

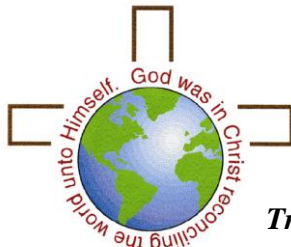
The BBI BULLETIN

Volume 5

Winter 2003-2004
December, January, February

Issue 3

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

The fall 2003 semester, the first in our new building, has been the best ever at **Berean Bible Institute**. Having our own building with adequate office and classroom space has made a real difference at the school. We thank God for how He has provided through His people.

Last summer was spent getting the building ready for the fall semester. While we were not able to complete all of our remodeling projects before school started, we did manage to get enough done that school could start on time. Then, during the winter break, we were able to paint and trim the downstairs area and install windows in the lunchroom. We thank the Lord for each of the students and friends of **BBI** who volunteered their time to help get these things done. It is truly a blessing when God's people join together to work towards the furtherance of the Gospel of the Grace of God.

During the fall semester we had twenty-seven students enrolled, with eleven of them being able to attend full-time. Three of our men will be graduating in May. As they will soon be leaving, Georges, Paul, and Andy would appreciate your prayers as they enter their last semester at **BBI**.

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RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

LESSON THIRTEEN—The Lord Jesus Christ-Part III

A Secret Revealed

With Israel having rejected her Messiah, "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7) was imminent. This would be a time of purging, a cleansing of Israel, and the judgment of the nations, a time called the Great Tribulation. This would be a time of great adversity, affliction, anguish, and distress. The "great and terrible Day of the Lord" was at hand in accordance with the prophecies of the Old Testament. It was part of the already revealed purpose and plan for Israel and the nations. Christ would return to earth to reign over the world from Jerusalem, with Israel the favored nation through which the Gentiles would be blessed.

But God had another plan, which He had never revealed through the prophets or the Holy Scriptures. Up to this point in time it had been kept an absolute secret. It was a mystery program, of which not one hint had ever been given up to this point. It was a plan that had been formulated "before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4). But now the magnificent Grace of God would be revealed. The secret (mystery) would no longer be kept, but was now to be openly and boldly proclaimed.

The Chosen Messenger

At the stoning of Stephen was a young man named Saul (see Acts 7:54-60), who was "consenting" to Stephen's death (Acts 8:1). In other words he put his stamp of approval on this terrible deed. He was in complete agreement with those who murdered this man of God. That he watched over their coats while they stoned Stephen (Acts 7:58) tells us that he was encouraging them to kill him.

(continued on page 3)



Mail Received at Box 587

FROM ILLINOIS:

"Wishing you, your staff, and students a most blessed Christmas. May the Lord bless you with good health and strength to accomplish His will in the year ahead."

FROM MICHIGAN:

"As a student of Scripture, I am very interested in attending the **Berean Bible Institute**. I have been extremely fascinated with the *Berean Searchlight*. This dispensational approach to the Word of God has opened my heart and eyes to the 'unfolding plan of God.' It is my vision to further my journey through the Scriptures. Please send me information on whatever it is I need to know to get started on my journey through the Scripture, *rightly divided*."

FROM WISCONSIN:

"We are blessed to have a part in your ministry. Thank you for your faithfulness!"

FROM FLORIDA:

"The news of the forward move for the **Berean Bible Institute** is a delight to my heart and a personal incentive for further involvement. Beginning to stand on your own two feet is a note of accomplishment and worthy of encouragement as you endeavor to prepare dedicated messengers for a life of ministry. May the new facilities and opportunities be helpful to make it possible."

FROM WASHINGTON:



"This is not a huge amount but I am very pleased. Rejoicing when I read about a Bible Institute training people in the truth of the Gospel of Grace through Paul, which was given by Christ. My prayer for you is the expansion of this Institute and that you will continue to teach and represent Him in truth."

FROM WYOMING:

"Please add our name to your *BBI Bulletin*. A friend and Bible study leader shared a copy of your *Bulletin* with us. We would enjoy receiving the *BBI Bulletin* and learning from it."

THE BULLETIN BOARD


News & Announcements



 **Praise:** We are already receiving applications for next semester! 

Prayer: For all the staff and students during the coming semester.

Praise: **BBI** will have 3 graduates this spring.

Prayer: That the Gospel of the Grace of God may be proclaimed.

Praise: This is the 8th year that **Berean Bible Institute** has been training men 

 The fall semester will begin 
August 23rd. If you would like more information please contact **BBI** at:

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mail: <bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org.>


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 **Grace Believers Bible Conference** 

Location: Bitely, Michigan

Dates: July 30-August 1, 2004

Contact: Pastor Ken Lyon at:
(231) 745-9595

Celebrating our 75th year of
"holding forth the Word of Life." 

(Rightly Dividing continued from page 1)

But Saul was not content with the mere stoning of Stephen. No, he set about to destroy Christ's Church on earth (Acts 8:3; Gal. 1:13). Openly proclaiming threats of death, Saul petitioned the high priest for letters of authority to go to Damascus and arrest any of the Lord's disciples he found there (Acts 9:1-2). This man would meet the Lord of Glory Himself on the road to Damascus. Jesus Christ, the resurrected, ascended, and glorified Son of God, personally chose Saul to be His messenger of Grace. To him He would reveal the marvelous mystery of "the dispensation of the grace of God" (Eph. 3:2).

Up until this point in time any blessings received by the Gentiles were channeled through Israel, the nation of God's covenants and promises concerning the coming of God's Kingdom to earth. One day the Kingdom will come, but not before the Dispensation of Grace runs its course. Interrupting the prophetic Kingdom Program to usher in the Dispensation of Grace, the Lord chose to reveal this new program through Saul of Tarsus, the leader of the rebellion against Him. This man, who thought he was pleasing God by persecuting the disciples of Jesus Christ, would now become Christ's appointed ambassador to proclaim salvation to Jew and Gentile alike without national distinction. With Israel temporarily set aside in unbelief, God would now deal with mankind on a personal level rather than on a national basis. Saul, who became the Apostle Paul, was uniquely the recipient, guardian and dispenser of the message of God's Grace. He was given the office of the Apostle to the Gentiles, or nations (Rom. 11:13).

The Details of the Message

Salvation in the Dispensation of Grace is offered totally apart from any works, ordinances, or religious ritual. The only requirement is to believe (trust in, depend on) on Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins. Having believed, the sinner becomes part of something new, something not mentioned or promised in the Covenants of Promise made with Israel. The believer becomes a member of the Church referred to as the Body of Christ (see Eph. 1:22-23). This Church is not the same as the Kingdom Church found in the writings of the Old Testament prophets, nor is it found in the Gospel accounts of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, nor is it in the preaching or writings of Christ's Kingdom apostles (Peter and the eleven). This new truth, revealed to Paul by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, was a **secret now made known**. A new dispensation had begun and Paul was to be the one to announce it.

The Believer's Position

When someone believes the Gospel of Christ, that individual is personally identified (baptized), with Jesus Christ; "for by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Cor. 12:13). This baptism, which actually unites the believer with Christ, is the "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5 and the same as the baptism spoken of in Romans; "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:3,4). Only the Holy Spirit of God can unite the believer with Christ and impart spiritual life. No water ritual could ever do this. This wonderful passage of Holy Scripture is not speaking of symbolism or the witness of any ritual carried out by man, but the spiritual reality of the believer becoming a partaker of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection by grace through faith in Him alone. Positionally the believer is **in Christ** and **with Christ**; "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us (made us alive) together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:5-6).

The Living Head

Jesus Christ, the crucified, buried, resurrected, ascended, and glorified Son of God not only revealed to Paul the mystery of the Dispensation of Grace and its Church, the Body of Christ, He also revealed Himself to be the Head of the Body, which is made up of both Jew and Gentile without distinction (see Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 2:11-16; Col. 3:9-11). This glorious truth was never before made known to man. The Old Testament prophets foresaw the coming of Israel's Messiah, and during His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus presented Himself as the One Israel was waiting for, indeed the One written about in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms (see Lk. 24:44). But not one word is to be found concerning Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church which is His Body that is seated with Him in heavenly places. Israel's prophetic hope was, and is, and always will be a Kingdom on earth. The hope of the Body of Christ is, and always will be, in heaven. The Kingdom Church and the Body of Christ are two distinct groups of God's people. While Jesus Christ is the common denominator that links these two groups, their relationship to Him is









distinctively different. To Israel He is the Messiah, the Mighty Priest-King who will one day set up His Everlasting Kingdom on earth. A Kingdom in which redeemed Israel will be the premier nation of all the nations of the earth. A nation of great honor, glory, physical and spiritual blessings. A nation of kings and priests (see Ex. 19:1-6; Jer. 31:23-40).

But the hope of the Church, which is Christ's Body, is heavenly in all its scope. Our future is not in Messiah's Kingdom on earth, but to rule and reign in Christ's stead in heavenly places throughout eternity. Both Churches extend into eternity when there will be a new heaven and a new earth and each will continue in their respective sphere of eternal blessing. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"* (Eph. 1:3). *"And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist: And He is the Head of the Body, the Church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence."* (Col. 1:17-18).

A Pure Message

Nowhere in the Bible do we find the Lord Jesus Christ more highly exalted than in Paul's letters. He lifts up and points to the Lord Jesus as the only hope for mankind and the only channel by which man may find peace with God. He presents Him not only as God having come in the flesh, the Creator taking on the form of His creation, but also as the crucified and resurrected One who sits in glory at the right hand of the Father (see Eph. 1:15-23; 3:9; Col. 1:16-18). He is the Son of God, He is the *"One Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus"* (I Tim. 1:4).

While it is true that Jesus Christ is the premier subject of the entire Bible, and that He is the only Savior of souls presented in the Scriptures, it is only in this present Dispensation of Grace that salvation through simple faith alone is offered. This offer is presented, without reservation or regard to national heritage, to both Jew and Gentile. This unique offer is only found in that portion of Holy Scripture that the Living Head of the Church, Jesus Christ Himself, has given to us through His own chosen Apostle, Paul. Therefore, if we are going to know all that the Lord wants us to know about Him and His purpose for us in the Dispensation of Grace, we must read and study and believe what has been written by Paul, through divine revelation, and providentially preserved for us in that wonderful Book we call the Bible, which is in fact the Word of God.

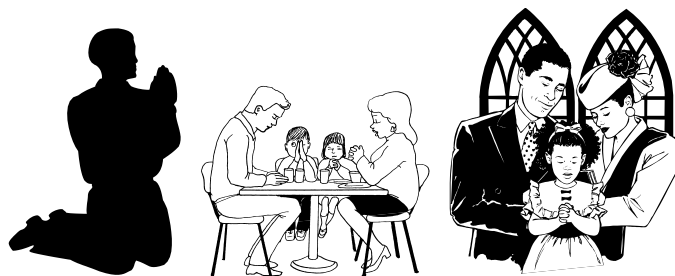
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|  | <i>For The Dispensation of Grace There Is:</i> |
|  | 1. One Body (Eph. 4:4) |
|  | 2. One Spirit (Eph. 4:4) |
|  | 3. One Hope (Eph. 4:4) |
|  | 4. One Lord (Eph. 4:5) |
|  | 5. One Faith (Eph. 4:5) |
|  | 6. One Baptism (Eph. 4:5; I Cor. 12:13) |
|  | 7. One God and Father (Eph. 4:6) |



(We found another version of our motto here at **BBI** and thought you would enjoy reading it.)

Only One Life

Two little lines I heard one day,
 As I plodded in my usual way;
 They rang in my ears again and again,
 Repeating in solemn, sweet refrain:
 "Only one life `twill soon be past,
 Only what's done [in] Christ will last!"
 Only one life, the still small voice
 Gently allures to the better choice,
 Bidding me never let selfish aims
 Overshadow my Saviors claims!
 Give me, Savior, a purpose deep,
 In joy or sorrow Thy trust to keep;
 And so through trouble, care, and strife,
 Glorify Thee in my daily life.
 "Only one life `twill soon be past,
 Only what's done [in] Christ will last!"



Courses Offered for the Spring 2004 Semester

January 26-May 20, 2004

(Mid-Semester Break—March 19th-28th)

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

104 - BIBLE EXPOSITION II: *(Four credit hours)* This course begins with Joshua and moves through II Chronicles giving the student a working knowledge of the history of Israel as a nation in the Promised Land. The special purpose of God's chosen people, the establishment of the Kingdom under David, the apostasy of Israel, the prophets God sent to Israel, the Babylonian Captivity, and how these things relate to the Millennial Kingdom and the present Dispensation of Grace is emphasized.

106 - BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINES II: *(Two credit hours)* A concise study of the important major doctrines of Scripture from a dispensational point of view. This course covers the Gifts, the Believers Walk, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Resurrection, the Second Coming of Christ, the State of the Dead, and the Mission and Commission of the Church.

108 - ROMANS: *(Two credit hours)* This course systematically works through the important epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans. The study of this book is vital to the understanding of man's universal need of salvation, God's provision of salvation through Jesus Christ, God's offer of salvation by faith alone, the dispensational nature of the Bible, God's dealings with Israel, and living the Christian life by faith.

110 - ACTS: *(Two credit hours)* This course is an expositional study of the book of Acts with special emphasis given to the importance of its historical aspects concerning the beginning of the Church (the Body of Christ), the dispensational transition into Grace, and their harmonization with the epistles of the Apostle Paul.

112 - CULTS: *(Two credit hours)* This course gives special attention to the distinctive errors that characterize the religious systems of the cults. The main emphasis is given to the true message of God's Word enabling the student to recognize erroneous teachings whenever and wherever they are encountered. An overview of the beliefs of the major cults in America and how to reach individuals caught in the spiritual darkness of a cult or false religious system with the message of God's Grace in Jesus Christ is also given.

116 - BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW: *(One credit hour)* The major worldviews are compared and contrasted with Biblical Christianity. This study shows how non-Christian values and belief systems have negatively influenced the thinking of our times. The incredible clarity, coherence, and truthfulness of the true Christian world-view is highlighted and affirmed.

202 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION I: (*Two credit hours*) This course provides a general overview of the purposes, principles, and practices of Christian education within the local church. This course covers the history of Christian education and the importance of developing effective educational ministries in the local church. The content and methods of Christian education is dealt with.

204 - BIBLE EXPOSITION IV: (*Four credit hours*) This course is a survey of all of the Pauline epistles with special attention given to the purpose and doctrine of each in the context of Paul's ministry as the Apostle of the Gentiles who was especially commissioned to make known the Dispensation of the Grace of God (also offered is a more in-depth study of Romans and a systematic comprehensive review of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians as separate courses).

206 - DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY II: (*Two credit hours*) 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). The doctrines of the works of God (creation), Angelology (the nature and activities of angels); Anthropology (doctrine of man, his creation, nature and fall).

208 - THE MINOR PROPHETS: (*Two credit hours*) This course is a survey of the twelve Minor Prophets (Hosea-Malachi). Attention is given to the background, life, and major focus of the message of each of these prophets of God. Special interest is applied to the dispensational importance of their pre-millennial messianic themes.

210 - HOMILETICS II: (*Two credit hours*) How to study for, prepare, and deliver sound and relevant messages from God's Word. This course teaches the Biblical approach to studying, preparing and the delivering of topical, textual, and expository sermons. The student will examine the different types of sermons and will be expected to develop and present messages of each kind before a live audience.

212 - CHURCH HISTORY: (*Two credit hours*) An overview study of the major events affecting the Church from the time of the Apostle Paul to the present. A knowledge of Church History is essential to understanding the doctrinal and practical issues that led to the formation of the various denominations and other groups that exist today.

214 - YOUTH MINISTRY: (*One credit hour*) This class focuses on the basic principles of conducting youth work in the local church setting. Effective methods of youth ministry, Biblical counseling, activities, soul-winning, and camp will be covered.

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

(The Institute Update continued from page 1)

Please pray that the Lord will give them guidance as they seek His will for their lives in serving Him.

I am pleased to report that, through special giving towards the building fund by many of **BBI's** friends and supporters, we have already been able to reduce our mortgage from \$95,000 to \$65,000 since purchasing the building last April. We are thankful for this and pray that we will be able to pay the building off very quickly so as not to have a mortgage payment due each month.

2004 could be the year that the Church will be "caught up" to "meet the Lord in the air." If not, then it is a grand opportunity "to serve the Living and True God" as we "wait for His Son from Heaven" There is no greater hope than the resurrection hope of eternal life that we, as believers, have in Christ. There is nothing of greater benefit than to serve God in the ministry of the Gospel. There are no greater rewards to be had than those that may be attained through faithfulness to the truth of God's Word, a strong personal testimony of grace living, and ministry towards others.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you who have prayed for and supported the ministry of **Berean Bible Institute**. I consider it a privilege to stand with you as "laborers together" with the Lord.

Because Christ Lives,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

MOST RICHLY BLESSED

*I asked God for strength,
that I might achieve;
I was made weak,
that I may learn to humbly obey.
I asked God for health,
that I may do greater things;
I was given infirmity,
that I may do better things.
I asked for riches,
that I might be happy;
I was given poverty,
that I might be wise.
I asked for power,
that I might have praise of men;
I was given weakness,
that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things,
that I might enjoy life;
I was given life,
that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing I asked for
but everything I hoped for.
I am, among men,
most richly blessed.*

—A Confederate Soldier

(from the Tale of the Tardy Oxcart; Swindoll, Charles R.)

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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