

The BBI Bulletin

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Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

By Dr. Robert E. Nix

Since the last time I updated you about Berean Bible Institute much has happened. In fact, I am not sure we have even taken a breath. Most of you are aware that at our May graduation we saw several students receive certificates of completion and two men graduate with their diploma in *Advanced Biblical Studies*. The diploma in *Advanced Biblical Studies* is the highest diploma that Berean Bible Institute offers, consisting of over 90 semester hours of work, taking at least three years to complete. Our two graduates, Pastor Justin Becker and Pastor Kevin Sadler also received recognition awards never before awarded at BBI. Justin Becker received the *The Berean Bible Institute Award for Excellence in Christian Service*, and Kevin Sadler received *The Berean Bible Institute Award for Excellence in Biblical Scholarship*. Both men are committed to not only knowing and teaching the message of Grace but living it out in their daily lives.

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DO YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY?

Dr. W. Edward Bedore

A recent national proficiency test given to a representative group of 7,000-4th graders, 11,800-8th graders and 12,400 high school seniors showed that American students are less knowledgeable about their nation's history than they are on any other subject. Overall, only 20% of 4th-graders, 17% of 8th-graders and 12% of 12th graders demonstrated proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress Exam, which is also referred to as the "Nation's Report Card."

This is troubling for several reasons, but one that was not mentioned in the article is how a lack of knowledge about history reflects one's view of their country. If they do not know their heritage, they will not appreciate the rights and freedoms they enjoy as citizens of the United States. It is knowledge of the history of our nation that fosters true patriotism and willingness to defend the liberty that we have as Americans. Liberty that was paid for with the blood of those who were willing to risk, and often give their lives so that men and women could live in freedom from the tyranny of dictators and despots. Not only for their generation, but the generations that would follow them as well. Yes, for us who are alive today and those to follow. If our nation forgets its history and the principles it was built upon it will cease to be a great nation. With the many ills our nation is suffering in these troubling times we are living in, most Americans seem to think

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

Upcoming Events

GRACE BELIEVERS BIBLE CONFERENCE

Dates: August 5-7, 2011

Location: Bitely, MI

Theme: "Searching the Unsearchable Riches of Christ"

Contact: Pastor Ken Lyon
at:(231) 745-9595.

BBF FALL CONFERENCE & YOUTH CONFERENCE

Dates: October 8-9, 2011

Location: Madison, WI

Theme: "What Does Grace Teach Us?"

Contact:
Pastor Wes Barteck at:
(608) 222-2205
boreanbiblefellowship.weebly.com

Fall semester at BBI begins August 22nd. Contact BBI today for information and an application!

MAIL RECEIVED AT BOX 587

FROM WYOMING:

"Please accept our donation to the **Berean Bible Institute** in memory of our Bible study leader for many years, he spoke of you often and liked to use some of your newsletters for our study materials. Blessings!"

FROM ALABAMA:

"Dr. Nix, We are very proud of you and excited to see the Lord working through you there at the Institute."

FROM CALIFORNIA:

"Please, would you be so kind to note the change in my address so I can continue receiving the newsletters. The rightly divided responses are water to a thirsty soul."

FROM WISCONSIN:

"You folks have been sending me your newsletters for years now and I want to say thank you, please keep sending it because I sincerely love reading it! God bless and I will keep praying for you all."

FROM OHIO:

"Dr. Bedore, I sure do enjoy your articles. Thank you."

(DO YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY? continued from page 1)

that falling short in the field of history is a minor problem. It is not. It may seem irrelevant to many, but it is critical to maintaining a healthy society that is necessary to being a strong nation.

There is a far worse problem facing us today than the disintegration of our Great Nation though. It is the lack of the knowledge of spiritual truth. Spiritually, the Church today is in a desperate position. Since the time of the Reformation and the translation of the Bible into the common languages of a host of nations there has been an increasingly strong attack against God's Word and what it teaches. Especially over the last century and a half a great effort has been put into trying to discredit the Bible by questioning its authority and reliability. These attacks have come from without and within the professing Church. All too often the opinions of "biblical" scholars and those of atheistic and deistic scholars concerning the Scriptures are virtually the same. To the liberal Bible scholars Christian Theology is just another philosophy to be considered along with all the other philosophies out there. The result is that many of those who fill our pulpits today have been influenced by the liberalism that has infiltrated many Bible colleges and seminaries. These men (and women) see themselves more as CEO's whose job it is to grow a large church through programs and progressive methods rather than ministers of the Word of God. Ministers who are to reach out to the lost with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ and to encourage, strengthen, comfort, and establish the saints through the preaching and teaching of Grace Truth from God's Word.

Sound doctrine is essential to the establishing of believers in the faith. In turn, being established in the faith through the knowledge of sound doctrine is essential to the personal spiritual growth and maturity of individual believers. Sadly, today there are multitudes of people who claim to be Christians that are devoid of the knowledge of even the basic doctrines of Biblical Christianity. Recent polls in America have shown that over 50% of those who profess to be Christians believe that Jesus Christ could have and probably did sin while He was on earth and that there are ways to God and salvation other than through faith in Christ and His finished work on the Cross.

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Similar numbers do not believe the Bible to be inerrant. Simply put, a large segment of Christianity has fallen away from the faith in favor of large "successful" churches where they can be entertained and hear messages that make them feel good, but offer no real hope or assurance of salvation to the lost or comfort and strength to the saints.

Should we, as Bible believing, forgiven, redeemed and regenerated saints of God, despair over this dire situation? I don't think so. Yes, we should be concerned and we should take those concerns to the Lord in earnest prayer, petitioning Him to raise up an army of men, men who will boldly preach "Jesus Christ according to the Revelation of the Mystery" (see Rom. 11:25-27) **always keeping in mind that our hope is in the Lord Jesus Himself.**

Like a nation that forgets its history will lose its way and eventually self-destruct, when the Church drifts from the Bible and its foundational doctrines it will lose its way and will become irrelevant to society at large and to individuals in particular. It will lose its power and efficiency to serve as "the pillar and ground of the truth" (II Tim. 3:15) that God has called it to be. By God's grace, may faithful men stand up and step forward to receive the instruction and training necessary to becoming effective servants of the Lord, "able to teach others also" (see II Tim. 2:1-2). This is God's plan for preserving the Church which is Christ's Body and making known the Good News of Jesus Christ. 

"If we don't know our own history, we will simply have to endure all the same mistakes, sacrifices, and absurdities all over again."

—Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

THE BLOOD OF JESUS

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

QUESTION: In your article "the Blood of Jesus Christ" (The BBI Bulletin, Spring 2011 Edition), you claim that Peter and the other apostles knew in early Acts about the part the shedding of Christ's blood played in the forgiveness of sins. I have been taught and have read in mid-Acts grace literature that the blood is part of the "Mystery" that wasn't revealed until Jesus Himself revealed it to Paul, who taught it to the twelve apostles. Can you help me here?

ANSWER: It is true that the Dispensation of Grace that the Lord Jesus Christ revealed to Paul was a "mystery," or secret, that was never revealed by God to anyone before He made it known to Paul (see Eph. 3:1-12). Paul said that he preached "the unsearchable riches of Christ" to the Gentiles (v.8). These riches were "unsearchable" because "from the beginning of the world" they were "hid in God" (v.9). In other words, they could not be searched out in Scripture through the types and shadows found in the prophetic writings. They are untraceable; there is no hint or illustrative event that points forward to them. They were locked away in the mind of God and He never divulged His secret or "mystery" plan until, in His perfect timing, He revealed it to Saul of Tarsus (Paul) whom He appointed as the Apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13). These "riches of Christ" are Grace Truths that were committed to **Paul and are unique to the Dispensation of Grace.** Truths that are not taught in the prophetic writings, directly or indirectly. They are not expressly stated nor are they implied in figure, type, or symbol. They are not pictured in any person, event, or circumstance; not in part or in full. **They were a secret.**

A list of these Grace Truths would include Israel being set aside in unbelief with God's favor being directed toward the Gentiles through the Gospel of Grace; the Church which is Christ's Body being made up of Jews and Gentiles without regard to nationality or ethnicity; the commission of the word of reconciliation; salvation by grace through faith alone; the believers spiritual baptism of identification into Christ by the Holy Spirit; a heavenly hope and calling; the pre-tribulational Rapture; believers being seated with Christ in the heavenlies; believers being blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies; etc. Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection being presented as Good News is added to this list by some, but we do not believe that this is accurate. Our position on this is based on the fact that the death, burial and resurrection were all prophesied and they are seen in various types, shadows and illustrations found in the Prophetic Scriptures of the Old Testament. We must keep in mind when looking at this subject that the Gospel Records (Matthew thru John) are actually a continuation of the Old Testament Prophetic Scriptures, even though they are found in the part of the Bible commonly known as the New Testament.

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Genesis 3:15 is universally recognized as the first prophetic reference in the Bible to Christ's eventual victory over Satan and the curse of sin. That the serpent would "bruise" the heel of the Seed of the Woman speaks of the crucifixion of the virgin born Jesus Christ. That the Seed of the Woman would "bruise" the head of the serpent foreshadows the truth that even though the Seed of the Woman would be struck down, He would not be destroyed, but would destroy His enemy. Even though this reference is veiled as to its meaning, it marks the point at which the trail of Christ's blood can begin to be followed through the Scriptures to His Cross as Good News. The bad news of the Seed of the Woman having His heel crushed results in the Good News of the enemy of man's soul being destroyed. It is vague, but the death, burial, and resurrection as Good News are all in play in this passage. Later in verses 20-21 we find the Lord God providing coats of skin as a proper covering for Adam and Eve. Can we say the death of the animal that supplied these garments was anything but Good News to the man and the woman? I don't think so. And wouldn't the same be true of the Passover lamb whose sacrifice resulted in Israel being brought out of slavery in Egypt (Ex. 12:1-13)? It was Good News for those who put its blood on their doorposts and lintel. And was not the blood of the animals sacrificed to provide the blood to ratify God's covenant with Israel (Ex. 24:3-8) Good News to the nation? The sin and trespass offerings prescribed in the Mosaic Law were Good News to those who had transgressed and needed atonement for their soul (Lev. 4:1-35). The death of the animals sacrificed on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:30; 24:27) was certainly Good News to all of Israel.

A powerful representation of Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection is Abraham's offering of Isaac (Gen. 22:6-13). Isaac was as good as dead, but Abraham received him back from the dead, as it were. The writer of Hebrews, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, recognizes this event as figurative of Christ's resurrection (Heb. 11:17-19). This pictures the resurrection as Good News because the Promised Seed was preserved in Isaac who prefigured Christ (Gal. 3:16).

In Isaiah 53:6-12, we have the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ prefigured as Good News for the transgressions of Israel. All the "sheep," or people of Israel, "have gone astray," each one going "his own way", but "the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Israel)" (v.6). For the sinners of the nation of Israel who understood the sacrificial system, this is Good News. "He was cut off from the land of the living," that is He died "for the transgression of My (God's) people (Israel)" (v.8). This is Good News for those whose transgressions He died for. It is specifically said that "His soul" was made "an offering for sin" (v.10). With the sacrificial system of the Mosaic Law dominating their day-to-day life, the symbolism could hardly be missed. Sin offerings, (which were blood sacrifices) were given to provide atonement for those who had sinned, or transgressed the Law. What is pictured here is a sin offering being made on behalf of all of Israel. It is Good News. It brings to mind the Day of Atonement when a sin offering was made on behalf of the nation of Israel. On that day it was Good News when the High Priest came out of the Tabernacle/Temple after going into the Holy of Holies to offer the blood of the sacrifice to the Lord.

It can hardly be denied that the shedding of Christ's blood for the forgiveness of sins for Israel is prefigured in shadow and type in the Prophetic Scriptures of the Old Testament. And so is His resurrection as we have already seen in Isaac. But there is more.

The Isaiah passage of Scripture we previously looked at (Isa. 53:6-12) prophesies not only the death (vv. 8,12) of Him who would make "intercession for the transgressors" (v.12), but also His abundant life that would follow. The One that God was "pleased" to "bruise," He also would "prolong His days" that "the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand" (v. 10). It is also said that "because He hath poured out His soul unto death" that the Lord promised to "divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong" (v. 12). That the Lord God will prosper His hand and He will receive His portion of the spoil most certainly pictures Christ's victory as a Living Savior and Almighty King who, after He died, is again found to be alive to receive that the Father has promised Him (see Ps. 2). This is Good News.

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We will not elaborate on it here except to say that many are the Bible students who recognize in Joseph a type of Christ through whom His death, burial, and resurrection are pictured as Good News.

The Apostle Paul's reference to Jesus Christ as our Passover (I Cor. 5:7) ties the Grace Message to the Lord being the fulfillment of this important type from the Old Testament: a type that powerfully prefigures the shedding of Christ's blood as the basis of redemption, which is Good News. The blood of the Passover Lamb is universally seen as a representation of Jesus Christ's redemptive work.

The purpose of the writer of Hebrews was to show the superiority of Jesus Christ over everything and everyone that Israel looked back to as the basis of their religious beliefs. He systematically shows that Christ was "better" than angels, Moses, Joshua, and Aaron. The main focus in his explanation of Christ's superiority is on His replacing the Old (Mosaic) Covenant with the New (Messianic) Covenant along with the Aaronic Priesthood and its blood sacrifices. In other words, He "searched" these things out in Scripture to show that they were only types of which Christ was the corresponding anti-type. That is, Christ was the fulfillment of those things that merely prefigured His coming into the world as a Man, His sacrifice of Himself for our sins, and His high-priestly position in the order of Melchizedek. This is all Good News that is based on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins ...but this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God"* (Heb. 10:4,12). *"For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time"* (I Tim. 2:5-6).

Then there are the Lord's own words at the Last Supper, *"For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"* (Matt. 26:28). They show that the shedding of Christ's blood for the forgiveness of sins was revealed to the apostles even before Christ suffered on the Cross. This truth was not left hidden in the types and shadows of the Prophetic Scriptures, but is plainly stated by the Lord Jesus Himself on the eve of His sacrificial death. Whatever can secure the

forgiveness of sins is Good News to sinners. Christ's blood is the only thing that can do that. The truth of the sufficiency of Christ's blood for the forgiveness of sins was obviously not hidden away in the mind of God as the **unique aspects** of the Dispensation of Grace were before being entrusted to Paul as their custodian by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another thing to keep in mind when looking at this subject is that while Peter and the other Kingdom leaders did learn about the Dispensation of Grace and its unique doctrines from Paul (Gal. 2:6-9; II Pet. 3:15-16), they did not learn the message and commission that they were entrusted with from Paul. In addition to the three years of personal instruction they received as His disciples, the risen Lord taught them *"the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God"* for forty days before ascending into Heaven (Acts 1:1-3). What they learned from Paul helped them to understand why the Tribulation, the return of Christ, and the Millennial Kingdom had been postponed. But, they had been preaching a message according to their commission from the Lord at least one year before Paul became a believer. And then they didn't even talk to him until three years later (Gal. 1:15-18), during which time they continued to proclaim their message. With the initiation of the Mystery Dispensation of Grace, God set the prophetic program on hold; but He did not change the prophetic Good News of the Kingdom that Peter and the eleven preached.

Peter and John both wrote as Kingdom apostles. I believe that their writings, along with Hebrews, James, and Jude are all directly applicable to the prophetic program. In other words, they are Kingdom oriented. There are strong similarities to Paul's letters because Jesus Christ and His work of redemption are foundational to both dispensations. Nonetheless, there are also important contrasts between them. Contrasts that identify and set the "Mystery" and "Prophetic" programs apart as two different avenues by which God has chosen to administer His love, mercy, and grace to Adam's fallen race during different stages of history.

Through Moses, the Lord made a clear declaration concerning the necessity of the shedding of blood for the remission of sins. *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul"* (Lev. 17:11).

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Can there be any doubt that the writer of Hebrews had this passage in mind when he wrote that *“without the shedding of blood there is no remission [of sins]”* (Heb. 9:22).

Speaking of the part Christ’s blood played in securing our redemption, Herbert Lockyer states:

*“The Bible is a crimson Book. Repugnant though it might be to the modern, cultivated yet unregenerate mind, the fact remains that the Bible is a blood-drenched book. From the hour God made coats of animal skins for fallen Adam and Eve, down to the Millennial day, blood is seen as the purchase price of access to God.”*¹

In his presentation of the Kingdom Gospel, Peter did charge Israel with crucifying the Messiah whom God had raised from the dead (Acts 2:22-36). This was bad news in the sense that if they did not repent of rejecting Him, they would be judged by Him. On the other hand, it was Good News because, if they repented and believed on Him as their risen Messiah and Savior, they could be forgiven and given eternal life (Acts 2:37-40).

In the same way, the Gospel of the Grace of God is both bad news and Good News. For those who reject Christ as their Savior after hearing the Gospel, it is bad news because the One who was raised from the dead will judge them. On the other hand, it is Good News to those who respond to the Gospel of Grace and, through faith, receive Christ as their Savior. Paul presented the Gospel to the Athenians in a similar manner to Peter’s Pentecostal message. After accusing them of being pantheistic idol worshippers (Acts 17:22-23), he confronted them with the truth that the real God is a Living Sovereign Being and the Creator of all things and is not contained in objects made of gold, silver, or stone like their idols were (Acts 17:24-29). He then told them that *“the times of this ignorance God winked at [has overlooked]; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: because He hath appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He raised Him from the dead”* (Acts 17:30-31). He proclaimed a coming judgment and told the Athenians that they could be delivered from it if they would turn from their

idols to the Living God through faith. Jesus Christ has been ordained to judge the world in righteousness. And because God had raised Jesus Christ from the dead, this coming judgment is assured. It is settled, it will happen. This was bad news to those who mocked and rejected Paul’s message (Acts 17:32), but it was Good News to those who believed (Acts 17:34). And this is still as true today as it was then (see II Cor. 2:14-16).

We need to take note of the fact that there is no direct mention of Christ’s blood or the forgiveness of sins in Paul’s message as recorded in this passage of Scripture. Can we assume then that Paul explained how a person is saved by trusting in Jesus Christ and the work of redemption He accomplished through the shedding of His blood on the Cross, and how God raised Him from the dead in victory over sin and death to those who responded positively to his message? I think so. And I think that, based on the evidence, we have to come to the conclusion that *“the blood”* and *“resurrection”* were not hidden away in the mind of God from before the creation of the world until it was revealed to Paul. Instead, a crimson trail of Good News can be traced from Adam, to Abel, to Noah, to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to Moses and the Law, to Aaron and the priesthood, to Israel’s national history, to the Cross, and on through the Tribulation and into the Millennium and beyond. Every saint, every redeemed individual of every age and dispensation, everyone who will spend eternity in the presence of the Crucified One will only be there because He bought them out of the slave market of sin with His own blood. Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise His holy name!!! Praise to Him *“In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”* (Eph. 1:7).

¹ Lockyer Sr., Herbert. All the Doctrines of the Bible, Zondervon Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI 1964, pg. 188.



Only one life; twill soon be past.

Only what’s done “in Christ” will last.

(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

Following the graduation portion of our service was an installation service during which I was installed as the new President of Berean Bible Institute. In this portion of the service Dr. Bedore was able to reflect on his and Linda's fifteen years of service here at BBI. God has used Dr. Bedore and Linda in a great way over the years and they remain as important parts of the Institute. The board also shared about the search process and their decision to choose the next president of Berean Bible Institute. It was a meaningful service and one I will not soon forget.

Since the graduation/installation we have been as busy as ever. Now, when you call Berean Bible Institute, you will hear a new voice answer the phone. As of May 30th, Mrs. Sandra Wruk Silva is working as our Office Administrator. This new role includes maintaining our business office operations, accounting, in addition to web page maintenance. Her office hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00am-5:00pm. Sandra brings not only the gifts and abilities to carry out these responsibilities but also a strong commitment to Christ and His message of Grace.

As the new president of Berean Bible Institute, it is my goal that we expose as many people as we can to the ministry of BBI. I have traveled and preached at three different grace churches in Alabama, as well as speaking at Southern Grace Youth Camp. We were also able to attend the Berean Bible Fellowship conference in Cedar Lake, Indiana. Currently Pastor Andy Kern is traveling to Northern Grace Youth Camp to promote BBI during their family camp. Dr. Bedore and Linda will be promoting BBI at the Grace conference in Bitely, Michigan, and Pastor Wolgast continues to meet with alumni in his summer travels. There is still much to accomplish during the remainder of our summer months, so please pray for fruitfulness and safety as we continue to reach out and promote the Institute. If you would like a representative to come to your church or camp please contact us and we would be happy to set something up.

I want to share a little more about the BBF conference at Cedar Lake this year. The conference theme was "Rejoice in the Lord Always." It was truly a blessing to take a fresh look at the book of Philippians and hear good solid grace preaching. It was such an encouragement to me to see BBI so

well represented at the conference. During the conference four, of our faculty members preached including our two recent graduates Pastor Justin Becker and Pastor Kevin Sadler. I was also able to share about BBI in an evening service as well as to the college-age students and the youth at two different times.

If you have not visited our website lately, I want to encourage you to take a look. We are working diligently to keep it updated with fresh and helpful material. Every month we get hundreds of new "hits" on our page. I want to especially alert you to our new "Student Testimonies" video that we posted last month. In this video you are able to see three BBI students share from their hearts how God has used the ministry of BBI in their lives. It is truly a blessing to see. We believe that our students and our alumni are our best promoters. It is so encouraging for me to be able to see God working in the lives of our students while they are here and after they move on. For those of you who regularly pray for us and give financially, you will be especially blessed to see the fruit of your partnership with BBI.

In closing, there are three special prayer requests that I want to share with you and ask you to pray about. First, please pray for our faculty and staff as we prepare for the upcoming school-year at BBI. Each semester provides both blessings and challenges, and God uses both to strengthen us for His glory.

Secondly, I want to ask that you pray for the new students at BBI. Please pray that God would lead men and women who want to grow in their faith and understanding of God's Word rightly divided to Berean Bible Institute.

Finally, please pray for the financial strength of Berean Bible Institute. Times are tough everywhere and BBI has certainly felt the sting. Please stand with us knowing that God hears our prayers and answers them according to His wonderful plan.

Serving together,

Dr. Robert E. Nix
President, Berean Bible Institute

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 college level 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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