

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

The issue of doctrinal integrity should be a primary concern for every Bible school. This has always been true, but there is an urgency today that simply must not be ignored. We are living in what has been called the "post-modern era." It is an age that has an antipathy towards truth. For many today truth is a relative thing that is determined by what each individual decides to believe. In link with this kind of thinking, the colleges and universities of our land operate under the principle of "academic freedom." This means that their professors and instructors are free to teach whatever they please without interference or restrictions. This should never be the case in any Bible school, but sadly it has crept into many Christian institutions.

Those who would stand true to the truths of the Bible must have set parameters that cannot be transgressed. Boundaries that are established from the Word of God. Doctrinal statements are intended to guard the faith against error entering in through false teaching. A doctrinal statement is not authoritative as Scripture is, but are articles of faith that have been developed for the purpose of marking out

(continued on page 7)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Institute Update	pg. 1
Following Paul (Part 1)	pg. 1
Mail Received at Box 587	pg. 2
The Bulletin Board	pg. 2
Courses Offered for the Spring Semester	pg. 5
Illumination	pg. 5
Thou Art My Victory	pg. 7
BBI Graduation	pg. 7

FOLLOWING PAUL- Part I

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

ARE WE TO EXALT PAUL? (Romans 11:13)

Of course we are not to exalt the Apostle Paul or any of the other apostles found in the Bible. Jesus Christ alone is to be exalted as the Lord of Glory, the King of kings, Lord of lords, and the glorified Head of the Church, which is His Body.

On the other hand, we should pay special attention to that which the Lord has placed special emphasis on. Paul's declaration that "I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am the apostle of the gentiles; I magnify mine office (ministry)" (Rom. 11:13) is inspired by God and preserved for us in the Bible as part of God's special revelation to mankind. As such, it holds as much authority as any other portion of the Holy Scriptures. When we compare this with Paul's statement that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself gave him the Gospel message he preached by special revelation (Gal. 1:11-12), our interest in what Christ has to say to us through Paul should be intensified. James, Peter, and John limited their ministry to the Jews when they came to understand the "grace given to Paul" (Gal. 2:6-9). Consequently, they honored his special apostleship, message, and ministry to the Gentiles.

In Ephesians 3:1-7, it is stated that the Dispensation of the Grace of God was given to Paul through the revealing of a mystery, or secret, that was not known by man before (see Rom. 16:25). If God has seen fit to magnify Paul's ministry of Grace, dare we ignore it? I think not.

In "rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (II Tim. 2:15), it is imperative to acknowledge the distinctive revelation given to the Apostle Paul concerning the Grace of God and the Body of Christ.

(continued on page 3)



Mail Received
at
Box 587

FROM WISCONSIN:

"I would like to thank you and the school for the excellent job you are doing preparing young men and women for God's service. There is nothing more important than filling the pulpits and getting the Grace message out. I would like the school to accept my gift of \$..... to help pay off the mortgage of your new building and for the continuation of the fine work you are doing. I will continue to pray for the school and for the men and women who come there."

FROM CALIFORNIA:

"Congratulations on holding forth the Gospel of the Grace of God, eight years in training men so thoroughly, there is none quite like **BBI**. Keep pressing on!"

FROM MICHIGAN:

"Dear ones at **BBI**, just a note to say I very much appreciate the work of your school, in preparing men to preach the Gospel of the Grace of God. I must confess that in this world we are in I often lose sight of His wonderful purpose in Christ Jesus. Thanks for reminding me of His love and forgiveness. I appreciated the last *BBI Bulletin* very much."

FROM ILLINOIS:

"Dear friends, I'm so happy you have students willing and able to spread the Gospel. I pray our loving Father will bless your ministry greatly."

FROM GEORGIA:

"I look forward to reading your literature that you send to me every so often. I have learned much from the lessons contained in each *BBI Bulletin*. May God bless each and every one of you for all your hard work."

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

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements

Midwest Grace Fellowship Spring Conference

Location: Bethany, MO
Dates: June 4-6, 2004
Contact: Dan Heyle at: (660) 425-6853 or Gene Tucker at: (816) 741-7835.

The fall semester for Berean Bible Institute begins August 23rd!! Have you sent in your application?

Berean Bible Fellowship Conference

Location: Cedar Lake, IN
Dates: June 19-24, 2004
To make reservations contact the conference center at: (219) 374-5941.

Rocky Mountain Grace Camp

Location: Estes Park, CO
Dates: June 28-July 3, 2004
Contact: Pastor Jim or Judy Harley at (920) 829-6021 or e-mail at: <rockymountaingracecamp@juno.com>

Grace Believers Bible Conference

Location: Bitely, MI
Dates: July 30-August 1, 2004
Contact: Pastor Ken Lyon at: (231) 745-9595.

(FOLLOWING PAUL *continued from page 1*)

It is in Paul's letters that we find the details of the hope, practice, position, and doctrine of the Church. Those who understand and love the wonderful message of the Dispensation of the Grace of God as revealed through the Apostle Paul take seriously his admonition to "be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (I Cor. 11:1).

WHAT DID PAUL MEAN, FOLLOW ME?

Obviously Paul was not trying to draw believers away from following the Lord Jesus Christ. The last part of I Corinthians 11:1 says "even as I am of Christ." The idea put forth is that believers are to note Paul's example and to do likewise.

The doctrine concerning the Body of Christ that is found in Paul's letters is vital to understanding what God is doing today. Salvation by grace through faith, the believer's heavenly calling, justification, sanctification, and the blessed hope are just a few of the subjects that are dealt with in Paul's letters. These wonderful truths alone are enough to bring untold joy to the heart of every believer.

Most who consider themselves to be "grace believers" claim to be followers of Paul. That is, they embrace his letters as God's revealed truth concerning the Body of Christ, and the Dispensation of the Grace of God that is in effect today. In other words they follow Paul in doctrine.

IS DOCTRINE ENOUGH?

The Scriptures make it abundantly clear that Paul received special revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. "But I certify you brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:11-12; cf. II Cor. 12:1-7; Eph. 3:1-5; Col. 1:14-17). While it is important that we pay particular attention to Paul's doctrine and the revelation of the mystery, to follow him embraces much more. First, we must not ignore the rest of the Bible, for in it are the great doctrines that form the bedrock upon which Paul laid down the foundational teachings about Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church, which is His Body. Second, we must not ignore what is taught in Paul's letters concerning what it means for the believer to walk pleasing to the Lord.

To put I Corinthians 11:1 into context, we must look at the last three verses of chapter ten. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the

glory of God. Give none offense, neither to the Jews, to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many that they may be saved. Be ye followers of me, even as I am also of Christ" (I Cor. 10:31-11:1). Following Paul through this passage of Scripture takes us beyond the bounds of doctrinal agreement and into the realm of service to others on behalf of Christ.

PAUL'S EXAMPLE

If we desire to follow Paul as he followed Christ, we must take a careful look at his example as it is laid out for us in Scripture. Even a casual reading through the book of Acts should impress upon any believer the fact of Paul's zeal for his Lord and his determination to proclaim the Gospel of the Grace of God at any cost. No threat of violence, no lack of resources, nor lack of support could deter him. In the eleventh chapter of II Corinthians, we find a list of trying experiences that the Apostle Paul had gone through up to that point (see II Cor. 11:23-27). It is interesting to notice that there are several incidents listed here that are not mentioned in the book of Acts. II Corinthians was written about AD 56, at least two years before his arrest in Jerusalem. This means that the shipwreck of Acts chapter twenty-seven was at least the fourth that Paul was involved in. This alone would cause most to give up the quest and retire to a safer and less harrowing endeavor. But not the Apostle Paul, whose resolve was to press on regardless of the hardships.

Paul provided the list of II Corinthians 11:23-27 in defense of his God-given apostleship and commission to preach the Gospel of Grace. This was a defense against the charge that he was not a true apostle and a challenge to the false gospel that was being proclaimed by his accusers. He declared that those who were bringing charges against him were false apostles who had appointed themselves as apostles and whose work was to deceive by preaching another Jesus, a different spirit, and a different gospel (see II Cor. 11:1-4; 12-15).

Paul asks the question: "Are they ministers of Christ?" (II Cor. 11:23). In answering his own question, Paul declares that his labor in the ministry of the Gospel far surpassed their efforts. He then lists the hardships, physical trials, and difficulties that he has willingly endured on behalf of his Lord for the profit of those who so desperately needed to hear the truth.

Paul had been scourged with whips, beaten with rods, frequently thrown into prison, was often in danger of death, stoned, shipwrecked, had made many hard journeys, was in almost constant danger from bandits while traveling, whether in the cities or in the countryside. While these constant dangers and threats were always present, the Apostle Paul pressed on in weariness and pain. In carrying out his ministry he often went without sleep, food, drink, proper clothing, and protection from the elements (II Cor. 11:23-27).

PAUL'S MOTIVATION

As we reflect on the things that Paul had suffered in some twenty years of ministry, we should ask the question, WHY? Why did Paul continue on? Paul's statement in the next chapter reveals his attitude or mind-set. He said, *"and I will very gladly spend and be spent for you"* (II Cor. 12:15). For the sake of the Corinthians, Paul was willing to spend, that is to give, whatever it would take to minister to the benefit of the Corinthian believers. This included physical labor to support his ministry when needed as well as any material resources that he might have had. He was also willing to be spent on their behalf. To be spent, drained of all resources, to be used up, to give even his own life is the meaning here. Paul's attitude was one of love, a love that the world knows nothing of. It was a real and lasting love. It was that love that is shed abroad in the hearts of believers by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). It was the kind of love that is demonstrated by the sacrifice of self (Rom. 5:8).

COMPELLING LOVE

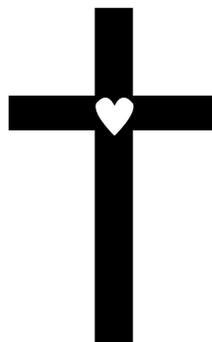
"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if One died for all, then we are all dead: and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again" (II Cor. 5:14-15). Simply put, Paul is saying that because of the great love with which Christ has loved us, every believer's life should be given over to do His will according to His purpose. This, in fact, is the underlying theme of Paul's letters. Romans 12:1 reads: *"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* These words are given not only in the light of the preceding chapters of nine, ten, and eleven, which explain the why and wherefore of Israel's temporary spiritual blindness and why the Dispensation of Grace is now in effect, but also in regard to chapters five through eight.

The following verses testify to this fact: *"...the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts..."* (Rom. 5:5); *"But God commendeth His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8); *"...all things work together for good to them that love God..."* (Rom. 8:28); *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ...we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us...nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Rom. 8:35-39). Yes, Jesus Christ's great love for us should compel us to serve Him as it compelled the Apostle Paul. Jesus Christ's love for us should be manifest in our love and our genuine concern for others.

OUR COMMISSION

As members of the Body of Christ, we are ministers of reconciliation and are charged with the responsibility of carrying the Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ Jesus to a world of lost sinners, to boldly proclaim *"the revelation of the mystery"* as given through the Apostle Paul (Rom. 16:25-27; II Cor. 5:18-21; Eph. 3:8-11). To carry out this commission, some must be willing to go and others willing to send them (Rom. 10:14-15). But all must be willing to strive together for the faith of the Gospel (Phil. 1:27). That is, to stand for the truth of God's Word and to defend Paul's God-given Gospel of Grace.

Paul's ministry was one of missionary activity. If we are going to follow Paul, obviously we must be missionary minded. A mission work can be anywhere from our own community to foreign lands but it is "work" wherever it takes place. A work of God in the believer's life, a work of love energized by the indwelling Holy Spirit. An effort motivated by the compelling love of Jesus Christ!!!



"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then we are all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live



Courses Offered for the Fall Semester

August 23-December 16, 2004

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

SPECIAL CLASSES

1001 - Biblical Principles of Family Life	(2 hrs)
1003 - Advanced Dispensational Hermeneutics	(2 hrs)
1005 - Women in Ministry	(2 hrs)

ILLUMINATION

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

The doctrine of **Revelation** refers to what God has especially made known in order to communicate to mankind. The doctrine of **Inspiration** refers to how God made sure that what He revealed was written down exactly as He wanted it to be written. The doctrine of **Illumination** refers to the special work of the Holy Spirit by which He enables individuals to comprehend the truths revealed and written. The

comprehension of God's truth goes beyond the mere mental assent, or intellectual understanding, of what the Bible says. Illumination then has to do with the comprehension of the **spiritual meanings and ramifications** of what has been revealed. We might say that illumination provides the discernment and insight necessary to applying Scriptural truth to life situations. As the Psalmist has said "*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path...the entrance of Thy Words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple*" (Ps. 119:105,130).

AN OVERVIEW

In I Corinthians 2:6-16 we find a comprehensive example of how God uses Revelation, Inspiration, and Illumination together in the transmission of spiritual truth from His own mind and heart to the mind and heart of the believer.

Mystery: I Corinthians 2:6-8 speaks of that which was hidden from man, "*a mystery*" known only to God, until He revealed it. Being hidden in the mind of God, man could not know what this mystery was without God in some way taking the initiative to reveal it to him (cf. Eph. 3:8-9).

Revelation: I Corinthians 2:9-11 speaks of that which God has **revealed** "*unto us by His Spirit.*" Truth that man is incapable of discovering on his own is given to the human authors of Scripture by a special act of God. This is the manner in which truth was transferred from the heart of God to the mind of man (cf. Gal. 1:11-12).

Inspiration: I Corinthians 2:12-13 tells us that because that which was revealed could not be known through human reason or effort, it could only be expressed in a comprehensive and accurate way by a man if the Holy Spirit Himself guided him in doing so. By a special work of the Holy Spirit, the Bible writers were enabled to write God's chosen words without error. This is how God's truth was transferred from the mind of man to paper (cf. II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20-25).

Illumination: I Corinthians 2:14-16 explains that the natural man cannot comprehend spiritual truth because spiritual discernment is necessary to do so. But believers do have the capacity of understanding spiritual truth because of the Holy Spirit who indwells them. The spiritual dimension involved in the understanding and application of God's Word by believers is a vitally important aspect of Christian living. Illumination is the spiritual enlightenment by

which God gives the believer understanding of the true significance of His Word. Illumination goes beyond the mere intellectual grasp of the written word to the transfer of the truth of the written message from the mind to the heart of man as the life-changing reality it is (cf. Col. 2: 1-3).

APPLICATION

However, just because believers have been regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit it does not automatically follow they will understand the spiritual truths found in the Bible. In fact, Paul's purpose in I Corinthians chapter two is to stress the necessity and sufficiency of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for victorious Christian living just the same as it is for salvation (see I Cor. 1:18-29). Chapters one and two overlap in that verses 30 and 31 of chapter one serve as both a climax of Paul's dissertation on the power of *"the preaching of the cross"* to save those who believe and an introduction to His dissertation of the power of the preaching of *"Jesus Christ and Him crucified"* in the lives of those who have believed (see I Cor. 1:30-31).

In chapter two Paul first explains that this message of the cross is to be the only message to be trusted in, and it is to be trusted in its entirety as the sole means of appropriating God's power (I Cor. 2:1-5). It is an **exclusive message**. Paul goes on to declare that his message has been purposely and particularly been made known by God (I Cor. 2:6-11). It is a **specially revealed message**. Next, the Apostle says that which has been revealed is completely accurate because the Holy Spirit Himself was involved in its transmission from God to man (I Cor. 2:12-13). It is a God breathed or **inspired message**.

Then Paul proclaims that the believer can receive, that is understand and accept as true, those things that have been accurately made known by God through a spiritual understanding made possible because of their union with Jesus Christ (I Cor. 2:14-16). By God's Spirit the believer's mind is **illuminated**. The thrust of Paul's intent becomes abundantly clear in the opening verses of chapter three, *"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as unto spiritual, but unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?"* (I Cor. 3:1-4).

In dealing with the divisions within the church of Corinth (see I Cor. 1:10-12), the Apostle Paul systematically laid out the reason that this situation should not exist before confronting them with the reason it did, carnal or worldly thinking. He could not deal with them as spiritually mature believers who were ready for the meat of the Word. Instead, he had to give them milk because they were still *"babes in Christ"* because of their carnal mindset. Being carnal in their thinking, they were unable to apprehend revealed truth in a practical way. Paul was going back to the basics to bring them along in their spiritual growth.

The natural or unspiritual man can understand what is written, but cannot comprehend the vital spiritual aspects and ramifications of God's revelation because it is spiritual in nature and requires spiritual understanding. But for the spiritual man, one who has been spiritually regenerated through faith in Christ, it is possible. In his letter to the Ephesians Paul prays that God would give the saints there *"the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him"* with their eyes of *"understanding being enlightened"* (see Eph. 1:15-18 ff). In his letter to the Colossians we find a similar statement: *"For this cause we also, since the day we heard of 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"* (Col. 1:9 ff). Just as it is God who is working in the believer (Phil. 1:6; 2:13), it is God who gives life to the academics of Bible knowledge.

Paul told the Corinthians that they had missed out because of their carnal, or fleshly, way of thinking. In letting the flesh control their thoughts, they were demonstrating worldly, or natural, wisdom in their attitudes and actions rather than spiritual, or Godly, attitudes and actions. Because of their carnal mindset, they were unable to comprehend the fullness of the spiritual aspects afforded them through their position *"in Christ."* As they had not yet been *"transformed by the renewing of your (their) minds,"* but were scandalously still *"conformed to this world"* in their thinking (cf. Rom. 12:1-2), they showed very little spiritual maturity in their lives. What a contrast this was to the Thessalonians who received God's Word as the truth it is, allowing it to effectively work in their lives (see I Thess. 2:13).

(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

the doctrinal boundaries we must stay within. Essentially they lay out the basic doctrines of Scripture as generally understood by Bible believers. One of the greatest perils that the Church faces today is the real danger of it drifting away from doctrinal accountability, this will happen if its leaders are not solidly grounded in sound doctrine. The **Berean Bible Institute** takes an uncompromising stand for the essentials of Biblical Christianity. In addition, we hold to the dispensational nature of the Bible and the distinctive message of God's Grace revealed to and through the Apostle Paul. All of **BBI's** instructors are required to teach only in accordance with, and not contrary, to the **Berean Bible Institute's** doctrinal statement.

Beyond that, our instructors must hold to the Bible truths expressed in the **BBI** doctrinal statement as personal beliefs. To safe-guard the doctrinal integrity of **BBI**, every instructor must sign a statement saying that they are in agreement with the purpose, goals, and doctrinal statement of the **Berean Bible Institute** before they are allowed to teach. This is important in accepting our responsibility before the Lord to our students, our supporters, and the Grace churches that those who are trained here will serve in the future.

We have the wonderful privilege of training a new generation of Grace believers for the work of ministry. The new guard who will stand for the truth in the years to come, "preaching Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery."

In the midst of the doctrinal confusion that surrounds we are determined, by God's grace, to keep **Berean Bible Institute** soundly established upon the Bible and the Gospel of the Grace of God. Please pray with us that **BBI** will remain a beacon of Grace truth for years to come.

If you are in agreement with **BBI's** uncompromising stand for the truth of God's Word and its goal of training faithful men for the work of ministry in furthering the Grace message, I hope that you will consider becoming a regular prayer and financial supporter. Your help towards the ministry of the **Berean Bible Institute** would be deeply appreciated. Grace and peace to you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because He Lives,

THOU ART MY VICTORY

*I prayed for help, I prayed for strength,
I prayed for victory:*

*I prayed for patience and for love, for true
humility; But as I prayed, my dying Christ by
faith I seemed to see, and as I gazed my glad
heart cried, "all things are mine, thro' Thee!"*

*If He doth dwell within my heart, why need I
strength implore? The Giver of all grace is
mine, and shall I ask for more? And need I
pray for victory, when He who conquered
death, dwells in my very inmost soul, nearer
indeed than breath?*

*Oh help me, Lord, to realize that Thou are all
in all; That I am more than conqueror in great
things and in small; No need have I but Thou
hast met upon the cruel tree. Oh precious,
dying, risen Lord, Thou are my victory!*

—Avis B. Christiansen



The Graduation Ceremony will be held at the **Berean Bible Institute** on Friday, May 21, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to come and encourage the graduates, and those receiving certificates. For more information please contact **BBI** at (262) 644-5504.

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, 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

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

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