

# The BBI BULLETIN

FALL 2017

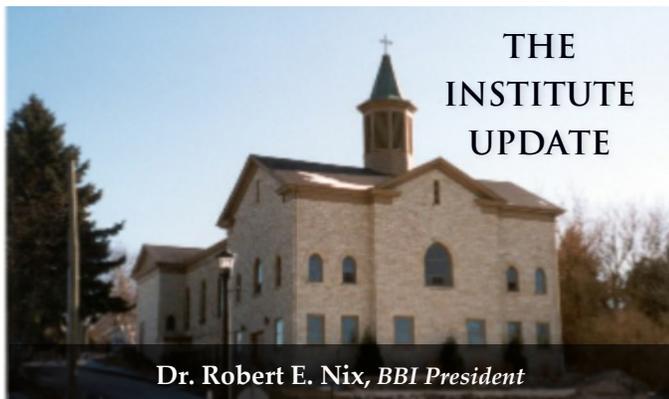
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Training for Ministry

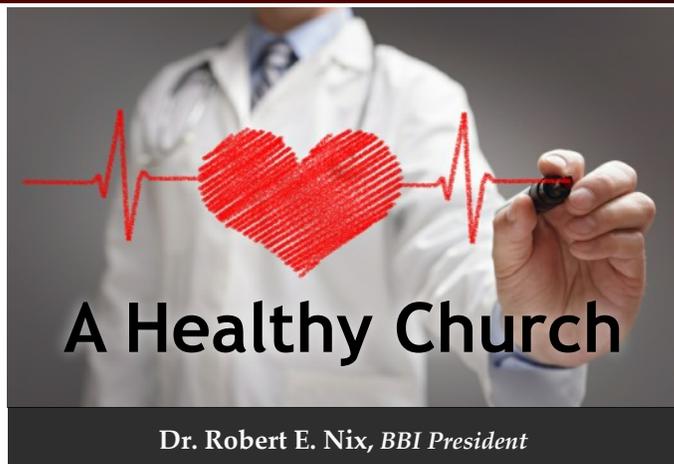
September, October, November

Rightly Dividing God's Word



## THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

Dr. Robert E. Nix, BBI President



## A Healthy Church

Dr. Robert E. Nix, BBI President

### “STAGE ONE COMPLETE” CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

I recently shared with you that BBI is embarking on a three stage capital improvement campaign. It is our desire over the next several years to address some of the key building and maintenance issues facing BBI. I am happy to announce that our parking lot has been repaved and curbing put in place. Because of the timing of the project with the Village of Slinger we were not able to wait for all of the funds to come in before we started. However, completing the project when we did, saved us approximately \$5,000.00. The

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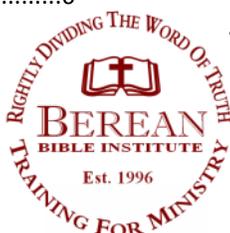
### THE PHILIPPIAN EXAMPLE

Have you ever wondered what a healthy church looks like? For many, church health is based on several key indicators: the number of members, financial stability, and programming. While each of these factors is important in a church, they are not how one measures health. In fact, it is possible to have all three indicators present and be an extremely unhealthy church. Much like a human body, a church might look healthy from the outside but be terminally ill on the inside.

Several years ago, I taught a class at Berean Bible Institute covering the prison epistles of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. As I studied through these books, I noticed that while Ephesians and Colossians are considered sister epistles and contain much of the same content, the letter to the Philippians was different. While certainly instructive, it seemed much more encouraging and personal.

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## Mail Received at Box 587

### FROM WISCONSIN:

“We’re so very grateful for the many facets of the BBI. Your printed material, bulletins, classes, booklets and outreach makes us so thankful for your friendship and fellowship in the Gospel.”

### FROM MINNESOTA:

“I pray every day for the *Berean Bible Institute* and am thrilled that your school is equipping young (and older) men to preach the Grace Message. I have enjoyed receiving your monthly BABQ newsletter and am so grateful that I was exposed to Rightly Dividing the Word of God at an early age and have been able to walk with Him all these years. God’s Word is and has been such a comfort to me.”

### FROM WISCONSIN:

“Thank you for your testimonies and continued walk of faith! I am thankful to this day for all God has shown me through my education from the BBI. It is life changing and life equipping.”

### FROM FACEBOOK:

“I am thoroughly enjoying my two eight-week online courses at *Berean Bible Institute* this fall: ‘Practical Dispensational Theology I,’ and ‘Theology in Missions.’ I told (my son) Patrick yesterday that I hope and pray, whatever vocation to which our Savior and Lord calls him, that he will take courses through BBI to better understand God’s Word, rightly divided (2 Tim. 2:5).

My two professors are both young men, but they are outstanding scholars. Professor Andy Kern, who teaches ‘Practical Dispensational Theology I,’ demonstrates a breath of reading, and depth of knowledge, that is really and truly extraordinary for a man of his age. In my extensive academic career, I have not crossed paths with anyone of any age whose

knowledge or reading exceeded his. His lectures, while clear and understandable even to new students, are filled with the meat of Holy Scripture.

Professor Nathan Killion, who teaches ‘Theology in Missions,’ serves with *Things to Come* as a missionary in Thailand. He is one of the most gracious, thoughtful, and winsome communicators of God’s Word I have ever encountered in my 51 years. He has an extraordinary gift to share the breadth, depth, height, and width of God’s grace, love, and mercy, and to teach others how to do so as well.

Anyone who wants to grow in God’s grace, and who would benefit from formal study, should prayerfully consider becoming a student at BBI. Although a private institution of higher education, it is amazingly affordable—less expensive than many state-sponsored colleges and universities! Many thanks to Dr. Robert Nix and his terrific team for the wonderful work they are doing.”

## The “Bulletin Board”

### Upcoming Events & News



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 7 & 8—BBF Fall Conference

October 23—Extension Courses Start

October 25—New Online Courses Start

October 27—Pastors, Elders, & Wives  
Appreciation Dinner

December 1—Faculty & Student Party

December 8—Staff & Volunteer Dinner

December 14—Semester End

January 15—Semester Begins

February 2 & 3—Mission Conference

Most Bible commentators agree that the theme of the letter to the Philippians is “joy” or the idea to “rejoice” based on the number of times these words are mentioned throughout the epistle. It is clear that the Philippian church brought Paul much joy. To Paul, they were a church that brought glory to God. As a result, they were used mightily of God in the spreading of the message of God’s grace. It is from Paul’s encouraging letter to the Philippian church that we can glean several priorities that demonstrate the make-up of a healthy church.

The first priority of a healthy church is that the Word of God is systematically preached so that the members can understand what God is doing today in the age of grace and how God’s Word applies to their daily lives. It is essential that the believer comes into contact with a systematic teaching of God’s truth on a weekly basis. Believers must be taught the Word of God so that they can stand strong against Satan’s schemes and the influences of the world. In chapter 1, Paul prays that the Philippians would abound in a full knowledge and in all discernment. In other words, they would be able to grow in their understanding of the truth as he had taught them and, as a result, discern right from wrong or good from evil.

While Paul does not mention God’s Word in general or the specific revelation that he had received from the resurrected Lord in his prayer, it is certainly implied. In order to discern what is right or wrong, one must have a standard of comparison. The Word of God is that standard. The full knowledge and understanding that Paul prayed for in the Philippian Church was that God’s Word would transform their lives in such a way that they would be without offence at the Judgement seat of Christ (Phil. 1:10,11). How can we expect church members to be able to discern right from wrong and stand against the onslaught of the world and false religion if they are not hearing from the pulpit a clear and accurate systematic exposition of God’s Word (Phil. 2:15,16)? A healthy church stands on the power and preaching of God’s Word.

A second priority that is essential for church health is church unity. The biblical picture of the universal church is a body made of various parts with

Christ as our head. A body has many members that have varying gifts and functions. The local church is a body of believers with differing gifts and functions. Unity is essential for making a lasting and important impact on both the members as well as on the community. Church unity does not mean that everyone sees everything the same way or has the same gifts and abilities. However, Paul specifically states that believers should “*strive together for the faith of the gospel*” (Phil. 1:27). The “*faith of the gospel*” involves both the faith that involves trusting Christ as Savior as well as the faith that comes as a result of having trusted Christ as Savior. It is the faith that saves, sanctifies, and secures the believer. The unifying rallying call of the local church is the proclamation of the gospel of the Grace of God.

Paul expresses his desire that the Philippian church “*stand fast, in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the gospel.*” You will notice that Paul is not putting numbers, programming, or finances in the forefront. He is, however, putting the truth of God and the power of the gospel as essential components in the health and life of the church. A healthy church is a unified church.

Thirdly, Paul points the Philippians to the mind and attitude of the Savior. He gives the believer the perfect picture of the right way to think. The Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated in His incarnation the beautiful picture of humility and servanthood (Phil. 2:5-8). From the example of the Lord Jesus, we can see that the church and her members are called to exhibit the heart and mind of a servant.

In Philippians chapter three the apostle Paul shares his heart and passionate surrender to the Lord Jesus. Paul was well educated, had an impeccable lineage, and was zealous for the Law (Phil. 3:4-7). Yet in comparison to knowing the Lord Jesus, all that he had accomplished in the past was considered rubbish. What the world and religion said were important were worthless compared to the Lord Jesus. Both the Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul give us a wonderful picture of surrender and servanthood.

Today, many attend churches as fans or spectators, hoping to see a great show or hear a funny story so they can leave feeling good, not convicted. When is the last time you considered the congregation

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(A HEALTHY CHURCH continued from page 3)

to be a group of slaves or bondservants of Jesus Christ listening with anticipation to hear their marching orders so they can leave and make an impact for the cause of Christ? A healthy church is a surrendered church.

Fourth, a healthy church is a caring church. Paul demonstrates this in several ways throughout the epistle. He encourages the brethren to not be selfish or conceited but to look for the interests of others (Phil. 2:4). Each believer has the responsibility to minister to the other members of the body of Christ. Paul desired that each individual seek to be a blessing to the others in the assembly. In chapter four we read about two women who were at odds with each other. Paul asked for a trusted saint in the church to intervene and help these valuable saints with their issue. While we are not given the details of the conflict, we are told that these women were at odds and Paul desired a trusted brother to help them through this situation. A sign of a healthy church is that its members seek out the hurting in their midst and minister to their needs. This is often messy and troublesome but worth it. Each member of God's family is precious and of great value.

Finally, a healthy church is a church that has a giving heart and an outward focus. They are concerned that the gospel of God's grace goes forth. They seek ways to support those who proclaim the gospel of God's grace. Paul had experienced firsthand the generous support of the Philippian church. We are told that upon leaving from Macedonia no church shared with him but the Philippians (Phil. 4:15). We also know that while Paul was imprisoned that they sent Epaphroditus with a gift of support (Phil. 4:18). The Philippian church gives us today a wonderful picture of God using the resources of a local church to further the gospel in foreign lands.

While many look to numbers, programs and bank accounts to determine church health, I believe that it is essential that we glean from God's Word what He thinks is of first importance. The Philippian church, while not perfect, gives us a wonderful example of a healthy church that brought glory and praise to God.

## BIBLE WORDS & WORDS OF THE BIBLE

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

### **"Vicarious Atonement"**

The theological term "vicarious atonement" expresses the substitutionary nature of Jesus Christ's death for the sins of mankind. "Vicarious" speaks of something that is done or suffered by one person on behalf, or in place of, another or others. "Atonement," in its use as a theological term, refers to the perfect salvation that Jesus Christ made available to all sinners who trust in Him through His sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection (see Rom. 3:21-26; I Cor. 1:18-21; 15:3-4). Christ's death on the cross as a willing substitute for sinners appeased God's righteous nature by satisfying the demands of divine justice, making it possible for a perfectly holy God to forgive all lost sinners who place their faith in His Son without violating His holy nature in any way. Because "*the wages of sin is death*" (Rom. 6:23a), those who sin must die. First they must suffer physical death (Rom. 5:12) and then "*the second death*", which is the eternal banishment from the presence of God and all that is good to a place of everlasting torment called "*Hell*" and "*the Lake of Fire*" (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:10-15). Jesus Christ, who "*died for our sins*" (I Cor. 15:3-4), saves all those, but only those, who trust in Him.

An erroneous teaching that has come and gone over the years is the idea that Jesus Christ's death on the cross was not a voluntary act born out of His love for sinners, but, in fact, our sin somehow caused Him to die on the cross as a martyr. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The entire sacrificial system of the Mosaic Law is squarely based on the substitutionary nature of the blood sacrifices that were offered to God to cover the sins of the offerer. The sacrifices of the Mosaic Law were types of Christ that foreshadowed His offering of Himself as our substitute to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. Scripture has an abundance of passages that express the truth that the Lord Jesus Christ went willingly of

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His own accord to His death on the cross as our substitute. The Apostle Paul put it this way; *"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour"* (Eph. 5:1-2). In explaining the nature of His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus said to His disciples; *"Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many"* (Matt. 20:28). In the gospel record of John, we find the following words of the Lord Jesus in regards to His approaching death on the cross; *"Therefore doth My Father love Me because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No man take it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. This commandment have I received for My Father"* (John 10:17-18).

The love of God for Adam's sinful fallen race (all of mankind) is demonstrated to the highest degree by the fact that *"...while we were yet sinners Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8; cf. John 3:16; Eph. 2:4-5). And, lest anyone might think that Christ only went to the cross out of obedience to His Father (see Phil. 2:5-8), let us remember that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are co-equal members of the Triune Godhead, Three Persons and yet one God. This being so, the Son equally loves those that the Father does, as does the Holy Spirit. The Three in One are always in complete agreement. Personalizing this great truth of Christ's vicarious atonement and its application to sinners, the Apostle Paul said; *"...the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me"* (Gal. 2:20; cf. Gal. 1:3-4). Every believer can claim this truth for himself or herself.

Some object to the doctrine of a Vicarious Atonement on the grounds that it is incompatible with mercy. But, to allow a substitute to pay the penalty is merciful to the criminal (sinner). Moreover, it is an act of grace that the Sovereign Judge Himself (John 5:22, 26-27) provided the Substitute by taking the place of the criminal on the cross

## "Assurance"

The idea of having "assurance" is to be fully persuaded or to be firm in the conviction that something is so. This is an area that many believers struggle with in regards to their salvation. Doubts arise when they start questioning whether they are good enough to be saved or fear that they have lost their salvation because they have committed a sin of some kind or some other imagined reason. Left unchecked, this lack of assurance often leads some to become legalistic in their effort to find spiritual comfort through some form of law-keeping. Others live in what might be called "a spiritual despondency" that causes them to seek relief from what seems to be a never ending list of spiritual self-help teachings, especially in the area of spiritual warfare. There are also those who just give up and, believing that they have no hope, quit attending church and live like the world. So, how does a believer gain a full assurance of their salvation?

The Bible tells us that the salvation of condemned and unworthy sinners comes through faith, or trust, in the Lord Jesus Christ, believing that He died in their place for their sins, was buried, and three days later rose from the dead in complete victory over sin and death (Acts 13:37-39; Rom. 3:21-26; I Cor. 1:18; 15:1-4, 20-22, 55-56). When a lost sinner hears the Gospel message and trusts in Jesus Christ as his or her Savior, they receive the forgiveness of sins, are redeemed, justified (declared righteous), indwelt, sealed, and baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit, given eternal life, and positionally seated with Jesus Christ in heaven (Eph. 1:7, 12-14; 2:4-6; 4:30; Rom. 3:21-26; II Cor. 1:22-23; 5:5, 21; I Cor. 6:11, 19-20). Additionally, the believer is also reconciled and thus declared to be at peace with God *"through the blood of His cross"* (Rom. 5:1, 9-11; II Cor. 5:18).

The letters of the Apostle Paul, which were inspired by God, abound with passages that confirm the security of the believer's salvation. The believer's enjoyment of salvation is found "in Christ" because He is the source of our salvation and very blessing that comes with our salvation is also found "in Him." Paul prayed that God would open the spiritual

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eyes of the saints at Ephesus to “*the knowledge of Him (Christ)*” (Eph. 1:17). In Philippians we are instructed to “*count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus...*” that we might “*know Him*” (see Phil. 3:7-10). A lack of assurance is simply a matter of unbelief. Believers who struggle with doubts about whether they are saved or not are really doubting God’s Word and the Savior Himself. They are trusting in their own ideas, abilities, and experiences for assurance rather than in what God has told us in His Word, the Bible. Instead of meditating on God’s Word, they dwell on what turns out to be vain ideas, inabilities, and failed experiences which result in hopeless despair based on their unworthiness. They are spiritually deceived and emotionally bound by the philosophies and fleshly principles of the world. The only remedy to the uncertainty of salvation is to find the comfort of assurance through faith in the Savior, who is worthy and faithful. The Bible tells us that every believer is “*complete in Him*” who is Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior (see Col. 2:8-10). Believe it and rejoice evermore.

### How Are We to Walk?

The Apostle Paul tells us, “*That ye should henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind*” (Eph. 4:17). The unbeliever is in spiritual darkness and does not understand the things of God. They can only “*walk according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now worketh in the children of disobedience*” (Eph. 2:2). The unbeliever is completely out of the will of God because of unbelief. The unbeliever cannot live a life pleasing to God.

On the other hand, the believer is to “*walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us and given Himself for us*” (Eph. 5:2). Those who trust Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are given a new nature and empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit to walk in the newness of life. As believers, we are to put off the old man and his ways and put on the new. The unsaved man or woman cannot accomplish this. God looks at the heart, the inner person, not the outward show. Only those who are “*in Christ*” are in any way acceptable to God. Only the believer can walk in love. The unbeliever walks in spiritual disobedience, ignorance, and futility. Which path are you walking on?

total cost of the parking lot project came to just over \$35,000.00 and I am so thankful for those who decided to participate in this project. We have received to date \$2,760.00 toward the cost of this project. We are currently pursuing bids for Phase Two which includes the stairs on the side of our main building. We anticipate this cost being somewhat similar to the cost of Phase One. Please pray for us in this endeavor. These maintenance issues have been put to the side for far too long. We are moving ahead seeking to be good stewards with the resources we receive and trusting the Lord with each step.

### PASTOR/ELDER AND WIVES APPRECIATION DINNER

On October 27th, BBI will be hosting our annual pastor/elder and wives appreciation dinner on the campus of *Berean Bible Institute*. BBI recognizes the effort and time that these leaders put into the ministry and we want to say thank you. This year’s conference speaker will be BBI graduate and current president of the *Berean Bible Society*, Pastor Kevin Sadler. We look forward to showing our appreciation to these champions of grace and thank the Lord for the leadership they display on a weekly basis in their local churches.

### BBF FALL CONFERENCE

On October 7th & 8th, the *Berean Bible Fellowship* will be holding their annual fall conference at beautiful, Dale Hollow State Park in Burkesville, Kentucky. BBI looks forward to having a display at the conference and meeting both current students as well as others who are interested in the ministry of *Berean Bible Institute*.

### 2017 FALL CLASS SCHEDULE

BBI is moving full steam ahead. The following is a list of our current on-line courses and those that will begin October 25th.

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23—OCTOBER 11

6:15–8:00 PM 209 *Homiletics*/  
*Advanced Public Speaking for Women*

8:15–10:00 PM 205 *Practical Dispensational Theology I*

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 24—OCTOBER 12

8:15–10:00 PM 324 *Theology in Missions*

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### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25—DECEMBER 13

6:15–8:00 PM 209 *Homiletics/*  
*Advanced Public Speaking for Women*

8:15–10:00 PM 107 *Personal Evangelism & Follow-up*

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26—DECEMBER 14

6:15–8:00 PM 207 *The Major Prophets*

8:15–10:00 PM 109 *Dispensational Hermeneutics*

### EXTENSION COURSE #1 IN THE HOME STRETCH

BBI is currently holding an extension course at *Grace Bible Church* in West Allis, WI. BBI instructor Pastor Dan Wolgast is teaching *Biblical Worldview* on Monday nights.

On Monday nights from October 23rd to December 11th, BBI will be holding the course *Basic Bible Doctrines I* at *Friendship Congregational Bible Church*, in Friendship, Wisconsin. BBI already has several students in this area and we hope that even more will avail themselves of this awesome opportunity. Please pray for our students and Pastor Wolgast who is currently teaching our extension courses.

### LEGACY GIVING

Throughout my time as president of BBI, I have been blessed to see those who believe in the ministry of BBI give faithfully and sacrificially. It has truly been an honor to see God working. He confirms to us each and every day that He is faithful. We praise the Lord that He faithfully supplies what we need to carry out what He has called us to do. Over the years BBI has been blessed by men and women who see the need for this ministry to continue well beyond their years. These gifts allow us to continue to offer solid ministry programs that train men and women in God's grace and prepare them for ministry. These individuals who give this way have truly left a legacy through the ministry of BBI.

Like most things we will not fully know the true impact until we get to heaven. But I believe God takes what we give and uses it for His glory. I would like to ask that you prayerfully consider BBI as you plan for the future. Please note that there are also various Trusts and or Charitable Annuities that may

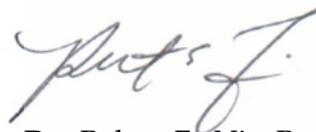
allow one to give and also receive some tax benefits through their giving. If you have any questions about this process or need more information about *Berean Bible Institute* don't hesitate to call us.

### PRAY FOR PUERTO RICO

Please keep our grace missionaries in prayer who are serving in Puerto Rico. BBI currently has a student who lives on the Island and ministers at the grace camp. While we have not as of yet heard specifically their situation, *Grace Ministries International* has posted on their website the following "Puerto Rico is on all of our minds and hearts as we pray for our missionaries, our Puerto Rican friends, the camp, the churches, and ministries affiliated with *Grace Ministries International* on the island. Because cell service, Internet, and electricity have been completely knocked out, we have been receiving information at a frustratingly slow pace. We can tell you that our missionaries are well, but Camp Caribe has suffered extensive damage. Fourteen to sixteen inches of water, mud, and sand inundated most of the buildings on the property which means that much of the contents has been damaged or destroyed. Most of the buildings' roofs suffered damage while the roof on the chapel was completely destroyed. All the power lines outside of the camp have been knocked down from the camp to Santa Isabel to the east. Cleanup and repair will be a long process."

I have personally ministered at this camp many years ago and know that there are many grace believers in Puerto Rico. Please keep them in prayer.

Serving Together,



Dr. Robert E. Nix, President  
*Berean Bible Institute*

ONLY ONE LIFE;  
Twill soon be past.  
ONLY WHAT'S DONE  
"IN CHRIST" WILL LAST.

*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.

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