

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

Graduation time at **Berean Bible Institute** is always a bittersweet event for the faculty and staff. Our goal, of course, is to train faithful men for the work of ministry that they might go out and effectively minister God's Word "rightly divided" for the purpose of reaching the lost and edifying the saints. Because this is the purpose of our existence as a ministry, we rejoice when we see our students leave to make known the "revelation of the mystery" as pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and Bible teachers.

On the other hand, we are sorry to see them leave **BBI** since, after spending three or more years here, they have become part of the school. Each one adds something to the character of the classes they are in and to **BBI** in general. In a way we would like to keep them here, but we know that this is not possible. And, even if we could, it would not be in their best interest or in the best interests of **BBI**.

(continued on page 7)

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

The attributes of God are the qualities of His essential Being that are intrinsic to His nature. By understanding what the Bible teaches about His various attributes, we learn more about God and His purposes. His attributes give us a Biblical description of who He really is and what He is like. The three attributes we will look at here speak of His being infinite in nature, and thus is not hindered, bound, or limited by space, matter, or time.

Omnipotence: This means that God is all-powerful and able to do whatever He chooses to do. Of course, because of the perfect essence of His holy nature, God only chooses to do that which is good, for God *is* good. He cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18) or even be tempted to sin (James 1:13). Nor can He do anything else that would be inconsistent with the absolute goodness of His nature. In other words, God can do anything that is in harmony with the goodness of His nature. However, this does not mean that God chooses to do all that He can do. For example, God could have created more stars than He did, but He did not choose to.

There are a great number of things that God could do but does not. Why? Unless especially made known in the Word of God, man cannot know God's purpose in that which He chooses to do or not to do. Unless revealed in Scripture His reasons remain a mystery to man, known only to the perfect counsel of His own will.

(continued on page 3)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Institute Update	pg. 1
The Attributes of God	pg. 1
Mail Received at Box 587	pg. 2
The Bulletin Board	pg. 2
Courses Offered for the Spring Semester	pg. 5
Student's Corner	pg. 5
The Source of Theology	pg. 6
God is Beyond Man's Comprehension	pg. 7



Mail Received at Box 587

FROM OREGON:

"Congratulations to all the graduates! We so desperately need more of God's children trained up in the way."

FROM WISCONSIN:

"May God continue to bless, guide, and protect you as you minister in the teaching and training of the brethren for God's glory. **BBI** student body and faculty, and your financial needs are always in our prayers. The Word rightly divided is the answer to the churches spiritual decline.... May **BBI** be used mightily of our Lord to rescue many from error and bring the lost to Christ! God bless you all."

FROM KENTUCKY:

"Our Lord has abundantly blessed us and we are so glad to be able to share this with your Bible Institute. Keep training men and women in the Word, rightly divided."

FROM OHIO:

"We trust these graduates are finding pulpits to fill, the message is sorely needed in these times. We pray for you and the graduates, so take heart and keep looking up!"

FROM ILLINOIS:

"I am praising our Heavenly Father for providing the funds through His people to pay off the mortgage. What a blessing! I pray for you all daily. May you never tire of the battle to teach and preach the Word, rightly divided."

FROM CALIFORNIA:

"I've been trying to learn about Grace for about eight years now. I just received your monthly newsletter and would like another because it was so good...I sent it to my daughter and son-in law in Colorado. I'm so glad for the friend who told me about you."

*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: Miracle Hills Ranch,
Bethany, Missouri

Dates: June 3rd-5th, 2005

Speakers: Pastor Dan Wolgast,
Pastor Ken Lawson, Kevin Heyle

Theme: "The Holy Spirit"

Contact: Kevin Heyle at:
(816) 520-3943.

36th Annual Berean Bible Fellowship Conference

Location: Cedar Lake, Indiana

Dates: June 18th-23rd, 2005

Theme: "If Any Man Love God"

Contact: Pastor Floyd Baker at:
(386) 851-0744.

 *The Fall Semester for
BBS begins
August 22nd.
Register Soon!!!*

Cowboy Camp!

Location: Apollo, Pennsylvania &
Owensville, Missouri

Dates: July 17th-23rd & August 7th-13th

Theme: Cowboys Lee's:
"Cowboy Adventure Camp!"

Speakers: Cowboy Lee Homoki &
Cowboy Bob Criswell

Contact: Cowboy Lee Club: (616) 785-
3618 or E:mail <Lee@BDTLB.org>

(THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD continued from page 1)

God is referred to as *“Almighty”* fifty-six times in the Bible and is the only One referred to as such. He was known to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as *“God Almighty”* (Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; Ex. 6:3). Moses, Job, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Joel (Num. 24:4,16; Job 5:17; 11:7; 13:3; Isa. 13:6; Eze. 1:24; Joel 1:5) all refer to God as *“the Almighty.”*

In the book of Revelation, John names God as *“Almighty”* eight times. Paul the Apostle, uses the term *“Lord Almighty”* once (II Cor. 6:18) and alludes to God’s Omnipotence by referring to *“His eternal power”* as an attribute of the Godhead (Rom. 1:20). Declaring Him to be the One *“Who is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or think”* (Eph. 3:20).

For illustration purposes, we might say that God is the ultimate power source. When, by faith, a sinner receives Christ as their Savior, this power becomes available to them. All that they have to do to appropriate this power for daily use is to dial the right frequency, which is done through faith (see Rom. 5:1-2; Eph. 1:19; etc.). The reason so many believers live *“powerless”* lives is that they simply have not *“tuned in”* to God’s grace. Just as radio waves are present everywhere, God is present everywhere. He broadcasts over one frequency (grace), which can be picked up anywhere in the world and only has one program that is aired continually (the Gospel of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ). Everything else is nothing but static. Praise God that His power is always available to us (Rom. 5:1-2; Eph. 1:19-20; Phil. 2:13; 4:4-5).

Omnipresence: This means that God is present at every place in the fullness of His Being at all times. But, this does not mean that God is present as part of the creation itself. He is not part of heaven, the earth, plant life, animals, mankind or any other created thing. God is the eternally existing Creator of all things and is therefore separated from and superior to His creation.

God is present in all of His creation but is in no way limited or restrained by it. Because God is in essence Spirit (immaterial), He is not constrained by the physical (material) limitations that man experiences. Because He is infinite, eternal, and self-existing, He is not limited in anyway by time or space. At the same time, He is not limited in the spiritual realm either as all spiritual beings, excluding

Himself, and everything that exists in the spiritual realm are His creation also. The spiritual dimension of creation is something that God has given us very little information about. Nevertheless, it is just as real as the physical realm that we know.

The Omnipresence of God must not be confused with the belief of pantheism, which claims that the creation is God. Pantheism is in reality an attempt to deify man as part of a *“universal god”* that is infused throughout the whole of creation. This false idea says that *“God is in everything and everything is God.”* This *“age-old”* concept has recently gained renewed interest and prominence under the so-called *“New Age Spirituality.”* Its basis is the old lie of Satan that man can be like God (Gen. 3:4-5).

David asked the question *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?”* The answer is nowhere in the universe, for God cannot be contained, hindered, nor limited in His presence by time, space, distance, speed, or darkness (Ps. 139:7-12). *“‘Am I a God near at hand’ says the Lord, ‘and not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him’ says the Lord; ‘Do I not fill the heaven and the earth?’ says the Lord”* (Jer. 23:23-24). These words from the pen of Jeremiah are in the context of exposing and warning against false prophets who God says will be unable to hide their shameful lies or themselves from His presence anywhere in heaven or earth (also see Deut. 4:39; I Kin. 8:27; Ps. 10:1-14; Prov. 15:3; Isa. 66:1; Acts 7:47-50; 17:24-25).

God is not only present everywhere, but He is actively present everywhere. He is not only the Creator of all things but is Sovereign over all things and the Sustainer of all things. He has ordained the laws of nature and He keeps them in force as *“He gives to all life, breath and all things”* and *“in Him we live and move and have our being”* (see Acts 17:24-29).

The assurance of God’s ever abiding presence should bring hope and comfort to the heart of every believer and serve as a warning of inescapable judgment to those who have not put their trust in Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness of sins and received the gift of eternal life. God’s desire for believers is that they live like they are in His presence. We can only do this when we are fully aware of His continuing abiding presence in our lives (I Cor. 6:19-20; II Cor. 12:9; Gal. 2:20).

Omniscience: God knows perfectly all that can be known, both actual and possible. The knowledge and wisdom of God is infinite and eternal. He knows the past, present, and future equally well. He knows everything completely and at the same time. The Omniscience of God could be referred to as the attribute of perfect knowledge. God and God alone has, and is able to have, perfect and therefore infinite knowledge of all things (Ps. 147:5). The perfection of His knowledge relates to His own transcendent Being as well as the entirety of all of creation. As we have noted, He knows all things that are actual and that are possible. This includes a full, or perfect, knowledge of all things of the past, the present, and the future.

The possession of such perfect knowledge as God has is simply incomprehensible to us as men and women because of the limited nature of our knowledge and understanding of things. The only way we could ever understand God's perfect knowledge is to experience it. But, because we are not God, this is impossible. Any doctrinal position taken by man that reduces God's knowledge to less than absolute Omniscience is actually an attempt to bring the Being of God down to a level that man can understand and explain. Sadly there are those who inadvertently do this by trying to explain the sovereignty of God and the free will of man from human reasoning.

At this time, we will not take up the metaphysical questions dealing with the distinction of God's knowledge in respect to the past, present, and future. That is, whether or not God's foreknowledge confines human freedom; or the supposition that absolute foreknowledge by God is only possible if He has first predetermined all things. This view makes predestination and foreknowledge to mean the same thing, but this is not so. Leaving the discussion of these things for later, we will say here that we believe that the Scriptures clearly teach God's foreknowledge of all things while, with the same clarity, they teach that man is a free and therefore morally responsible being. In His sovereignty, God has chosen that this be so, thus it is so.

The actions of man are judged according to God's knowledge (I Sam. 2:3; II Chron. 16:9; Job 31:4; 34:21; Isa. 66:15-18; Heb. 4:12-13). Sin cannot be hidden from Him (Ps. 69:5). He knows all things (I John 3:20).

He understands all things infinitely (Ps. 94:9-10; 147:5). Man cannot hide his ways from the Lord nor can he search out God's understanding (Isa. 40:28). He has declared, and thus knows, the beginning from the end (Isa. 46:10; cf. Isa. 42:9). He knows our need before we ask (Isa. 65:24; Matt. 6:8). He numbers the hairs on each head (Matt. 10:30). He has known all His works from the beginning (Acts 15:18). He is the God of wisdom (Rom. 16:27; I Tim. 1:17). He knows what men will do (I Sam. 23:9-13). His understanding and knowledge are in Himself (I Cor. 2:11). He does not learn anything from any man, as no one is able to instruct God in any matter (I Cor. 2:16; Isa. 40:13).

God not only knows what actually was, is, and will be, He also knows what could have been had the situation been different. This fact is revealed by Jesus Christ's remarks concerning the fate of Tyre, Sidon, Sodom, and Gomorrah saying that if they had witnessed the same miraculous works that He had done in Chroazin, Bethsaida, and Capernahum, they would have repented and been spared (see Matt. 11:20-24). That the Lord Jesus "saw" Nathanael under the fig tree before Philip called him (see John 1:46-48) shows that God also knows all that is taking place as it happens as well as knowing beforehand that it will happen.

Other examples of Jesus Christ demonstrating the Omniscience of God are found in Matthew 26:31-35 and Mark 11:1-6. In Mark, He not only knew where the colt was, but He also knew that certain men were there that would challenge the disciples He sent to take it and how they would respond when they were told that the Lord needed it. In the Matthew passage, the Lord Jesus not only knew when a particular rooster would crow, He also knew that Peter would deny Him three times before it did. These are not examples of God subverting the free will of men but rather of His Omniscience, which includes the foreknowledge of all that will ever take place. This is important to the doctrine of salvation as Jesus Christ paid the price for every sin that has been or ever will be committed by any member of the fallen race of Adam. God already knew the extent of the sins of mankind when He formed His plan of redemption before the time of creation. Thus Jesus Christ is said to be "*the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29). There is no sinful thought or action of any man, woman, or child

that God the Son did not already know about when, before time began, it was determined by the Triune Godhead that He would become Man in order to pay the entire sin-debt of all humanity. Praise God that not one sin has been left unpaid. As the hymn says, "Jesus paid it all."

We can say that the Omniscience of God extends to all of creation throughout all time to all things, including both the actual and what is potentially possible. This extends even to the thoughts and actions, past, present, and future, of all of His creatures who were created with a self-conscious nature and a moral freedom of choice. This would include all of mankind, the good angels, as well as Satan and the fallen angels.



Courses Offered for the Fall Semester

August 22nd-December 15th, 2005

FIRST YEAR

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

SECOND YEAR

201 - Pastoral Ministry I	(2 hrs)
203 - Bible Exposition III	(4 hrs)
205 - Practical Dispensational Theology I	(2 hrs)
207 - The Major Prophets	(2 hrs)
209 - Homiletics I	(2 hrs)
211 - Bible Counseling	(2 hrs)
213 - Manners & Customs of the Bible	(1 hr)
Total	15 hrs

SPECIAL CLASSES

1001 - Biblical Principles of Family Life	(2 hrs)
1005 - Women in Ministry	(2 hrs)

Student's Corner

BBI Graduation and Awards Ceremony was held on Friday, May 20th. It was a great time of fellowship, and an encouragement to our graduates and for those who received 1st and 2nd year certificates. There were three graduates this year from **Berean Bible Institute**, Kenneth Board, Timothy Board, and Dean Reinheimer. **BBI** will miss these students as they have touched the lives of everyone here. Two of these graduates have already accepted the call of ministry!

BBI graduate Timothy Board and his wife Lori have accepted the call to pastor at *Grace Bible Church* in Castle Rock, Colorado. We truly enjoyed having Tim and Lori as students here at **BBI** and we joyfully send them out to "preach Christ and Him crucified." We know that with the enthusiasm Tim has for the Word, it will be preached and heard! Please keep both Tim and Lori in your prayers as they set out in a new ministry.

BBI graduate Dean Reinheimer has been accepted with *PMA Ministries* to work with Brother Don Sommer in prison ministries for the summer. Dean will be missed here at **BBI** as he was not only a student but helped take care of our grounds as well. We thank Dean for his time here and we know that wherever Dean goes people will be blessed. Dean also asks for your prayers as he undertakes this calling.

Two of our female students here at **BBI** are going to be camp counselors for the summer, Alissa Sellen will be helping out at *Northern Grace Youth Camp* in Northern Wisconsin for children of all ages. Andrea Curtis will be working at *Great Oaks Camp* with inner city children in Peoria, Illinois. They both have a desire to reach children for the Lord. What a great way to spend the summer! They also would appreciate your prayers.

Berean Bible Institute has a new board member! We would like to welcome brother Mike Ratsch to **BBI** as both a board member and fellow instructor!

THE SOURCE OF THEOLOGY

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

Theology refers to what the Bible teaches about God, His creation, and His dealings with that creation. Or we might say that theology is about what the Bible teaches about God, what He has done, is doing, and will do, and how man is involved in God's doings.

Generally speaking, there are four sources from which men endeavor to build theology. These are important to consider because the basis on which one develops his theological thinking will determine the correctness of his conclusions as well as his ability to recognize truth and error.

Intuition: This could be explained as the combination of human "experience" and "reason." Or we might say the knowledge that man gains from experience, including observation, and what he determines it must mean through his deductive powers. This determination, or conclusion, is then assumed, or supposed, to be true, and thus becomes the basis of further conclusions. This, in reality, steps out into the realm of philosophy rather than theology, i.e. which is about what the Bible actually teaches. If there is any place for intuition, or philosophical reflection, in determining theology, it is very limited at best and must be used with great caution if at all. Although many appeal to intuition, it is not a reliable source of theology. In fact, it is detrimental to building a sound theology.

Tradition: Simply put, this is all knowledge passed on to us from others rather than being gained by personal experience. This is the broadest possible use of the term "tradition" as it is more often used in a more restricted sense in referring to specific doctrines, practices, customs, etc. But just because something has "always been believed" and/or "practiced" does not make it correct. Tradition may be of some use in confirming doctrine but never in building it. All too often men place tradition ahead of Scripture in authority for faith and practice. This is unacceptable when we are approaching something as important as theology.

Science: This is knowledge that is gained by direct observation and experiment. It provides first-hand knowledge only to those who actually observe and experiment and is related to others as "tradition" through documentation. Science is only as

accurate as the accuracy and integrity of those who observe and experiment. We must bear in mind that all knowledge, even scientific knowledge, rests in some way on intuition (theory, premise, et.al.). As new facts are discovered, and more evidences emerge, the spectrum of scientific research broadens and theories change. Because it is in a state of continuous change, reliance on science for theological conclusions carries with it considerable risk of error. In fact, it almost guarantees it. We must not endeavor to base our theology on the scientific hypothesis of men, or we will be adjusting it with every new notion that comes along. Even solid facts gained through scientific means can only confirm doctrine, not teach it.

Revelation: As used here, Revelation refers to what God has made known to man. Two types of revelation exist; natural and special. Of these two, only special revelation gives us specific facts about God and His Creation that can be used to formulate doctrinal statements concerning particular subjects. All special revelation is found in the Bible, God's Word. There is no authority for anyone or anything to claim special revelation apart from the Scriptures. Natural revelation can do no more than tell us that there is a God, an intelligent Creator to whom man is responsible. But to have personal knowledge of that God is impossible outside of the realm of special revelation, God's Word the Bible. Special revelation is **the only reliable source** for building theology as Scripture, and Scripture alone, "*is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*" (II Tim. 3:16).

Therefore, let us stand squarely on God's Word as the basis for what we believe and how we conduct our lives. Only when we do this can we "*be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye (we) might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God*" (Col. 1:9-10).

"Every study of the Bible is a study of the evidences of Christianity. The Bible itself is the greatest miracle of all."



(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

Out they must go to serve the Living God by furthering the Gospel of the Grace of God through the preaching and teaching of His Word. We trust that the Lord will use them mightily in the years to come as, by faith, they stand strong in His power as they confront the powers of darkness that abound in this evil age that we are living in.

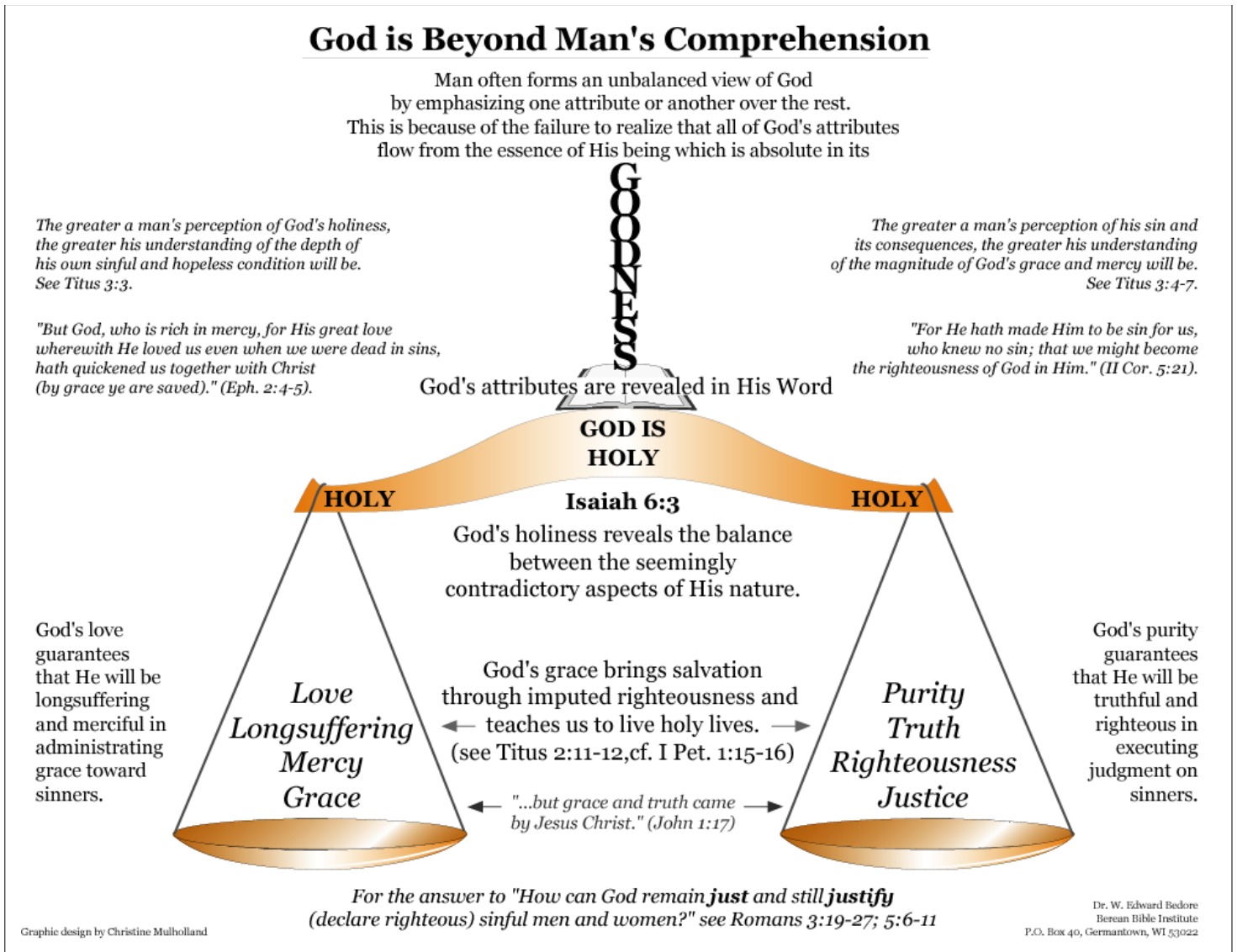
Please pray for our graduates as they leave **BBI** to serve the Lord in whatever capacity He leads them to. Also, please keep the students that are still at **BBI** in prayer as they continue to prepare themselves to serve the Lord through the school's Bible and

ministry training program. And, please pray that the Lord will raise up another group of students to begin training in August when the new school year begins. There is an abundance of opportunity to minister God's Word to a spiritually needy world. The Lord will use those who make themselves available to meet the need.

By His Grace,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

This chart is available for purchase from **Berean Bible Institute** for \$3.00 (includes postage). It comes in full color and is 8½ x11 inches.



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.



BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE

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