

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

The remodeling of **BBI's** new building is going very well. Although we have experienced some delays, we will be ready to hold classes here by the time the new school year starts on the 25th of August. We thank God for all that has been accomplished this summer. Without the helping hands of those who have given of their time and effort towards getting the work done, it would have been impossible to have our classrooms and offices ready to go by the beginning of school. It is always amazing to see God work through His people. We praise Him for His faithfulness.

Of course, now that we are in our own building we are faced with the new responsibilities of regular monthly payments and the general upkeep and maintenance associated with owning real estate. We trust that the Lord will provide for our increased financial needs.

Looking to the future, we realize that there are serious challenges ahead for the Body of Christ. We are living in a time when sound Bible doctrine is being given less and less priority within the professing church. Of particular significance is that Dispensationalism in general is being abandoned as

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RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

LESSON ELEVEN - The Lord Jesus Christ- Part I

Israel's Promised King

From the book of Exodus through the book of Nehemiah, we find the history of the nation of Israel and God's dealings with that nation. The remainder of the Old Testament books (with the exception of Job who was a contemporary of Abraham) were all written sometime during this historic period. For example, Isaiah lived and prophesied during the period covered by II Chronicles chapters 26-33 and II Kings chapters 14-21. His ministry lasted about sixty years under the reign of four, and possibly five, kings of Judah; Uzziah (also known as Azariah), Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and possibly Manasseh, who, tradition says, put him to death. Daniel's prophetic ministry stretched from the fall of Judah to Babylon until the time of Ezra. He and Ezekiel both carried out their ministries during the time of Judah's exile in Babylon. Jeremiah prophesied just before the captivity while Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi all lived after the return to Judah by God's people, Israel.

During the period of history from Joshua through the Judges, Israel did not have a king to rule over them as the other nations did. Their king was to be God Himself.

The Rebellion

During the period of the Judges, the children of Israel rode a roller-coaster of rebellion against God and repentance. The revivals came when God put pressure on the people by allowing their Gentile neighbors to oppress them. Time and time again they cried out to God for deliverance and He

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Mail Received At Box 587

FROM COLORADO:

"It is exciting that you are now in your own building and that that **Berean Bible Institute** is continuing to grow...Your school is needed if the Grace Movement is going to move forward."

FROM CALIFORNIA:

"I was so glad to hear that you found a location that is suitable for your needs. Thanks again for sending your quarterly newsletters. I learn so much from them."

FROM FLORIDA:

"I am rejoicing with you! Enclosed is for the new school. May it continue to grow."

FROM ILLINOIS:

"Praise the Lord for making it possible to get that building to be used for His service. May His continued blessings be with all of you as you serve Him."

FROM INDIANA:

"I am so happy that you are training men to become pastors of the Grace message. We need more Grace pastors throughout the entire country!"

FROM WISCONSIN:

"I thank you for sending the *BBI Bulletin*. I am glad to hear about the new home of **BBI** and for the Lord's leading in this event. I am thankful for the Word of God, rightly divided."

FROM MISSOURI:

"Thanks for everything you do in rightly dividing the Word and in establishing new pastors for the Lord's work. It is comforting to know the Lord is still in control."

FROM OHIO:

"Congratulations on a new home for **BBI**. That was indeed good news. Enclosed is a check to help reduce your mortgage debt. God bless all of you as you continue to train pastors who will preach God's Word rightly divided."

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

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements

 The new phone number for the **BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE** is (262) 644-5504.



Fall semester  begins August 25th, 2003.

For more information please contact **BBI**.

 God has provided much for **BBI**.  The student body has grown, both in numbers and in their studies. We are thankful for all who had a part in the ministry of **BBI**, in training pastors, teachers, and missionaries. It is our privilege to announce that on August 25th **BBI's** new building will be open for classes. The annual Awards Ceremony was held in the chapel area of the new building. Several students were awarded certificates for completing both one and two year programs. **Berean Bible Institute** greatly appreciates the years that *Berean Bible Society* has generously shared their facilities with **BBI**. The students, faculty and staff of **BBI** look forward to what the Lord has in store for them as they serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE's new mailing address is:  

PO Box 587
Slinger, WI 53086

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Our new street address is:
116 S. Kettle Moraine Dr.
Slinger, WI 53086

(RIGHTLY DIVIDING continued from page 1)

answered by raising up a man for the hour to lead His people in victory over their oppressors. After almost 400 years of the Judges period, the people demanded that Samuel, who was the last judge of Israel, give them a king. This was, in reality, a rejection of God as the One who would rule over them (see I Sam. 8:1-9). In spite of Samuel's God-given warnings about the consequences of having a king as the other nations had, "The people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles" (see I Sam. 8:10-20). The Lord gave Israel her king, as she insisted, and she suffered the inevitable consequences.

The history of God's chosen people is a story of a rebellious nation that consistently turned to the idolatrous practices of her pagan neighbors.

The Kingdom in Turmoil

Saul was anointed as the first king of Israel, but he was soon rejected by God because of his disobedience (I Sam. 9-15). David was named by God as Saul's successor, but it would be several

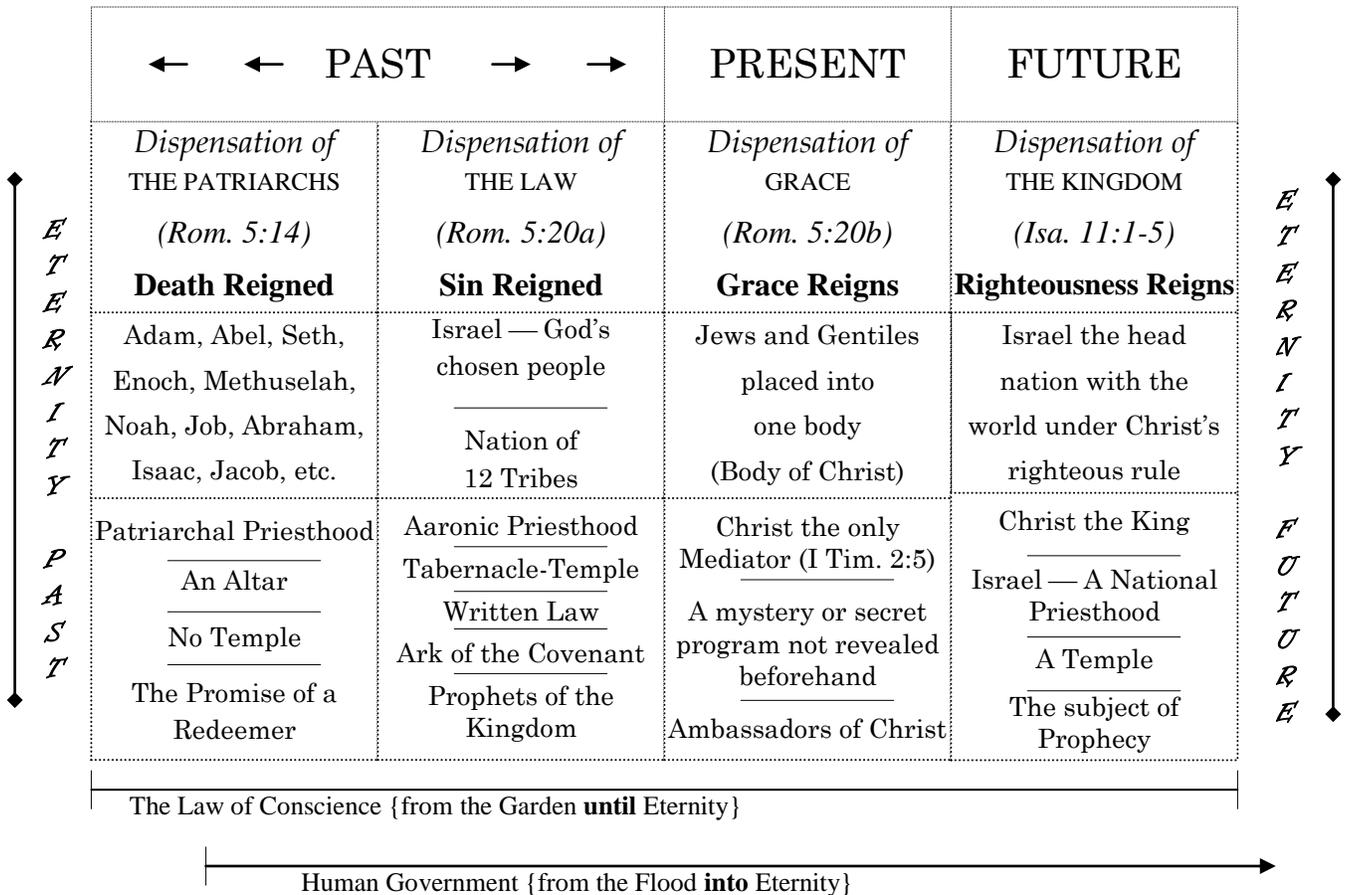
years before he would actually take the throne (I Sam. 16- II Sam. 5). David's reign was one of war and moral failure. It was marked not only by David's sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah (II Sam. 11-12), but also by forced incest between his children which led to the murder of one of his sons by another son to avenge their sister (II Sam. 13). In addition, an attempted coup by his son Absalom nearly cost David his throne and his life. Absalom, who had murdered his half-brother and was a favorite son of David, died in the revolt bringing more grief to David's heart.

David's son Solomon had a long and peaceful reign. However, contrary to God's will, he took for himself hundreds of foreign wives and concubines and allowed them to bring the worship of their false pagan even into Jerusalem itself (see I Kin. 11:1-8).

A Divided Land

Under Solomon's son, Rehoboam, the nation divided, with ten tribes in the North who would keep the name Israel and two tribes in the South which made up the nation of Judah.

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It was so named because Judah was the predominant southern tribe as well as being the tribe that the royal blood line of David came from.

Eventually the northern tribes would go into captivity under the Assyrians as a judgment from God for their continuous idolatry (II Kin. 17:1-23). Judah suffered the same fate some 150 years later under the Babylonians (see II Kings 23:26,27; 24:17-20; II Chron. 36:11-21).

Warning and Promise

Throughout the nation's troubled history, God had raised up prophets to warn the people and call them to repentance. Prophet after prophet boldly proclaimed that God would one day take their nation from them if they persisted in following the pagan ways of the heathen. Their message was one of judgment that was finally carried out. From the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon until this day, Israel has not had a king from the line of David to sit on the throne in Jerusalem. The Kingdom has never been restored. Also, more Jews have lived outside of the land of Israel than in it since then. This is significant because, along with the gloomy predictions of judgment, doom, and destruction to rebellious Israel and Judah, the prophets also presented a picture of hope. They consistently foretold of a time when the Kingdom would be restored and a Righteous King would rule over all of the twelve tribes as one nation again. From this brief sketch of Israel's history, we see that they looked forward to a time when the Lord would deliver them from foreign oppression and set up an everlasting Kingdom over which He Himself would preside. Their hope was in the Messiah, God's Anointed. He would be the King from the line of David.

Prophetic Utterances

Following are a selected few of the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah and His identity as David's Greater Son. David's house, kingdom, and throne will be established forever (II Sam. 7:12-17); God's Anointed will crush the nations and rule over them (Ps. 2); Christ's sufferings on the cross (Ps. 22:1-18); all the earth will one day obey and praise the Lord (Ps. 22:27,28; 67); it will be a Kingdom of righteousness and the whole earth will be filled with God's glory (Ps. 72); even while under judgment Israel can have assurance that God will keep His word concerning His covenant with them (Ps. 89:30-37); there will at last be peace on earth (Isa. 2:1-4); it will be a time of righteous rule with a change in the earth and the animals that inhabit it (Isa. 11:1-10); Jerusalem (Zion) will be the center of worship and

the site of the throne of Messiah when Israel and Judah are regathered and reunited in the Promised Land (Jer. 23:1-8); there will be a New Covenant with Israel and Judah (Jer. 31:31-34); the promises to Israel are irrevocable and as sure to come to pass as the sun is to come up every morning (Jer. 31:35-37; 33:14-22); the Deliverer will come during a time of the Great Tribulation (Jer. 4:9); it will be an everlasting Kingdom (Dan. 2:44); the Messiah (Christ) will fight against the nations on Israel's behalf and His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:1-4).

This is only a small sample of prophecies concerning the Kingdom, which is the major theme of Israel's prophets. The future restoration of the Kingdom of Israel with Messiah on David's throne is as sure as night and day.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

The book of Malachi closed the Old Testament, and for over 400 years God was silent. But, at the circumcision of the infant who would become John the Baptist, we find his father, Zacharias, prophesying that John was come to proclaim the coming of the Messiah, who had been promised to the fathers (Lk. 1:67-80). When Mary and Joseph brought the young Jesus to the Temple to dedicate Him to the Lord, we find Simeon, by the power of the Holy Spirit, declaring that this Child was in truth the salvation of Israel (Lk. 2:25-35). Indeed this was what Simeon was looking for (see v. 25). The "*consolation of Israel*" refers to Him who would provide comfort and encouragement to suffering Israel. The long awaited Deliverer had come. The prophetess Anna also recognized this Child as the Redeemer for whom God's people, Israel, looked and waited. Yes, the prophesied Messiah, the Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of Israel, the Anointed One, God's Elect, the Righteous King was born. But the longed for restoration of the Kingdom and Messiah's reign of righteousness would not be immediate. It would be thirty years before the King would be presented to the nation as a whole.

A Kingdom on Hold

The Child, Jesus Christ, looked forward to the cross, where He would one day die as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all mankind and His resurrection to be the King of kings. However, after His resurrection from the dead, Israel, as a nation, rejected Him as their King. With the stoning of Stephen, because of his condemning message against the nation (Acts 7:1-60), Israel was set aside in unbelief

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COURSES FOR THE FALL 2003 SEMESTER AT BBI

(August 25th-December 18th)

All classes are held at BBI. No correspondence courses are available at this time.

101 - DISPENSATIONAL SURVEY: *(Two credit hours)* The Bible must be rightly divided (II Tim. 2:15), therefore, we are committed to studying it dispensationally. Although God's essential nature does not change, His dispensations toward man do change. This course gives an overview of the Bible from a dispensational point of view. It lays the groundwork for a lifetime of effective personal Bible study.

103 - BIBLE EXPOSITION I: *(Four credit hours)* This systematic expositional survey is divided into six courses that take the student through the Bible in three years (the books of Daniel, Acts, Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Revelation, the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets are also offered in separate study courses). Each book will be studied in its dispensational setting as part of all Scripture, (II Tim. 3:16). This course begins with an in-depth study of the foundational book of Genesis and then moves on for a book by book study of Exodus through Deuteronomy. It provides the student with an understanding of the outworking of God's plan in reference to the Creation, the Flood, the nations, the special purpose of His chosen people, Israel, the Exodus from Egypt, the Tabernacle, the Priesthood, and their dispensational importance.

105 - BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINES I: *(Two credit hours)* A concise study of the important major doctrines of Scripture from a dispensational point of view. This course covers the introduction to Bible doctrines; the Bible, the Godhead, the Person of Christ, the Depravity of Man, Salvation, the Security of the Believer, the Holy Spirit, and the Church.

107 - PERSONAL EVANGELISM & FOLLOW UP: *(Two credit hours)* The student will learn first hand how to lead both adults and children to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Procedures for one-on-one witnessing, door-to-door evangelism, and evangelistic meetings will be taught. This is one of the most important classes an individual can take. In addition, how to follow up on a new believer in order to help them become established in the faith and begin walking in the spirit is taught.

109 - DISPENSATIONAL HERMENEUTICS: *(Two credit hours)* The study of how to correctly interpret the Bible from a literal and dispensational view. The sound and practical methods of personal Bible study which are essential to a proper understanding of the Scriptures will be examined and applied. This is an important course for those who want to be serious students of God's Word.

111 - STUDY SKILLS/PERSONAL FINANCE: *(One credit hour)* The first eight weeks of the semester are devoted to helping the student develop good study skills and habits, enabling them to obtain the most from their studies. This is especially important for those who have not experienced formal education beyond the high school level. The second eight weeks deal with personal finance to help individuals wisely manage their personal finances following Biblical principles. A practical course that teaches people how to get out of debt and stay out of debt.

113 - ENGLISH: *(One credit hour)* To be successful students or teachers, individuals must have the ability to communicate effectively. This course is provided to help students to improve their speech and writing skills. This is a specially programmed course designed to make learning of English grammar a positive experience.

115 - PUBLIC SPEAKING: *(One credit hour)* The ability to communicate effectively is important in all areas of life. The goal of this course is the development of basic oral communication skills to give the student confidence in extemporaneous speaking, giving their testimony, presenting a devotional message, etc. Training in public speaking is an immediate step in preparing for the work of the ministry.

201 - PASTORAL MINISTRY I - *(Two credit hours)* This course focuses on the local church as God's primary ministry in this dispensation of Grace. Paul's letters, particularly to Timothy and Titus, provide the principles for Pastoral Ministry. Covered is the training of elders, church growth, and the pastoral job description, along with an examination of contemporary issues from a Biblical perspective.

203 - BIBLE EXPOSITION III- *(Four credit hours)* This study is of the history of Israel and covers the captivity and return from Babylon to rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem, the intertestimonial years, and the time of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry. Emphasis is given to the centrality of the Person and ministry of Jesus Christ to Israel's Messianic hope of a restored Kingdom on earth.

205 - PRACTICAL DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY - *(Two credit hours)* Theology is the study of God. Systematic Theology is the ordered study of the great doctrines of God's Word, the Bible. Dispensational Theology is the systematic in-depth study of the great doctrines of Scripture according to the Biblical principle of right division. Dispensational Theology 205 covers the introduction to Dispensational Theology; Bibliology (revelation, inspiration, authority, and the dispensational character of the Bible); Theology Proper (the existence of God, the nature of God, the eternal purpose of God, and the works of God).

207 - THE MAJOR PROPHETS - *(Two credit hours)* This course focuses on the ministry, message, and person of each of the major writing prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel). This study looks at the significance of each prophet's time and place in Israel's history, their relationship to the false prophets of the day, the dispensational importance of their messianic prophecies, and the character of each prophet.

209 - HOMILETICS I - *(Two credit hours)* Covers the introduction of the basic purpose, principles, and the importance of preaching from the Bible. The student is presented with the need for personal Bible study and with an emphasis on relying on the power of God and His Word in preaching. This class focuses on the necessity of the preacher preparing himself before preparing the message.

211 - BIBLE COUNSELING - *(Two credit hours)* This course presents the Bible as sufficient for providing answers for all of man's personal problems in every area of life and as such shows how it is to be used in dealing with one's own personal problems or in counseling others who are in need. Bible Counseling is shown to be the Christ-centered and Holy Spirit empowered practical application of Biblical truth to an individual's life with the goal of spiritual maturity and fruitfulness toward God. In particular, the doctrines and problems associated with immorality, drug and alcohol abuse, marriage, divorce, and remarriage will be thoroughly dealt with.

213 - MANNERS & CUSTOMS OF THE BIBLE - *(One credit hour)* This course studies the manners and customs of the people of the Bible during the time of Christ and the apostles. This background information helps to bridge the culture gap that exists between then and now in order to help the student accurately interpret the Bible.

1001 - BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY LIFE: *(Two credit hours)* This semester **BBI** is offering a special class on understanding and applying the Biblical principles of personal relationships within the family. With the moral fabric of our nation already badly eroded by the persistent flow of humanistic thought into the mainstream of our culture, the traditional views of the family and moral ethics are quickly fading away. This course is designed for those who are sincerely interested in learning how to protect their families from the destructiveness of worldly philosophies through the application of the Biblical principles of parenting and other family issues. Participants are not required to make the normal formal application to attend this special class. However, since class size is restricted, those desiring to attend should sign up as soon as possible. Single people are allowed to attend. Married couples must attend classes together. For more information call **BBI**.

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the basis for a proper understanding of the Holy Scriptures. On the one hand, many influential Christian leaders are increasingly embracing either Postmillennialism or Amillennialism as their doctrinal position, which has resulted in dispensationalism being rejected by many sincere believers today. On the other, there is a large segment within the professing church that has shunned even the basics of Bible doctrine in favor of entertainment-centered worship that replaces true spirituality with emotionalism. Adding to the confusion is the recent surge in popularity on the theological front of "Preterism" (that all Bible prophecy was completely fulfilled in A.D. 70) and the "Openness of God" (that God's knowledge is limited).

The result of all of this is a theological swampland. We might say that "Christendom" is caught in the quicksand of error that is pulling it down into a new Dark Age. The real tragedy of all this is that the more confused the theological landscape becomes, the more the truth of the Gospel of the Grace of God is obscured. It is important that we who know and love the Grace Message, "the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery," stand strong in God's grace in times like these. The only way that the glorious Gospel of Christ will be made known to the world is if we who know it boldly proclaim it. My prayer is that the Lord will raise up a multitude of faithful men who will go out in His power to make Jesus Christ known to a world that is in desperate need of the good news that is found only in Him. Will you join me in praying for the salvation of the lost, for believers' eyes to be opened to the truth of God's Grace, and for those that He has called to preach the life-changing message of God's Grace in Christ Jesus our Lord? I sincerely hope that you will.

Because Christ Lives,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

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According to the prophetic scenario, the revealing of the Antichrist, the beginning of the Tribulation period, and the return of Christ to set up His Kingdom on earth should have taken place. But, instead, God set in motion a never before revealed program. He had kept it a secret (mystery) until this crucial point in history. Instead of God's wrath being poured out in the Tribulation, He offered Grace to a world of lost sinners. Israel, set aside in unbelief, is now counted with the Gentiles (nations). Her place of special privilege and calling have been temporarily revoked. One day the prophetic program, which focuses on Christ's return as Israel's Messiah and King of kings, will resume operation. But, until that time, salvation and a heavenly hope is being offered to whosoever will receive it through faith in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins. All the world has been declared guilty before God (Rom. 3:9,10,23). We live today in an evil age (Gal. 1:4), which God calls the **Dispensation of the Grace of God**. Man is evil, God is gracious.

Setting Israel aside, God raised up the Apostle Paul, to whom He revealed His secret (mystery) program of Grace and sent him to the Gentiles (nations) to proclaim the wonderful message of redemption through Christ Jesus (Acts 26:14-18; Rom. 16:25; Gal. 1:10-12; Eph. 3:1-9).

Today we are not to live by the Old Testament Law of Moses, nor are we to look for a Kingdom here on earth, as Israel did. Nor are we to claim Israel's promises of health, wealth, and prosperity. We are to simply trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior and to look for "the Blessed Hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13) while serving Him (I Thess. 1:9-10). 

(While the quote below was meant as a criticism of Dispensationalism, we take it as a compliment. Scripture, and Scripture alone is our foundation of truth!—Editor)

—*Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth*, John Gerstner

CRITICISM OF DISPENSATIONALISM

"Methodism has it's Personalism, Old Princeton its Realism, and Roman Catholicism its Thomism, but it would seem that Dispensationalism has no philosophy of its own. Indeed, Dispensationalism is almost anti-philosophical in that it tends to de-emphasize philosophy. It has always been sympathetic to apologetics...but it has not been inclined to philosophize beyond the immediate needs for Biblical verification, and it is almost impatient in its desire to get to Holy Scriptures."

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.

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE

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