

The BBI Bulletin

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Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

TRUE SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER

By Pastor Kevin Sadler

(Part 1 of 3)

We are certainly living in interesting times. Both here in America and around the globe there are serious concerns about the economic situation, the threat of terrorism, climate change, and the prospect of nuclear weapons being developed by rogue nations such as North Korea and Iran. And of course at the present time all eyes are on Haiti where a devastating earthquake has destroyed its capitol and killed as many as 200,000 people and left tens of thousands homeless and without food and water. I am sure that in these turbulent times many people are asking themselves, "what will happen next?" and "how bad can it get?"

True spirituality and prayer cannot be separated. For there to be true spirituality, we must be people of prayer and people of the Word. By the Word, God speaks to us, and by prayer, we speak to Him. This is how our relationship works with God and is how we grow in Christ. Prayer causes us to think of others and pray for their needs, and also to rely on, trust, praise, and thank our God. And this is where God wants each of our hearts and minds: on others and on Him.

With all of these serious and legitimate things to be concerned about it is easy for people to become pessimistic and cynical towards life. If we dwell on the negative all of the time it will drag us down into a pit of despair. However, as believers in Jesus Christ we have a hope for the future that cannot fail. Regardless of what happens around us or whatever situation we might find ourselves in

The Christian life is about a relationship with Jesus Christ. It's not a superstitious, religious striving for acceptance with God. It's trusting, growing and communicating with our Savior and God. As Christians, God desires that we involve Him in every area of our lives. He wants us to continually remember and rely on Him by faith.

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PRAYER POSTURES

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 3:14).

Prayer is the channel through which the finite has access and communication with the Infinite. Paul knew that prayer is the source of our spiritual power in Christ. Men who shook the church in times past knew the power of prayer also, men like J. Hudson Taylor, Charles Spurgeon, Martin Luther, D.L. Moody, Harry Saulnier, etc.

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Mail
Received
at
Box 587

FROM ARKANSAS:

"Thank you with all my heart. May God bless and guide you."

FROM GEORGIA:

"To all at **Berean Bible Institute**. Thank you so much for your ministry and for the *BBI Bulletin*. I pray the Lord will always bless your ministry and raise up others to help in this important work you and the *Berean Bible Society* are doing.

FROM NORTH CAROLINA:

"Dear friends at **BBI**. As the spring session is upon you, we pray for students and teachers and all the details of administration. It's so exciting to know there are young men every year who are training in order to teach God's Word, rightly divided."

FROM FLORIDA:

"I thank God for your faithfulness to teach others also. May the Lord continue to show His mighty work through your ministry and Berean School. Words cannot express the unspeakable gift that the Lord has bestowed on us in which once a sinner, but now a saint because of His suffering and sacrifice for us. Thank you!"

FROM OHIO:

"Thank you to all those at the **Berean Bible Institute**, for your deep heart concern for others to understand the awesome, unsearchable riches of Christ revealed to us through the Apostle Paul, and now I understand II Timothy 2:15 as never before. Thank you."

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

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Upcoming Events

 **2010 GRACE MISSIONS CONFERENCE** 

Dates: February 26th & 27th, 2010

Location: Berean Bible Institute
Slinger, Wisconsin

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 in the rest of the world!

(For more details see page 7)

 **UPCOMING SEMESTERS AT BBI** 

Spring Semester at Berean Bible Institute has already started, but you have time to get your application in for the fall! If you would like an application or a Handbook & Course Catalog, please contact BBI. Our goal is to equip men and women to stand for and defend the truth of God's Word. Are you ready?

 **2010 Graduation & Awards Ceremony** 

Date: Saturday, May 22nd, 2010

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Berean Bible Institute

We invite you to join us as we recognize our student's accomplishments.

(TRUE SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER
continued from page 1)

Like other men of God in the Bible such as Moses, David, Daniel, and Nehemiah, Paul was a prayer warrior. And we should not overlook that our Savior was a Man of prayer (Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; et al).

Prayer for others was a vital and habitual part of Paul's life and ministry and should be for ours as well. In Ephesians 3:14, we see the apostle praying the second of two recorded prayers in the Book of Ephesians. Here Paul speaks of bowing his knees in prayer to God.

Three men were arguing over the proper posture for prayer. The first man said that you should be on your knees with head bowed in reverence to God. The second argued that you should stand with head raised looking into the heavens and speak into the face of God as a little child. The third spoke up saying, "I don't know about these positions, but I do know this: the finest praying I've ever done was hanging upside down off the side of my roof!"

The Bible does not command any special posture for prayer. The Bible does, however, speak of different prayer postures. As noted above, Paul speaks of bowing his knees in prayer to God. In Ezra 9:5, he says that "*I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God*" and prayed. Daniel 6:10 says that Daniel, "*kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God.*" In I Kings 8:22, when Solomon offered his prayer to God at the dedication of the Temple, it says, "*Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven.*" I Chronicles 17:16 tells us when David prayed about the building of the temple, he "*came and sat before the Lord.*"

When our Savior prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, Luke 22:41 says, "He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed." Then Matthew 26:39 says, "He...*fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.*" Luke says He kneeled down to pray. Matthew says He fell on His face and prayed. Both are true. Our Lord kneeled in His prayer, and then in the fervency and intensity of His prayer, and from

the depth of His anguish, He fell on His face and prayed.

Standing, kneeling, sitting, and laying with the face to the ground are all postures for prayer spoken of in God's Word. But the physical position and posture of prayer is not the important part, the submission and bowing of our hearts and wills to God is what is truly important.

In Matthew 6:5,6 our Lord stated, "*And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men...But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*" God does not want us to be religious; He just wants us to be real. He wants us to just pray with sincerity and to trust Him, knowing He is able. The position of prayer is not important; the position of the heart is what God looks at. Paul's posture for his prayer in Ephesians 3:14 is not done because it is especially sacred, but instead it simply shows us the earnestness of his prayer, the submission of his heart to his God, and his reverence and recognition of God's divine authority and glory.

"...unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 3:14b).

Paul says in Ephesians 3:12 that "we have boldness and access with confidence" to God. And in Ephesians 2:18 he says, "For through [Christ] we...have access by one Spirit unto the Father." Because of this, Paul's prayer is addressed boldly and confidently to the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son. We have a bold approach to God, who waits and desires with a Father's heart of love for us to turn to Him. The word "unto" in verse 14 means "facing." And so Paul's prayer was made facing God, not in fear, but within the relationship he enjoyed with God, knowing he could speak directly with his God, and that He was listening intently as he prayed.

PRAYER POWER

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20).

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(TRUE SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER
continued from page 3)

In culmination to Paul's prayer in chapter 3, in which he prays for the Ephesians for spiritual strength and the knowledge of Christ and His love, Paul breaks out a doxology of praise and also a declaration of the power and provision that is found in our God and is available to us. In verse 20, Paul was aware in his prayer request for the Ephesians that God is able...He is able to do all...He is able to do above all...He is able to do abundantly above all...He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all, we could ask or even think, or ever anticipate, conceive, consider, or imagine.

Paul strains language here, using every word possible to convey the greatness and vastness of God's power and ability. Like the love of Christ in this context, the power of Christ is equally beyond human understanding and measurement. It is inexpressible and indescribable. As Jeremiah 32:27 says, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" William Barclay has said, "When we pray, remember: 1) The love of God that wants the best for us. 2) The wisdom of God that knows what is best for us. 3) The power of God that can accomplish it."

A group of seminary students were visiting the massive Metropolitan Tabernacle to hear Pastor Charles Spurgeon speak. Spurgeon approached them before the service. He asked them if they'd like to see the powerhouse which powered this great church. They were delighted and agreed, and Spurgeon led them through a long hallway, down a stairway, and cautiously opened a door at the bottom. What the five young men saw astonished them. Looking through this open doorway, they saw about 700 church members in prayer asking God for His blessing on the upcoming service. "That," said Spurgeon "is our powerhouse!" Prayer has power. Prayer has power because it calls upon our all-powerful God who is able to do over and above and beyond all that we request or consider even possible.

"according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20b).

A few verses above verse 20, Paul prayed that the Ephesians would be strengthened with might by the Spirit in the inner man (Eph. 3:16), that they would live their Christian lives through the

strength and power of the indwelling Spirit. And earlier in this letter, Paul prayed that the Church might be enlightened to God's surpassing power which is given to us who believe (Eph. 1:18-23). We have the power of God within, the same power that raised Christ from the dead, the same power that seated and exalted Christ far above all. Paul wanted the Church to be illuminated, be given a divine awareness of the power we possess in Christ, and for that awareness to affect our lives. Believers have the Spirit and Christ's resurrection power to resist temptation, change our attitudes, do God's will, endure suffering, overcome sin, and to serve and stand for Christ.

And Paul shows us here in verse 20 that the unlimited power by which God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask in prayer is the same power that works in us (see also Phil. 2:13). Therefore there is no limit to what God can do in and through you and me in our lives and service for Him. He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think or anticipate, conceive, consider, or ever imagine, *THROUGH US!*

PRAYER PRAISE

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21).

We all are too prone to pray only when we need something, but prayer should also be about praise and worship as Paul shows here. First, through the Church, we are able to bring glory to Our God according to His power that works in us. And second, because He has so richly and abundantly blessed us, our God is worthy of all glory, praise, honor, and adoration in the Church, through Christ Jesus its living Head, for all eternity.

We offer our praise and thanksgiving to Him now and we will have the privilege throughout all ages to offer our worship and adoration and to honor His name for all He has done for us for all eternity. As Paul says, "Amen," or "let it be so." And as the Psalmist says,

"I will extol thee, my God...and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable" (Psa. 145:1-3).

(TO BE CONTINUED)

WHAT DOES A CHAMPION LOOK LIKE?

By Dr. Robert Nix, Dean of Pastoral Studies

Several weeks ago, I took my mother to the airport in Milwaukee for her flight back home after a wonderful visit around Thanksgiving. While we were getting situated and preparing to go to the security area, a man walked by that I recognized instantly. Without hesitation I reached out my hand, and said in a somewhat shocked voice, "Bart Starr, nice to meet you!" He graciously shook my hand asked me my name and then pleasantly went on his way to catch his plane. Now if you're from Alabama and live in Wisconsin like I do, you know about Bart Starr. Bart Starr was quarterback for Vince Lombardi winning five NFL championships with the Green Bay Packers, he was inducted into the NFL hall of fame in 1977. Now for the icing on the cake, Bart Starr played quarter back for Paul Bear Bryant at the University of Alabama. In the sports world Bart Starr was a true champion.

Being a champion does not come easy and it wasn't easy for Starr. In fact it could be said that he played for two of the toughest football coaches to ever coach the game. However being a champion takes time, hard work and determination to be the best at anything you do. The same can be said for ministry. We at **Berean Bible Institute** believe that preparation and training are key ingredients in being useful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that each believer should be taught and receive training in order to effectively teach the Word of God and lead others to a saving knowledge of Christ.

Now allow me to tell you about some other champions in training that I met recently, but this time they are training to be champions for the Lord Jesus Christ. This past November **Berean Bible Institute** sponsored a Child Evangelism Training Seminar that saw approximately 40 people trained in reaching children for Christ. The training covered topics such as "Helping Children Understand the Message of Salvation," "The Invitation to Salvation", "Managing Your Classroom," "Training Children to Share their Faith," and finally "Reaching Today's Children." These topics were chosen in order to equip church members as they serve in their local church. It was such a blessing to see men and women who

wanted to receive training in order to be more effective witnesses for Christ. Remember champions are trained and do what it takes to be the best that they can be.

Our seminar leader was Edwina Marshall who currently serves as Director of Training for the Greater Madison area for Child Evangelism Fellowship. Edwina has been involved in training adults for over 45 years. Edwina is a champion and committed to training others to be champions for Christ. Edwina and her husband John are active members of *Grace Bible Church* in Madison, Wisconsin.

It is our desire at **Berean Bible Institute** to be a learning institution that provides both on campus and distance studies, yet we also see the need to encourage the local church by providing special training opportunities in key areas of ministry for laymen. We see this type of training as a priority to help local churches by providing ways they can train and equip their members to be more effective ministers and champions for the cause of Christ.

Berean Bible Institute has expanded its Distance Studies Program. New courses are now available!

101 Dispensational Survey

102 Apologetics

103 Bible Exposition I

105 Basic Bible Doctrines

109 Dispensational Hermeneutics

112 Cults

116 Biblical Worldview

1005 Women in Ministry I

1006 Women in Ministry II

These courses can be started any time and do not follow our regular semester schedule.

Our on-campus fall semester begins August 24th, 2010! If you would like more information or a Handbook and Course Catalog, please contact:

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IDENTITY CRISIS

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

Sometimes we hear someone say about another person, that they are going through an "identity crisis." This is a term that was coined in the 1950's to describe the psychological effect that confusion about one's social role and standing causes resulting in a sense of loss in regards to their personality. In other words, it means a mixed up person who has problems focusing on issues and/or relating to people in some area of their life. They just can't seem to find direction and purpose in what they do.

Many Christians experience a "spiritual identity crisis" simply because they do not understand their identity with Christ. Not knowing about the spiritual power that is available to them through their "oneness" with Jesus Christ they struggle with the flesh, trying to overcome its lustful appetites in their own strength and are defeated over and over. It is only when we realize who we are in Christ and then through faith begin to walk in the power of His might that we can experience victory over the flesh, the world, and the Devil. The victory Christ won on the Cross on our behalf. Every believer desires to experience living in victory, but many never do because they have a limited understanding of what it means to be "in Christ."

Every believer becomes a member of the Body of Christ and is completely identified with Him the very moment they trust in Him as their Savior. This identification is a work of God in which the Holy Spirit baptizes each believer into Christ. This baptism is a spiritual operation that has nothing to do with any water rituals or any other thing an individual might do. Because it is an aspect of salvation it is totally of God with no contribution of any human effort, except to be morally corrupt and in need of a Savior. Romans 6:1-3; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:5; and Colossians 2:12 all speak of this baptism of the Spirit by which individuals are united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

It is important to understand what our identification with Christ brings with it. Through faith in Him, His blood of redemption, which meets the demands of the Law concerning sin, is applied to the believer delivering him from the penalty (wages) of sin (Rom. 6:23a; Eph. 1:7a).

Because Christ's sacrifice of Himself is acceptable to God as a proper payment for sin His wrath toward an individual is appeased (propitiated) when that individual is identified with Christ through faith (Rom. 3:25a). This has to do with the forgiveness of sins that accompany redemption (Eph. 1:7). Justification (being declared just in God's sight), also comes with Jesus Christ's blood of redemption (Rom. 3:24). Another thing that takes place when Jesus Christ's blood of redemption is applied to an individual is that his relationship with God is changed. With his sins forgiven the enmity or hostility between him and God is removed and he is placed in a position of peace with God (Rom. 5:1). In other words, he is reconciled to God through the blood of Christ (Rom. 5:8-11).

Redemption, the forgiveness of sins, justification, and reconciliation are not all the same thing. But each is an important aspect of salvation that the believer experiences when he puts his trust in Jesus Christ. A person either has them all and is a new creation "in Christ" (II Cor. 5:17) or they remain "in Adam" under the condemnation that sin produces. A person is either "complete in Christ" and has all that He has to offer through the blood of His Cross (redemption, forgiveness of sins, justification, imputed righteousness, sanctification, oneness with Christ, a heavenly position, etc. etc.), or they are "completely without Christ" and can only look forward to judgment and condemnation for their sins in the Day of Wrath.

The believer is "sealed" in his new identity with Christ by the Holy Spirit who permanently indwells him (Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; I Cor. 6:19). In other words, the believer's identification with Jesus Christ is both total and permanent and it guarantees that he can never be separated from Him. Not now, or at any time in the future. Understanding that this oneness that we have with Christ makes us forever acceptable to God gives us complete assurance of our salvation. It also enables the believer to walk by faith in the power of the Spirit, and experience victory over the flesh (see Gal. 5:17-25).

Those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior need not be confused over their identity as a believer. They are "one with Christ" and have a glorious heavenly hope "in Him."



MISSION CONFERENCE

The **Berean Bible Institute** will be holding its Fourth Annual Grace Missions Conference on Friday and Saturday the 26th and 27th of February 200. The meetings will be held at the **BBI** building in Slinger, Wisconsin.

The theme of this conference is UNASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. Come and join us as we look at the importance of mission work around the world through the eyes of career missionaries.

As you know, mission work is a vitally important aspect of what God is doing today in the Dispensation of Grace we are living in. We feel it is a blessing to have the opportunity to encourage and show our support for our Grace Missionaries at a meeting like this. We hope that you will be able to join us for a great time at the conference. If you are not able to attend, we do ask that you will join us in spirit by praying for the conference and the continuing ministry of the **Berean Bible Institute**. Our hope and prayer is that this will not only be a great time of spiritual enrichment and fellowship, but also that the hearts of the saints will be challenged to walk by faith in the service of the Lord.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

6:30 PM— FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE

7:00 PM— **JOEL MOLINA**

Missionary to Zambia
Grace Ministries International

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

9:00 AM— **BEN ANDERSON**

Executive Director
Things to Come Mission

10:15 AM— BREAK

10:30 AM— **BROOK SEEKINS**

Missionary to Tanzania
Grace Ministries International

12:00 NOON— LUNCH PROVIDED BY BBI

1:30 PM— **DON TEN HOEVE**

Director of Field Operations
Grace Ministries International

2:45 PM— BREAK

3:00 PM— **JIM & MISSY TOLLAR**

On Deputation to go to Africa
Things to Come Mission

(*THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1*)

we can rest in the assurance that God's grace is sufficient to see us through. Because this is true we can rejoice in whatever might come our way.

The reality of our hope in Christ goes beyond our concerns for the immediate future as it takes us clear into eternity with the gift of eternal life. With all that is going on in the world today and the uncertainty about what is yet to come, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only message that offers any real hope for the future. There are a multitude of voices today that are clamoring to be heard, each claiming that they have the answer for today's problems. In reality they don't even know what the world's problem actually is. Mankind's problems, as they have been from the time of Adam's fall, are all rooted in sin. Only Jesus Christ has a remedy for the sin problem. Only He can take the guilt and shame of sin out of an individual's heart and mind and replace it with true peace and joy.

Here at **Berean Bible Institute** we believe the message of the Cross is the most important message that any individual could ever hear. It is with this in mind that we continue to strive to help our students prepare themselves to serve God in proclaiming the truth about His Son, "*Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.*" We look at the perilous times that we are living in as times of opportunity. The opportunity to shine the marvelous light of God's Grace into the darkest recesses of human depravity that lost souls might be gloriously saved in order that they might worship and serve Him too.

Please pray that this ministry will continue to stand strong for the Grace message and that the Lord would continue to supply the resources necessary to maintain the important work of training the grace leaders of the future. "*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen*"

Because He Lives!

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 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.



BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE

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