

# The BBI BULLETIN

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Training for Ministry

December, January, February

Rightly Dividing God's Word



## THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

Dr. Robert E. Nix

President, Berean Bible Institute



## GOD, FAMILY & FATHERS

Pastor Andy Kern

Associate Dean of Academics

**Bulletin receives a new look**—You may have noticed that we have updated the look of the Bulletin and we have changed the way we print the BABQ. It has become apparent to us that we have needed to update the look and clarity of our publications. It is our goal that we send you solid and uplifting articles and studies that are easily read and are appealing to the reader. Changes in printing always cost more, but we feel it is essential that what we present to our readers is clear and of good quality. We are so blessed by the response we get from our readers that express how much God is using our material for His glory and the furtherance of the message of grace. These publications also allow us to convey what is taking place in and through the ministry of BBI as we train leaders in the message of God's grace.

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*"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (Eph. 6:4 NKJV). This verse is seated in the context of Paul's instructions for the Christian household in Ephesians. It has always amazed me how much Paul stated in so few words, as he outlined the major principles of family life in a matter of 16 verses (5:22-6:4). He succinctly identified the will of God for wives, husbands, children, and parents, especially fathers, presenting God's best plans for family members to encourage spiritual growth within the family. While God saves individuals through the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16), it is clear that He desires families as a whole to know Him and exhibit Christ-likeness in all areas of life. Often it is through one family member coming to Christ that others in the family come to accept Christ as Savior. This was true for Lydia's household and the household of the Philippian jailor (Acts 16:14-15; 31-34), two families used of God to form the church in Philippi (see Acts 16). The family structure, instituted by God with Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:23-24), is meant to serve an important role in evangelism, spiritual growth in Christ, and church planting and development. But it only functions properly when the family is centered on Christ.

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Berean Bible Institute  
PO Box 587  
116 Kettle Moraine Dr.  
Slinger, WI 53086



Phone: (262) 644-5504  
Fax: (262) 644-5507  
E-mail: [bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org)  
Web: [www.bereanbibleinstitute.org](http://www.bereanbibleinstitute.org)



**Mail Received  
at  
Box 587**

**FROM E-MAIL:**

"...Thank you for your work at the Berean Bible Institute. I know this requires much dedication....Making known Paul's Gospel should be all of our desire and tireless effort."

**FROM CALIFORNIA:**

"Your newsletters are always so encouraging because of the dispensational truths which I seem to glean from every one. I've been part of your ministry for over 5 years now and as a result wind up teaching the Word with the help of your rightly divided input."

**FROM WASHINGTON:**

"I love reading your 'Bible Answers to Bible Questions,' and I pray for BBI and BBS, which have been a blessing to me in prison."

**FROM ILLINOIS:**

"We really appreciate the ministry of BBI, especially in training full-time pastors and missionaries. God bless you."

**FROM MICHIGAN:**

"Brother Nix and staff, at our Men's Counsel ministry today it was decided to send this gift to you to help with the work there at BBI. God has been good to our little congregation and we want to share as He leads. We enjoy the updates and the BABQ that you send our way, and when possible would like to add you to our monthly budget. God's blessings to you all."

**FROM WISCONSIN:**

"I really appreciate the news from BBI so I know how to pray, students, faculty, instructors, income, etc. Thank you for your ministry. We hear such good things from/about graduated students. Friends were here visiting from Oshkosh and they so enjoy the teaching and ministry of Pastor Turner."

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

**The "Bulletin Board"**

*Upcoming Events & News*



**2014 GRACE  
MISSIONS CONFERENCE**

**Dates:** February 14-15, 2014

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

**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!



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- \*Jan. 26—Kettle Moraine Bible Church, West Bend, WI
- \*Feb. 2—Hilltop Bible Church, Chicago, IL
- \*Feb. 9—Glacier Hills Bible Church, Hartford, WI
- Feb. 14, 15—BBI Annual Grace Mission Conference, Slinger, WI
- \*Feb. 21-23—Grace Bible Fellowship Church Conference, Nokomis, FL
- \*Mar. 2—Grace Bible Church, Thomson, GA
- Mar. 14-23—Spring Break for BBI
- \*Apr. 27—Kettle Moraine Bible Church, West Bend, WI

If you would like more information on any of these churches or conferences, please contact BBI and we would be happy to help!

*\*Denotes that Dr. Nix will be speaking for the services.*

**UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES OFFERED BY BBI**



**Wednesday nights, January 22nd-May 15th**

6:30-8:00 PM—204 Bible Exposition IV  
(A Survey of Paul's Epistles)

8:15-9:15 PM—102 Apologetics

**Thursday nights, January 23rd-May 16th**

7:00-8:00 PM—212 Church History

8:15-9:15 PM—116 Biblical Worldview

One of the major principles of family life that Paul declares in Ephesians is that the husband/father is to lead his family into the knowledge of Christ. The husband is to lead his wife into a deepening knowledge of Christ and His Word (Eph. 5:23-33), and the father is to lead his children into that same knowledge (Eph. 6:4). This accomplishes several things: 1) The man himself undergoes growth as he focuses on spiritual instruction for his family; 2) The wife grows spiritually; 3) The children grow spiritually; 4) The family as a whole can be used of God; and 5) The man is better equipped for a larger role in the local church (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Ti. 1:5-9). Obviously, not every family consists entirely of believers, nor is every family led by a husband and father who is a believer in Christ. God's grace is sufficient in these circumstances, and I believe He will continue to work to save unbelieving family members. For those in such a family, God can use you to win your family members to Christ as you remain faithful and keep Christ first in your life (cf. 1 Cor. 7:10-16; 1 Pet. 3:1). The picture of the family that Paul presents in Ephesians is not where we all start, but is something God is working towards in our lives.

It seems that what Paul had in mind in Ephesians 6:4 is the spiritual formation of the next generation of believers. Paul had been raised as a Jew (Php. 3:4-6), and it was imperative for Jewish parents to pass on the knowledge of God to their children. Regarding God's Word to Israel, they were instructed to *"teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up"* (Deut. 6:7). The goal was to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength"* (Deut. 6:5), but in Paul's case religious ritual became central as he went on to become a hard-hearted Pharisee until the Lord personally intervened in his life (Acts 9:1-9; Php. 3:5). However, the fruit of such labor on the part of faithful parents can be seen in the lives of men like David, who *"sought the Lord"* (Ps. 34:4). David's understanding of God would have most likely been passed down from his father Jesse, who learned from his father Obed, who learned from his father, a faithful Jew named Boaz (Ruth 4:17, 21-22). The key was that David made the faith of his father his own.

The challenge for fathers today is in being used by God to help our children exercise their faith in Jesus Christ, both for salvation and daily living. This is where Paul's instructions come in, *"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (Eph. 6:4). The word *training* is translated from the Greek word *paideia* and carries the idea of day to day instruction and teaching. In other words, the father is to conduct Christ-centered training with his children involving all areas of life as they are taught the will of God and the meaning of serving Christ in any given situation. This is, of course, a very broad subject, which serves to demonstrate why this type of training in the home goes on for the duration of childhood. *Admonition* is the Greek word *nouthesia* meaning to "place in the mind." This word denotes instruction in key moments through exhortation or warning. Regarding both these words Paul uses, Spiros Zodhiates writes, *"Nouthesia is any word of encouragement or reproof which leads to correct behavior. Paideia is instruction and training by act and discipline."* Therefore, we could say that training deals with the father pointing the child's heart toward Christ day by day, while admonition relates to the father seizing a moment to correct waywardness through instructive means. Both forms of teaching should include the Word of God for, *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The goal initially is to lead the child to Christ for salvation, and then the goal becomes the child growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. This goal is the same for every member of the Body of Christ, *"that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith"* (Eph. 3:17). God wants to shape the lives of children and use them for His service throughout their lives. The role of the father is to be God's instrument in this pursuit through modeling the faith, teaching the faith, praying, correcting, and pursuing Christ in every area of his own life. The Lord can and will use the mother in these same areas, especially when a believing father is not in the picture, but the primary responsibility falls to the Christian father.

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Carrying out the father's mandate can take various forms. The instruction of children can take place through regular family devotion times, reading through the Word together and even through singing (Eph. 5:19), or it can be during informal moments throughout the day, perhaps when a question arises or a problem is encountered where the truth needs to be affirmed. The form of the training and admonition will differ from family to family, but the function must be carried out so that *"the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does it share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love"* (Eph. 4:16).



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## THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES (Part 8)

**Dr. W. Edward Bedore**

*Editor, BBI Bulletin, BABQ*

### PAUL'S PRAYERS FROM PRISON

#### *Colossians 1:1-8*

Paul precedes his prayer for the church at Colosse with a sort of preamble to state his motivation for praying for them. In verse 3, he gives thanks to God for these believers and says that he was praying for them on a continuing basis. Verse 4 tells us that he began to pray for them as soon as he heard of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, which was manifest in their love for all those who are "in Christ." Continuing on in verse 5, he states that because of their faith in Christ Jesus they have a hope. Not an uncertain hope of the sort promised by the world of man-centered religion, but a sure and eternal hope which was laid up for them in heaven (cf. Col. 3:1-4). The security of this hope is found in nothing else but the person of the crucified, resurrected, ascended, and glorified Lord Jesus Christ Himself. This hope is presented to be an integral part of the Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ Jesus which Paul refers to as *"the Revelation of the Mystery"* and the *"Dispensation of the Grace of God"* (see Rom. 16:25; I Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 3:1-4).

Verse 6 declares that the gospel had not merely been declared at Colosse, but to all the world, and so was not a message limited to any one nation, ethnic

group, or geographical location (see also Col. 1:23). It is through the preaching of the Gospel of Grace that fruit unto God is brought forth. It is by the preaching of the Gospel that those who believe are saved (Rom. 10:12-17; I Cor. 1:18-21). And it is through the preaching and teaching of sound doctrine by rightly dividing the Word of Truth (II Tim. 2:15) that the Body of Christ is edified (built up) in love (see Eph. 4:1-16).

#### *Colossians 1:9-12*

Since he had first heard of their faith in Jesus Christ and their love for other believers, Paul had been praying for the church at Colosse on a regular basis. Of course, Paul's divinely inspired and recorded prayer for this group of believers is an expression of God's desire for the entire Body of Christ.

This petition to God makes mention of four specific requests on behalf of believers. First, that they would *"be filled with the knowledge of His will"* (v.9). Of course, this can only be accomplished through godly wisdom and enlightenment by the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians tells us that wisdom from God is only found in Jesus Christ that it is only by the indwelling Holy Spirit that spiritual enlightenment is possible (see I Cor. 2:26-2:16).

The second request was for *"a walk worthy of the Lord"* (v.10). This entails a lifestyle that bears fruit unto the Lord through our labors (good works) on His behalf.

Third, Paul asked that the church be *"strengthened with all might according to His glorious power"* (v.11) to the end that we will be able to endure suffering on behalf of Christ with the joy that comes from knowing our hope "in Christ" is sure and that He is all that is needed to sustain us. *'And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power'* (Col. 2:10).

And last, that thanksgiving (v.12) from a truly grateful heart would be given to the Father Who has imputed Christ's righteousness to us that we might share in His Son's inheritance (Rom. 8:16-17; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:10-12; 2:4-7; Col. 3:1-4).



TO BE CONTINUED.....

## BIBLE WORDS & WORDS OF THE BIBLE

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, *Editor, BBI Bulletin, BABQ*

### ADOPTION

The Greek word translated “adoption” in our English Bibles is *huiiothesia*. It has the meaning of “to place as a son” or “the placing into the condition of sonship.” The adoption of the believer must not be confused with the “regeneration” of the believer. These two terms are not the same thing, but have to do with two different aspects of what takes place in a person’s heart and soul at the moment of their salvation through faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Whereas “regeneration” speaks of the believer being made alive in their spirit by the Holy Spirit who indwells them (Eph. 2:1; Ti. 3:5), “adoption” speaks of the glorious future that God has predetermined for those who have been regenerated. To properly understand what is in view in the adoption of the believer as explained in the epistles of the Apostle Paul, it is vital to recognize the fact that the full and final adoption of believers is a future event. There is a positional sense in which each believer’s adoption has been finalized. Each believer is declared to be “complete” in Christ (Col. 1:10). This truth has been verified by their identification with Jesus Christ, which takes place by the operation of the Holy Spirit who spiritually baptizes each individual believer into Jesus Christ making them a member of the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:12-13). The Holy Spirit, at that same moment, takes up permanent residence in the believer, sealing him/her into Christ forever thus “guaranteeing” that God will, in the end, fully bring to pass his purpose for each believer in all of the glorious aspects of the spiritual blessings that the Father has blessed them with “in Christ” (see Eph. 1:3, 11-14; 4:30; II Cor. 1:21-22; 5:4-5).

The term “*adoption*” is used five times in the New Testament, all of which are found in the epistles of the Apostle Paul (Rom. 8:15, 23; 9:4; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5). The Biblical concept of adoption was not the same as we think of it today, which is the placing of an unrelated person into the family by legal decree. While under certain conditions this type of adoption was practiced, the general custom of adoption in the Roman Empire, when the New Testament was written, was for fathers to publicly acknowledge their natural sons. When his son reached the age of

adulthood, the father would hold a ceremony, perhaps before a judge, and the son would be declared a fully mature and responsible adult with all of the authority, responsibilities, and privileges of his position. The understanding of the believer’s adoption that is presented here is that it will take place in its fullness after the Rapture of the Church at the Judgment Seat of Christ where each believer will receive their reward for faithful service. At that time they will also receive refashioned and glorified bodies like unto that of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (see I Cor. 3:11-16; Phil. 3:20-21). It is this glorious time of consummation for the Body of Christ that we; “...which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Rom. 8:23). It is the future hope we have been saved into as members of the Body of Christ (see Rom. 8:21-25).

At that time God will bring to pass His marvelous and incomprehensible purpose for every member of the Body of Christ. Each of us will fully “be conformed to the image of His Son” in our “*whole spirit and soul and body unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (see I Thess. 5:23-24). At this time our positional standing of being seated with Christ in Heaven will become a practical state of being. We will one day be bodily with Christ “*in heavenly places*” (Eph. 2:6) and endued with the authority to rule and reign over our assigned areas of responsibility. In the perfection and glory of our Redeemer that will be revealed through us, we will forever be a testimony to all of creation of the “*exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Jesus Christ*” (Eph. 2:7). In view of our glorious future with Christ in Heaven, we are admonished to take our focus off of worldly things and to concentrate instead on the things of Heaven, “*where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God*” (see Col. 3:1-2). When the promise of our future adoption, or full placing as mature and responsible adult sons comes to pass, Paul’s prophecy about the Body of Christ will be fulfilled. “*For ye are dead (to the world) and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory*” (Col. 3:3-4).

Some will undoubtedly protest, saying that when individuals come to faith in Christ for salvation, they are personally identified with the Lord Jesus and immediately recognized by God as full-grown sons

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of God. This is true, and it is a point that is emphasized in the Apostle Paul's writings. At the moment of salvation, every believer is given a position of full sonship "in Christ" and the Holy Spirit indwells and seals each believer in their position in Christ so that nothing can alter it in any way. Our position in Christ speaks of a reality that God, in His sovereign power, will without fail bring to pass in His appointed time. But, by no stretch of the imagination can anyone legitimately claim that this exalted position has become a practical reality in their life. The practical state of full-adoption that our positional standing in Christ looks forward to is total conformity to the image of Christ in all aspects. To experience it in practice would mean coming to a place of spiritual maturity in which there are no more struggles with the flesh, no more battles with the old nature, and no more unrighteous thoughts or irreverent words. It would mean that the old nature is completely gone. That which is fully conformed to the image of Jesus Christ is completely devoid of sin and totally immersed in righteousness.

It can be said without any fear of being proved wrong that no member of the Body of Christ has in the past, is presently, or will in the future achieve a degree of spiritual maturity and purity of heart and mind that would match that of Jesus Christ while yet on earth. No less than perfect conformity to the image of Christ is required for one to assume the privileges, responsibilities, and rights of inheritance of a full-grown and mature child of God. How could it be less? The Adoption is God bringing each member of the Body of Christ into a practical state of being that is equal to their positional standing "in Christ." It is God bringing to completion His predetermined purpose of conforming each believer to the image of His Beloved Son.

Every believer has received "the Spirit of Adoption" (Rom. 8:15), which is the Holy Spirit, and God has become their Father (Gal. 4:6). The Holy Spirit's work of regenerating, identifying, indwelling, and sealing guarantees the destiny of each child of God. Their practical state of being will match their positional standing as a full-grown adult son of God.

The Adoption is a future event that includes the perfecting of the soul and spirit into the likeness of Christ (Rom. 8:29) and the redemption of the body that every child of God should be eagerly looking forward

to in hope (Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:20-21; Ti. 2:13). The requirement for receiving the adoption of sonship is to be one of the company of the redeemed (Gal. 4:4-7).

Adoption is also an aspect of the blessings that belong to Israel in respect to God's prophetic purpose for His chosen nation (Rom. 9:4). The Adoption in view in this passage of Scripture is in reference to when Jesus Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation and a repentant and restored Israel is established in her exalted position among the nations of the earth as God's chosen people (Isa. 14:1-2; 49:22-23; 60:1-4; 61:6-7; cf. Deut. 15:6; 28:1,13, etc.).

The practical application of the truth of our position in Christ as full-fledged sons of God as it pertains to our future glorification with Him is that we should strive to live lives worthy of our high calling (Eph. 4:1). Not in arrogance and pride over what God has given us, because we are unworthy in every way of what awaits us at the time of our adoption. We are to serve Him in humility and love because of the great love with which He has loved us (see Rom. 5:8; II Cor. 5:14-15; Eph. 2:4-5.)



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(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

**VOLUNTEERS**—This past Christmas BBI hosted its annual Volunteer appreciation dinner and had over forty attend. It was truly a wonderful time to both celebrate Christmas together and also recognize those who volunteer monthly to process the Bulletin and BABQ. Each month we have anywhere from between five and fifteen volunteers who work to get our publications ready for mailing. It is so encouraging to see the servants of the Lord come to BBI on the second Monday of the month and from three to five hours work tirelessly to help us get the word out.

**BBI MISSIONS CONFERENCE**—On February 14, 15 Berean Bible Institute will host its annual mission conference. This is always a highlight of our year as grace missionaries share what God is doing in and through their ministries. We at BBI feel this conference is very important because it allows us to host several missionaries in one conference, allowing believers to hear updates from various fields. Our theme this year is "Christ's Love to the World."

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*(BBI UPDATE continued from page 6)*

We are so blessed to have missionaries who will update us on ministries in the countries of Malawi, Zambia, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Brazil, and the USA. Please pray for this wonderful opportunity to hear about what God is doing all over the world.

**INTRODUCING MR. DOUG COX**—Mr. Doug Cox is the new Financial Administrator for Berean Bible Institute. Doug brings years of experience in the management of monies, investments, and donor relations. Doug currently sits on the board of Northern Grace Youth Camp, and is the President of the board of directors of Things to Come Mission. We are so blessed to have Mr. Cox on the staff of Berean Bible Institute. Please feel free to give Doug a call if you have any questions concerning support and managed giving.

**A NEW PUBLICATION FROM BBI IN THE WORKS**—We are currently looking to publishing Dr. Ed Bedore's work entitled, "Following Paul in Christ's Service." This book examines what it means to "follow Paul" in our lives. The Scriptures are clear that we are to "make known the fellowship of the mystery." However Paul's message also includes the life of the believer in the age of Grace. Paul is not only our apostle in doctrine but also in practice. I am sure you will be blessed, encouraged, and challenged by this new publication. It is our hope to have it completed by the end of May, 2014.

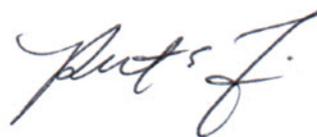
**ONLINE COURSES OFF AND RUNNING**—We are so thankful for the students who have taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity to take a course from BBI at home. One of our goals in providing these courses is to make them available to those who are truly interested in growing in their faith and to enhance their ability to minister more effectively. This semester we have increased our course offering from one course to four online courses. These courses are an addition to our self-directed distance studies course that can be taken any time of the year. If you are interested in hearing more about our upcoming online courses or our self-directed distance studies courses please don't hesitate to go online at [www.bereanbibleinstitute.org](http://www.bereanbibleinstitute.org) or call us at 262-644-5504.

**SPECIAL MEETINGS IN FLORIDA AND GEORGIA**—I am honored to represent BBI all over the country. It is such a blessing to see churches and individuals who desire to study God's Word and see the distinct message given by the risen Lord to the Apostle Paul. This February 21-23, I will be preaching and representing BBI at the Grace Bible Fellowship annual Bible conference in Nokomis, Florida. For more information please contact Pastor Ed Bedore at 941-966-5959 or 414-313-0928. On March 2, I will be preaching and sharing the ministry of BBI at Grace Bible Church, in Thomson, GA. For more information please contact Pastor Tim Lewis at 706-799-6819.

**TWO CERTIFICATES IN DISPENSATIONAL STUDIES AWARDED**—We are proud to announce that Dr. Charlemagne Fouche, and Mr. Gary Lamotte are the first two recipients of our Certificate in Dispensational Studies. In May, we added two new certificate programs, the Certificate in Dispensational Studies and the Certificate in Biblical Worldview. Each certificate consists of ten credit hours of course work in their given discipline. Since introducing these certificates we have much interest and are encouraged by those who see the need to be lifelong learners.

**THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US**—In closing, I just want to express my appreciation to all who help make Berean Bible Institute possible. We are so blessed by many faithful supporters who see the need for a school like BBI. As most of you know our financial situation has been strained over the past couple of years, but God remains faithful. Each month we are so blessed by those who partner with us in training leaders in the message of God's grace. Thank you so much for your stand for the continued proclamation of God's matchless grace.

Transformed By Grace,



Dr. Robert 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 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.

President & Executive Editor: Robert E. Nix, Ph.D.

Managing Editor: W. Edward Bedore, Th.D.

Layout: Jessica 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](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org)/Web: [www.bereanbibleinstitute.org](http://www.bereanbibleinstitute.org)

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



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