

The BBI BULLETIN

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BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE, INC.
PO Box 587
Slinger, WI 53086



Phone: (262) 644-5504

Fax: (262) 644-5507

Web: <www.bereanbibleinstitute.org>

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

Recently a tragic event took place here in Wisconsin that really drives home the importance of "rightly dividing the Word of Truth." An eleven year-old girl died of a disease that could have been treated if only her parents had sought medical help. In sincere faith, they sought her healing through prayer alone based on promises that they found in the Bible. Their faith was strong and the promises for miraculous healing they claimed as their own are indeed found in the Holy Scriptures. The problem is that those promises are not to those who are living in the present Dispensation of Grace. Healing and the other miraculous signs and wonders spoken of in the Gospel Records of Christ's earthly ministry and the first few chapters of the Book of Acts are all directly associated with the prophesied return of Jesus Christ and the Millennial Kingdom. Because of Israel's rejection of the Lord Jesus as the promised Messiah, the Kingdom program was phased out and replaced with the Dispensation of Grace and "the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery" that the Lord committed to Paul as the Apostle to the Gentiles. With the prophesied Kingdom program, healing and the other sign gifts were phased out and will not be reinstated until after the Rapture of the Church before the Tribulation begins. If a person does not understand this they will end up confused about what God is doing today and how He wants believers to respond to His Word.

The confusion that exists today in the Church is great because of the failure of its leaders to acknowledge the special revelation of Grace truth

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE BODY OF CHRIST

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

The supreme importance of that part of the Bible written by the Apostle Paul cannot be overstated in reference to our understanding God's plan and purpose for the Church, the Body of Christ. This is because it is only in Paul's epistles that we find the doctrine of the Church concerning its origin, position, walk, destiny, and rewards.

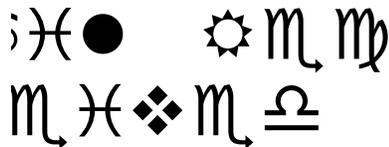
We believe that it is impossible to properly understand what God is doing today and the Church's responsibilities in the present Dispensation of Grace without first properly understanding Paul's letters and their relationship to the other books of the Bible.

When we speak of Paul's epistles or Paul's doctrine, we do not mean to imply that they merely contain ideas, opinions, or philosophies that originated with Paul. No, we believe that while Paul's abilities and knowledge were involved, he wrote under the influence of the Holy Spirit in such

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FROM OREGON:

"I feel blessed! I was once in a cult. I now understand where I belong. What peace and assurance we have, knowing, believing, and understanding Christ's finished work on the Cross, our sins are removed and I have a heavenly hope. God bless you in your work to train pastors for the Body of Christ."

FROM SOUTH DAKOTA:

"Thank you for your work in the ministry! We enjoy reading the *BBI Bulletin*."

FROM OREGON:

"Enclosed is a love gift to further the teachings of the Word, rightly divided. Such a blessed privilege to press on in the Truth. You are in my prayers."

FROM GEORGIA:

"To all of Berean Bible Institute, thanking you for your ministry and Lord's work. May God continue to bless you always."

FROM MISSOURI:

"Dear friends at **BBI**, I am amazed at how quickly these days seem to pass. Each passing

THE BULLETIN BOARD



 **GRACE FOR TODAY 5TH ANNUAL ENCOURAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

Location: Sparrow Bush, NY

Dates: May 24-26, 2008

Theme: "Faith Working Through Love"

Contact: Grace for Today 1-800-803-0003

 **Midwest Grace Fellowship Spring Conference**

Location: Bethany, MO

Dates: May 30th-June 1st, 2008

Theme: "Transformed into His Image"
Romans 12:1-2

Contact: Pastor Ken Lawson: (217) 498-6958; Dan Heyle (660) 425-6853.

 **40TH ANNUAL BEREAN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE** 

Location: Cedar Lake, Indiana

Dates: June 14th-19th, 2008

Theme: "Stand Fast in the Liberty"

Contact: Pastor Floyd Baker:
(812) 490-4156.

 **Register now for the Fall Semester!** 

  Classes start August 18th, 2008. For more information, class schedule, application, or a Handbook & Course Catalog, contact BBI: (262) 644-5504, E-mail: bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.com, or check out our website: www.bereanbibleinstitute.org

Our goal is to equip men and women to stand for and defend the truth of God's Word!

ARE YOU READY?

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

a way that what he wrote was exactly, word for word, what God wanted written. That is to say, Paul wrote by inspiration of God, making his epistle part of the canon of Scripture, the very Word of God.

Paul sometimes referred to his message as "my gospel" (Rom. 16:25; II Tim. 2:8). This does not mean that it was a message about him or a message from him, but rather that his message had been entrusted to him by direct revelation from the Lord (Gal. 1:11-12, cf. Rom. 2:16; 16:25; II Cor. 4:3; Eph. 3:1-10; I Thess. 1:5; II Thess. 2:14; II Tim. 2:8).

ORDER OF STUDY

There are two basic ways to survey Paul's epistles. First, is the chronological order in which the books are looked at in the order that they were written.

The second way is the logical order. This means that the individual letters are studied in the logical order of their content. This is the order that they are found in our Bibles.

In a study of Paul's epistles in chronological order the focus is on determining the when, why, where, and circumstances surrounding the writing of each book. This is not to say that the doctrine and practical application are ignored in this order of study, as they certainly are not. However, a misunderstanding can result if too much emphasis is given to the chronological order and circumstances in which Paul's letters were written. This is because the dates assigned to Paul's epistles (and other Bible books as well) are not actually given in Scripture, but are traditional.

Yes, there is evidence found in Scripture that point to certain dates for the writing of particular Bible books, and for some books this evidence leaves little doubt as to when they were written. However, the dates for other books are hotly debated among Bible scholars. In fact, while the dates assigned to some books may be almost unanimously accepted, none have gone unchallenged, and for others there is no consensus of opinion. The truth is that there is no actual evidence by which to give an absolute date for the writing of any Bible book.

Does this mean that the chronological order of Paul's letters should be ignored? Of course not.

The time, the place, and circumstances of the writing of his different epistles most certainly should be considered as insight into what he has said may be gained. But we want to be extremely cautious in developing doctrine on things that are determined by deduction rather than what the Bible actually has to say.

It is for this reason that the study of Paul's epistles from their logical order, as found in our Bibles, is the preferred method of study. This puts our focus on what the text actually says and the continuity of the interrelationship between the Pauline epistles.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PAUL'S LETTERS

As we have previously stated, the relationship and importance of Paul's letters to the Church of the present Dispensation of Grace cannot be overstated. And furthermore, their importance must not be underestimated in any way, if the Bible student is going to properly understand what God is doing today.

The position taken at **BBI** is that the Dispensation of Grace began with the Apostle Paul and that it was exclusively through him that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself revealed the doctrines that define and govern it.

This in no way means that we reject or disregard the rest of the Bible. We believe that the entire Bible is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. We also believe that in its entirety the Bible is for our learning. We hold to the principles of "Literal Interpretation" and "Right Division." The Bible says what it means and means what it says, but not all that it says is written to or about the present Dispensation of Grace, the Body of Christ, or how believers are to live in this present evil age.

In applying the principle of right division we do not take away from the Bible, nor do we add to it, but we do make a distinction between what has been written to and about God's chosen earthly people, Israel, and His chosen heavenly people, the Body of Christ. These two groups of God's people belong to two separate programs that are laid out in the Bible as "Prophecy" and "Mystery."

There are several distinctions that identify these two programs, the most important being the time and to whom they were revealed. Prophecy has to do with that which has been preached since the world began (Acts 3:21). In contrast, mystery is

that which was kept secret since the world began (Rom. 16:25).

This does not mean that Paul's message has no relationship to other portions of Scripture. No, not at all, for it is the same Lord Jesus Christ who is central to both the prophetic and mystery programs, and in both programs man's redemption is the overriding theme. Without the Old Testament prophets and the record of the early history of man and God's chosen nation of Israel and the account of Christ's life found in the gospel records, Paul would have no message.

Paul's message is intricately tied to the prophecy program and its presentation of Jesus Christ as Israel's Messiah and His coming earthly kingdom. It reveals Him and His work of redemption more fully than was done through the prophets of Israel, or even by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself during His earthly ministry. As the Dispensation of Grace was revealed uniquely to Paul, it is only in his epistles that we find the identity, position, walk, work, and destiny of the Body of Christ explained.

THE BOOK OF ACTS

The Book of Acts gives us a synopsis of Paul's life from the time of the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58-8:1) through the two years of his first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:30-31). Luke's primary intent was not to write a history of Paul's life, but to relate the story of how the transition from the Kingdom Program (prophecy) to the Dispensation of Grace (mystery) took place, and the resultant spread of Christianity to the Gentile world. This story simply cannot be told without the story of Paul because of his central role as the recipient and proclaimer of God's mystery message that has superseded the prophetic message with the "temporary" casting away of Israel because of her rejection of the Lord Jesus as her promised Messiah. Acts begins with the resurrected Christ commissioning His kingdom apostles, and their subsequent preaching to the Jews gathered at Jerusalem to celebrate the Day of Pentecost (or the Feast of Weeks). The book ends with that other apostle, Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles, imprisoned at Rome, the leading Gentile city of that day.

PAUL THE MAN

The man we have come to know as the Apostle Paul is first introduced to us in the Scriptures as a

young man known as Saul (Acts 7:58). He was not only involved in the stoning of Stephen, but was actively involved in persecuting all of those Jews who believed that the Lord Jesus was truly the promised Messiah, (Acts 8:1-4; 9:1-2; 26:9-11; Gal. 1:13-14; I Tim. 1:12-13).

Moses had a background that uniquely prepared him to be the instrument God would use to bring forth the new Dispensation of the Law. Moses' background as a Hebrew descendant of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, gave him the knowledge of Israel's place as God's covenant people. It also gave him an affinity to those in bondage. Being raised the son of Pharaoh's daughter and living as a prince in close proximity to the throne until he was forty years old, afforded him with a high level of formal education. It also provided the practical experience necessary to organize and lead a great number of people and enable him to effectually deal with people of every level, from slaves to kings. His forty years in the wilderness as a shepherd gave him the knowledge of the land in which he would lead Israel and their flocks for forty years. It also produced the humility and patience he would need to carry out the great task that God would lay before him.

In like manner Paul had a mixed background. As a Hebrew, trained as a Pharisee, he had a knowledge of the True and Living God and His covenant promises through the Holy Scriptures which were entrusted to Israel. Being raised outside of Israel in a predominately Greek culture, Paul had gained experience that suited him to deal with a broad spectrum of people from various backgrounds on their own level of understanding. He was able to effectively communicate with slaves, pagans, religious leaders, philosophers, magistrates, and kings.

By place of birth Paul was a Roman citizen, which resulted in him having an experiential understanding of the politics of the empire and the diplomacy necessary to approach and properly deal with those in governmental authority, wherever he might go. So just as Moses' background made him properly suited to lead Israel out of bondage in Egypt and establish them as a unique people under God's Law in a new dispensation, so did Paul's background make him suited to be God's Apostle of the Gentiles as the recipient and proclaimer of the new Dispensation of Grace.

After meeting the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, Paul's great zeal as a Pharisee and

arch enemy of Christ's followers was re-channeled into proclaiming the new message that the Lord had given him. As a recipient of God's grace Paul's religious fervor and staunch legalism were replaced by an ever-growing concern and compassion for his people, Israel, and all the people of the world and especially for the fledgling Church of God of the new dispensation, the Body of Christ.

The genuineness of Paul's love can be seen throughout his letters as he pours out his soul in concern over the well being of those he is writing to or about. Paul's letters are deeply personal, profound, and practical as well as doctrinal. He offers no false expectations, but instead tells us that the Christian life is one of challenges and struggles. He also shares His own experiences in suffering and shows us the proper response in doctrine and practice. His personal testimony is woven into the very fabric of his epistles as his doctrine addresses all of the emotional, social, and spiritual problems that believing men and women face on a regular basis. And, throughout his letters he continually puts forth the challenges to endure (i.e., remain faithful) in conflict and hardship because the victory has already been won in the Lord Jesus Christ in whom God "*always causes us to triumph*" (II Cor. 2:14 cf. Rom. 8:37; I Cor. 15:57-58). To the lost he explains **why** every man and woman needs a Savior, "*for all have sinned*" (see Rom 1:18-3:23), and **how** they can be made righteous in God's sight through faith in Jesus Christ (see Rom. 3:24-26 ff.).

But, the main focus of Paul's letters is to call believers away from conformity to the world and its system, to being transformed to the image of Christ. His writings are full of who the Lord Jesus is and what He has done, and is doing, for, in, and through the Body of Christ. Oh, the wonder of the riches of His matchless and abounding grace!!!

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world.

THE IMMINENCY OF CHRIST'S COMING

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

When we speak of the "imminency" of Christ's coming, we are referring to the fact that it could take place at any time. The word "imminent" means that something could take place at any time, not that it must necessarily take place right away. In general, it can refer to something that is sure to take place or something that may never happen. For instance, we can say that a boat caught out in a storm is in imminent danger of capsizing. The boat may weather the storm but, if the wind continues to build and the waves grow larger, the chance of it being overcome by the raging sea will increase dramatically. Since at any time a large wave could swamp the boat or roll it over, we can say that the crew is in imminent danger, a danger that will exist until the storm subsides or the boat can enter the safety of a secure harbor. The general sense of imminency is something that could, and is likely to, happen.

However, like many other words, imminency has taken on a recognized theological meaning because of the way it has been used by theologians and Bible teachers. When used in regard to Jesus Christ's coming, it speaks of that which will definitely take place, but man does not know the time. From man's perspective it could happen at any time, so it is said to be imminent. The "Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms" under the heading "Imminence of the End" gives the following definition:

"The view held in the Christian Church from the earliest times is that the return of Christ and the end of the world may happen at any time. While the end may not be 'immediate', it is always imminent." (The "Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms" McKim, Donald K. Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY, 1996, pg. 136).

The word imminency is not actually found in our English Bibles, but is used to convey the Bible truth of the timing of the Rapture of the Church. It is clear that it will one day happen, but we are not told when. The believer is to live his or her life in anticipation of Christ coming while zealously serving God out of love and faithful appreciation for the salvation that the Lord has provided by His grace.

Missionary Focus



Philippines

In this issue, **BBI** would like to focus your thoughts and prayers on these Grace missionaries:

THE PHILIPPINE CHURCHES & INSTITUTES

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Things to Come Mission in the Philippines. TCM's first missionaries, Vernon Anderson, and Joe Watkins, responded to a request for a missionary to teach them about the Bible and the uniqueness of the Gospel Message entrusted to the Apostle Paul, and a ministry was established in the Philippines as a result. Since 1958 Things to Come Mission has planted numerous grace churches in 43 of the 79 provinces of the Philippines and operate four Bible institutes. Also, they currently have ministries in Kenya, Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, South Africa, Uganda, and England. **BBI** would like to recognize this work and put the "missionary focus" on this far-reaching ministry.

TCM has celebrated their 50th year with a Bible conference on April 22nd-26th in Ozamis City, where the ministry began in 1958. Former missionaries and friends from the USA as well as TCM missionaries from other fields and TCM national representatives from other countries attended. Two of **BBI's** associate instructors, Pastor Joe Watkins and Pastor Paul Sadler were among them. Over 1,500 people were excited to be a part of this celebration of how God has used the ministry of Things to Come Mission to spread the Gospel of the Grace of God. We are excited to see how the Grace Message has been received and spread in this country. This outstanding achievement should make Grace believers everywhere take notice and cheer. We praise God for all the wondrous things that He has accomplished! This is what the Body of Christ is about. When one rejoices, we all rejoice with them. Congratulations TCM and all that have been a part in this outstanding and encouraging ministry. It makes us ask ourselves, What can I do? Where can I serve? How can God use me? That is what "Body of Christ" life on earth is about after all, isn't it?

THE HISTORY OF THINGS TO COME MISSION

Little did J. Herbert Palmer suspect on that day in 1955 when he organized Things to Come Mission Inc. (TCM) how far reaching it would become. Having served as missionaries to Africa, he and his wife, Jessie, returned to Craig, Colorado, in 1952 with their five children. With an unquenchable desire to see the wonderful message of God's grace proclaimed they focused their efforts on the area surrounding the Rocky Mountains.

Placing an advertisement in the Moody Monthly magazine, he received many letters from people willing to come as church-planting missionaries. However, they were all from overseas, not even one was from the U.S.! Mr. Palmer answered their inquiries, sending them books to study and telling them that if they were in doctrinal agreement he would send funds for them to work in their own countries. This opened the doors for TCM's first missionaries, Vernon and Darlene Anderson, who went to this colorful island nation in Southeast Asia in 1958, and were soon followed by Joe and Pauline Watkins. These early pioneers began the ministry with a two-fold strategy of aggressive evangelism and the training of national leaders. In 1959 TCM established International Grace Bible Institute (IGBI) as a training center to prepare Filipinos as pastors, evangelists, Sunday school teachers and for spiritual leadership. From its humble beginnings TCM's ministry in the Philippines has, through God's grace, expanded to become an organized fellowship consisting of more than 500 churches with over 300 pastors and Christian workers. Along with four residential Bible Institutes, other methods of outreach include a vibrant national youth ministry, literature, radio broadcasts and training programs for lay leaders in the churches.

Mr. Palmer served as director of the mission until his death in October 1961. He was succeeded by Irvin Cox and then Pastor Eldred Sidebottom became the new director in 1963. The mission was headquartered in Cope, Colorado for 29 years until December 1990 when the office was moved to Indianapolis, Indiana. In January 1991 Joe Watkins was appointed as director, a position he held until January 2005 when he stepped down and Ben Anderson became the director.

Student's Corner

We are so pleased to welcome Pastor Robert Nix as a full-time instructor at **BBI**. Pastor Nix has been teaching at **BBI** for three years on a part-time basis and will become a full-time instructor in August. Please pray for Pastor Nix and his wife, Linda, as they make this transition in ministry and move to Wisconsin from the Chicago area. Pastor Nix has over twenty years of ministry experience, and for the last five years has been serving as pastor of *Hilltop Bible Church* in Crestwood, Illinois. Pastor Nix will be a great asset to the school, and we feel very blessed to have him minister with us.

BBI graduate Andy Kern is serving as an intern at *Grace Fellowship Bible Church* in Sheridan, Arkansas. Please pray for Andy along with his wife Sarah and their son as they serve the Lord.

Former **BBI** student Kevin Mepsted has accepted the call to full-time ministry at *Berean Bible Church* in Evansville, Indiana. Please pray for Kevin and his wife Jennifer and their three children, as they undertake this ministry.

COURSES OFFERED FOR THE FALL SEMESTER

August 18-December 11, 2008

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)
301 - Pastoral Ministry II	(2 hrs)
303 - Bible Exposition V	(4 hrs)
305 - Dispensational Theology III	(2 hrs)
307 - Missions & Church Planting	(2 hrs)
311 - Christian Writing	(1 hr)
315 - Music & Song Leading	(1 hr)
317 - Advanced Disp. Hermeneutics	(2 hrs)
319 - Youth Ministry	(1 hr)
1001 - Biblical Principles of Family Life	(2 hrs)
1005 - Women in Ministry	(2 hrs)

(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

uniquely given to the Apostle Paul. The result has been that many have turned away from a dispensational approach to the Scriptures as something to be considered unbiblical. This is a shame because it is resulting in even more confusion.

This confusion is far reaching and affects lives on a personal and practical level. Because it affects how we live, it affects important life decisions. The tragedy of the death of a young girl that I mentioned earlier is a sad example. But, it goes much farther than mere physical consequences because a person's soul is deeply affected by what they believe. Often the very simplicity of the gospel of salvation is made complicated and is twisted by well meaning folks who mix Law and Grace and Prophecy and Mystery because they don't know what it means to "rightly divide" the Scriptures. When works are added to the finished work of the Cross a perverted gospel message is the result. To be wrong about the sufficiency of the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ to save all of those who trust in it, can result in lost souls thinking they must "earn" their salvation. This is the kind of tragedy that we don't read about in the newspaper or see on the news, but is happening all around us. We believe that the Grace Message is vital to the health of the Church and the well being of souls. It is important enough to live for and even to die for, because it is God's truth and the souls of men and women hang in the balance.

Your continued prayer and financial support will help **Berean Bible Institute** to continue to stand strong in proclaiming and defending the truth of God's Word "rightly divided." Pray that the Lord will use this, and the other sound grace ministries in the U.S., to bring a "grace revival" to our land.

In our last edition of the *Bulletin* we announced that we would be having the large windows in the chapel area replaced at a cost of over \$30,000. Praise the Lord that over \$7,000 has already been donated to help defray the cost. We thank the Lord for this and trust that He will supply all our need for this project.

In Christ,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

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.

Editor: Dr. W. Edward Bedore
Composition and Layout: Jessica S. Sadler

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE
116 Kettle Moraine Dr. S.
PO Box 587
Slinger, WI 53086

Phone: (262) 644-5504/Fax: (262) 644-5507

E-mail: <bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org>/Web: <www.bereanbibleinstitute.org>

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



BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE

116 S. Kettle Moraine Drive
PO Box 587
Slinger, WI 53086

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