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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

In his second letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul issues a warning about a falling away from the truth within the Body of Christ that will mark the last days of the Dispensation of Grace. The Scriptures tell us that it will be a perilous time for believers and gives us a list of characteristics that will be demonstrated by the unfaithful men who will be the leaders in this departure from God's Word (see II Tim. 3:1-9).

There was a time that I thought that this passage was referring to the unsaved religionists of "Christendom" such as are found in the cults and organized religions. But then I realized that the context of II Timothy indicates it is men who know the truth but will not stand for it that are in view; men who love themselves and the pleasures of this world rather than God. In other words, they are loyal to the things of the world and their own ambitions rather than to the Lord God who saved their souls. They give lip service to God's Word but are not sincere. Being deceitful, they mishandle the Word of Truth for the sake of dishonest gain (cf. II Cor. 2:17; 4:2; Titus 1:11).

Paul compares his own behavior with that of these shameful men in order to remind Timothy of how he had been a faithful servant of God, regardless

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FOLLOWING PAUL- Part II

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

THE FULL EXTENT OF FOLLOWING PAUL'S EXAMPLE

"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church" (I Cor. 4:16-17). Paul wrote these words in defense of the doctrine he taught. He was admonishing the Corinthian church to follow his teaching. But notice that it went beyond just learning doctrine to include Paul's ways, or what he did in light of doctrine. Here, as well as in chapter eleven verse one, where he says: *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ,"* he is specifically speaking of the practice and manner of life that this doctrine should produce in the believer.

It is important to notice that Paul's exhortation to follow (or imitate) him as he followed (imitated) Christ is given immediately after he gave a discourse on Christian liberty (see I Cor. chaps. 8-10). Throughout his letters, the Apostle Paul teaches that through faith in Christ the believer is set free from the bondage of sin and is **now at liberty to serve God.**

FREE FROM THE LAW—FREE TO SERVE

Our liberty in Christ does not mean we are to demand our every right. No, being freed from the law of sin and death, the believer is free to walk in the newness of life. Free to serve others on behalf of Jesus Christ. Our liberty in Christ can only be fully realized on the altar of love when *"ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service"* (Rom. 12:1).

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Mail Received
at
Box 587

FROM MISSOURI:

"Keep up the good work. I am so thankful that God has raised up men who will preach what people need to hear and not what they want to hear."

FROM FLORIDA:

"Enclosed is probably my last gift to **BBI**. My health is not good. The work you and the others at **BBI** are doing in keeping **BBI** free and pure from false doctrine is why I support it. May God's richest blessings be upon each of you in your faithful work of love for the Lord."

FROM PENNSYLVANIA:

"We are pleased to be a part of your ministry, to help get out God's message of grace. Thanks for your work there at the **Institute**."

FROM WASHINGTON:

"I always appreciate your letters and the quarterly articles that you send out. Your ministry is important and more so as the days darken."

FROM GEORGIA:

"I am very interested in the publications you present. Currently I am looking to enhance my Bible training that I may rightly divide the Word of Truth."

FROM CAMEROON, AFRICA:

"Sir, we are the products of TCM trained by Pastor Anderson and his wife. Your magazine is a source of refresher course while in the field. Thank you."

FROM MUMBAI, INDIA:

"I would like to receive your literature, which I trust will help me to better understand God's Word."

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

The Bulletin Board

News & Announcements

The Midwest Grace Fellowship

Fall Conference

Dates: Oct. 8-10, 2004

Location: Edinburg, IL

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

Berean Bible Fellowship
Fall Conference

Dates: Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2004

Location: Orlando, FL

Contact: Pastor Floyd

The Mid-Atlantic Fall Bible Conference

Dates: Sept. 10-12, 2004

Location: Manns Choice, PA

Contact: Mrs. Suzanne Potter at: (304) 263-2411.

Grace Family Bible Conference

Dates: Oct. 15-17, 2004

Location: Tabor, SD

Contact: Pastor Joel Finck at: (605) 463-2070.

*Fall Semester at **Berean Bible Institute** begins August 23, 2004! If you would like an application or a Handbook and Course Catalog, please contact*

(FOLLOWING PAUL continued from page 1)

Launching ourselves from Romans 12:1, let's look at a few verses from Paul's letters: *"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"* (I Cor. 15:58).

"For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (II Cor. 4:11).

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13).

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor" (Eph. 5:1-2).

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus...He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:5-8).

"Set your affection on things above, not on the things of the earth" (Col. 3:2).

"For ye remember, brethren, our labor and travail: for laboring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God" (I Thess. 2:9).

"For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the Living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe" (I Tim. 4:10).

While these are just a very few of the verses that could be cited, they are enough to give us the idea that following Paul has to do with more than just being academically precise in doctrine. They demonstrate that there exists a continuity throughout his letters on the subject of believers following Paul as he followed Christ. That is to say, sound doctrine is to be applied to life.

In II Timothy, chapter two, Paul tells the young pastor to teach faithful men what he has learned from him. To teach others entails effort on the teachers' part, and effort on the learners' part. Those who were faithful in learning were then to put out the effort to teach others as well (see II Tim. 2:1-2). In the verses that follow, Paul made it clear that the task at hand would not be easy. It is equated with the endurance of hardships in the line of military duty, the diligence of the Olympic-class training of athletes', and the hard work of farming the land (see II Tim. 2:3-6).

In II Timothy 2:15 we read: *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."* It is this verse that has opened many eyes to the dispensational nature of the Bible. However, we must not

ignore the fact that the verse deals primarily with those who would be proper workmen. The implication is that one can be very hard at work in striving to serve the Lord, and be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ because of not *"rightly dividing the Word of Truth."* On the other hand, one who has rightly divided the Word of Truth but has done little or nothing to win the lost to Christ or to edify the Body of Christ will be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ as well. In other words, the Apostle Paul is saying that the study of the Word of God rightly divided should result in good works, not simply more knowledge. God's purpose is *"to purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works"* (Titus 2:14; 3:8).

FOLLOWING PAUL AT EVERY POINT

In a striking contrast with those who resist the truth (see II Tim. 3:1-9), Paul commends Timothy as a faithful man; *"But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions..."* (II Tim. 3:10-11). Timothy had fully known or followed the Apostle Paul in his teaching (doctrine) and in his motivation and hardships. Timothy knew what Paul taught and understood his motivation. He also was conformed to the pattern set forth by Paul. We could say that Paul commended Timothy because he was following (*imitating*) him as he followed (*imitated*) Christ.

In this passage of Scripture, Paul lists nine separate points in which Timothy has been faithful in following him. These nine points are as valid and important today as then, but are, more often than not, overlooked or ignored just as they were at the time Paul wrote to Timothy.

Doctrine

The doctrine that is taught in the letters of the Apostle Paul is vital to understanding the Gospel of the Grace of God. Understanding Paul's distinctive apostleship and the revelation of the mystery is the key to rightly dividing the Word of Truth. Following Paul in doctrine is the first step in following Paul as he followed Christ.

Manner of Life

Our manner of life, or the way we live and behave, is to be honoring to the Lord Jesus Christ. *"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now ye are light in the Lord: walk as children of light...and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them"* (Eph. 5:8-11; cf. Col. 3:1-12ff; etc). To follow Paul as he followed Christ our lives must reflect godly character and righteousness. We are to be a living testimony for the Lord.

Purpose

Our purpose in life should be to exalt the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ and bring glory to His name. This entails both evangelism and edification of the Body of Christ. Our desire in life should be to please the One who has loved us and given Himself for us (see II Cor. 5:14-15; Col. 1:9-10). *"But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world"* (Gal. 6:14).

Faith

As members of the Body of Christ our total dependence and trust is to be placed in our Living Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. Our total concept of life and our relationship to others is to reflect our faith in Christ and the authority of the Holy Scriptures. By faith, our lives are to be consistent, with no double standards, prejudices, or hypocrisy. *"As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him: rooted and built up in Him and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of man, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And you are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power"* (Col. 2:6-10; cf. II Cor. 12:9-10; Gal. 2:20).

Longsuffering

This denotes the need to endure, to be willing to finish the race, to stay in the trenches even as others retreat or fall by the wayside. We are to look beyond the day-to-day battle to the victory that lays ahead. A victory that is sure, for the Lord Jesus Christ has secured the victory for us (I Cor. 15:57-58). *"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"* (II Cor. 4:16-17). *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (Gal. 6:9).

Charity (Love)

"Let love be without dissimulation (hypocrisy). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Rom. 12:9 cf. I Cor. 13:1-13). The love of Christ is to be demonstrated in our lives. Genuine love cares, shares, and gives. It is demonstrated by actions (Rom. 5:8; Phil. 2:1-5). *"Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us"* (Eph. 5:2); *"Let love be without dissimulation (hypocrisy). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good"* (Rom. 12:9 cf. I Cor. 13:1-13).

Patience

Patience is demonstrated in our attitude towards others. The believer is to deal with others in meekness and humility and to willingly wait for the desired results when the situation warrants it. We can only plant and water, it is God who gives the increase. And this is so whether it is sharing Christ with unbelievers or sharing truth with other believers. Patience means not writing others off, but *"as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another..."* (Col. 3:12-13; cf. II Tim. 2:24-26).

Persecutions

We are to endure abuse by others because of our stand for the Lord Jesus Christ and the wonderful message of the Grace of God. Persecution can come from unbelievers who are convicted by the Gospel or from other believers who resist the truth of the full revelation of the mystery.

Thank God that in the United States we still have freedom to openly proclaim the Gospel of the Grace of God. In many parts of the world this is not so. Over the centuries multitudes of believers have given their lives on behalf of Jesus Christ and the Gospel. Even as the Apostle Paul penned the following words to Timothy he was awaiting execution because of his faith in Christ; *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"* (II Tim. 3:12). The believers response to persecutions is to love his enemies (Rom. 12:17-21), and to faithfully proclaim the Gospel (II Tim. 4:1-5).

Free Me, Lord

Lord, just today I read that Paul and Silas were
Stripped and beaten with wooden whips.
"Again and again the rods slashed across their
Bared backs" but in their desolate dungeon
Their feet clamped in stocks they prayed.
They sang. They praised.
In this musty midnight of my life
Imprisoned in a dungeon of confusion
Bound by chains of anguish.
Help me, please help me, to pray,
To sing, to praise. Until the foundation shakes
Until the gates fling open, until the chains fall off
Until I am free to share the Good News,
With other chain-bound prisoners.

—Ruth Harms Calkin

COURSES FOR THE FALL 2004 SEMESTER AT BBI

(August 23rd-December 16th)

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 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.

301 - PASTORAL MINISTRY II: (*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. This course covers the practical structure of church polity, leaders and leadership, church services, congregational needs, and marriage and funeral services.

303 - BIBLE EXPOSITION V: (*Four credit hours*) A general introduction and survey of the Kingdom epistles and of Hebrews through Revelation. Emphasis is given to their message, dispensational distinctives, and doctrines in comparison with the Apostle Paul's epistles. Their relationship to God's prophetic Kingdom Program and their proper use and application during the present Dispensation of Grace is thoroughly examined. (Revelation, and Daniel are taught together in a separate course.)

305- PRACTICAL DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IV: (*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 (II Tim. 2:15). Practical Dispensational Theology is the study of dispensational theology with an emphasis on the application of Biblical truths to both the individual believer's life and in the context of the corporate Body of Christ. The doctrine of Soteriology (doctrine of salvation; the Person of the Savior, the provision of salvation, and the application of salvation); the doctrine of Zoeology (doctrine of Christian life and ministry).

307 - MISSIONS, & CHURCH PLANTING: (*Two credit hours*) These two subjects deserve to be handled together as they enhance each other and compose a vital part of the local church ministry.

MISSIONS - Using Paul's missionary methods, a workable mission philosophy will be taught. Present world fields will be looked at with an introduction to Grace missionaries currently laboring in them.

CHURCH PLANTING - Extending the local church at home and in foreign lands was the Apostle Paul's desire and God-given mission. The Pauline pattern of church planting will be studied as the example the church of today is to follow.

309 - BASIC GREEK I: (*Two credit hours*) This course is designed to expose students to elementary New Testament Greek and equip them to utilize lexical and grammatical tools in order to enhance their individual and independent study of God's Word. Covers the elementary orthography, grammar, and vocabulary.

311 - CHRISTIAN WRITING: (*One credit hour*) This course presents the need to effectively communicate by encouraging letter writing. Beyond this it promotes formats for writing articles, newsletters, tracts, printed Bible studies etc.

313 - THE TABERNACLE: (*One credit hour*) This is a study of the Tabernacle along with the Levitical priesthood and the associated offerings, sacrifices, feasts, and worship of God by Israel, and how it all points to the Person and redemptive work of Israel's Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ.

315 - MUSIC AND SONG LEADING: (*One credit hour*) Students are taught how to lead/conduct congregational singing. It includes how to choose appropriate hymns to enhance sermonic themes in worship and church services. Some time will be spent in researching the history of sacred classical music for use in the local church services.

1001 - BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY LIFE: (*Two credit hours*) Offered during the fall semester, this is 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. Class size is restricted for this course, so those desiring to attend should sign up as soon as possible. Single people are allowed to attend. Married couples must attend classes together.

***1003 - ADVANCED DISPENSATIONAL HERMENEUTICS:** (*Two credit hours*) In this class the student will put into practice the principles of dispensational hermeneutics. Various passages of Scripture will be looked at. The practical exercise of sound Bible interpretation is the focus of this class. Special attention is given to each text and its context, the use of figures of speech, symbols, idioms, parables and allegories. (**109-Dispensational Hermeneutics** is prerequisite for taking this course).

***1005 - WOMEN IN MINISTRY:** (*Two credit hours*) This class is also offered on a limited "as needed" basis for those planning to be pastor's wives, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, etc.

*These classes may be taken as a substitute for **309 Basic Greek** from the core curriculum.

(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

of circumstances, and to challenge him to follow his example as he had been doing (see II Tim. 3:10-12; cf. I Cor. 4:15-17; 11:1; Phil. 2:19-21; 3:17; etc.). This kind of comparison of Paul and Timothy with unsaved men would make no sense as the unsaved can act no other way. But these men, like the Galatians, have begun in the Spirit but are now walking in the flesh (see Gal. 3:1-3). They put on an outward show of godliness but from the heart they reject the power of godliness which is found in sound doctrine, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the grace of God that teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present evil age.

As we survey the world today we see more and more churches preaching and teaching perverse doctrines. The most damning among these is the denial of the sufficiency of Christ's blood for the salvation of the soul. This is done by telling people that they must meet some standard of righteousness through good works, or to earn their salvation to keep their salvation. What a travesty this is when salvation is a gift which is freely provided by God through the blood of His own Son to all who believe. Another disturbing trend is that many who know the Grace Message are actually turning away from the truth and are no longer preaching Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

I know of several pastors who, in recent years, have compromised the truth they once stood for and are now practicing water baptism and denying the unique ministry of the Apostle Paul. To know the truth and not proclaim it is to deny it. Paul's inspired warning to Timothy was a strong one that is as relevant today as it was when he first penned it. In this letter to Timothy we are reminded that we are not to fear persecution because of the Gospel, but are to trust in the power of God (II Tim 1:7-8). We are admonished to hold fast to the pattern of sound words given through Paul and to teach the same to faithful men that they might teach others (II Tim. 1:13; 2:1-2). We are reminded that one day we will each give account to the Lord Himself concerning our faithfulness to Him and His Word (II Tim. 2:3-13). We are told that if we desire to be a proper workman for the Lord, with no reason to be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we must rightly divide the Word of Truth (II Tim. 2:15). Like Timothy, we are to follow Paul's example in doctrine, lifestyle, and zeal for ministry regardless of

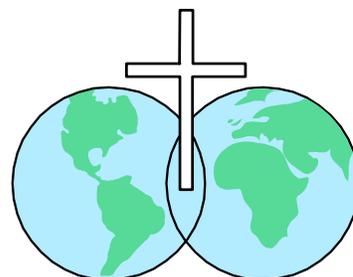
the cost (II Tim. 3:10-12). We are instructed to trust in God's Word in order to be properly equipped to do the good works that God has prepared us for (II Tim. 3:14-17; cf. Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 2:13-14). We are blessed with the responsibility to stand for and proclaim the truth of God's Word regardless of what is popular or what people want to hear (II Tim. 4:1-5; cf. Phil 1:27-30). Only if we take these things to heart will we be able to say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7), when we depart this life. We are engaged in a full-scale spiritual war of worldwide proportions for the hearts, minds, and souls of men and women (Eph. 6:10-20; cf. II Cor. 4:3-4; 10:3-5). Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has already won the ultimate victory through the cross. The outcome of this war is determined because Christ has defeated sin and death and every believer shares in His victory through faith. However, every generation brings forth a new wave of unbelief that needs to be confronted with the truth of the Gospel of the Grace of God. As partakers of His grace, it is our undeniable duty to engage the enemy by proclaiming "Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery" (Rom. 16:25).

Here at **Berean Bible Institute** we are taking part in the "war effort" by providing the Bible and ministry training necessary to equip believers to become effective soldiers of the cross. Pray that the Lord will raise up a multitude of faithful men and women who are willing to make the personal sacrifices necessary to prepare themselves for the work of ministry. The Grace Movement will grow only if faithful individuals will step up to take their place in the ranks of those on the battlefield.

We thank God for all of you who pray for and support **BBI**. May the Lord richly bless your contribution to this ministry by using it to His glory.

In Christ,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore
Executive Director



“Finally my
brethren,
be strong
in the
Lord, and
in the

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



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