to help prepare men for the ministry and Christian service. We pray that God will use the school to turn out men eager to serve Him in churches across the country."

FROM NORTH CAROLINA:

"I enjoyed and learned from the article about the plagues of Egypt. Thank you."

FROM PENNSYLVANIA:

"We are enclosing a check for the Bible Institute. We're so thankful you have a school preparing young men to go out as pastors and teachers equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ. Also, please send us the 2 charts. Thanks so much."

FROM INDIA:

"Hearty greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I got the *BBI Bulletin* for one time only. I would like to see the *Bulletin* again. Heartfelt thanks to you one and all for your brotherly guidance that inspires more. Awaiting the *BBI Bulletin*."

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

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements

 **BBI's Award's Ceremony** will be held at **BBI's** new building!
Please join us on Friday, May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. For more information please contact us at: (262) 255-4094

NOTICE!!!!
After June 15th the new mailing address for **BBI** will be:
BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE
PO Box 587
Slinger, WI 53086

The  **MGF Spring Bible Conference**
Dates: May 30-June 1
Location: Bethany, Missouri
Theme: "Christ in You, the Hope of Glory"
Contact:
Dan Heyle (660) 425-6853 or Gene Tucker

Celebrate Grace Camp 
Dates: July 13-18
Location: Sedalia, Colorado
Contact:
Jerry Worthley at: (719) 276-2469

 **Berean Bible Fellowship Conference**
Dates: June 14-19
Location: Cedar Lake, Indiana
Contact:
To make reservations contact the conference center at (219) 374-5941.

 **Rocky Mountain Grace Camp**
Dates: June 30-July 5
Location: Estes Park, Colorado
Contact:
Pastor Jim & Judy Harley at: (920) 829-6021

(RIGHTLY DIVIDING continued from page 1)

Citing the events of the people's exodus (going out) from Egypt and the destruction of Pharaoh's army as evidence of His power, the Living God presents the terms of the covenant to be offered to Israel. His victory over Egypt's false gods and her military might proved Him to be the God who rules over all of creation. Having brought the children of Israel safely out of Egypt and to Mt. Sinai, He had shown Himself to be mighty, able to carry out His promises. They could trust (exercise their faith) in Him to fulfill His promises to them (Ex. 19:3-4).

God's offer to Israel was that if they would obey His voice (word or command) and keep the terms of His covenant, then they would become a special treasure among the nations of the earth. They would become "a kingdom of priests" before God, "a holy nation," pure and undefiled by the world and its pagan practices (see Ex. 19:5,6).

The People's Response

Here is the proposition: God has demonstrated His almighty power and now declares to the children of Israel that, if they would be in complete obedience to Him, He would make them the greatest nation on the earth. When Moses presented the proposal to the people they responded by agreeing to the terms, "And all the people answered together, and said, 'All that the Lord hath spoken we will do.' And Moses returned (repeated) the words of the people unto the Lord" (Ex. 19:7,8).

This New Covenant was based on God's covenant with Abraham but with a new dimension added to it. God had promised Abraham that He would give him the land of Canaan and make him a great nation (Gen. 12:1-4; 13:14-18; 15:1-7). Now He was setting the stage to fulfill His promise through the children of Israel. Israel's response to the conditions of the covenant should have been to call upon God to remember His covenant with Abraham, which was a covenant of unconditional promise.

Like sinful men of all ages, Israel declared that they were able to meet God's demands of holiness by their own efforts. In religious arrogance they declared themselves willing and able to merit God's favor, and thus His blessing, through their own ability to do "all that the Lord hath spoken."

It is the deceitfulness of sin that denies the true condition of the human heart. They should have petitioned the Lord God to extend His mercy and

grace to them instead of requiring obedience in compliance with His commands. But, by insisting that they could, and would, comply with God's holy commands, they revealed the real nature of their hearts. This was confirmed over 800 years later, through the prophet Jeremiah, who proclaimed that "the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). Only a deceitful and lying heart could ever maintain that man could become acceptable to God by his performance of good works and religious rituals. Israel should have thrown themselves on God's mercy and asked for a new heart that would render them capable of being obedient to His commands.

God Speaks from the Mountain

Following the Lord's directions, Moses consecrated (sanctified) the people and instructed them to ceremonially wash their clothes and be ready for the Lord to come down upon Mt. Sinai in their sight in three days. From there He would speak to Moses in the hearing of the people so that they would know without a doubt that he was God's appointed spokesman (see Ex. 19:9-15).



As promised, on the third day the Lord descended upon the mountain with thunderings and lightnings, the sound of a trumpet, and with a thick cloud of smoke like

that of a furnace of fire, as the mountain itself shook and the people trembled in fear (Ex. 19:16 ff).

In the hearing of the Children of Israel, God gave to Moses what are commonly referred to as the Ten Commandments (see Ex. 20:1-17). Briefly stated the commandments given to the new nation of Israel were: **1.** You shall worship no other gods; **2.** You shalt not make or worship any idol; **3.** You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain (do not swear an oath in His name); **4.** You shall not work on the Sabbath day; **5.** You shall honor your father and mother; **6.** You shall not commit murder; **7.** You shall not commit adultery; **8.** You shall not steal; **9.** You shall not bear false witness (lie about others); **10.** You shall not covet (lust after or envy) that which belongs to another. Later these commandments were written on tablets of stone. The Ten Commandments are the moral base on which the rest of the Mosaic

Law (the Law given to and through Moses) would stand. Along with the Ten Commandments were some six hundred laws, which spelled out every aspect of Israel's social, civil, and religious life. The ordinances pertaining to the priesthood, the Tabernacle, and the sacrificial system were all part of the Mosaic Law, as were the statutes governing the treatment of servants, penalties for violent acts, responsibilities of ownership, restitution, relationships, and judgments. These laws are found in Exodus chapters 21-31, and in the Book of Leviticus which gives specific instructions on the ordinances of ritual worship.

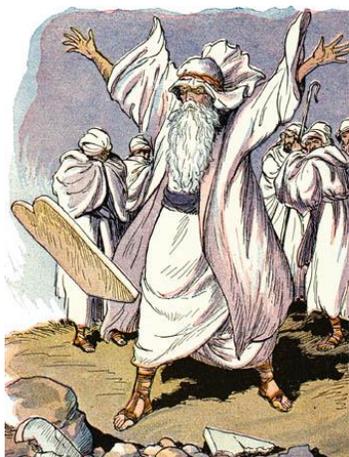
Why The Law?

The Law was never meant to replace faith as the means of finding favor with God. It was given: **1.** To provide a permanent written moral standard to govern conduct; **2.** To expose and identify sin for what it is; **3.** To reveal the holiness of God.

The Law was a schoolmaster that pointed to Christ, revealing man's need of a Savior because of his unrighteous and sinful condition. The symbolism of the sacrifices, priesthood, and the Tabernacle were fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:19-25).

It Was Added

Because fallen man's conscience has been perverted by his sinful nature, he denies the reality of sin or rationalizes it away with excuses, logic, and humanistic religion. With the nations having become hardened to the Law of Conscience, which is written in their hearts (see Rom. 2:14-16), God was now giving His special people a Law written in stone. The Law would reveal sin, but it was never meant to replace or cancel out God's covenant with



Abraham. The Apostle Paul asks the question: "What purpose then does the law serve?" and then he answers this important question by saying: "It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made" (Gal. 3:19). Of course the Seed which was to come was Jesus Christ who completely fulfilled the righteous demands of the Law. In Christ Jesus the curse of the Law, which is sin, is taken away.

Israel's Failure

Israel accepted the Covenant of the Law with a wrong attitude and motive. They did not accept it by faith, believing that God would enable them to keep it, but determined to keep it by their own strength. Being unable to keep the Law by the works of the flesh, the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant were withheld and the curse of the Law inflicted. (Note that they didn't even keep the Law until Moses came down from the mountain with the tablets of stone; Ex. 31:18-32,35).

Today

Israel's rejection of Jesus Christ as her promised Messiah has caused God to set that nation and His prophetic program aside temporarily. Through her unbelief, Israel temporarily lost her favored position among the nations and was left without Christ, without God, and without hope. But, with the setting aside of Israel, God ushered in the Dispensation of Grace, which He uniquely revealed to and through the Apostle Paul. The hope of salvation is now offered to Jew and Gentile alike on the basis of pure grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The righteousness of God is obtained by faith apart from the Mosaic Law or any other system of works (see Rom. 3:19-26; 10:9-13; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7).

Because Christ has satisfied the demands of the Law, even becoming a once-for-all final sacrifice for the sins of all mankind, all who have trusted in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior can say with the Apostle Paul "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live to God. I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 3:19-20).

The Future

The current Dispensation of Grace will one day come to an end, marking the reinstatement of the prophetic program and Christ's return to earth to rule and reign. God has promised to replace the Mosaic Covenant with a New Covenant; "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant they brake, although I was as husband unto them, saith the

Lord" (Jer. 31:31-32). It is important that we take note that this New Covenant was promised to the **House of Israel** and to the **House of Judah** who represent the twelve tribes of Israel and not the Church, the Body of Christ, of the Dispensation of Grace. (Important note: after King Solomon died the nation was divided into two nations respectively called Israel and Judah. See I Kin. 12:1-24; II Chron. 10:1-11:4). It is important to understand that the promise of the New Covenant through Jeremiah was prophetic in nature, and was directed to the twelve tribes of the Children of Israel. The New Covenant will replace the Mosaic Covenant given at Mt. Sinai, which has become old and out of date (Heb. 8:13).

The Difference

Like the Old Covenant, the terms of this New Covenant has to do with keeping God's Law. But, in the future Kingdom of Christ on earth, Israel will be divinely empowered to obey it. *"But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days come, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God and they shall be my people"* (Jer. 31:33). The term *"after those days"* refers to the Tribulation period or *"the time of Jacob's trouble"* (Jer. 30:7), which will be followed by Christ's Millennial reign on earth. God's Word clearly states that this specific promise uniquely made to Israel will be fulfilled (Jer. 31:35-37; cf. Jer. 33:23-26). As long as the sun comes up in the east and goes down in the west each day, we can be assured that God's covenant with Abraham and His people, Israel, will one day come to pass exactly as prophesied by the prophets of old.

Our Hope

When the Dispensation of Grace that is now in effect comes to a close, the Body of Christ will be *"raptured"* (caught up) out of the world (I Cor. 15:51,52; I Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20,21; Col. 3:1-4). Then God's prophetic program will be put back in force and He will once again deal in a unique way with the nation of Israel. But, until that time all who come to Jesus Christ by simple faith are redeemed by His blood and, without national distinction, are placed into the Body of Christ where *"there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus"* (Gal. 3:28).

PRACTICAL SANCTIFICATION

By Andy Kern

Everyone who has placed his faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for salvation has been given a set-apart position in Christ. This position means that the believer is always viewed by God as being holy and righteous in Christ since he is seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). With that in mind, the Christian is exhorted to live up to this calling by walking in a manner worthy of his holy position (Eph. 4:1). Beginning with salvation, practical sanctification is the ongoing process of pressing *"toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 3:14) that lasts throughout the believer's life. We will never fully arrive until we are with the Lord in glory. In this Dispensation of Grace, saints do not continue this drive for holiness by trying to keep laws out of fear, but by being motivated by the love of Christ, which is the source of all our blessings. What the believer needs to remember is that practical sanctification is obtained by the same means as positional sanctification; it is by faith in God's Word.

God's will is for Christians to be *"conformed to the image of His Son"* (Rom. 8:28). How do we do that? A wise man named Solomon once penned the following words *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:"* (Prov. 23:7). This verse gives an important principle. A person is what he thinks because action follows thought. If we want to be in the will of God and be conformed to the image of Christ, we must begin to have a different way of thinking than that of worldly men. *"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind"* (Rom. 12:1-2) is the exhortation to us from the Apostle Paul. A transformed mind results in a Christ-like Christian. Now we need to back up a step. How do we transform our minds? Thinking is based on knowledge. The brain can only work with what it has stored inside. Therefore, if we want to think right, we must have the right knowledge. Paul said to *"let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly"* (Col. 3:16). The Word of God is where we find the word of Christ, which is the truth. Only by filling our minds with God's Word through diligent study will we begin to think as Christ.

(continued on page 6)

(PRACTICAL SANCTIFICATION continued from page 5)

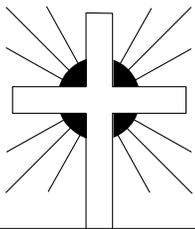
Where does faith fit in the picture? The Word of God doesn't do much for the believer if he has no faith in it. The Holy Spirit indwells every Christian and is seeking to fill the believer with the power to live well pleasing to God, but he will not do so if he is not trusting in God's Word. True faith produces action because we do what we believe. For example, if I believe that I need to study the Word of God to live the Christian life, then I will study. If I think I can do it without studying the Word, then I will not study it, which is never good. When we do not trust the Lord, we are in a stagnant state because God will do nothing in us apart from our faith in Him.

To conclude, let us review the steps of practical sanctification in the order that they happen. First, we must trust God and study His Word by faith. As we do this, we fill our minds with the knowledge of the truth. Next, by having this knowledge, we can think based on the Word of God. Finally, from having the "mind of Christ" (Phil. 2:5), which is thinking from the Word of God, we will be conformed to the image of Christ and walk in a way worthy of our position in Him. Practical sanctification is all about being like the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pursue this high calling!

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

—(Col. 1:9-10)

Andy is from Springville, Indiana. He moved to Wisconsin in 2001 to attend BBI, where he is now a second year student.



The Resurrection is God's "Amen!" to Christ's statement "It is Finished."

COURSES FOR THE FALL 2003 SEMESTER

(August 25th-December 19th)

BLOCK ONE CLASSES

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

BLOCK TWO CLASSES

201 - Pastoral Ministry I	(2 hrs)
203 - Bible Exposition III	(4 hrs)
205 - Practical Dispensational Theology I	(2 hrs)
207 - The Major Prophets	(2 hrs)
209 - Homiletics I	(2 hrs)
211 - Bible Counseling	(2 hrs)
213 - Manners & Customs of the Bible	(1 hr)

Total 15 hrs

Redeeming the Time

"If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,400, that carried over no balance from day to day, and allowed you to keep no cash in your account, and every evening canceled whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day, what would you do? Draw out every cent of course! Well, you do have such a bank, and its name is 'time.' Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. If you fail to use the day's deposits the loss is yours."

-Anonymous

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15,16).

(*THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1*)

building was adequate at first. But, the school has grown over the years to the point that we have become overcrowded. Because of this, we began praying and looking for a suitable property two years ago. But, either the price, location, or condition of the buildings we considered were problematic. However, in February I became aware of a church building for sale in Slinger, Wisconsin. The congregation had built a new church and moved into it in December. The location of their old church was good for us, being only a few miles from where we are now. The size was right as it had about 7,500 square feet of floor space. And, being advertised at just under \$200,000, the price was right. However, because it was priced so low, I wondered about its condition. Would it be in such bad repair that restoring it would be extremely expensive? Would its floor plan be adaptable to the needs of **BBI**? Well, upon touring the building, I was pleasantly surprised. I found it to be an older stone building that has been well maintained, and it needed very little remodeling to adapt it for our use. In addition, it has a parking lot with forty-three parking spaces.

After seeing the building, the **BBI** Board of Directors met on the evening of March 14th and unanimously decided to extend an offer of purchase to its owners. Our offer of \$177,500 was accepted. Because the building fund has grown over the last two years, we were able to put down a substantial down payment. This means that the mortgage is only \$92,500. That is a substantial sum, but it is far less than what was anticipated. The estimated cost of purchasing land and putting up a new building of comparable size is over \$500,000. Existing buildings that we have looked at were either priced over \$400,000 or were in such bad shape that the cost of repairs and remodeling would have been very high. This means that we are getting a lot of value for the money with this property. For this we thank and praise our Lord.

The purchase of this building is an important step for the ministry of **Berean Bible Institute**. In fact, it is a step that has to be taken in order for **BBI** to continue to grow. We trust that in taking this step of faith we will have greater opportunities to train faithful men for the work of ministering the Gospel of the Grace of God. Men who will gladly

receive the Grace Message and, in turn, pass it on to those who will follow them. By training those who will be the leaders of the future, **BBI** is having a positive impact on the Grace Movement.



The southwest side of the building as viewed from the rear.

The mortgage on **BBI's** new home is relatively low by today's standards. In fact, in the current economy, the mortgage on many homes is more. Nevertheless, we feel that it would be prudent to retire the debt as soon as possible. To this end, I would like to ask you to consider giving a special gift to the **BBI** Building Fund. Your help in paying for this building would be greatly appreciated. I do not know of any better investment that anyone can make than an investment in the Lord's work. This is especially true of investing in the training of those who will be guardians of the truth in the years to come.

100% of all gifts designated to the **BBI** Building Fund will be used for that purpose. If you want your gift so designated, simply include a note with it that says "building fund." And please, remember to keep the ministry of **Berean Bible Institute** in your prayers.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Because Christ Lives,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

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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