It is interesting that in the most tragic of writings in Scripture we also find a beautiful scene that tells us a lot about our God. How precious are the words “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day…” (Gen. 3:9), as He looked for Adam and Eve. This gives the impression that this is what He did on a regular basis, coming to the garden to enjoy His creation and communicating with those He had created in His image.

Unfortunately, the beauty of this scene happens in the midst of the tragedy of the first sin, bringing this precious scene to an abrupt end. God, of course, knew what had happened and He was there this time to deal with His disobedient children. He had to confront them over their sin and then administer the chastisement promised for disobedience. When God walked in the garden that day, Adam was alienated from God, and that sweet communion was gone. (Gen. 1:6-19).
FROM KANSAS:
“Thank you for the newsletters, it brings excitement in down to earth explanations that sometimes people are afraid to ask or answer. I just heard church membership is down by 6% but we know there are many more like us that are believers that don’t have a church home. Thankful for your teaching for all that wish to hear about rightly dividing.”

FROM COLORADO:
“I appreciate very much the school’s input into the beloved Grace teaching. May it bring many more believers into the understanding of God’s current message.”

FROM CANADA:
“Thank you for training and preparing others in ministry and missionary work to rightly divide the Word of truth and proclaim the grace message by preaching Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery given to and through the Apostle Paul.”

FROM WISCONSIN:
“I’m happy to let you know that I found your November 2019 issue of Bible Answers to Bible Questions, on the whole, to be one of your recent best. The topics were of great interest to me. To all at Berean Bible Institute, Merry Christmas.”

FROM KENTUCKY:
“Praying every night you sell your old building and find a new one. God bless you! Thank you for rightly dividing the Word.”

FROM MONTANA:
“Thank you for keeping me on your mailing list. The information is very well done and encouraging.”

IN DADDY’S STEPS
I watched him playing around my door,
My neighbor’s little boy of four.
I wondered why a child would choose
To wear his dad’s old worn-out shoes.
I saw him try with all his might
To make laces snug and tight.
I smiled to see him walk, and then
He’d only step right out again.
I hear him say his voice so glad,
“I want to be just like my dad.”
I hope his dad his steps would choose,
Safe for his sons to wear his shoes.
And then a shout and cry of joy,
A “Hello, Dad!” and a “Hi-yu boy!”
They walked along in measured stride
Each face aglow with love and pride.
“What have you done today, my lad?”
“I tried to wear your old shoes, Dad,
They’re big but when I am a man
I’ll wear your shoes, I know I can.”
They stopped and stood there hand in hand,
He saw his son’s tracks in the sand.
His words – a prayer – came back to me,
“Lord, let my steps lead him to Thee.”
—Author Unknown
Adam also lost the perfect relationship he had with Eve that day as they experienced the awful sensation of guilt and began blaming others for their faults. Not only was God and Adam’s relationship in shambles, so was that between Adam and his wife. Communication became a problem that day and has continued on until this day.

Jay Adams wrote in Competent to Counsel in 1970, “Today more books are published in every field than the specialists can read, and communication experts have begun to discuss the problem of the glut of communication. Yet communication at the most essential level of all, in the direct confrontation of one person with another, has perhaps never been as superficial, unauthentic and unsatisfying. In the midst of plenty, it seems there exists a famine of genuine communication…” That was fifty years ago. How many more books have been written and yet we still seem to be in a famine of genuine communication? There is even a glut of so-called Christian information available that should make this the time of greatest Christian growth. But it seems the opposite is true as we often still come up short of genuine communication of the truth.

Although God communicated with man in many ways, when Jesus was here He, being God, was the Master Communicator. He came filled with grace and truth and He expressed His grace and truth to His people in many different ways. He fed them, healed them, taught them, held them, wept over them, exhorted, and rebuked them. He communicated with His words and with His life.

After Christ finished His work of redemption, He chose to save His foremost enemy, Saul of Tarsus, through whom He would reveal the Dispensation of Grace and the fullness of the Cross to the world. Christ knew that once He got Saul’s attention, Saul would become Paul, the Apostle of Grace, and would be filled with grace and truth, and communicate Christ’s truth to the world through his very life.

It is interesting that when Paul sat down to write to the Romans, he commented on how the Roman saints’ “faith was spoken of throughout the whole world.” (Rom. 1:8). And even though Paul was writing the letter in which are found the foundational teachings of God’s Word concerning the nature and outworking of the Dispensation of Grace that we are living in today, he still wanted to go to Rome to help them in their growth. Paul knew his presence would make a greater impact on their lives, as they would be able to see how strong his faith was in the truth he had been given.

There is a principle often overlooked in verse 17 regarding the phrase “faith unto faith” within the context. Although our faith always rests in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, it is also the faith of one believer, such as the faith of the Apostle Paul that often causes others to respond in faith, either to be saved or to believe the truth of God’s Word. It is still God’s faithfulness at work in the first believer causing the faith of the second believer to grow.

People grow weary of words, and the true seeker of truth wants to know, “Is what I am hearing the truth? Is it real in the communicator’s life? Does his life communicate the truth he is sharing? Is he filled with grace and truth?”

I was saved at 31 years old in a little dispensational grace church. The pastor was a strong believer in the truth of the Word rightly divided, and his faith communicated to me the truth, and gave me a solid foundation to build on. It was the faith of others that led me to the truth of my Father/son relationship in Christ with God, and to a life of freedom in Christ. They were free and led me to freedom by pointing me to the Savior with their words and life.

It is interesting that in his last letter to Timothy Paul writes to him, “But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions” (2 Tim. 3:10-11).

(continued on page 4)
Notice that he starts with the primary foundation to the Christian’s life, “you have carefully followed my doctrine.” But Paul doesn’t stop there, he goes on to list the results of believing his doctrine and living it.

- Paul’s “manner of life.” Paul lived out the grace of God. He was more and more filled with the same grace that Jesus came filled with.
- His “purpose.” His purpose in life was to make Jesus Christ known to as many people as he could.”
- “Faith.” Paul not only believed the truth he was given but lived a life of faith—trusting in the One who gave him life.
- “Longsuffering.” Paul suffered all kinds of ordeals in living out a life of faith, which he says will also come to all who choose to live godly.
- “Love.” Timothy must have believed Paul’s admonition in 1 Corinthians 13 that without love, his knowledge of the mystery meant nothing.
- “Perseverance.” Paul persevered in the truth despite every opposition.
- “Persecutions” He was often physically attached as well as being maligned and falsely accused wherever he went.
- “Afflictions” He was afflicted with physical hardships in order to carry out his ministry.

The Apostle Paul was given a wonderful message in person by the Lord Himself, and that message was a personal, permanent relationship with the Creator God. Paul was overwhelmed by the fact that as Saul of Tarsus, a man with no hope, he was met in person by the Lord Jesus Christ on the Damascus road, and led to faith in his Lord. Given the opportunity to surrender his life to the Lord as a servant, he was forever grateful for having been given grace and saved in this new dispensation, and his life from that moment on was Jesus Christ. Paul lived out the statement, “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21). Whenever he wrote, he had the Cross of Calvary and His Savior in mind. This is what he communicated to people in every way that he could, and some, like Timothy, followed his example.

One song that communicates the personal message God wishes to convey is “His Arms Wide Open” sung beautifully by Bradley Walker.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{With His arms wide open,} \\
&\text{He hung there from a cross,} \\
&\text{With His arms wide open,} \\
&\text{That not one soul would be lost,} \\
&\text{He turned the other cheek} \\
&\text{When they nailed Him to a tree,} \\
&\text{With His arms wide open,} \\
&\text{He rescued you and me,} \\
&\text{With His arms wide open,} \\
&\text{He set this whole world free,} \\
&\text{With His arms wide open,} \\
&\text{He bought our eternity} \\
&\text{There came a kind and gentle man} \\
&\text{From a town called Galilee.}
\end{align*}
\]

The Cross is what brought back, in an even more complete way, the relationship between God and man that was lost in the garden. How could God communicate it more clearly and in a more personal way? The Creator God, separated from those He loved by sin, communicated the truth through Christ that He so loved the world that He sent His Son to die so that those of us who believe will be brought into His loving arms to be blessed through all eternity. That’s communication.
The word imminent is not actually found in our English Bibles, but is used to convey the Bible truth of the timing of the Rapture or “the catching away” of the Church, which is His Body. It is clear that it will one day happen, but we are not told when. The believer is to live his or her life in anticipation of Christ’s sudden appearing while zealously serving God out of love and faithful appreciation for the salvation that the Lord has provided by His grace (I Cor. 15:51-52; Phil. 3:20-21; I Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14). It could happen today. Have you put your trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of sins and redemption? (Eph. 1:7; cf. I Cor. 15:1-4). If not, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31).

When we speak of the “imminency” of Christ’s coming, we are referring to the fact that it could take place at any time. The word “imminent” means that something could take place at any time, not that it must necessarily take place right away. In general it can refer to something that is sure to take place or something that may never happen. For instance, we can say that a boat caught out in a storm is in imminent danger of capsizing. The boat may weather the storm but, if the wind continues to build and the waves grow larger, the chance of it being overcome by the raging sea will increase dramatically. Since at any time a large wave could swamp the boat or roll it over, we can say that the crew is in imminent danger, a danger that will exist until the storm subsides or the boat can enter the safety of a secure harbor. The general sense of imminency is something that could, and is likely to, happen.

However, like many other words, imminency has taken on a recognized theological meaning because of the way it has been used by theologians and Bible teachers over the years. When used in regard to Jesus Christ’s appearing, it speaks of that which one day will definitely take place, but man does not know when. From man’s perspective it could happen at any time, so it is said to be imminent.

THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

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

The record of the temptation of Jesus Christ by the Devil (Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13) tells us of an effort by Satan to persuade Jesus Christ to bypass God’s plan and act for His own self-interest in satisfying “the Lust of the Flesh, the Pride of Life, and the Lust of the Eyes” (see I John 2:16; cf. Gen. 3:1-6). Satan was trying to entice the Son of Man, the Second Adam, to sin.

Lust of the Flesh = Satan urged Christ to make stones into bread to satisfy His hunger.

Pride of Life = Satan challenged Christ to perform a miracle at the Temple (jump from the roof and not be harmed) to prove who He was and impress the people so they would follow Him.

Lust of the Eyes = Satan showed Christ the kingdoms of the world and offered to give them to Him if He would acknowledge him as supreme ruler over them by bowing down to him.

Each of these temptations address a particular office that Christ came to fulfill; Prophet, Priest and King. In all three cases the Lord Jesus answered by quoting from the Scriptures. We should notice that Satan also quoted Scripture in the presentation of the second temptation (Matt. 4:5-7). But, he deliberately misused God’s Word by offering a promise that was dependent on being obedient to God’s will (Ps. 91:9-11). Presenting Christ as God’s Servant (priest),

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(THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST continued from page 5)

Mark mentions the temptation in the wilderness but gives no details. On the other hand both Matthew and Luke give us the details of the temptations, but in a different order. Matthew’s account ends with Israel’s promised King rejecting Satan’s offer to give Him the kingdoms of the world. Luke’s account ends with Jesus Christ, God’s greatest Prophet, resisting the temptation to gain a following by performing a miracle.

Refusing to be sidetracked from His mission as a humble servant, Jesus Christ was “obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:8). At the proper time Christ would “set His face to go to Jerusalem” where He would suffer the shame of the Cross for the sake of fallen man (cf. Isa. 50:4-7; Luke 9:51).

By His obedient life and sacrificial death for sinners this Man, Jesus Christ, demonstrated His right to sit at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb. 12:2). Refusing to by-pass the Cross, the faithful, suffering, servant of God has become the most highly exalted King of kings and Lord of lords (Phil. 2:5-11).

And even surpassing the most highly exalted Messianic offices of prophecy, Jesus Christ is today seated at the right hand of God “in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:20-21; cf. Col. 1:14-19). We say this because Jesus Christ’s position as Head of the Church which is His Body is not found in prophecy. It is a part of God’s mystery program, the Dispensation of Grace that was revealed exclusively to the Apostle Paul (Eph. 3:1-16).

A SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to thank Falls Bible Church and Kettle Moraine Bible Church for their support and encouragement through our time in transition. Both ministries have offered their buildings to BBI for use in case we need a place to meet for class or hold other events. Currently, we are scheduled to hold our annual Mission Conference at Falls Bible Church in April and we will be holding a course on Christian Education at Kettle Moraine Bible Church later this spring. It is such a blessing to know that local Grace churches are willing to help if we need it.

Make your plans now to attend the annual

BBI MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Date: April 3-4, 2020
Location: Falls Bible Church
        W156 N6531 Pilgrim Rd.
        Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

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LEAVING A LEGACY

We mention this concept from time to time in our BBI Update to let you know that there are ways you can have an impact on training leaders for years to come. One way is by considering Berean Bible Institute in your estate and long-term investment planning. It is our hope and prayer that you will consider BBI as a long-term investment in the furtherance of the gospel of Grace. There are also various Trusts and Charitable Annuities that may allow you to give and also receive certain tax benefits through your giving. If you have any questions or need more information about Legacy Giving to Berean Bible Institute, don’t hesitate to give us a call at (262) 644-5504.

RELOCATION FUND ESTABLISHED

Shortly after making the announcement concerning the move from our current location to a building more suitable for our future, I began hearing from our supporters as to how they could help support us in this move. Based on these inquiries and the desire to see BBI move forward in the training of leaders for the Grace Movement, we established a “Relocation Fund” for the purpose of helping us secure a new facility for our ministry. I want to personally thank those who have given to this fund. Many who have given, and are giving specifically to this fund, are also currently supporting BBI monthly. We praise the Lord for you. If the Lord leads you to donate to this fund, just simply mark your gift “Relocation Fund,” and your support will go into that account.

CONSIDER TAKING A CLASS

By now you should have received our postcard listing our upcoming online classes for the spring. I want to encourage you to take a second look and see if there is a class that you might enjoy. Our online classes are either 8 or 16 weeks in length and not only give an opportunity to grow in knowledge and in your walk with the Lord, but you will also actually meet other students who desire to grow. It has been our experience, that even through our online courses, our students are connecting with each other and praying for each other. Our deadline for entering Term 2 in the spring is March 3rd. All class offerings and deadlines can also be found on our website, www.bereanbibleinstitute.org.

WHERE DO I START?

We often receive phone calls or emails from people thinking about taking a class at Berean Bible Institute. Of course, what motivates someone to take a class at BBI differs with each individual. Some are interested in growing deeper in their understanding of God’s Word, others are already serving in some type of ministry and want to be better prepared to carry out God’s calling on their lives. Whatever the motivation, I usually suggest starting with our Certificate in Dispensational Studies. This certificate includes the following classes: 105 Basic Bible Doctrines I, 106 Basic Bible Doctrines II, 204 Bible Exposition IV (A Survey of Paul’s Epistles) and 101 Dispensational Survey. The entire certificate is ten credit hours in length and will transfer into all other degrees and certificates offered by Berean Bible Institute. This is by far our most popular program. We also offer another program called the Certificate in Biblical Worldview. The Certificate in Biblical Worldview replaces 204 Bible Exposition IV with 112 Cults and World Religions, and 101 Dispensational Survey with 116 Biblical Worldview. Both certificates are great ways to get started at BBI.

Serving together,

Dr. Robert E. Nix, President
Berean Bible Institute
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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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