

The BBI Bulletin

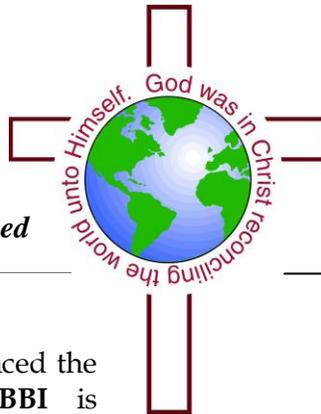
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BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE, INC.
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Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

In the last issue of the *Bulletin* we announced the new Distance Studies courses that **BBI** is developing. We are glad to say that we have received a number of applicants and the program is up and running. Four different courses are currently available for distance study and we are working to make four more available in January.

If you have a true desire to begin studying God's Word in depth for either personal growth or in preparation to serve the Lord, we encourage you to consider enrolling at **BBI**. If you are unable to move to Wisconsin to attend regular classes, you can still begin studying now through our Distance Studies. Unlike our regular classes which begin in August and January, students may enroll in Distance Studies at any time (see page 7 for more info).

We also shared with you in the last *Bulletin* that, like many other faith-based ministries, **Berean Bible Institute** was suffering financially because of our national economic woes.

(continued on page 7)

TRAINING FOR MINISTRY

By Dr. Robert E. Nix,
DEAN OF PASTORAL STUDIES

If you ever visit **Berean Bible Institute** you'll pass a sign in front of our campus that not only has our name, **Berean Bible Institute**, but also the phrase "Training for Ministry." This describes what we believe to be our overall purpose. Therefore, we believe that it is critical that people understand what we mean by "Training for Ministry." At **Berean Bible Institute** we believe training men and women for ministry involves at least four key priorities that are clearly modeled in the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul.

In Philippians 4:9 Paul states "The things which you learned, and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you." Paul here, as in other passages, tells us that the message he received from the Lord is not only our pattern in doctrine, but in life and ministry as we follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we believe it is essential that we follow Paul's example in our approach to ministry at **Berean Bible Institute**.

First, **Berean Bible Institute** exists to educate men and women in a deeper understanding of the Word of God with a special emphasis on what God is doing today in the Dispensation of Grace. We believe without reservation that Paul's command to Timothy to "continue in my doctrine" (II Timothy 3:9), is what we are to promote as an institution.

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Mail Received at Box 587

FROM MICHIGAN:

“Dear Dr. Bedore, we certainly are praying for more funding, more students, more preachers and teachers, to rightly divide the Word of Truth. We’ll start with an increase in our own gifts.”

FROM NEW YORK:

“Thank you for all you do to raise up Grace missionaries.”

FROM INDIANA:

“Please use this as the Lord leads you. Thank you for your faithfulness in carrying out God’s plan for your lives and ministry.”

FROM THE PHILIPPINES:

“Keep up the good work and may God richly bless your ministry! I’d like to subscribe to the *BBI Bulletin* newsletter. Kindly include my name in your mailing list. Thank you very much!”

FROM ARIZONA:

“I just heard about your free *Bulletin* that comes out, and I wonder can my husband and myself be put on your mailing list? Thank you and God bless your work.”

Only one life;
‘twill soon be past.
Only what’s done
“in Christ” will last.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Upcoming Conferences

GRACE REVIVAL FOR EVANGELISM

Date: Sept. 29th–Oct. 2nd, 2009

Location: Green Lake, WI

Contact: Bible Doctrines to Live By at:
(888) 220-3618; <staff@bdtlb.org.>

BEREAN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Fall Conference

Date: October 8th-9th, 2009

Location: Grace Bible Church, Oshkosh, WI

Contact: Pastor Richard Ware at:
(870) 941-6110 <rnrware@aol.com>

*There will also be a Youth Conference held on
Saturday, October 10th!*

Child Evangelism Training Seminar

Date: November 7th, 2009

Location: Berean Bible Institute, Slinger, WI

Contact: BBI at: (262) 644-5504, or
bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org

*See page 4 for cost and registration information
Space is limited so please register by October 17th!*

TBS BIBLE CONFERENCE

Date: November 20th & 21st, 2009

Location: Malone University, Canton, OH

Contact: Tony & Barb Sistelos at:
(812) 589-1915 <sistelos@juno.com>

(TRAINING FOR MINISTRY continued from page 1)

When students take classes from **Berean Bible Institute** they are taught that the Apostle Paul is a unique Apostle with a special message for today. We also strive to ensure that our students understand the Bible in its entirety. The Bible states clearly that *“all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable”* (II Timothy 3:16). When a student completes the three year Diploma in Advanced Biblical Studies, that student will have gone through the entire Bible. We believe that understanding God’s Word in its entirety equips the believer for what God has planned for them (II Timothy 3:17). We also believe that understanding the Word of God based on the Gospel of the Grace of God as committed to Paul is essential.

Second, **Berean Bible Institute** exists to equip men and women for life and ministry. Paul’s ministry was a teaching ministry with the intent that those who traveled with him would learn how to carry out the ministry from his example. At **Berean Bible Institute** we teach courses that train our students in ministry skills in order to enable them to serve Christ more effectively wherever He leads them. Our classes are taught from a biblical perspective with an understanding that God desires each believer to be fully equipped for whatever work God has called them to do. Our goal is that when God leads and directs our students into ministry, whether it be pastoral ministry, mission work, or serving in the local church, that we will have passed on to them the tools necessary for them to minister effectively for the glory of God.

Third, **Berean Bible Institute** encourages its students to be completely “surrendered” to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul’s life and ministry was and is a wonderful picture of a man who desired to serve the Lord Jesus Christ no matter the cost. The Church, the Body of Christ, needs men and women who, without reservation, are completely and unapologetically committed to serving the Savior. Paul’s statement in Philippians 1:20-21 demonstrates that his desire was for Christ to be magnified in his body by life or by death. Paul continues to declare without reservation, *“for to me to live is Christ.”* These are shining examples of

a life that was surrendered to Christ. Paul understood that it is in surrendering to the perfect will of God that we really live. Our desire as an institution of higher learning is that our students embrace not only the truth of the Gospel of the Grace of God but also the transformation that comes with it. We believe that the only way to truly impact others for Christ is if they see Him living and working in and through us.

Fourth, **Berean Bible Institute** exposes its students to various ministry opportunities. Missions, evangelism, church planting, preaching and teaching and serving in the local church are areas of ministry that we help introduce our students to while they are attending **BBI**. Paul was a church planter, preacher, evangelist and a teacher. God used him in the synagogue, the town square, the house church, the prison, and on the foreign field. Again, Paul shines forth as a wonderful example of the many ways God uses His servants. It is our desire that our students participate in many different types of ministry. Students from **Berean Bible Institute** regularly teach and preach in local churches, serve on the mission field, share their faith with others and serve in many other ministries. It is truly thrilling to see our students step out of their comfort zone and serve God in ways they would have never imagined.

We believe without a doubt that these were the Apostle Paul’s priorities, and at **Berean Bible Institute** we are blessed to carry on God’s work in the Dispensation of Grace. To this end we would also ask that you continue to pray for us as a training institute in the Grace Movement. As we start a new semester and begin our new Distance Studies program we are already experiencing the blessings of God. Yet we still need your support and encouragement as we stand strong and proclaim, without apology, the Gospel of the Grace of God.

“The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

—Philippians 4:9

CHILD EVANGELISM TRAINING SEMINAR

On November 7th **Berean Bible Institute** will host a seminar on child evangelism. This seminar is designed to equip Sunday School workers, VBS workers and Children's Bible Club workers with the necessary tools to effectively lead their students to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and encourage them to share Christ with others. There will be five sessions including:

1,2,3, JESUS LOVES ME (*Helping children understand the message of salvation*)

GUIDING THE CHILD TO THE SAVIOR (*Counseling the unsaved child for salvation*)

DRAWING THE NET (*The salvation invitation*)

MANAGING YOUR CLASSROOM (*Dynamics of discipline*)

SPEAK UP—SPEAK OUT (*Training children to share their faith*)

Time: Saturday, November 7th, 9:00AM-3:00PM
(Doors open at 8:00 AM)

Location: Berean Bible Institute,
116 Kettle Moraine Dr. S
Slinger, Wisconsin 53086

Cost: \$12.00 if registered by October 17th or \$15.00 if you register after the October deadline.
(Registration includes Seminar materials and a boxed lunch.)

Ages: 13 and up. We kindly ask that you find alternative care for your children as we are unable to provide childcare.

Speaker: Edwina Marshall is currently Director of Training for *Child Evangelism Fellowship* in Madison, Wisconsin. She has over 45 years of experience working with children and training adults how to work with children.

Information:

You may download a brochure with registration information for this seminar from our website: [<bereanbibleinstitute.org>](http://bereanbibleinstitute.org) or phone us at: (262) 644-5504.



WHO IS GOD'S APOSTLE FOR TODAY?

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is hard to think about the Lord Jesus Christ while He was here on earth without thinking of the twelve men that were always with Him during the three plus years of His public ministry. They walked with Him, ate with Him, and learned from Him. They were continually with Him.

First they were His disciples. The word that we translate disciple in the Greek is *mathetes*. The word means to be a learner or pupil. The disciples were the ones following Jesus and learning from Him. Twelve of the many who followed Christ were given a special distinction as "apostles." "Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Him; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles" (Lk. 6:12-13). These twelve men whom the Lord Jesus Christ appointed as apostles were: Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

In Mark we are told of the especially appointed twelve, that He would not only send them out to preach, but would also give them power to heal and to cast out demons (see Mk. 3:14-15). In other words, they were "appointed" or "ordained" for a special purpose.

But what is an apostle? The Greek word "*apostolos*" means one that is sent forth, a messenger sent with a special commission as the fully authorized representative of the sender. Jesus appointed them as His special representatives with a mission to carry out.

Matthew gives us more light on the twelve and the authority given to them. In Matthew chapter ten we read; "These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them saying; 'Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.'" (Matt. 10:5-8).

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At that time, they were sent only to the nation of Israel and they were to preach that the "kingdom of heaven was at hand." That is to say that the kingdom of heaven was within their reach.

It is important that we understand that the "kingdom of heaven" and the "kingdom of God" are one and the same thing as they are used in the Gospel Records of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (see Mat. 10:7 with Lk. 9:2; Mat. 19:23-24 with Lk. 18:24-25 where they are used interchangeably). Both terms denote God's Messianic Kingdom on earth in these contexts.

We see in Matthew chapter ten that the power or authority given to the twelve was expanded even beyond healing and casting out demons as these men were commissioned to "raise the dead" as well as heal and cast out demons (see Mat. 10:8).

Not only were they given special distinction as apostles, but these men were also given some distinctive powers! "Raise the dead,..." now that is a very distinctive thing to do. One would think that going around healing all manner of illness, even lepers, and casting out demons would attract a lot of attention; BUT RAISING THE DEAD!! Jesus had already been performing these same miracles, but now His apostles, or commissioners, were going out as His representatives doing the same things. Why were they given these supernatural powers to perform such great miracles? In answering this, we must note that miracles had a prominent place in the events of the Lord Jesus' life while He was on this earth. The question should occur to us, why? What was the purpose of these miracles? When we find the answer to that question we will know why He assigned the power to work similar miracles to His apostles.

John the Baptist, while he was in prison, sent a message to Jesus. John had come as the forerunner, the herald of the Messiah in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy concerning Israel's Messiah Redeemer. This is the same John who came saying "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" who baptized Jesus; and confronted King Herod because of his sin. But now, while locked

in prison by Herod, John began to wonder; is Jesus really the One? Doubt was creeping into his soul as he languished in prison.

In Luke we read that "John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus saying, 'Are you the Coming One, or do we look for another?'" (Lk. 7:19-21). Jesus said to them "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me" (Lk. 7:22-23). In His answer Jesus referred back to Isaiah the prophet who had foretold that the miracles He was working would be a sign of the Messiah and His kingdom on earth. These miracles were to be evidences to the nation of Israel that the Messiah had come and the long promised kingdom was indeed near at hand.

The twelve were given the power to do miracles to confirm that they did indeed represent the Messiah. To these same twelve men Jesus also made a very unique promise. In Matthew chapter nineteen, we find the account of a rich young ruler who came to Jesus asking how to have eternal life. Jesus instructed him to "keep the Commandments." The young man claimed to have kept the Commandments from his youth, but he wanted to know what else he needed to do. "Jesus said to him, 'if you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come and follow Me!' But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions" (Mat. 19:27). It is in this context that Peter asked an important question; "Then Peter answered and said unto Him, 'see we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?'" (Mat. 19:27). Jesus' answer was to the point; "Assuredly I say unto you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Mat. 19:28). Jesus meant exactly what He said here. The twelve apostles will sit on twelve literal thrones in the Israelite dominated Millennial Kingdom of God's Messiah, who is Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

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Later, in the first chapter of Acts we find Peter and the remaining apostles preparing to replace Judas Iscariot who had betrayed the Lord Jesus and then committed suicide. Peter gives the qualifications that must be met; *"Therefore of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to the day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection"* (Acts 1:15-22). Only two men met the requirements of having been a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus from the time of His baptism by John until His death on the cross and had also seen Him alive in His resurrected body. One of these men was Joseph who was also called Barsabas, the other was named Matthias (Acts 1:23). The lot fell to Matthias and the Scriptures tell us that he *"was numbered with the eleven"* (Acts 1:26). Thus, the number of official apostles was brought back to the original number of twelve, which is the number of Israel.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT OTHER APOSTLE?

What about the Apostle Paul? Who is he? Where did he come from? The first mention of Paul is in Acts chapter seven at the stoning of Stephen for preaching Jesus as the Christ, or Messiah, and accusing Israel's religious leaders of rejecting Him. In Acts chapter nine, we find Saul (whose Roman name was Paul) on the road to Damascus to persecute any Jews he could find who had believed in Jesus as the Christ. But God, in a unique way, saved Paul and the next thing we know he is preaching Christ all over the place (Acts 9:1-3). Paul then gradually becomes the predominant figure in the book of Acts. In fact, Peter and the eleven are not even mentioned again in Acts after chapter 15.

WHY PAUL? WHY THIS THIRTEENTH APOSTLE?

Paul was in no way qualified to be the replacement for Judas as an apostle. He was not a follower of Christ, but instead was a persecutor of those who were. Also, he was not an eyewitness of Christ's resurrection as Peter and the other eleven were. In appearing to Paul, Jesus Christ was doing something special that was outside of the confines of prophecy.

Paul's apostolic commission came directly from the Lord Jesus Himself who sent him to be the **Apostle to the Gentiles!!** The message Paul preached, he received by direct revelation from the **resurrected** and **ascended** Lord Jesus Christ Himself. These facts are emphatically stated in the first two chapters of the book of Galatians (see Gal. 1:11-2:10). That God would offer salvation to the Gentiles was well understood by the Jews, but it was to be through the nation of Israel.

The prophet Zechariah tells us *"Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus says the Lord of Hosts; In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying 'let us go with you for we have heard that God is with you'"* (Zech. 8:22-23). This has not yet happened, but it will take place during the Messiah's kingdom. Through the centuries many Jews have been taken hold of by the Gentiles, but not for the purpose of knowing their God. No, the Jews have been ridiculed, harassed, mistreated and even killed. This unrelenting persecution of the Jews will not come to an end until Christ brings them back to their land to dwell in safety with Him as their King during the Kingdom of God on earth.

But, today God is dealing with all of mankind, Jew and Gentile alike, by grace. Israel and the kingdom were set aside because of unbelief and God unfolded a new plan that had not been revealed to man before. By His grace though simple faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, salvation is now offered to Jew and Gentile alike on equal terms. This message of reconciliation was uniquely revealed to the Apostle Paul. God in His forbearance and mercy is graciously offering salvation to both Jews and Gentiles, providing forgiveness of sins and eternal life through the blood of Christ. This is God's message for mankind today.

For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has God not made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
—1 Corinthians 1:18-21

(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

Many of you responded by giving towards the ministry of **BBI**, and we are very thankful. However, we are still experiencing a short-fall between income and expenses. We would appreciate your continued prayers for the financial stability of **BBI**. We are pressing on in the Lord's work trusting that He will provide the necessary resources to carry it out. It is important that those who are called to minister God's Word have sound Grace teaching and ministry training available to help them to prepare themselves to be effective servants of Christ.

Just two weeks before school started it looked like our attendance would be down from last semester with only about fourteen students. But, we praise the Lord that when classes began we had twenty-two students enrolled.

In the *BBI Handbook* we have included a statement that reflects the motivation that is behind all that **Berean Bible Institute** is and does. I would like to share it with you.

Jesus Christ is the reason for everything that **Berean Bible Institute** does and stands for. He is both the beginning and the end as well as the means by which we exist and function. We do not merely name Christ as a formal facade for otherwise secular or religious pursuits and activities. He is not a figurehead, but the Living Head of the Church, which is His Body. The members of the Body of Christ are called to serve Him by making known the Gospel of the Grace of God. At **BBI**, we do this by teaching and preaching "Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery" to our students, in both words and actions, preparing them to go out and do the same (see Rom. 16:25-26; II Cor. 5:14-21; Eph. 3:1-12; II Tim. 2:1-15).

Will you join us in the most noble of endeavors that a man or woman can become engaged in, that of making Jesus Christ known to a lost and dying world? If you won't, who will?

The most noble endeavor that any believer can engage themselves in is that of making Jesus Christ known to a lost and dying world. If you are not already involved, I would like to invite you to join us by enrolling in **BBI** to begin

preparing for ministry or by supporting **BBI** through prayer and giving. Only that which is invested in the Lord's work pays eternal dividends. Grace and peace to you in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because He Lives!

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

DISTANCE STUDIES UPDATE

By Pastor Andy R. Kern,
DISTANCE STUDIES COORDINATOR

Berean Bible Institute exists to train believers for ministry and to promote a greater knowledge of Jesus Christ, according to the Revelation of the Mystery. In keeping with our mission, our new Distance Studies courses have been developed to be equal to our on-campus classes in both quality and content. Our college level courses have been designed to encourage diligence in studying the Word of God to the end that each student may better "know Him" (Phil. 3:10).

If you feel led to prepare for ministry, but attending **Berean Bible Institute** is not an option at this time, there is an alternative. Now you can train for ministry at home through our Distance Studies courses. Since these courses do not follow our regular yearly two semester schedule, you can apply at anytime from anywhere.

We plan to expand this ministry over time. Currently we offer 101 Dispensational Survey, 102 Apologetics, 105 Basic Bible Doctrines, and 109 Dispensational Hermeneutics. In January of 2010 we plan to at least double the number of regular courses available and to also include some Women in Ministry courses. We trust in the Lord that we will have our entire first year curriculum available by July 2011.

It is definitely an exciting time at **Berean Bible Institute** and we encourage you to consider taking advantage of our new Distance Studies courses. "For now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11b). Contact **BBI** for more information (contact information on page 1 of the Bulletin).

The BBI Bulletin is the official newsletter of the **Berean Bible Institute Inc.**, and is sent free of charge to any that 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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