

The BBI Bulletin

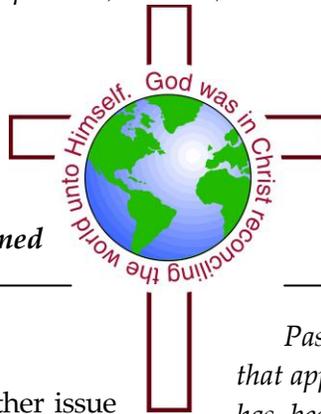
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BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE, INC.
PO Box 587
Slinger, WI 53086



Phone: (262) 644-5504/Fax: (262) 644-5507
E-mail: <bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org>
Web: <www.bereanbibleinstitute.org>

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

It seems that at every turn there is another issue that we have to concern ourselves with as Christians. It was the same for Israel in the time of the prophets. As God's chosen people, Israel was called to be a light to the Gentiles.

As a nation they were to bear witness to the other nations of His goodness and that He was indeed the Creator God. Israel was privileged to serve God in this way, but she failed miserably and the Lord sent prophets to warn her and admonish her to turn back to God and serve Him and Him alone. The prophets brought charge after charge against Israel for her rebellious ways. One of God's charges against Israel was that instead of being a light to the nations, the "Gentiles blasphemed God's name" because of her ungodly behavior (Rom. 2:22-24; cf. Ezek. 36:16-22). Israel was cut off from her physical and spiritual blessings because of her unbelief and eventually cast aside because she refused to repent. I believe that

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Pastor Kevin Sadler's three part article on prayer that appeared in the last three issues of the **BBI Bulletin** has been very well received and has proven to be a special blessing to many. The following is the result of "overflow" on his study of prayer. An overflow of spiritual truth on this great subject that he would like to share with our readers. It is not given as an after-thought, but as a fitting wrap-up of what was presented in the previous three parts. We hope that you will be encouraged in your prayer life and challenged to trust in the Lord in all things.
(the Editor)

PRAYER PEACE

By Pastor Kevin Sadler

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7).

Knowing that "the Lord is at hand" (Phil. 4:5), that is, realizing Christ's nearness and presence with His own and His future coming for His own frees us from fear, worry and anxiety in life. "Be careful for nothing," speaks of not being full of care and worries. When our Lord was visiting Mary and Martha, the Lord told Martha, who was busy preparing the meal, "thou art careful and troubled about many things" (Luke 10:41). The idea here is of

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Mail
Received
at
Box 587

FROM VIRGINIA:

"I am always looking forward to the **BBI Bulletin**, and am never disappointed but encouraged that you are faithful to our wonderful Lord and this Grace Message given to our care. Looking forward to that time when we meet face to face. Keep on keeping on!"

FROM GEORGIA:

"Thank you for your faithfulness in teaching the Word, rightly divided. I am blessed reading the **BBI Bulletin**."

FROM WASHINGTON:

"Dear Dr. Bedore and Associates; Thank you for continuing to send your **BBI Bulletin** newsletter and your excellent guidance and information regarding further understanding of Paul's revelation of the 'Gospel of Grace' and knowledge of the 'truth rightly divided.'"

FROM TENNESEE:

"It means so much to know that there are men out there rightly dividing the Bible, keep up the good work."

FROM KENYA, AFRICA:

"I thank you all at the **Berean Bible Institute** for your deep concern for others in the world to know the Word of God and also to know God is there....May God bless you."

Only one life; 'twill
soon be past.

Only what's done "in

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Upcoming Events

Register now for the coming Spring Semester!

Classes start January 24th, 2011.

START THIS YEAR IN TRAINING FOR THE LORD!

For more information, class schedule, application, or a Handbook & Course Catalog, contact **BBI** at: (262) 644-5504, E-mail at: bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.com, or check out our website at: 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?

2011 BBI GRACE MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Dates: February 25th & 26th, 2011

Location: Berean Bible Institute, Slinger, WI

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

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to see what God is doing

PLAN A VISIT!

If you are planning to visit the Slinger, Wisconsin area, we would like to extend an invitation to visit the school, and if time permits, stay for chapel which is held every night that school is in session from 7:10-7:30.

Our class times our 5:30-9:15 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We would enjoy seeing you! Please call ahead so we can arrange a tour (262) 644-5504.

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being full of care and troubled about many things. There are many things in life that necessarily demand our attention and care and concern. We are not called to live a "carefree" life here, but rather to not be anxious, to not worry about anything, to not be full of cares, worries, or be constantly troubled and fearful.

A man said to his friend, "I'm really in trouble. I have a mountain of credit card debt, I lost my job, my car is being repossessed and my house is in foreclosure, but I'm not worried about it!" "How can that be?" asked his friend. "I have hired a professional worrier, and he does all my worrying for me," said the man. His friend replied, "That's fantastic! How much does a professional worrier cost?" "\$50,000 a year." "Wow, that's expensive. Where are you going to get that kind of money?" The man replied, "I don't know, that's for him to worry about."

God doesn't want us to be professional worriers. Worry is a joy stealer. God wants us to not worry about anything and instead to be prayerful for "everything." George Mueller writes "The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety." To bring everything to God in prayer is a call to walk by faith, and to trust God. I Peter 5:7 says that God wants His own to "[Cast] all your care upon him; for He careth for you." The Lord who is at hand and near, the Lord to whom we pray is the almighty, true and living God, who cares deeply for each of us. And He wants to bear our burdens and cares. We are not in control, but He is. We don't know the future, but He does. We don't know everything, but He is all-wise. So we should trust Him.

A lady came to the great preacher of the last century, G. Campbell Morgan, and said, "I only take the big things to God. I don't take the little things to God." G. Campbell Morgan looked at her and said, "Lady, anything you take to God is little." We can bring everything to God because anything we bring to God is little to Him, even if it is big to us. He is a Sovereign God. Is anything too hard for Him? No! "In every thing," any matter of life, any circumstance, any physical or spiritual problem, any

and all concerns of your heart or mind, is prayer material. God wants us to give Him all worries, stresses, tensions, troubles, frustrations, failures, and to pour our hearts out to Him, "by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving."

"By prayer," speaks of simply talking to God, conversing and communicating with Him and reverently worshiping and praising Him in it, and meditating on His Person. When worries creep up, God wants our first action to be to get alone with Him and to think about Him and reverently worship Him. We first need to see the greatness and majesty of God. God wants us to know that He is big enough to solve our problems.

Lee Eclov tells the following: "Travel back 200 years in Christian history to John Newton, the slave-trader-turned-pastor and hymn writer. He believed in what he called 'large asking.' When explaining what he meant, Newton would cite a legendary story of a man who asked Alexander the Great to give him a huge sum of money in exchange for his daughter's hand in marriage. Alexander agreed, and told the man to request of Alexander's treasurer whatever he wanted. So the father of the bride went and asked for an enormous amount. The treasurer was startled and said he could not give out that kind of money without a direct order. Going to Alexander, the treasurer argued that even a small fraction of the money requested would more than serve the purpose. 'No,' replied Alexander, 'Let him have it all. I like that fellow. He does me honor. He treats me like a king and proves by what he asks that he believes me to be both rich and generous.' And so Newton concluded: "In the same way, we should go to the throne of God's grace and present petitions that express honorable views of the love, riches, and bounty of our King." And so we are to take everything to Him in prayer knowing our God and how good and generous and gracious He is, and ask in light of this. In bringing everything to God in prayer we express an honorable and true view of God, who is deeply interested in every area of our lives. He is loving and generous and we should call on His name and pray to Him always. And we should pray big, making big and bold requests in light of the riches and bounty of our great God.

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We also come before God with “supplication” or praying earnest, specific prayers to Him about any need, making defined, detailed, intelligent requests to God. He is eager to hear our prayers, and He wants us to spell them out to Him. And we are to make our prayer and supplication “with thanksgiving” thanking God for access to Him, for hearing our prayers, for being there for us, and for specific things, noting His working, seeing what He has done and thanking Him for it. We should thank Him for answered prayer, whether the answer was yes, no, or wait. We should thank Him for Him, for who He is, that He is a good God, the God of all grace and mercy. We should express our gratitude to Him for His patience and longsuffering to us. We should thank Him for His countless blessings, both spiritual and physical, and *specify* these to Him. D. L. Moody summarized this verse as: “Be careful for nothing, prayerful for everything, and thankful for anything.”

Paul says to just “let your requests be made known unto God.” Timothy Jones writes, “We don’t like to stand speechless or stammering before God, but that doesn’t mean God holds it against us when we do. I remember a vacation with my parents in France when I was in high school. I had just completed two years of French, hardly enough to make me fluent. Still, there we were, tourists wanting to make the most of our time. So when we needed a bathroom, when we wanted to find a café, or when I lost my eyeglasses, I falteringly used my butchered French. I was trying—to the politely suppressed laughter of others—to speak the language. But I remember more than the townspeople’s bemusement. I remember how they warmly received my efforts. They strained to hear past my fractured sentences. They honored me by responding. Is God any less generous? He hears all that arises from us—the words of our mouth, the longings of our hearts, the thoughts of our minds, the intentions of our wills. Regret, grief, thanksgiving, hope—God hears our emotions, not just our grammar. Because of His grace, not our eloquence, we can pray, even if we stammer.”

What it comes down to is this: just pray. Pray all the time and pray about everything. God wants us to let our requests be known to Him, no matter

how it comes out, and we do so knowing He knows our hearts and hears our emotions. God wants us to trust Him, to live in light of His presence, to live in light of His love knowing He’s there for us and wants to carry our burdens, and so we pray knowing this.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7).

As we are anxious for nothing and instead pray and share our concerns with thanksgiving, we have a promise from God. The promise isn’t that He will answer every prayer in the way we ask or desire, like under the prophetic kingdom program (cf. Mat. 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 14:13,14; 16:23). God’s promise for us, the Body of Christ, today under grace is that His peace, which transcends all human reason or understanding, will “keep” or guard, or garrison our “*hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” God’s peace will garrison our thoughts and emotions and keep worry, anxiety, doubts and fears **out** and keep His rest, comfort, peace, strength and security **within**. God’s peace stands guard over the two areas that create worry: the “heart” or our feelings and emotions, and the “mind,” or our thinking.

J. Oswald Sanders has rightly said: “Peace is not the absence of trouble; peace is the presence of God.” Christ is our peace and the peace that passes all understanding is His presence in our lives, and a closer walk with Him results in greater peace and joy. Dave Dravecky, a former Major League pitcher, who lost his pitching arm to cancer said this, “I have learned that God’s silence to my questions is not a door slammed in my face. I may not have answers. But I do have Him.” That’s where peace is!

So as we rejoice in Him always, as we pray and trust Him, as we grow closer to Him, we’ll find His all-surpassing quiet calmness and peace. God’s peace comes to us as we trust and pray. It is grounded in God’s presence, promises, wisdom, and power, knowing He is in control and is working all things together for our good and His glory. May we pray more and pray big, knowing He is able!



THE JUDGMENT OF THE BELIEVER'S WORKS

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

This judgment will take place at what is called the "Judgment Seat of Christ" (II Cor. 5:10). It is also referred to as the "Bema Seat" from the Greek word that means "judicial bench" that we get "judgment seat" from. This is not a judgment for salvation, but is when each believer's works will be judged in regard to rewards (see I Cor. 3:11-15).

When looking at the Judgment Seat of Christ, an issue that often comes up, is whether or not the sins that believers commit after trusting in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and salvation will be in view there. Some think that they will, while others insist that only the believers' works will be judged at the Bema Seat with no reflection on the believer. To this we should point out that "legally" or "judicially" all of a believer's sins, past, present, and future, are forgiven through the blood of Christ the moment they trust Him as Savior. At the same time each individual believer will one-day be called to give an accounting for their actions as a child of God. This is not a judgment to determine who will be saved or lost, but to determine what rewards each saint will receive for faithful service. Nevertheless, it is an accounting (Rom. 14:12) and sin will in some way be an issue (Rom. 14:23).

In I Corinthians 3:13, Paul expressly says that every believer's work will be revealed for what sort, or manner, of work it is. And what kind of categories of works are there? As far as I know the works of the flesh, which is carnality, and the works of the Spirit, which are by faith, are the only kinds of works that can be manifest in a Christian's life (see I Cor. 1:1-3; Gal. 5:16-26). Everything that a believer does, without exception, is to be done "to the glory of the Lord" (see I Cor. 6:20; 10:31; Eph. 6:5-7; Col. 3:23-24). Our works represent our life as Christians and the Scriptures teach that each saint will be rewarded according to whether their works are "good" (*agathos* = profitable, upright, virtuous) or "bad" (*kakos* = evil, worthless, corrupt, wicked) (see II Cor. 5:9-10; Col. 3:24-25).

Those who believe that only a believer's works will be judged at the Bema Seat and not the believer or his or her sin ignore the fact that to

judge one's works from a spiritual faith-based perspective, the motives and attitudes of the worker must be determined. I think that the word "evaluation" could be used to describe what will take place at the Bema Seat of Christ. And when our works, which include everything we do as believers, are evaluated, what was done in the flesh and what was done in the Spirit will be revealed for what they are. The works of the flesh are sinful and unacceptable to God and the works of the Spirit are righteous and acceptable to God (see Gal. 5:17-23). I Timothy 5:24-25 illustrates what the Scriptures teach about the Bema Seat. Whether the sins of believers are out in the open or hidden from the view of others, they will finally be exposed, just as their good works which were done in faith will be.

Concerning whether or not a believer's sins will be brought up at the Bema Seat, we will use the example of a woodworker building a chair. If the woodworker got drunk and built a crooked chair, it would be judged for its quality (or lack of quality) and the chair, the woodworker's work, would be rejected, but would the woodworker's drunkenness be an issue at all? Would he simply suffer loss in the sense that he would receive no reward for the crooked chair he built? His effort would have been in vain, of course, but would the reason be an issue? Can a worker's "works" be judged as good (acceptable) or bad (unacceptable) without having some kind of reflection on the "worker"? If nothing else, his craftsmanship and reputation as a woodworker has to be in view. After all, isn't the worker responsible for his works?

According to Paul, the Lord "will make manifest the counsels of the heart" (I Cor. 4:5) when we stand before Him. Only after this revealing of our heart motives and "the hidden things of darkness" we have harbored there are brought to light and the wood, hay, and stubble burned will we receive praise from God or be rewarded for our good works, the gold, silver, and precious stones that are left. The bad works will be revealed for what they are, exposing the true intent of the worker's heart that motivated them (see I Cor. 3:13).

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If the works that are burned up at the Judgment Seat are not sinful works, what kind of works could they be? We might give them a different name and say that they are works done in disobedience, or in vain glory, or in pride, or in selfishness, or in envy, or in bitterness, or in anger, or in malice, or in covetousness, or etc., etc., etc. But, where would that leave us? Cannot all of these things be classified under the general heading of sin? Of course they can.

Using another illustration, let's suppose there is a Christian minister who, while in a counseling situation, succumbs to lust and has an adulterous affair with a troubled married woman in his church. In the aftermath, two families end up being torn apart by divorce and numerous personal relationships are negatively affected. When this man's works are reviewed at the Bema Seat, how would this particular work be classified? Exhibited as his work would be two broken families and numerous ruined relationships. I think that the lustful desires that motivated him will also be revealed. I do not know exactly how these things will be revealed, but it seems like the works themselves will, at the very least, make it obvious as to why they were rejected. When our works are displayed, the fire of judgment will obliterate every unrighteous thing and we will be rewarded for whatever is left, which is only that which was done through faith. It seems that there will be no punishment meted out nor scolding given because of what is done in the flesh, but the works of the flesh will most certainly be exposed for what sort they were.

Going back to the adulterous minister, is it reasonable to assume that when he stands before the Bema Seat of Christ that he will be rewarded for the good he has done, but that his lustful life-corrupting affair will simply be ignored. The Scriptures we have looked at say otherwise. Yes, our sins are forgiven in Christ and removed as far as the east is from the west. But that does not give us a pass for sinful behavior as His children. This is a stewardship issue and every believer will be called to give an accounting for how he has carried

it out. Thankfully, after the areas we have been unfaithful in our responsibilities of stewardship, and the consequences, have been uncovered, by God's grace they will be burned up.

Our Lord Jesus has no need to try our works at His Judgment Seat in order to find out their value or lack thereof. In His perfect knowledge, He will know before this court is convened what the results will be, what losses will be suffered and what rewards given. I believe this judgment will reveal these things to us for our sake. We will be relieved of all the self-imposed burdens we have accumulated since becoming a believer. Our worldly reasoning and rationalizations for our behavior, our excuses for doing our own thing, our petty gripes about others, our selfish desires that motivated us at times, and any other carnal attitudes we have allowed to influence us in how we lived our lives will be exposed. Again, this is not a judgment of sinners as only the redeemed will be there. We can say that it is an evaluation of the lives of God's children and the stewardship given them. One of the purposes of this judgment is to expose and then burn away every bit of residue of the worldliness that we may have been clinging to in this life so that we can enter into the fullness of the glory of our Savior and Lord with a clear conscience. Our sinful actions as believers will indeed be brought out into the open at the Bema Seat, and there may be a moment of shame, but there will be no continuing sorrow or tears over this. Gratefulness, love, and praise will fill our hearts for the One who loved us and gave Himself for us that He might redeem us and purify us as His own special people and share His glory with us. *"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen"* (I Tim. 1:17).

And what will the rewards for faithful service be given for? I think that rewards of honor are given in respect to the good works that Christ has accomplished through us when we were walking by faith in obedience to Him. In other words, when the fruit of the Spirit was being manifest in our lives. Only what was done in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ to His honor and glory will be recognized as having any value.



Do You Know HIM?

An elderly minister named S. M. Lockeridge gave this description of Jesus Christ:

“He’s the King of righteousness. He’s the King of the ages. He’s the King of Heaven. He’s the King of glory. He’s the King of kings and He is the Lord of lords. I wonder, do you know Him?

He is the Lord of the spaceless, fabulous, infinite universe, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, unspeakably holy, dwelling in light, changeless.

There is no way to measure or define His limitless love. He’s enduringly strong. He’s entirely sincere. He’s eternally faithful. He’s immortally graceful.

He’s imperially powerful. He’s impartially merciful. He’s God’s Son. He’s the sinner’s Savior. He stands alone in Himself. He’s honest. He’s unique. He’s unparalleled. He’s unprecedented. He’s supreme. He’s pre-eminent.

He’s the miracle of the ages. He’s the superlative of everything good that you choose to call Him.

He’s the only one able to supply all of our needs simultaneously. He’s the supplier of strength for the weak. He’s available for the tempted and the tried.

He’s sympathetic and compassionate to all. He’s our strong God and He guides. He forgives sinners. He delivers the captives. He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He serves the unfortunate. He regards the aged.

He rewards the diligent and He beautifies the meek. Do you know Him? My Jesus is the wellspring of wisdom. He’s the doorway of deliverance. He’s the pathway of peace and righteousness. He’s the highway of holiness. He’s the gateway of glory.

He’s the master of the mighty. He’s the captain of conquerors. His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His light is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His grace is sufficient.

I only wish I could describe Him to you, but He’s indescribable. He’s incomprehensible. He’s invincible. He’s irresistible. The heavens of heavens cannot contain Him, let alone a man explain Him.

You can’t outlive Him and you can’t live without Him. Death couldn’t handle Him and the grave couldn’t hold Him. That’s my Lord.

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today the Church at large has forfeited a major portion of its privilege of serving God because it has “fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:4) by trying to work out its salvation in the power of the flesh (see Gal. 3:1-3). We could point to any number of erroneous teachings in the Church today, all of which are the result of turning away from the Grace Message to some degree or another. I praise the Lord that there are still individuals who are shining as lights in the world today because they understand that we are to work out our salvation (that is, to live out what we believe) by faith, allowing God to work out His will in our life according to “His” good pleasure (Phil. 2:12-13; see verses 5-16). This is a matter of a life surrendered to God’s will (Rom. 12:1-2; cf. Col. 1:9-10). However, if the Church as a whole persists in the direction it is going, it will find itself spiritually powerless and completely overtaken by unbelief among the saints and infested by spiritual renegades, and even unbelievers in its pulpits. The answer to this, of course, is to stand strong for the inspired Word of God and the Revelation of the Mystery, declaring “the Truth” regardless of the direction that others are going (II Tim. 3:14-4:5). We thank God for all of you who are standing with us for the Grace Message and all that it represents. May the light of the Gospel of the Grace of God shine brightly though every grace believer in these spiritually dark days that we are living in. *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now ye are light in the Lord: walk as children of light”* (Eph. 5:8).



In Christ’s Service,

W. Edward Bedore

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

— Romans 13:12

The Lord didn’t say, “Let your light so twinkle” - but “let it shine!”

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.

Editor: Dr. W. Edward Bedore

Composition & 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>

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116 S. Kettle Moraine Drive

PO Box 587

Slinger, WI 53086

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