

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

Throughout history there have been challenges to the Word of God. In the Garden of Eden the Serpent came to the woman saying "hath God said?" By calling God's Word into question, he managed to deceive the woman (Eve), who in turn enticed the man (Adam) to disobey God (Gen. 3:1-6). This, as we know, resulted in the entrance of sin and death into the world (Gen. 3:7-24; Rom. 5:12). Since that fateful day that serpent of old, who is called the Devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9), has continued to deceive men and women into believing that they do not need God in their life. He has one basic "root lie" that all of his deceptive ways feed off of. That lie is that man can become his own god (Gen. 3:5). Every tenet of unbelief, from evolutionary humanism to New Age spirituality, from Atheism to Gnosticism, from so-called "Christian" cults to non-Christian religions, is based on this lie. Behind it is the idea that man is essentially good so, by virtue of his own efforts and intelligence, he can become equal with God. Whether it is expressed as the self-enlightenment of Hinduism that leads to Nirvana or the teaching that ones' own "good works" can gain them favor and a right standing before God that has invaded the Church, it is all based on "the lie."

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THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

An important question is, what is the Church to be doing while eagerly waiting for "the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ"? (see Titus 2:13; cf. Phil. 3:20-21). The Church referred to here is the composite Body of Christ on earth, which is made up of all those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. This is in contrast to references to the local church, which denotes a group of believers from a particular geographical area who meet together on a regular basis for the purpose of worship, admonition, encouragement, edification, and the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry through the preaching, teaching, and study of the Word of God rightly divided (see Rom. 16:25; Eph. 4:11-16). Of course, the mission of the local church is found in the mission of the Church at large.

Those who have an understanding of the distinctive God-given ministry of the Apostle Paul and the *revelation of the mystery* know that the marching orders found in the gospel records of Christ's earthly ministry and in early Acts are not part of God's program of grace that is in effect today. The passages of Scripture in question, which are often referred to as "the Great Commission" are in fact part of God's "prophetic program." The commission given to the twelve apostles (found in Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21-23; and Acts 1:7-8) was to proclaim that the long awaited Kingdom of God on earth was right around the corner. They, as actual witnesses of the fact that the crucified Messiah was truly raised from the dead and ascended into glory, were to proclaim that Jesus Christ would soon return in power to rule and reign

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Mail Received
at
Box 587

FROM MICHIGAN:

"Greetings in the glorious name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. I enjoyed meeting Pastor & Mrs. Bedore at the Bitely Bible Conference, which was very enjoyable. God's blessings on your endeavor of teaching men and women in the Word of God, rightly divided and the glorious message of the Dispensation of the Grace of God. Wishing all of you at **BBI** a Blessed Christmas and New Year."

FROM GHANA:

"Bless you all for spreading the Word."

FROM BRAZIL:

"Hello, I am a pastor in Brazil. I would like to have in my hands 'The BBI Bulletin.' I received one from a missionary, and would like to have this *Bulletin*. Thank you my brothers in Christ."

FROM MICHIGAN:

"I appreciate your letter from **BBI** and thank you for your encouragement to support the Lord's work. I gladly oblige and will also remember **BBI** in prayer. It's always uplifting to see you at the conferences and hear God's Word explained clearly through faithful workmen like yourselves. Have a nice CHRISTmas and joyous New Year."

FROM CANADA:

"Just a note to say I do love to get Pastor Bedore's **BBI** quarterly paper. His articles and letters are so good. I like to hear how the school is doing and that you have a good number attending all the time. It is a wonderful message for young people to learn and to prepare to teach and preach. God bless you all for the work you are doing in these young lives."

FROM WISCONSIN:

"I am enclosing a check to help you in teaching the Word of God, rightly divided. We are privileged to have you in the state of Wisconsin."

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

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements

*Spring Semester
at Berean Bible
Institute begins
January 23rd,
2006.
Register Soon!!!!*

Here is some advance notice about Bible Conferences coming up in the spring and summer. Mark your Calendars!!!

MGF Spring Conference

Location: Bethany, Missouri

Dates: June 2nd-4th, 2006

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

**37th Annual
BBF Conference**

Location: Cedar Lake, Indiana

Dates: June 17th-22nd, 2006

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

**Rocky Mountain
Grace Camp**

Location: Estes Park, Colorado

Dates: July 2nd-8th, 2006

Contact: Jim & Judy Harley at: (920) 829-6021 or E-mail at: <rockymountaingracecamp@juno.com>.

**Grace
Believers
Bible
Conference**

Location: Bitely, Michigan

Dates: July 28th-30th, 2006

Contact: Pastor

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over the earth from Jerusalem. Of course, no one alive today is an eyewitness of Christ's resurrection. Nor have there been any for over 1900 years. However, the promised Kingdom of Heaven on earth has not yet materialized as expected. Is there a reason for this?

WHY THE DELAY?

Israel, for the most part, rejected her Messiah and has consequently been temporarily set aside along with the promised Kingdom. We can rest assured that this is only temporary, however. Jesus Christ's promise to return in power and glory has not been done away with, but simply put on hold. He will one day return! The prophetic Scriptures make it abundantly clear that the Lord has not cast Israel away permanently. Through the Prophet Jeremiah we are told; *"If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: For I will cause their captivity to return and have mercy on them"* (Jer. 33:25-26). The Lord is saying here that as long as day and night and heaven and earth exist, His promise of a restored Kingdom of Israel ruled over by a king from David's line is to be considered as still being valid. He will eventually bring these things to pass. Yes, Christ's Second Coming has been delayed, but it has not been canceled. God's purpose in postponing the return of Jesus Christ to earth to judge the nations and reestablish David's kingdom is to offer salvation to the whole world through the blood of Jesus Christ. Forgiveness of sins is freely granted to any and all who simply trust in the sufficiency of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection to pay their sin penalty and deliver them from death unto life.

To work out His purpose, when He temporarily set Israel and the Kingdom Program aside, God raised up that other apostle, Paul, and revealed to him His mystery (secret) program of pure grace. And thus the **Dispensation of Grace** was ushered in. The believer today does not look forward to a kingdom on earth as was, and is, Israel's hope, but to an eternity in the heavenlies as members of the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:3, 19-20; 2:5-6; Phil. 3:20-21). The Apostle Peter understood that the return of Christ had been delayed because God is long-suffering towards the lost. Acknowledging Paul's ministry, he

explained in his second letter, *"that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you"* (II Pet. 3:15). Instead of ushering in the Great Tribulation that will precede Christ's return, our loving God graciously offered salvation to the entire world through faith in Christ alone, and He has graciously extended this offer for almost 2000 years now.

THE COMMISSION OF THE CHURCH

The primary definition of a commission is a charge to carry out a particular mission. When we say that the Church has been given a commission, we are saying that the church has been given a specific mission or assignment to carry out. It is an ongoing task that the Church is to be busy with.

The official proclamation of the Church's commission as **Ambassadors for Christ** is found in II Corinthians 5:18-21 and Ephesians 3:8-11. Having been reconciled (made acceptable) to God *"through Jesus Christ we have been given the ministry of reconciliation."* The word or message of reconciliation is the *"the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery"* (Rom. 16:25); it is the message of the Cross by which those who believe are saved (I Cor. 1:18-21; also see II Thess. 2:13-14); it is the message of the sufficiency of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life (Rom. 3:21-26; I Cor. 15:3-4; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7,13-14; 2:8-9). It also includes the sufficiency of Christ to enable the believer to live a God-honoring life (II Cor. 2:1-5; cf. Gal. 2:20). It is the message we are to be proclaiming to the world.

CARRYING OUT OUR COMMISSION

We cannot correctly understand the details of our mission as members of the Body of Christ until we understand what we have been commissioned to do. As a commission is a charge to carry out a particular mission, the one commissioned is obligated to faithfully carry out certain duties connected to the mission. Duties, of course, have to do with **doing**. It seems that many grace believers have the attitude that, because the Lord Jesus Christ has by Himself accomplished all that can be done to secure the salvation of the believer through His death, burial, and resurrection, there is nothing left for the believer to do. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is true that when one becomes a believer they are

baptized into Christ and sealed until the day of redemption by the Holy Spirit and their eternal destiny is secure "in Christ." Nothing can be done that will add to or subtract from the believer's position "in Christ." As salvation is a free gift that is not earned or merited in any way whatsoever. However, there is plenty for the believer to do in the way of service for the Lord. In fact, we are told that *"whatsoever you do, do it heartily to the Lord and not to men"* (Col. 3:23).

Every member of the Body of Christ is called to serve as an *"ambassador for Christ"* (see II Cor. 5:18-20). The basic meaning of ambassador is that of a representative who promotes his nation's best interests in foreign countries. As citizens of heaven (see Phil. 3:20-21), we are to advocate the purposes of our heavenly Father here on earth by making Jesus Christ known *"according to the revelation of the mystery"* throughout the world.

RIGHTLY DIVIDING

In conjunction with the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, the preaching and teaching of the Word of God rightly divided is to be carried out in the local church in order to *"make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery"* (Eph. 3:9). The commission of Ephesians 3:8-11 includes both the message of salvation to unbelievers and the helping of those who are already members of the Body of Christ to understand the unsearchable riches of Christ that are theirs by God's grace. As we come to a greater understanding of who we are in Christ and our eternal destiny because of God's love for us, we should be motivated to serve Him out of pure joy and gratitude; *"For the love of Christ (His love for us) constrains us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again"* (II Cor. 5:14-15). The idea is the same as that presented in Romans, that out of gratitude to God for what we have in Christ, we should present ourselves to serve Him as living sacrifices. Paul qualifies this by saying that it is the only reasonable or intelligent thing to do (see Rom. 12:1; cf. Eph. 5:1-2). As our understanding of Jesus Christ and what He did for us and what we have "in Him" grows, so should our zeal for sharing the gospel of God's grace to the lost. Our confidence to do so is found in the sufficiency of Christ's resurrection power and not in our own efforts (II Cor. 3:5-6; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:19-20).

CHRIST'S GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians we read that the Lord Jesus Christ has given (appointed) *"some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers"* (Eph. 4:11). There is no need for apostles and prophets today, but the need for evangelists and pastor/teachers remains. Some believers have the idea that their only responsibility is to attend church, or other meetings to be fed from the Word by those who are called to preach and teach the Word. The idea is that we serve God by going to church. For them, the idea of what worship is has been veiled by an undue emphasis on church attendance, membership, programs, and rituals. The true purpose of preaching and teaching God's Word goes well beyond the Sunday morning worship service and Sunday school.

The primary purpose of the local church ministry is *"for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying (building up) of the Body of Christ"* (Eph. 4:12). Ministry simply means performing the duties of a minister. A minister is an agent or representative. It carries a similar idea as the word ambassador with the added concept of providing individual help or aid to those in need.

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

"...If One died for all then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" *"... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..."* *"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation"* (see II Cor. 5:14-18). The "us" the ministry of reconciliation has been given to is those who are *"a new creation in Christ,"* that is to say, the entire Body of Christ. Only those who have been reconciled to God can point those who have not been to "The Way" of reconciliation. "The Way", of course, is Jesus Christ. The message of reconciliation simply must be proclaimed before it can be believed. In I Corinthians we are told that God, in His infinite wisdom, has decreed that He would use the *"...message preached to save those who believe"* (I Cor. 1:21). In Ephesians Paul declares that it was to him that God had given *"the Dispensation of the Grace of God."* In other words, he was responsible to "dispense" the message of God's grace in Christ Jesus to the nations (see Eph. 3:1-9). He was to be the bearer of this wonderful message to the world. He was to *"preach among the Gentiles (nations) the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see*

what is the fellowship of the mystery" (see Eph. 3:8-9). As partakers of God's grace, every member of the Body of Christ becomes an ambassador with Paul, an ambassador of grace on behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Simply put, our mission as ambassadors is to make known to all the world the Word of reconciliation, the Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ Jesus which has been revealed to us through the Apostle Paul. We are also to be involved in personal ministry within the Church. Individual believers are to carry on the work of ministry by sharing Christ with the lost through words and actions, and by ministering to the needs of other members of the Body of Christ in the same way. To the lost we share the power of God unto salvation (I Cor. 1:18,21), and to the saints the power of God unto sanctification (I Cor. 1:24,30).

FOLLOWING PAUL

Paul boldly called on the Church to follow him as he followed Christ (see I Cor. 11:1; cf. Phil. 3:17). This call was not made in arrogance or because of a desire to rule over others, but was in accordance with his God-given apostleship and ministry to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13). His heartfelt desire was for every believer to share his zeal for making the Grace Message known throughout the world (I Cor. 10:31-11:1). This, of course is an expression of God's will for every member of the Body of Christ.

Paul sent Timothy to Corinth to remind the local church there of his (Paul's) ways in Christ as he taught everywhere in every church. In so doing, he urged them to be followers of his ways and teachings (see I Cor. 4:14-17). In his letter to the Philippians, Paul encouraged the believers to join together in following his example. He clearly stated that those already following him were to be considered as an example (model or pattern) to them (Phil. 3:17). In the same vein, Paul said to the Philippians, "*Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you*" (Phil. 4:9). Obviously, more than merely acknowledging the doctrine Paul taught is meant here. The question is; what did Paul actually go out and do with his God-given ministry? You see, if we take those passages of God-breathed Scripture, which admonish us to follow Paul, seriously, we cannot escape the fact that we are to note his example and do likewise. Paul's God-given mission is the mission of the Church.

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Student's Corner

Another year has gone by and the **Berean Bible Institute** is still going strong. On behalf of the students of **BBI**, we would like to sincerely thank you for supporting our school. We truly feel privileged to attend and learn more about the Word of God, *rightly divided*. We know that many of you are praying daily for us and we would like to thank you. We also would like to express our gratitude to those that have donated to the scholarship program at **BBI**. It makes things a little bit easier for us as we attend classes. The goal of **BBI** is "*to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery*" and with your help we are striving to make that possible.

Please keep **BBI** associate instructor Joe Watkins along with **BBI** student Kevin Sadler and **BBI** graduate Dean Reinheimer in prayer while they are on their mission trip this January 17th through February 5th. They will be in the Philippines teaching and preaching the Word of God!

COURSES OFFERED FOR THE SPRING 2006 SEMESTER

BLOCK ONE

102 - Apologetics	(2 hrs)
104 - Bible Exposition II	(4 hrs)
106 - Basic Bible Doctrines II	(2 hrs)
108 - Romans	(2 hrs)
110 - Acts	(2 hrs)
112 - Cults	(2 hrs)
116 - Biblical Worldview	(1 hr)

BLOCK TWO

202 - Christian Education I	(2 hrs)
204 - Bible Exposition IV	(4 hrs)
206 - Practical Disp. Theology II	(2 hrs)
208 - The Minor Prophets	(2 hrs)
210 - Homiletics II	(2 hrs)
212 - Church History	(2 hrs)
216 - Bible Counseling II	(1 hr)
1002 - Biblical Principles of Marriage	(2 hrs)

(THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH
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Paul, who once led the “rebellion of rejection” against the risen Lord of Glory, became Christ’s chief ambassador of grace. He was specifically sent to the Gentiles by the Lord Himself “to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith in Me” (see Acts 26:12-18). Paul’s first order of business in his ever-expanding ministry was evangelism. He was a missionary, that is, he was sent to carry out a mission. The basic meaning of the word apostle is “one sent as a messenger or agent, the bearer of a commission.” Paul held a special and authoritative God-given apostleship to carry the message of God’s grace to the nations. When we read that the Church is to follow Paul as he followed Christ (I Cor. 11:1), we should understand it to mean that we are to carry on with Paul’s mission. His commission is the commission of the Body of Christ. In accordance with “the revelation of the mystery”, we are to be doing what Paul did. It is that simple. In short, Paul preached the Gospel of the Grace of God and taught many his message (see Acts 14:21-23; 20:24; I Cor. 1:17-21). Filling out his evangelistic work, Paul started churches wherever he went (see Acts chapters 13-28), and trained men leaders to carry on his work. If the Church is going to follow our God-given directive to follow Paul both in doctrine and example, we must be about the same business that he was about. We can only fulfill our mission if we are involved in some way with propagating the Gospel of God’s Grace to the lost sinners of the world, with the goal of planting new local Grace churches.

WHOSE JOB IS IT?

The entire Body of Christ carries the responsibility of getting the Gospel of Grace out to the world. The local church should be a marshaling area from which believers carry out the commission of the Church in their locality.

In explaining that Jews and Gentiles are saved today without national distinction or privilege, Paul asks four rhetorical questions in his Roman letter: “How then shall they call on Him (Jesus Christ) in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they be sent? (Rom. 10:14-15). These questions are as pertinent today as they were the day Paul

penned them. If the message is to be proclaimed, someone has to be available to proclaim it. In short, the Church needs those who are willing to go and those who are willing to send them. Clearly, the whole world is in view: “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call on Him. For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:12-13).

Not every member of the Body of Christ is called to be a pastor, an evangelist, a missionary, or a Bible teacher. But every member of Christ’s Body is called to take part in the work of ministry. There must be those who are willing to take part in the local church and its outreach to the community. There also must be those who are willing to go to the lost and unchurched of the world. And, just as important are those who are willing to support the ministry of the local church and missions. As Paul’s questions imply, if there are none who will go, or no one to send them, the job simply will not get done. The preaching and teaching of God’s Word is of vital importance to our mission as: “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom. 10:17).

Yes, Jesus Christ has done all that can be done to secure man’s salvation. The work of redemption was completed on the Cross. But, by God’s grace the responsibility of proclaiming the *Good News of Jesus Christ* has been given to God’s people, **the Body of Christ**.

PRIORITIES

Evangelism and church planting in our own country is important, even vital, to missions in other countries. We must not allow our vision to be limited to any geographical area or particular people. In God’s eyes all people are viewed as the same, lost sinners in need of a Savior. As the commission of the Church encompasses the entire world, every local church should help support mission work.

No nation or people, including our own, has any special quality or attribute that gains them a standing of merit before God “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). **No one deserves to be saved.** Only through faith in Jesus Christ can any son or daughter of Adam be found righteous in God’s sight. Only through the message of the Cross can they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Only when we care enough to either go ourselves, or send those who are willing to go, will the message be carried to a lost world. The reality is that if nobody does anything, nothing gets done.

There is no lack of work that needs to be done on behalf of Christ, but there is a lack of those who, by faith, are willing, to carry out the work of ministry. *“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”* (I Cor. 10:31-11:1).

Can we really say that we are following Paul as he followed Christ if we are not following his example of carrying out our commission to take the Gospel of God’s Grace to the world?

MOTIVE AND METHOD

Paul’s zeal for carrying out his Christ-given commission as the Apostle of the Gentiles was not because he was under orders to do so, but because he was under grace. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, **he was free to serve God** (Rom. 6:14,22). It was Christ’s love for sinners that compelled Paul to serve his Lord. Should it affect us any less today? *“For God commendeth (demonstrated) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Rom. 5:8). *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if One died for all, then were 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).

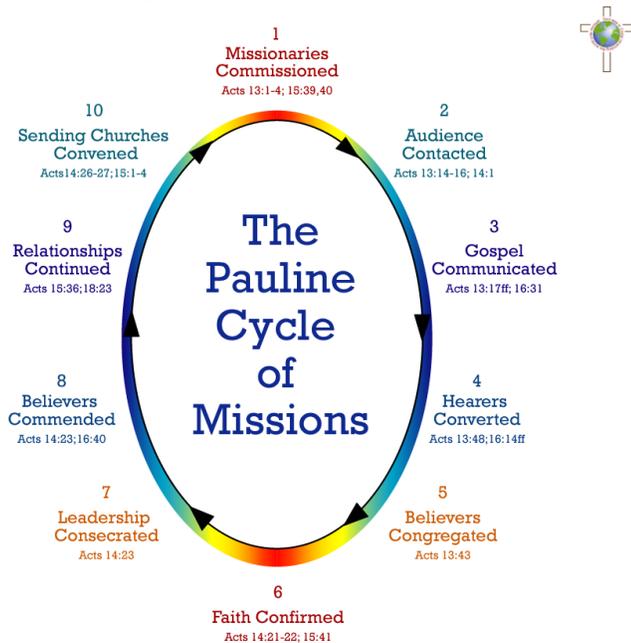
Regardless of the method used to minister God’s grace, it must be done in the Spirit through faith and not self-determination. We are to trust God for wisdom, strength, and the outcome (Phil. 2:12-15).

(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

As Grace believers, we know that man is not good, but is a sinner separated from God. It is only by God’s grace that any man or woman can be declared righteous before God. The only real hope for humanity is found in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the righteous Son of God who gave Himself that all who trust in Him might receive the gift of eternal life.

As Satan’s tactics have not changed and his efforts are as strong as ever, the Body of Christ must always be on its guard against the false teachings that the enemy is consistently trying to use to deceive people with. The true message of hope for today is that salvation is by Grace through faith alone, and this message is only found in the *“revelation of the mystery”* given to the Apostle Paul therefore, it is vital that those of us who have been blessed with an understanding of the Apostle Paul’s Christ ordained ministry and message (Gal. 1:1, 11-12) take a bold stand for the truth. Here at **Berean Bible Institute**, we have taken a strong stand for the truth of God’s Word *“rightly divided.”* In accord with the admonition of God’s Word, we are taking the precious message of the Dispensation of Grace that has been passed down to us from the Apostle Paul through those, who in days past have uncompromisingly stood for it and are committing it *“to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”* (II Tim. 2:1-2). By God’s grace we will continue to do so in His strength.

We thank God for the privilege of serving Him here and for every brother and sister in Christ of the past who has paid the price for standing for this wonderful message, and for those who are now standing for the truth. The time of our *“blessed hope”* may be near but, if not, we trust that the Lord will raise up faithful men in each generation to pass this message on until that day when the Rapture of the Body of Christ takes place. It is by the channel of faith that we receive grace, and by grace we are saved by a Great Savior. By grace we can live for our Lord, by grace we can stand for the truth, and by grace we will ever be with Him. All to the praise of His glory!!!
Because He Lives,



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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