

The BBI BULLETIN

Volume 10

Summer 2008

June, July, August

Issue 1

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Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

One of the things that has been a burden to the leadership of **Berean Bible Institute** from the beginning has been not only to help individuals prepare to serve God, but to also help them get started in the ministry. **BBI** has been effectively training men and women for service for over a dozen years now and we have seen many of our former students go on to serve the Lord in various capacities. However, it has not always been easy for them financially as smaller churches and new churches are often not able to provide adequate support for a family in today's economy.

To help relieve this situation the **BBI** Board of Directors has established a monetary support fund for the purpose of providing temporary financial assistance for former **BBI** students to help them to get started in the ministry. Qualified participants could be involved in a variety of different types of ministry such as a pastoral internship, serving as pastor, the mission field, church planting, or evangelism. The name given to this undertaking is *The Timothy/Macedonian Fund*.

The name was chosen as Timothy and the Macedonians remind us of two important Biblical principles that the Apostle Paul taught and by which he lived. One is the encouragement and training of faithful men who will both guard and proclaim Grace Truth while ministering to the spiritual needs of the church. As in his letters to Timothy, Paul encouraged him in the Gospel ministry he was called to. We want to encourage today's generation to continue in the legacy of faithful service that these men of the early days of the Dispensation of Grace has left for us to follow.

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

THE NATURAL MAN

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

In speaking of the nature of man, we are referring to the innate qualities that define his character of being. Man's nature can be said to be the general essence of what he is; that which dominates his normal mode of being and therefore dictates his natural tendencies of behavior. For example, we might say that wolves are, by nature, prone to live in groups, while cougars are, by nature, solitary creatures. This is their normal, or natural, behavior. Likewise, man has certain built in general tendencies that result in thoughts, attitudes, and actions that are characteristically human. Regardless of culture, social status, or ethnicity, these characteristics are common to men and women throughout the earth.

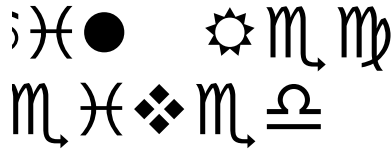
Man Was Created in the Image of God

The Scriptures tell us that "God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him, male and female created He them" (Gen. 1:27; cf. Gen. 5:1; 9:6; I Cor. 11:7; James 3:9). First, we know that this image, or likeness, of God that man was created

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FROM NEW MEXICO:

"Thank you very much for so graciously sending me Grace material. I look forward to devouring it! It is good to know that these articles are available in booklet form. I am confident that I will be ordering several copies for my friends. I would sincerely appreciate it if you would have my name added to your **BBI** quarterly newsletter.

FROM CAMEROON, AFRICA:

"I am very excited to be in touch with your website! Please put me on your mailing to be receiving your *Bulletin* regularly.

FROM INDIANA:

"We're writing to thank you for sending the *BBI Bulletin* regularly. As always, we will continue to pray for you.

FROM WISCONSIN:

"Please include my name on the mailing list for the **Berean Bible Institute's** newsletter.

FROM HAWAII:

"I now have the peace of God. After being saved for 55 years everything fits, having come to see the Grace Message. God bless you."

THE BULLETIN BOARD



BEREAN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP FALL BIBLE CONFERENCE

LOCATION: YANKTON, SD
DATES: OCTOBER 9-10, 2008
THEME: "PAUL'S USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT"
CONTACT: PASTOR FLOYD BAKER AT:
(812) 490-4156


BBI Fall Bible Conference

Location: Berean Bible Institute,
Slinger, WI
Dates: October 17th & 18th, 2008
Theme: "Acknowledging the Truth,
Which is According to Godliness"

BBI's 3rd Annual Grace Missions Conference

Location: Berean Bible Institute
Dates: March 13th -14th, 2009
Contact: BBI at (262) 644-5504

TBS Ministries Indiana Bible Conference

 **Date:** September 19-20, 2008
Location: Terre Haute, IN
Theme: Where Is God Today?
Speakers: Ed Bedore, Roy Kelsey, Rick Owsley, Tony Sistelos, Don Sommers, Jim Tollar, Sam Venton
Contact: Tony & Barb Sistelos at: (812) 589-1913 or sistelos@junu.com

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

(THE NATURAL MAN continued from page 1)

with is not a physical image as God, being Spirit (John 4:24), is incorporeal and has no physical form. Being omnipresent, God is not limited by the physical restrictions of time and space that man is subjected to. Also, that God said *"Let us make man in our image"* tells us that the image of God that man was created in is an image that is shared equally by all three Persons of the Triune Godhead. It has to do with the qualities of personhood rather than physical manifestations.

That He is infinite and we are finite makes it impossible for us to totally grasp what God is like. We tend to think of Him in terms that we can relate to as human beings, seeing Him simply as a great human, which severely minimizes our view of God. Because He understands our limitations, God has included anthropomorphisms (the attribution of human qualities to God, such as "eyes," hands," or arms," etc.), in the Scriptures to help us understand Him. And, to protect against trivializing Him, He included a prohibition against using physical images to represent His likeness (Ex. 20:4). God is not a man and we should not think of Him as such. However, as far removed from man as He is by virtue of His creational transcendence, man can still relate to God through His Son, who took upon Himself the form of man (John 1:1-4,14,17; Phil. 2:5-8; I Tim. 2:4-6).

In what way then, does man bear the image of God? In a limited sense, man is like God in that he is comprised of spirit, soul, and body (I Thess. 5:23), which reflects the Trinity of God. But this, like all other illustrations of the Trinity, falls short, as man is one person with three parts while the Trinity is one God existing in three Persons. I don't think that this likeness is what God had in mind when He said *"Let us make man in our image"*. The likeness of God that man was created with is much deeper and profound. There are at least three ways that man was created in the image of God, a personal likeness, a relational likeness, and a creative likeness. But, before looking at the extent of man's likeness to God in these three areas, we should consider man's original standing before God.

It is wrong to say that man was originally created righteous. Righteousness is an attribute that belongs to God, and God alone. It speaks of His absolute moral perfection, which means He is not only totally sinless, but it is also impossible for Him to sin (James 1:17; cf. Num. 23:19; Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18). Man was created in innocence, without a practical knowledge of sin, but with the ability of choice. He was not created in the simple innocence

of a newborn child. From the beginning, Adam and Eve were given knowledge and understanding that afforded them the aptitude of logic and abstract thought and the power of willful decision and actions that very young children do not have. Adam was created with a positive moral innocence that enabled him to choose to either obey or disobey God as he willed. He was in fellowship with God until he chose to disobey Him and fell into sin. The redemption of sinners does not simply restore them to the state of moral innocence that Adam was created with, but takes them to the higher plane of God's righteousness, which is imputed to them through faith in Jesus Christ, who alone among men can claim God's righteousness as His own (Rom. 3:21-26; II Cor. 5:21). In regeneration (Tit. 3:5) the believer becomes part of the "new man", or a new humanity, *"which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness"* (see Eph. 4:20-24; cf. Col. 3:10).

A Personal Likeness: The inherent characteristics of personality are intellect, emotions, and will. "Intellect" is the capacity for knowledge with the ability to reason and make decisions based on that knowledge. "Emotions" involves the capacity to have feelings towards persons or things with the ability to express those feelings or emotions. "Will" is the ability to act on decisions made according to ones combined knowledge (intellect) and feelings (emotions). We might refer to the choices of our will that we make as self-determination. The characteristics of intellect, emotions, and will gives man the self-consciousness of personhood.

It should be said here that some insist that since animals have some measure of intellect, emotions, and will, these cannot be in the image of God in which man was created. To this we would answer, while it is true that animals do possess these qualities, it is to a very limited degree in comparison to man. Animals function according to their God-given instincts as much or more than by their ability to make choices to act (will) based on intellect and emotions. Some animals are decidedly more intelligent than others, but none have anywhere near the intellect that man possesses. The intellect of man provides him with the capacity for abstract thought, hypothetical reasoning, and complicated creative planning and design. He has emotions that are compatible to his superior intellect.

Man's personal likeness to God is implied in that he was created to have dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26-28) and in the responsibility he was given to take care of the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15).

A Relational Likeness: Man was created in the likeness of God in that, like God, he desires fellowship with other persons. That God is relational by nature is seen in the perfect fellowship of the Three Persons within the Godhead. It is also demonstrated by the fact that God created man to have fellowship with Him (Gen. 3:8). Also, God created a woman so that the man would not be alone but would have a comparable companion (Gen. 2:18,21-23). Because he was created so, man instinctively seeks companionship. This is clearly seen in the social structures and personal relationships that exist worldwide. Wherever you find mankind, you will find social interaction built upon human relationships of some sort. This interaction may vary widely, ranging from the intimate one on one relationship between a man and his wife to the camaraderie between political activists, from book reading clubs to mountain bike enthusiasts. You name it and people band together to live, enjoy, discuss, compare, investigate, build, play, plan, argue, eat, or watch it. Whatever the common bond might be, it is obvious that people enjoy the companionship of others who are like-minded. The shared interest provides a comfort zone that brings people together.

Some have referred to this likeness of God as a "social likeness", but I prefer to call it a relational likeness because the foundation of all social qualities is personal relationships. Of course, the greatest personal relationship that a man can enter into is a relationship with his Creator, which is the only relationship that can fully satisfy man's inherent desire for fellowship. Originally man had fellowship with God, but their personal relationship was ruined by sin and man was estranged from his Creator. This in turn has marred all of mankind's social interests because sin has permeated the entire human race. God's provision of redemption for man is based on His love-driven holy desire to reconcile with His rebellious creation (Rom. 5:6-11; II Cor. 5:17-21).

A Creative Likeness: Like God, man has a desire and the ability to purposefully create things. Man cannot create matter from nothing as God did in the beginning (Gen. 1:1), but he does have the ability to use existing material to create things for his own purposes. From tools to works of art, from machines to ships, from tents to towering skyscrapers, from matches to computers, from kites to space shuttles, the number and variety of the creative works of man is mind numbing. Man's capacity to imagine, plan, produce, and improve things seems to be limitless. Man's ability to think and do is truly astounding, but it is only a flickering image of the creative likeness of God.

Genesis 1:26-28 tells us that the original man and woman that God created had the power of procreation. His image-bearers could reproduce themselves. In chapter five of Genesis, after they had sinned against God, it is expressly said that Adam "*begat a son in his own likeness, after his image*" (see Gen. 5:1-3). Thus God's image-bearer retained the ability to pass that image on through reproduction. Even though the likeness of God that man bore was severely distorted, it still remained and has been passed on to the entire human race. This is seen in Genesis 9:6 which reads, "*whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man.*" The penalty of murdering one of God's image-bearers, anyone of the human race, is death. The murder of one of His image-bearers is a serious sin against God who created man in His own image. Human life is precious in His sight.

Man cannot form a body out of the dust of the earth and breathe life into it as God did to create the first man, but God has endowed him with the ability to pass that life on to his offspring. Because man is not equal with God, his likeness is certainly limited. However, the ability of procreation through which personhood itself is passed down from generation to generation should be considered a precious gift of God's likeness to be cherished and used to His glory. A man and a woman are to become one flesh that they might produce Godly offspring (see Gen. 2:22-24; Mal. 2:15). What a wonderful way to reflect God's character through our life.

It is this three-fold personal, relational, and creative likeness of God that sets man apart from the rest of creation.

God's Image Has Been Corrupted

When the first man, Adam, sinned, he fell from a position of positive moral innocence to a position of sinfulness, affecting the very nature of his being. Before the fall he could choose to either obey or to disobey God, but through the fall he now has a predisposition towards sin. God created man for a life of service, but he has become self-serving, a selfish creature prone to do evil. We can say he gained a sinful attitude as sin now dominates his normal mode of being, causing him to have inherent tendencies toward sinful behavior. This is commonly referred to as the "sin nature."

As we have already noted, man has retained the image of God he was originally created with, although that likeness has been polluted by sin. Man still possesses a personal, relational, and

creative likeness of God that makes him a unique being in all of creation, but he regularly abuses those qualities of life. Instead of having a personal interest in the well being of others, he selfishly seeks recognition. Instead of nurturing loving relationships with others, he uses people for his own selfish purposes. Instead of cherishing the opportunity to produce and raise godly offspring, he abuses them. Of course, not everyone misuses these qualities of life to the same degree. Nevertheless, every one of us has the capacity to do so and is guilty of abusing these qualities of life to a greater extent than most want to admit. Even when an outward manifestation is not evident, the attitude of man's sinful heart can be steeped in the deepest corruption of life. This universal sinfulness of the human race has left mankind separated from God, who is absolutely holy in all of His Being. All having sinned are worthy only to suffer the wrath of God's judgment.

Thank God that through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, sinful men and women can be wonderfully redeemed from the bondage of sin that enslaves them and be delivered from the horror of everlasting fires of Hell that awaits those who die in their sins. The Gospel of the Grace of God truly is "Good News" for sin cursed men and women.



One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him.

The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost."

God listened very patiently and kindly to the man and after the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well, how about this, let's say we have a man making contest." To which the scientist replied, "OK, great!"

But God added, "Now, we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God just looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!"

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1) "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul"

(Gen. 2:7).

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

The other day I read two editorials in our local paper on current events that seem like something out of a science-fiction horror movie, or at least the plot for one. In the first, the subject is "human rights" for animals. It seems that Spain's parliament is actually considering passing a resolution granting certain human rights "to apes". Those monitoring the situation believe that it will pass and probably become law in no more than a year. We do not know where this kind of thinking will end if it is implemented by Spain; but, there is no question that, in some way, human life will be devalued through it. Princeton professor, Peter Singer has been very influential in the promotion of this resolution. We only wish that he had as much care for children as he does for apes. [While he believes that there are no moral grounds for limiting basic rights to human beings he has also publicly stated that he believes that parents should have the right to euthanize (put to death) handicapped children up to 28 days after birth.] If passed and implemented this rights for apes law will have more of a dehumanizing effect on mankind than the humanizing of apes that its supporters want.

The other editorial concerned the state of Oregon and a 53-year-old prostate cancer patient who lives there. It seems that this man has no insurance, and although the state will pay for treatment in some cases like his, it has refused to help him. It turns out that state officials have decided that chemotherapy is too expensive and have offered him a less costly treatment: physician-assisted suicide! In other words, the state of Oregon has decided that the value of human life is based on a mathematical equation done in the profit and loss columns of the ledger book.

Thirty-five years ago, when the Roe vs. Wade decision legalized abortion in America, the warnings about where it would eventually lead voiced by pro-life people were almost totally ignored. But theirs was not simply alarmist rhetoric, it was an educated estimation based on what the Bible says about the sanctity of life, the fallen nature of man, and the evidence of history. They are proving to have been accurate.

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Missionary Focus



Thailand

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

THE KILLION FAMILY

Nathan and Jessica Killion, along with their children; Matthias, Abigail, and Chloe, will be joining the Maraas family in Thailand. Since January the Killions have been traveling the country, meeting and visiting with fellow members of the Body of Christ, and sharing their vision for ministry in Thailand.

They are now learning the Thai language, which is comprised of 44 consonants 32 vowels and 5 tones along with a script that has Indian origins.

Other areas of preparation for them include reading and studying about Buddhism and the Thai culture, and obtaining passports for the children.

Census records that 94% of its populace are Theravada Buddhist. Of the remaining 6%, 3.9% are Muslim, 1.7% Confucianists, and 0.6% Christians.

Thailand is a stronghold of Buddhism, (a very dangerous religion, in which they believe they can earn their own salvation).

As you can see, these missionaries are going to need to re-train themselves to combat this false doctrine and show this country the Truth of God's Word. They are being sent as the light in this very dark country.

The Killion family will be leaving on December 7th, 2008, to begin their ministry in Thailand. Please keep them in your prayers.

For more information on the Killions and their ministry please contact them at: *Things to Come Mission*, PO Box 127, Beech Grove, IN 46107.

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E-mail: nkillion@tcmusa.org

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What started out as the right to abort babies in the first trimester, has resulted in almost full-term abortions and partial-birth abortions. And now that euthanasia is legal in some places, where will it end? Oregon already wants to put a man to death rather than try to save his life. Can "forced suicide" be far behind?

Being created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27), man's life is still sacred, even though he has fallen into sin and his nature corrupted (Gen. 9:6). The Bible says that "*the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth*" (Gen. 8:21; cf. Ps. 51:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 1:21). The Biblical record of mankind in general and ancient Israel in particular bares this out, as does the last two-thousand years of world history. Nation after nation has grown to be a powerful influence on the world scene and then fallen into obscurity. Certainly many moral factors were involved in the demise of the great civilizations of the past, but, one thing that they have all had in common is the devaluing of human life. When the sanctity and dignity of life is set aside by a people, their society will sink into wickedness and crash. Human sacrifice, infanticide, abortion, and all forms of slavery and tyrannical repression are actually manifestations of contempt for God and that which He has created in His own image. It is a denial of the sacredness of every human life and the respect that is due every individual as God's image bearer.

Where these things that are transpiring in our world and our nation will lead us should concern every thinking person. Sadly, the majority of Americans and Europeans seem to be oblivious to the disaster the future will bring to western civilization if they continue down this road.

Is there an answer or any real hope? Or, have we already sunk so far into depravity that there is no remedy? Well, we really do not know if western civilization as we know it will survive or not. Or, even if the United States will continue as a nation. But, we do know that there is hope for those living in the world, wherever they might be. God so loved the sinful race of Adam that He sent His own Son to die for our sins as our substitute, that by grace through faith all who believe in Him can be forgiven of their sins and receive eternal life.

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Sometimes when we see the evil things that are taking place in the world around us, we tend to forget that at the very heart of the Gospel message is the fact that all men and women are sinners for whom Christ died. Should we be surprised then that they live and act like sinners and have no regard for the things of God? No, that is what we should expect. What should surprise us is that things are not yet worse than they are. Let us remind ourselves that Jesus Christ died for the abortionist, the atheistic evolutionist, the corrupt politician, the murderer, the slumlord, the new age guru, the religionist, the drug dealer, the humanist professor, and all manner of other lost sinners. While we should be concerned, let us not be so overburdened with the circumstances of the tide of evil that we see rising around us, that we become so preoccupied with it that we neglect to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection with the poor lost souls of those around us. Yes, we live in a sin-cursed world over which "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" holds sway. But remember, our mission is not to maintain a culture or to reform a people. Nor is it to form a religious government or to prepare the world for Christ's return. We are to reach out in love by boldly proclaiming the Gospel of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ that those who hear might believe on Him for forgiveness of sins and be given eternal life.



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To offer tangible help toward getting them actively involved in the work of ministry they have prepared for would certainly be a channel for encouragement to new and upcoming ministers of the Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ Jesus.

The other principle is that of sending ministers of the Grace Gospel Message out to proclaim Jesus Christ to those who have not heard of God's love for them. In Acts chapter sixteen, we read that, while busy ministering the grace of God in an area that today is known as Asia Minor, Paul received a vision of a Macedonian man pleading for him to come to Macedonia to help the people there by preaching the gospel to them (Acts 16:9-10). Straightaway, Paul crossed over into Europe where he had a

rich ministry in several cities with many souls coming to know Christ as Savior. While the manner in which Paul was called to go to Macedonia was unique to his time and apostolic ministry, the principle demonstrated is universal in its application to the Church which is Christ's Body. The Church is to reach out to the "regions beyond," striving "to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery" (see II Cor. 10:16; Eph. 3:8-9). The strengthening of local churches by supporting pastors edifies the Body of Christ and community outreach is promoted. In turn, the support base for missions is strengthened as strong healthy churches are mission-minded churches. And, when local churches are strengthened and missions are supported, believers are encouraged, lost souls are saved, there is the opportunity to plant new grace churches, and Christ is glorified through the Church.

Through *The Timothy/Macedonian Fund* **BBi** is adding a new aspect to its ministry. As it continues to train individuals for the work of the ministry the school will also be directly involved in the sending of those it trains out into the field of service God calls them to by providing needed financial support to help them gain experience and become established in the work of ministry.

In the next few months we will be working out the plans for how this new program will be administered and its resources distributed to support interns, pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and other ministers of the Grace Gospel who have been trained at **Berean Bible Institute**. But, before those plans can be put into action, *The Timothy/Macedonian Fund* must have some actual funds in its account, the balance of which at this writing is \$0.00. While it may take some time for the account to grow large enough to contribute support, we believe that the Lord will provide the necessary resources through His people. If you share our love for the Grace Message and have a desire to help the Grace Movement to grow, please consider sending a gift to help get *The Timothy/Macedonian Fund* up and going. And regardless, if you are able to help financially or not at this time, please pray for the Lord's provision, guidance, and blessing on this important new ministry of the **Berean Bible Institute**.

Yours in Christ's Service,

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.

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



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