

The BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

October 2026



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This month’s cover features Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse in New Castle, New Hampshire.

The **Purpose** of the *Berean Bible Society* is to help you understand, enjoy, and apply the Bible. The **Mission** of BBS is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the whole counsel of God according to the revelation of the Mystery. Our **Goals** are to *evangelize* the lost, to *educate* the saved in “rightly dividing the Word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15), to *energize* the transformation of the Christian life, and to *encourage* the local church.

BBS is a faith-based ministry dependent on the gifts of God’s people.
We are thankful for your gifts of support.

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A Note from the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

When the *Berean Bible Society* was located on Belmont Avenue in Chicago, the side of the building displayed in large letters: “Christ Died for Our Sins. Believe—Be Saved.” As you walked or drove by, it was impossible to miss. It was a clear and simple witness to the gospel of the grace of God and that by faith alone in Christ we are saved.



Earlier this year, I had the privilege of speaking in Cebu City, Philippines, at Cebu Grace Gospel Church, which was founded by Pastor Joe and Pauline Watkins in 1972. As I stood outside the church that Sunday, I mentioned to Pastor Jun Pielago, who had brought me there, how much I appreciated the words, “Christ Died for Our Sins,” displayed prominently on the front of the building. Pastor Pielago told me that those words were there because of the *Berean Bible Society*. Because of that same gospel message displayed on the side of the BBS building in Chicago, they were inspired to put it on the front of their church in Cebu.

That moment deeply impressed me. It was a powerful reminder of the impact BBS has had around the world.

At that time, we were in the process of updating the sign in front of our BBS building in Germantown, Wisconsin. After this experience in the Philippines, it was an easy decision to include the words, “CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS. Believe—Be Saved.” This wonderful truth of the saving gospel is once again prominently displayed in front of BBS for all to see. Please pray with us that lost souls will pause to consider the message, and that the Lord will use the ministries of BBS to reach people for Him.



Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President



Pastor Kevin J. Sadler has been serving as president since 2016. He appears on *Transformed by Grace*, a daily television program that airs nationally. In addition, he is the editor of the *Berean Searchlight*, authors grace literature, and is a Bible conference speaker.

I ONCE WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE



PASTOR KEVIN J. **SADLER**

BBS President/Editor

“And they came to Jericho: and as He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging” (Mark 10:46).

In the Bible, physical blindness often represents spiritual blindness as well. Christ’s healing of the blind during His earthly ministry illustrated a greater truth: He is the Light of the world, the One Who delivers people from spiritual darkness and brings them into the light of life.

Outside of Christ, we are spiritually blind. We do not see the truth. We wander through life lost and in darkness, unaware of the danger of eternal doom and damnation that lies ahead. We all need Christ to open our spiritual eyes and deliver us from the power of darkness (Col. 1:12-14). Through faith in Him, we are brought into the light of salvation and delivered from the “blackness of darkness for ever” (Jude 1:13) in the eternal Lake of Fire.

In Mark 10, our Savior was on His way to Jerusalem and the Cross. He was being “obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:8). A blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside near Jericho, on a common route to Jerusalem. When he heard that Jesus was passing by, he cried out, “Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me” (Mark 10:47). Although the crowd tried to silence him, Bartimaeus cried out even more (v. 48).

Hearing his cry, “Jesus stood still” (v. 49). That stillness is a beautiful picture of God’s care. Cries for help and mercy elicit a response from the Lord (Matt. 14:30-31; 15:25). God STOPS when we call out to Him in our need.

The Lord called for him and asked what he desired. Bartimaeus replied, “Lord, that I might receive my sight” (Mark 10:51). The Lord responded, “Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.” “And immediately” (v. 52), Bartimaeus went from blindness to sight, from darkness to light.

We are all Bartimaeus. Like him, we are spiritually blind and spiritual beggars in need of God’s mercy (Eph. 2:4; Titus 3:5). However, when we trust that Christ died for our sins and rose again (1 Cor. 15:3-4), immediately we go from blindness to sight, from darkness to light, and by faith we are made whole spiritually. In the familiar words of *Amazing Grace*, “I once was lost but now am found, / Was blind, but now I see.”



What Is FAITH?

*From a message given at the 57th
Annual BBF Conference in Tipp City, Ohio*

PASTOR JIM TOLLAR
BBS Business Manager

What is faith? Even among unbelievers, faith is often discussed when life's trials come. Biblically speaking, it is simply believing God and taking Him at His Word. However, if you ask this question to different people, you will receive many different answers. Someone's definition of faith usually reveals what that person believes about God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and salvation. In religious circles, for example, you may hear a story like this:

"At a church meeting a very wealthy man rose to tell the rest of those present about his Christian faith.

"I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I remember that turning point in my faith. I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who

told about his work. I knew that I only had a dollar bill and had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. So at that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today."

"He finished and there was an awed silence at his testimony as he moved toward his seat. As he sat down a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said to him: 'I dare you to do it again.'"

THE WORLD'S DEFINITION OF FAITH

Sad to say, that's how many think faith works—give something to God, and He'll pay you back. This idea comes from God's "if-then" relationship with the nation of Israel under the law of Moses (Lev. 26; Deut. 28).

Still others have misplaced faith. For example, faith in

evolution, believing it to be true, or faith in humanity, believing mankind will solve all problems without God.

However, those are fragile and false hopes that collapse under scrutiny when examined in light of the Word of God. Sometimes when hard times or tragedy come about, you'll hear well-meaning people say, "Everything will work out for good." They simply have "faith" that everything will work out for the best. The problem with that statement? It's undefined and vague, not rooted in anything of substance. In news programs, sometimes you'll hear the anchor say, "He's a man of faith," or "She's a woman of faith." Again, another undefined and vague statement, meaning that individual is religious but not necessarily a believer.



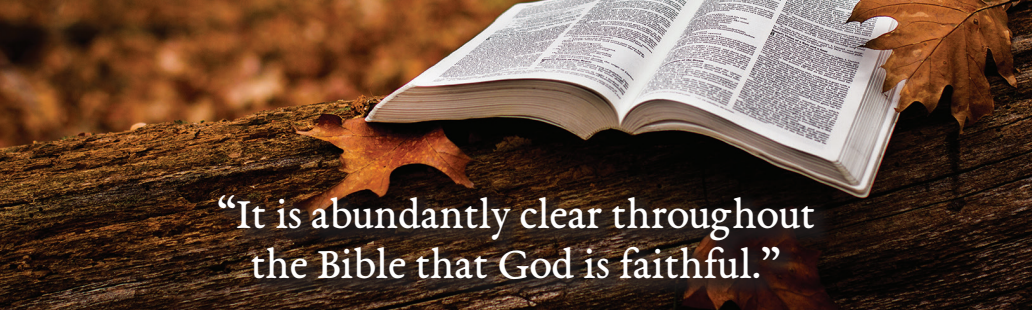
On a less serious note, I may say, "I have faith that the Chicago Cubs will win the World Series this year!" Does that mean they WILL win the World Series? Of course not. In fact, most years they won't! I can believe it all I want, but my "faith"

is obviously misplaced. All these examples show the problem with the world's definition of faith. Not only is it undefined and vague, but faith is treated as a feeling, a blind leap, a positive attitude, a generic spirituality, or a wish that things be true. Worldly faith is belief without a promise, and that's foolishness according to the Word of God. The Apostle Paul wrote to the saints in Corinth, "*For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God*" (1 Cor. 3:19a).

FAITH IN THE BIBLE

In God's Word, faith is written of in three primary ways. First, Paul writes about "the faith" or body of doctrine for the dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:1-12 cf. Rom. 16:25-26). He told Timothy to hold "*the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience*" (1 Tim. 3:9). Paul had done this throughout his ministry and by the end of his life he could say, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*" (2 Tim. 4:7).

Second, Paul also wrote about "the faith of God" or His faithfulness. Romans 3:3 says, "*For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?*" Also, 1 Corinthians 1:9 begins by simply saying, "*God is faithful.*" These two passages, as well as many others in Scripture, speak of the faithfulness of God and of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (see also Deut. 7:9; Psalms



“It is abundantly clear throughout the Bible that God is faithful.”

36:5; 89:8; Lam. 3:22-23; Rom. 3:22; Gal. 2:16; 1 Thes. 5:24; 2 Thes. 3:3). It is abundantly clear throughout the Bible that God is faithful. He can be believed; He can be trusted!

Third, the Bible also speaks of “our faith” (1 John 5:4) or “faith in” Christ (Gal. 3:26). In the Gospels, the Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles, after Peter reminded Him of the fig tree He cursed, “*And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have **faith in God***” (Mark 11:22). The Lord also told a blind man, “*Receive thy sight: **thy faith** hath saved thee*” (Luke 18:42). It’s clear that faith was required, but always remember, under the prophetic program, faith had to be expressed, such as confessing Jesus as the Messiah, believing in the name of the Son of God, doing the works of the law, and being water baptized (Matt. 16:16; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

Paul, in his letters, also wrote about “faith in” Christ. He explained to the church at Rome that God set forth the Lord Jesus Christ as a full payment for our sins and we’re saved “*through **faith in His blood**... To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might*

*be just, and the Justifier of him which **believeth in Jesus***” (Rom. 3:25-26). He told the saints in Ephesus, “*Wherefore I also, after I heard of **your faith in the Lord Jesus***” (Eph. 1:15), and the believers in Galatia, “*For ye are all the children of God **by faith in Christ Jesus***” (Gal. 3:26). The believer today must have “faith in” Christ to be saved, but it’s only possible because of His faithfulness to us!

FAITH IN THE PROPHETIC PROGRAM

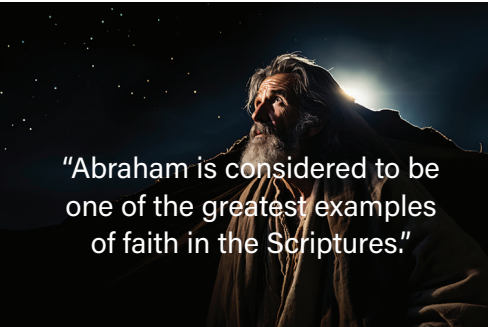
Abraham is considered to be one of the greatest examples of faith in the Scriptures. The reason is that he is used by both Paul and James as an example. After Paul wrote, “*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law*” (Rom. 3:28), he went on to explain how Abraham was justified by faith only, apart from works (4:2-3, 17-18). James, however, paints a different picture. In his epistle to the twelve scattered tribes (James 1:1), we read,

“**Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?**”

“Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?”

“And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

“Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:21-24).



“Abraham is considered to be one of the greatest examples of faith in the Scriptures.”

Why the difference? Under the prophetic program, faith was expressed by doing what God said to do—in other words, taking Him at His Word. For example, water baptism was a required expression of faith as seen in Acts 2:38. Water baptism itself didn’t save anyone, as was demonstrated by the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43). However, it was a required cleansing under the law of Moses and was to be administered when possible.

Though written directly to the nation of Israel, Hebrews 11 gives an excellent definition of faith.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1).

There are two key phrases in this verse: 1. *“Substance of things hoped for.”* The substance of faith is the confidence and assurance of God’s future promises. In this context, it has to do with God’s promise of eternal life, with the Lord returning to establish His Kingdom on the earth (Heb. 10:36-39 cf. Hab. 2:3-4). 2. *“Evidence of things not seen.”* Faith believes God’s Word, even when the promise cannot be seen. Using the example of Abraham again, we read,

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

“By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

“For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:8-10).

As a board member of *Things To Come Mission*, when we send out missionaries, we assign them to a field, and they then know to what country they’re going. Abraham, however, did not know where he was going when he left the land of the Chaldeans (Acts 7:2-4). Nevertheless, he still believed God and looked for a city *“whose builder and maker is God.”*

The life of Abraham could be summed up with the following

statement—Abraham lived as a pilgrim because he was fully convinced that God’s promise of a future inheritance was true. Where did Abraham’s faith come from? It came from the Word of God! He believed God and took Him at His Word, though the kingdom was still not seen. The same could be said for all the saints in the “Faith Hall of Fame” of Hebrews 11. They simply believed God and expressed that faith in whatever way God required.

FAITH IN THE MYSTERY PROGRAM

Today, faith still responds to God. As it’s always been, faith is simply believing God and taking Him at His Word. We do this by taking Him at His Word about the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ and adding nothing to it for eternal salvation. Sadly, many add works to try to have a relationship with Him. People add water baptism, sacraments, the law of Moses, or other religious rituals. None of those things can bridge the gap

that gap, and today, biblical faith responds to God by believing the gospel of the grace of God revealed in this dispensation.

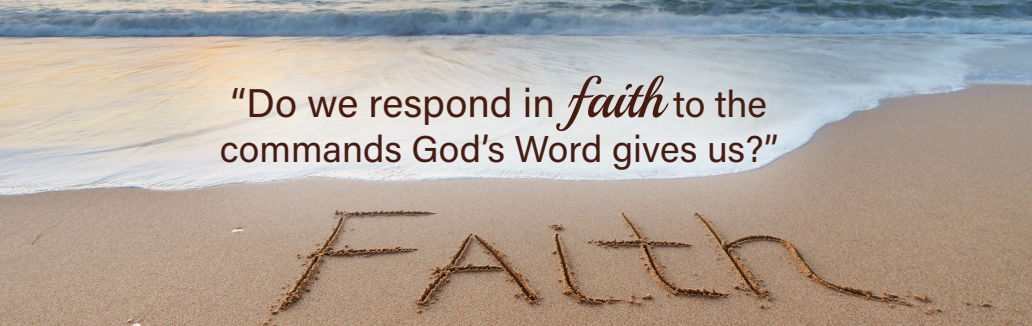
Carl Lewis was a famous track and field star from the 1980s. In the long jump, he could jump around 27-28 feet, and his record was a little bit over 29 feet. Suppose the “gap” between God and man was 30 feet, and anyone who jumped and missed fell into hell? Carl Lewis would come closer than most people, but he would still fall short. This example illustrates that no matter how many good works someone does, that person still falls short of God’s perfect standard and cannot earn eternal life.

So, how does faith (believing God) lead to eternal salvation? It begins with understanding one’s sinful condition and need for a Savior. Lost sinners can choose to believe the gospel, but first they must hear it. Romans 10:17 says, “*Faith cometh **by hearing**, and hearing by the Word of God.*” Therefore, lost sinners must hear the gospel before they can believe it. This means that **YOU**, as an ambassador for Christ, need to bring the message of reconciliation to them (2 Cor. 5:18-20).

The Bible does contain some bad news for mankind, but it’s necessary to proclaim it and it must be understood by the unsaved. The bad news is that all have sinned, and all of us fall short of God’s glory (Rom. 3:23).



between sinful man and a holy God. Only Christ can bridge



"Do we respond in *faith* to the commands God's Word gives us?"

FAITH

No one can meet God's righteous standard (vv. 10-12). Thankfully, God provided a remedy for this problem.

Romans 5:8 says, "*But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" That's wonderful news! By simply believing the good news of 1 Corinthians 15:1-4—that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again—anyone can have eternal life in Christ and a home in heaven (Phil. 3:20). Faith adds no works (Eph. 2:8-9) to this wonderful gift of salvation. Once you've trusted Christ, you can believe God when He says:

"And ye are complete in Him, which is the Head of all principality and power:

"In Whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

"Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead.

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened

together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross;

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col. 2:10-15).

Believers should walk by faith. Do we respond in faith to the commands God's Word gives us? Colossians 2:6 tells believers, "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.*" Since believers received the Lord by faith, we are also commanded to walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). So what does this look like? Here are a few examples.

Are we thankful? Paul wrote to the saints in Thessalonica, "*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*" (1 Thes. 5:18). This is a command from the Spirit of God, through the written Word. Even in the trials and tribulations of life, are we thankful for all He has provided, not only in material things, but more importantly, for all the spiritual

blessings we already possess in Christ (Eph. 1:3)?

Do we rejoice in the Lord daily? Paul commanded the saints in Philippi, *“Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice”* (Phil. 4:4). Do we believe it and always rejoice in the Lord, even in tough times? Or do we grumble and complain? Paul wrote in that same letter, *“Do all things without murmurings and disputings”* (Phil. 2:14). We should always ask ourselves, “Am I doing things without complaining and arguing?” If you can answer “yes” to that question, then you’re walking in the Spirit, just as we’re commanded to do in Galatians 5:25, *“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

Without faith it’s impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). It’s important to know how to define faith, not only for eternal salvation but also for the believer’s walk in Christ. Following the definition of faith from Hebrews 11:1, we could say—today, members of the Body of Christ believe the gospel of God’s grace (“substance”) because they are fully convinced by the Word of God (“evidence”) that their salvation, blessings, hope, and inheritance in Christ are true.

The question for each of us is simple: Will we believe God and take Him at His Word? 

1. The Millionaire, accessed August 26, 2026, http://jokes.christiansunite.com/Hypocrites/The_Millionaire.shtml.

Amazing Creation

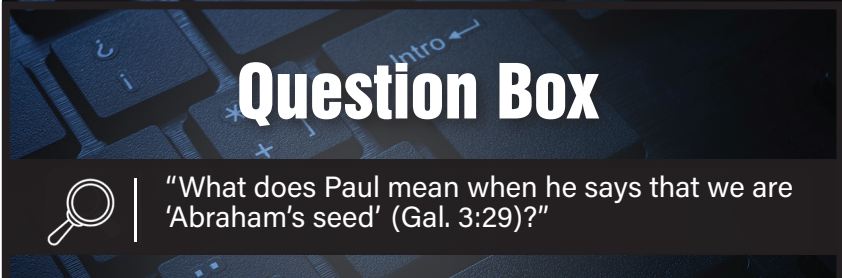


The Great Horned Owl defies all possibility of origin by chance.

These owls are able to fly through a forest in total silence. They have soft, downy feathers on the front of their wings that keep them from being heard by their prey in the forest.

Their eyes are 100 times more sensitive to light than those of humans, which enables them to see by starlight.

These owls have sound tunnels from their ears to their eyes. The saucer-shaped discs of feathers around their eyes serve as receivers (like a dish antenna) to collect sound and transmit it to the brain. This allows them to hear what’s on the forest ground with their eyes as they fly!



Question Box



"What does Paul mean when he says that we are 'Abraham's seed' (Gal. 3:29)?"

"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29).

In Galatians 3:27, Paul referred to our union with Christ: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Having been spiritually baptized into Christ, Paul wrote, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed." We are joined to the one "Seed, which is Christ" (v. 16), and being Christ's, we are "Abraham's seed."

Also, like Abraham, we are justified by faith alone: "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham" (Gal. 3:6-7). We believers who are members of the Church, the Body of Christ, are Abraham's spiritual children in that we follow in the footsteps of his faith. Abraham believed God, and we are "they which are of faith" (v. 7), having believed God and His gospel of grace (1 Cor. 15:3-4). And like righteousness was imputed to Abraham by faith alone, the same is true of us (Rom. 4:1-5).

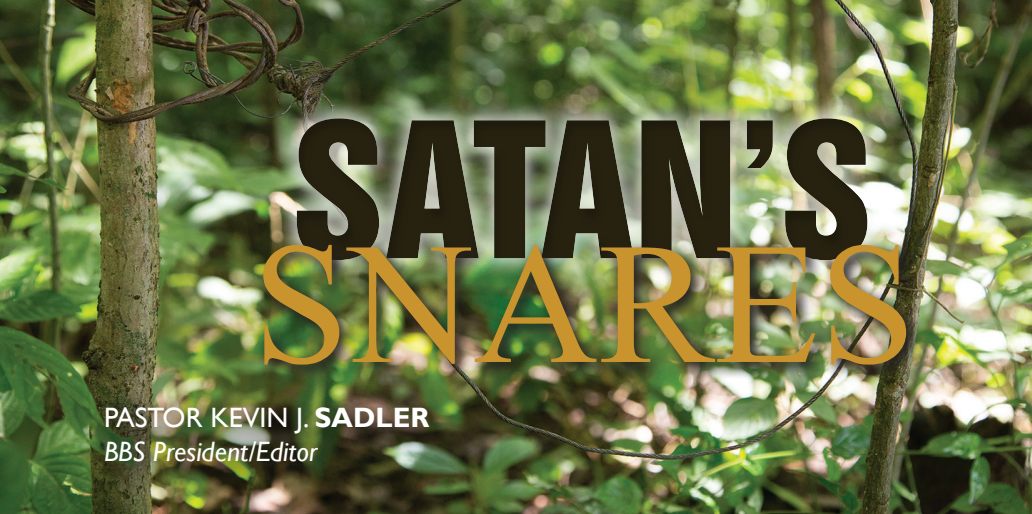
Our relationship to Abraham is not physical but spiritual. Thus, being Abraham's spiritual seed, we are spiritual "heirs according to the promise." We are heirs of the same spiritual blessings that Abraham received when he believed God: righteousness and everlasting life!

—*Pastor Kevin Sadler*



Estate planning

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity" (Eph. 6:24), but he also challenges us to "prove the sincerity of your love" (2 Cor. 8:8) by supporting the Lord's work financially. And if you remember *Berean Bible Society* in your will or trust, the proof of your love for the Lord can live on long after you're serving the Lord in glory.



SATAN'S SNARES

PASTOR KEVIN J. SADLER

BBS President/Editor

“While traveling in Jamaica, a man notices a curious shrub growing near the roadside. His companion informed him that the island people called it the ‘wait a bit’ bush. When he inspected it closely, his clothes touched it, and he found himself snared by thorns which resembled fishhooks. The more he tried to free himself, the more he became entangled by its barbs. Finally he had to rely on his friend to release him from his hopeless situation.”¹

Satan’s false teaching often works in much the same way. Rarely does it appear dangerous at first. It presents itself as attractive, logical, enlightened, or even biblical. A person may only take a small step toward error out of curiosity or because it sounds appealing. But once that person begins to embrace false doctrine, it becomes increasingly difficult to escape, like the man caught in the “wait a bit” bush.

One compromise leads to another, and one error leads to another, and before long, people find themselves thoroughly entangled and ensnared by Satan’s deception. The deeper they become ensnared by false teaching, the more that pride and allegiance to false teachers harden them against the truth. Admitting to having been deceived becomes increasingly difficult. Yet the truth of God’s Word has the power to break Satan’s snares, deliver people from his lies, and restore them and set them free.

A Gentle Servant

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient” (2 Tim. 2:24).

The world rarely associates greatness with servanthood or gentleness. Yet in God’s eyes, excellence is measured by being a servant and showing gentleness to all. In Paul’s words, “And the

servant of the Lord,” the term *servant* means a bondservant. It is a title that Paul used of himself (Romans 1:1 and others). Paul was not calling Timothy to be something that he himself was not willing to be.

A bondservant is a slave, one who is bound to another. It is a relationship of absolute surrender and total devotion to a master. The One to Whom we are bound is “the Lord.” We serve the most loving and merciful Master of all. And like the Hebrew servant in Old Testament times who willingly chose to remain with his master, our hearts declare, “I love my master...I will not go out free” (Ex. 21:5).

While primarily addressing spiritual leaders, Paul’s words also apply to all believers who are to be servants of the Lord. In our surrender and devotion to the Lord, Paul told Timothy that we “must not strive.” The Greek word translated as “strive” means to fight, quarrel, or dispute.

The servant of the Lord must not be argumentative or continually seeking to do battle and engage in a heated war of words. Rather, the servant must “be gentle unto all men.” As one who is *the Lord’s* bondservant, to be gentle is to be like our Lord (2 Cor. 10:1). We are to serve the Lord, stand for the truth, and make it known with a kind spirit and a gentle demeanor “unto all men.” As an old poem puts it,



“A horse can’t pull while kicking.
This fact we merely mention.
And he can’t kick while pulling,
Which is our chief contention.

“Let’s imitate the good old horse
And lead a life that’s fitting;
Just pull an honest load, and then
There’ll be no time for kicking.”²

In serving all men, the servant of the Lord also must be “apt to teach,” or able to teach the Word and pass on biblical truth to others. This does not happen by accident. For that to be the case, we first need to put effort into learning God’s Word. Then, when given opportunity, the Lord would have His servants communicate, teach, and share the knowledge of His truth with those around them, both believers and unbelievers.

As we teach and make God’s Word known, we are to be “patient.” The term *patient* here means the enduring of ills and wrongs, to

be forbearing. It has to do with patiently bearing with those who resist or oppose the truth of God's Word, enduring, without resentment, any mistreatment, anger, attacks, or cruelty that might come from them.

Correction with Meekness

"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25).



"Our responsibility is simply to be gracious channels through which God's truth is proclaimed, and God is the Agent of change."

As we bear patiently with those who resist and lash out against the truth, rather than responding in kind, Paul teaches the servant of the Lord, "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves." "Those that oppose themselves" means those who are in opposition. It refers to those who have embraced beliefs contrary to God's Word and therefore oppose the truth.

We are not to match the unkind tactics of those who stand opposed. Instead, Paul says, "In meekness," we are to respond. Meekness is power under control through submission to the Spirit, a gentleness that reflects humility. It's been said well that "Gentle words fall lightly, but they have great weight."³ God works through the meek and gentle words of His servants.

In meekness we are to be "instructing those that oppose themselves." "Instructing" means correcting or instructing with correction. And this corrective instruction comes from the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).

The aim of this instruction is not to win an argument, but repentance of the one being instructed, as Paul wrote, "if God peradventure [perhaps] will give them repentance." We make the truth known with meekness, and we do so in the hope that God will grant them repentance, or that their minds might be changed from false ideas "to the acknowledging of the truth."

We can't presume this will happen as though it were inevitable. Thus, Paul said, "if God peradventure." It's not that God is unwilling to grant them repentance but, rather, pride and long-held beliefs make it difficult for them to listen and truly hear the truth. Those who oppose the truth are frequently entrenched and unwilling to open their minds to admit they have been mistaken and to abandon the error they have defended. But it can happen. Our responsibility

is simply to be gracious channels through which God's truth is proclaimed, and God is the Agent of change.

Rescued from the Snare

“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Tim. 2:26).

For one who acknowledges the truth, Paul states “that they may recover themselves,” or come to their senses. When people change their minds about the truth, they come to their spiritual senses and turn to the right way of thinking (Luke 15:17).

Alongside the obvious, surface meaning of coming to one's senses, “they may recover themselves” in Greek means to become sober again. It pictures one who has been intoxicated by Satan's deception and was under his influence of error, but then awakens to the truth and returns to clear, sound thinking. The enemy makes people drunk with his lies. Satan's lies have an intoxicating effect that dulls the mind to God's truth. Through the sharing of the truth of God's Word, however, people can be sobered up.



Thus, they escape “out of the snare of the devil.” A snare is a trap, such as one fastened with a noose or a spring-loaded mechanism, designed to catch its victim unexpectedly. It is carefully hidden so that wild animals and birds walk into it unaware, only to find themselves suddenly caught and trapped. Once ensnared, the victim is held fast and is unable to escape by its

own efforts. Often, the more the victim struggles, the tighter the noose becomes.

In the same way, Satan's deceptions are subtle and disguised. They are hidden from view and concealed by deception and trickery. People step into the snare unsuspectingly and get caught suddenly and unexpectedly, and it holds them. As with an animal in a snare, struggling in one's own wisdom cannot bring freedom, and it only tightens the noose and the devil's hold.

Only God and His truth can break the devil's snare. He can rescue people from Satan's hold on them. It works like this: 1) we make the Word of truth known; 2) God grants repentance; 3) they have a change of mind that 4) leads them to acknowledge the truth; 5) the captive then comes to his senses, 6) escapes Satan's deception, 7) and is set free from his trap.

Satan is a relentless purveyor of lies (John 8:44). Due to the activity of Satan and his wicked host, there is much deception in this world. Satan wants to ensnare each of us in false teaching. His goal is to lure people into teachings that draw them away from the sufficiency of Christ and the truth of God's grace.

We must walk carefully through this world, staying close to the Word. We need to be firmly rooted in it and exercise discernment, because Satan is exceedingly subtle and clever in the way he disguises error as truth. And through his deceptions, he traps and captures people.

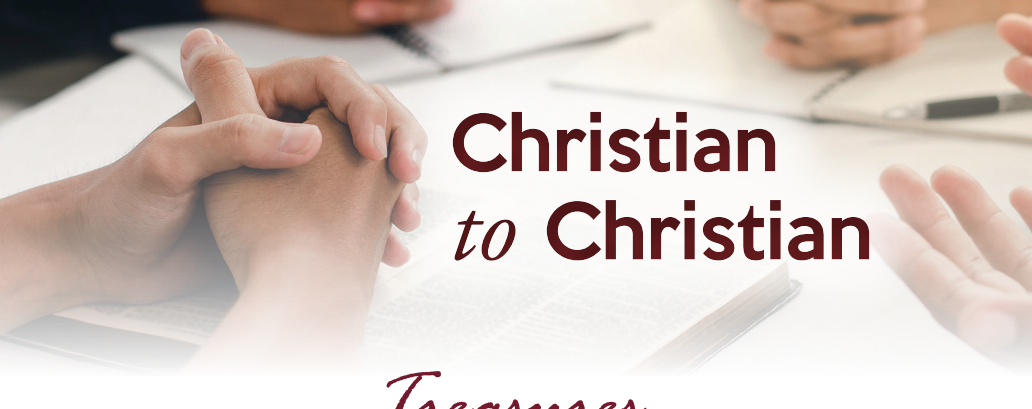
Paul wrote that those who get ensnared by the devil are those "who are taken captive by him." The Greek verb translated as *taken captive* means to take alive and describes the power of Satan to lead people astray.

They "are taken captive by him at his will." What this means is that they are taken captive by the devil *unto* or *to do* his will. Having been captured by him and ensnared by his lies, they are under his control, and they do his evil will. In their opposition to the truth, they do the devil's work, and they spread his lies and deception to lead others astray as well.

We are part of God's rescue team to rescue Satan's captives from the snare of his lies. We do not accomplish this by arguing and striving. Rather, as servants of the Lord, we are to be gentle, patient, and meek, faithfully teaching them the truth of God's Word. God can use His truth to bring them to repentance, cause them to come to their senses, and free them from the devil's snare. Our task is not to win an argument, but to faithfully give the truth that can set the captive free.



1. "Snares Laid," reprinted from *Our Daily Bread*, Preaching.com, accessed August 27, 2026, <https://www.preaching.com/sermon-illustrations/snares-laid/>.
2. Sermon Illustrations, "Poems," taken from *Bits and Pieces*, May 1990, p.7, accessed September 2, 2026, <https://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/a/argument.htm>.
3. Derick Bingham, subhead "Gentle Correction," "2 Timothy 2:24-26 Commentary," Precept Austin, updated September 25, 2023, https://www.preceptaustin.org/2_timothy_224-26#2:24.



Christian to Christian

Treasures

“In Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3).

Yearly, our family spends time at the beach looking for treasures of the sea. I spend my time meditating on God’s Word and God’s creation. I pray/talk to God, thanking Him for so many blessings, praising Him for His goodness and faithfulness, and laying my burdens before Him.



Several principles always come to my mind. Here are a couple:

- When looking for certain items, one has to carefully examine to find them. If you are looking for shark teeth, you concentrate on dark and shiny, for shells—light and unique. In God’s Word, it is beneficial to study words and key phrases, not just simply read through the passages as a story (although both methods are needed).
- Some beaches have an abundance (of shark teeth), others take more effort. In the abundance, it is easy to become complacent, take for granted, and stop searching. Spiritually, when one knows the Word, rightly divided, and God’s timetable of events, it is easy to stop reading, studying, listening, and applying, which leads to the loss of closeness to God and excitement for growth. Today, as I pondered being satisfied that I had enough treasures, I got up once more, stepped into the shallow low tide, and found one of the biggest teeth I have ever found. It was as if the Holy Spirit said, “See, I have so much more for you.”

Through my many years of life, ministry, and study, my desire has only grown, my time in the Word has increased, and I have grown closer to my Savior. It isn’t by accident, but is intentional. Praise God for His goodness and faithfulness. May I ever be faithful!

—Mrs. Terri Fredericksen



What Does God Want Us to Know About *Fallen Angels?*

PASTOR JOHN **FREDERICKSEN**
BBS Board Member

All angels were created as holy angels. When God evaluated all He had created, He said “it was very good” (Gen. 1:31). Ezekiel 28:11-19 describes Satan, as a “cherub” of God who was lifted up in pride and fell from a condition of righteousness to one of wickedness (Luke 10:18). Revelation 12:3-4 uses the symbolism of the dragon’s tail and stars to describe how Satan subsequently led a rebellion among the holy angels, in which one-third of this host followed him, therein forfeiting their holiness to become fallen, evil angels.

The Scriptures use many titles for these fallen angels: “devils” (Mark 1:39; 3:15), “an unclean spirit” (Mark 1:23), “seducing spirits” (1 Tim. 4:1), “the spirit of error” (1 John 4:6), “spirit of infirmity” (Luke 13:11), and “a spirit of divination” (Acts 16:16). We also refer to them as *demons*, which comes from the

Greek word “daimonion,” meaning a spirit, or evil spirits.

What Are Fallen Angels?

Like holy angels, fallen angels are spiritual beings. These fallen angels are well-versed in Scripture. During our Lord’s temptation in the wilderness, Satan, a fallen angel, urged the Savior to cast Himself from the pinnacle of the temple saying, “For it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee; and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone” (Matt. 4:6). It is these qualities of intelligence and familiarity with the Word of God that enables them to influence the twisting of Scripture by false teachers. Fallen angels are not only intelligent and well-versed in God’s Word, but they are also perceptive. When the Lord Jesus approached a man possessed by many demons, they

“As Satan walks about
‘seeking whom he may devour’
(1 Pet. 5:8), his fallen angelic
host do similarly seek to
destroy all they can.”



immediately recognized Who He was and His divine power (Matt. 8:29-31). One possessed with an unclean spirit told the Lord, “I know Thee Who Thou art; the Holy One of God” (Luke 4:34).

How Active Are Fallen Angels in Warfare Against Humans?

Their activity has been, and will continue to be, fighting against God’s plans and instructions in multiple ways. Satan and his demonic army have been active since their fall into rebellious sin. As early as the days of Noah, fallen angels sought to corrupt the offspring of mankind in an effort to thwart a coming Savior and produce fierce opposition to a walk with God (Gen. 6:1-4).

Throughout the Old Testament, fallen angels attacked mankind with the influence of witchcraft, soothsaying, the promotion of false gods, lying prophets sent to deceive, and much more. Most of these attacks were less obvious that they had originated from Satan and his fallen angels. However, in the New Testament the activ-

ity of fallen angels intensified, becoming more obvious and identifiable. There was a feverish effort on the part of Satan and his demonic army to thwart the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ as He came “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

As Satan walks about “seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8), his fallen angelic host do similarly seek to destroy all they can. Those who are wise will seek to be aware of these satanic and demonic attacks and equip themselves with the full armor of God (Eph. 6:11).

What Can Fallen Angels Do?

Fallen angels can work miracles. This is made very clear when Revelation 16:14 refers to demons saying, “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” When the false prophet comes to draw attention and worship to the Antichrist during the Tribulation, he will

be able to work miracles. Revelation 13:13-14 informs us that the false prophet “doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do....” While the false prophet will be a man, the miracles he will perform will surely be demon-empowered.

These verses refer specifically to the Tribulation, but they reveal that demonic forces can work miracles to deceive the unwary. Should a miracle occur today, it does not mean that it is from God! It could easily be from fallen angels for the purpose of leading even believers astray. We must be wary of supposed supernatural experiences, appearances of angels, and of preachers claiming to work miracles even in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Regardless of how real it seems, the presence of a miracle does not mean it was sent from God. It can be demonic in origin.

Fallen angels deceive with false doctrine: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Tim. 4:1). The Apostle John called this influence “the spirit of error” (1 John 4:6). The Apostle Paul warned that it was “no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of

light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...” (2 Cor. 11:14-15). Satan has an army of fallen angels who work to deceive and influence people, seeking to “beguile” them “through his subtilty” into believing in “another Jesus,” receiving “another spirit,” and accepting “another gospel” (2 Cor. 11:3-4).



All teaching must be verified by the consistency of the Word of God, rightly divided—distinguishing what God instructed Israel under the prophetic program from what He has revealed for us today through the epistles of Paul.

Fallen angels empower some to practice “divination.” This was an attempt to predict or reveal the future through the influence of demonic spirits. In Acts 16:16, “a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination...brought her masters much gain by soothsaying [to divine, utter spells, or foretell the future].” These instances stand as a warning about the deceptive activity and influence

of demonic angels. Demonic influences can be convincing but, here again, we must evaluate all things by the Word of truth and disregard everything that is not consistent with God's Word, rightly divided.

Fallen angels can indwell and control a human or animal. Their presence is usually manifested in the near complete control of their victims (Luke 8:2). Demon possession often manifested itself in fierce and violent behavior. A man of Gadarenes called himself "Legion" (Mark 5:9) because there were "many" demons possessing his body, which caused him to cut himself



and possess unnatural strength (vv. 4-5). Verse 4 documents that no man could tame him even with chains and ropes because he had the supernatural strength to break them in pieces through the demons.

A father once brought his demon-possessed son to the Lord and said, "he is lunatick [not in his right mind], and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water" (Matt. 17:15). He further told

the Lord that he had "a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away..." (Mark 9:17-18).

When "certain vagabond Jews" took it upon themselves to cast demons out of individuals, the fallen angels responded, "...Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded" (Acts 19:15-16).

Thankfully, those today who trust in Christ cannot be indwelt by a demon because our "body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you..." (1 Cor. 6:19). Since God is holy, He cannot co-occupy a human body with a sinful demon and therein be defiled.

Fallen angels have the ability to afflict with terrible ailments and pain. Several examples are evident in Scripture. It was the fallen angel, Satan, who "smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown [of his head]" (Job 2:7). Similarly, "there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself" (Luke 13:11). The Lord Jesus Christ cast out a demonic spirit that caused a young man to become "dumb [unable to speak] and deaf" (Mark 9:25).

All illness was not in the past, nor is it now, from demonic attack, but clearly this was somewhat common for Israel in the past. But why would fallen angels afflict people with illness? As was the case with Job, when fallen angels afflict people with physical ailments, it can distract from the proper worship of God, discourage, bring despair, cause one to doubt God's love, leave one defeated, and, for the unsaved, harden the soul against saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Fallen angels tempt us to commit sin. When placed in the Garden of Eden, the only restriction Adam and Eve had was not to eat from the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2:17). Satan, who "was more subtil than any beast... said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (3:1). Then he contradicted God's warning, lying and saying that if Eve ate from this forbidden tree, "Ye shall not surely die" (v. 4). When righteous Job was sorely tested with the loss of his children, wealth, and health, the Lord was proving his faithfulness, but Satan sought to tempt Job to "curse" the Lord to His face (Job 1:11).

Satan actively tempts believers to act, think, or talk in sinful ways. When he tempts us, remember that God "will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with

the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).



Fallen angels are closely tied to and actively involved in the evil world system under Satan's control. Scripture identifies Satan as "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4). He and his fallen angels oppose all that is right, godly, and Christ-honoring. This present world system of ungodliness is orchestrated and influenced by Satan and his spiritual forces. Even those who know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior are not immune from this influence. Too often we believers seek to "fit in" with the trends of the day and with lost souls.

But our mission is to be a light to the world, reflecting the Savior before those who are lost and headed for eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. Therefore, we are to "be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).



"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against *principalities*, against *powers*, against *the rulers of the darkness of this world*, against *spiritual wickedness in high places*" (Eph. 6:12).

Fallen angels seek to prevent mankind from coming to a saving knowledge of trusting only in the finished work of Christ for eternal life. Second Corinthians 4:3-4 makes this plain by saying, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them." It was Paul's mission in life to take the gospel of the grace of God to the Gentiles, "to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins..." (Acts 26:18).

When we seek to lead others to Christ, we must do so through the power of the written Word of God and a clear gospel of

trusting in Christ apart from all works (Eph. 2:8-9). This alone is able to free lost souls from the grip of Satan and demonic deception. As Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

What Will Be the Ultimate Fate of Fallen Angels?

After the Rapture of the Body of Christ which closes the dispensation of grace, after the seven years of the Tribulation, after the millennial reign of Christ on earth, and after one final rebellion of man in warfare against the King of kings, all lost human souls will be assembled at the Great White Throne of Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15). Each lost soul will be judged "according to their works"

(v. 12) to determine their degree of punishment, and be cast into the Lake of Fire. Just prior to this, “the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (v. 10). It is at this time that all the demonic angels will likewise be cast “into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).

Conclusion

The threat of demonic activity is very real and constant still today. The stark warning in 1 Peter 5:8 is relevant:

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil,

as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Satan’s army of demons war against us, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12). Knowing these facts about demonic activity alerts us to the importance of being fully prepared with the full armor of God so that we “may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (v. 11).

We need to be continually saturated with the written Word of God so that we are empowered to ward off these attacks. Are you prepared? 

“By the grace of God I am what I am!”

“This is the believer’s eternal confession. Grace found him a rebel—it leaves him a son. Grace found him wandering at the gates of hell—it leads him through the gates of heaven. Grace devised the scheme of Redemption—and it is grace which carries out that scheme...The thickets of Eden would have proved Adam’s grave, had not grace called him out. Saul would have lived and died the haughty self-righteous persecutor, had not grace laid him low. The dying thief would have continued breathing out his blasphemies, had not grace arrested his tongue and tuned it for glory.

“Salvation is of God—of grace—of free grace. From the germ to the fruit, from foundation to top-stone—it is of grace, free grace, altogether and only.”

—D. L. Moody

GRACE

BBS Letter Excerpts



From Florida:

“What a wonderful resource the new Grace Study Bible is. Grateful to your team! I can’t wait to dig even deeper into the Word, rightly divided, with thoughtful notes that echo the spirit of the noble Bereans from long ago.”

From Wisconsin:

“It is a joy to read God’s truth revealed in the *Berean Searchlight* each month. May all people come to know and believe in Jesus Christ and be saved, I pray. Thank you for your good work and God bless you at *Berean Bible Society*.”

From North Carolina:

“Missed my donation last month due to a long hospital stay. I’m okay—still kicking at 89 years old!”

From Florida:

“Thank you for your wonderful teaching. I am learning more and more of how much God really cares for me.”

From the Philippines:

“Good afternoon from the Philippines! Writing this email to express how grateful and blessed I am to receive your *Searchlight* magazines. Praying that this magazine be a tool to continue strengthening my understanding and knowledge of the dispensations, to study God’s Word, rightly divided.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to TBG 404: “My Grace Is Sufficient for Thee”) “Pastor Kevin, thank you for this teaching. Being handicapped, truly His grace enables me to press on for our upward call, knowing that this disability is but a fraction of a second for what awaits us all.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to TBG 390: “Freedom’s Peace”) “Wonderful message! I’m so thankful to see correct doctrine, rightly divided! It is a rarity and only through proper teaching like this can we as Christians grow. Thank you, Pastor Kevin, and to all behind the scenes putting these videos together. We appreciate you!”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace*) “Thank you for teaching/preaching the truth. No stone unturned.”

From Our Mailbox:

“I’m so glad you had such a good response and had so many orders. Hopefully they will serve to help more people study and rightly divide! (Hopefully and prayerfully).”

From Georgia:

(Responding to the *Berean Searchlight*) “Thank you for being so faithful to me by sending me the Word of the Lord for over 15 years.”

From Wyoming:

"We are so excited to get the Bible. Can't wait! It's so exciting! Please tell Kevin we so enjoy his program, *Transformed by Grace*. Wish we lived closer to a church that would teach like Pastor Sadler does. He explains the Bible so clearly and thoroughly."

From North Carolina:

"I'm really loving this GSB! It came just a few days after my wife's passing...Thank you so much for this much-needed study Bible! I'm boasting in the Lord to people and Christian stores about this Bible!"

From Our Inbox:

"Timing! Today right when you sent this email [*Daily Transformation* "Avenues of Attack"], I am just starting a study in my new Grace Study Bible in Ephesians 6, where the picture of the soldier is standing with the sword and the armor on. And I so need it in more ways than one....Thank you all for your labor of love in Christ."

From Pennsylvania:

(Responding to *Daily Transformation* "Make It Count – 1 Cor. 15:9-10") "Amen. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for the sacrifice of dying for me and my family members on the cross."

From South Carolina:

"Thank you all for your work and helping to equip me for the work. I look forward to learning more and more about God and sharing what I learn."

From Our Inbox:

"We are almost house-bound. We enjoy the TBG broadcast, which we broadcast in a Bible study in our home, and we use the *Searchlight* for our Bible study."

From Missouri:

"Thanks again for all you that help me with my walk with Jesus. I got my Bibles a few days ago and they are GREAT—all 9 of them. My friends were overjoyed to say the least. God bless everyone at BBS."

From New York:

"I have contacted about 20 grace people to promote your study Bible and to encourage them to get the *Searchlight*. I would read passages from the Grace Study Bible to them, and they liked what they heard...I usually stay in the New Testament, but many of the notes in the Old Testament have helped me understand it. It's like someone turned on the light!"

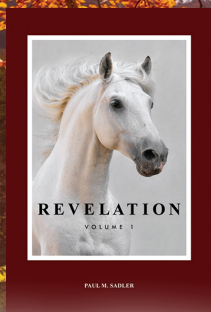
From South Korea:

"Thank you for your faithful and precious ministry. By the grace of God, I came to understand the gospel of grace, and through His grace I also found your videos. Since I do not speak English, I rely on YouTube's automatic translation to watch and listen to your messages. Even so, I have been deeply blessed and greatly encouraged by your teaching. I sincerely pray that the Lord will continue to richly bless your ministry and use it to reach many more people with His wonderful grace."

BE A BEREAN

"These [the Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11

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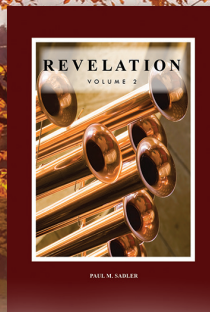
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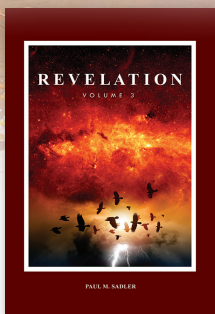
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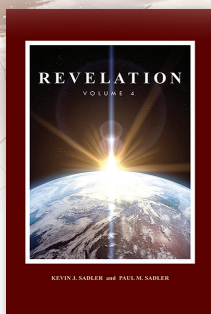
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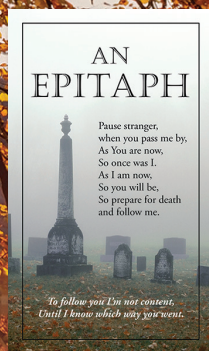
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News & Announcements



Texas Special Meetings: BBS President Kevin Sadler will have the privilege of speaking at the Sunday services of *Grace Bible Church* in Fort Worth, Texas on November 8. The church's location is 1450 Oak Hill Road. Along with preaching God's Word, rightly divided, Pastor Kevin will also share about the ministries and outreach of the *Berean Bible Society*. For more information, please contact *Grace Bible Church* at 817-451-0937, gbcfw@yahoo.com, or visit gracebiblechurch-fw.com.

Email subscriptions: BBS offers, absolutely free of charge, several email devotionals to help you grow in the Word. Every day, *Two Minutes with the Bible* features short articles by a variety of grace pastors. Once every week, *More Minutes with the Bible* offers articles that have appeared in the *Berean Searchlight*. *Daily Transformation* features daily articles by BBS Board Chairman John Fredericksen. *Two Minutes* and *Daily Transformation* are also available in Spanish. To subscribe, click the "Bible Study" tab on our website.

International Orders of Grace Study Bible: We are working toward being able to accept international orders in the Store on the BBS website soon. Until then, for those outside the United States who would like to order a Grace Study Bible, please do not attempt to place an order through our website. Instead, send your request by email to store@bereanbiblesociety.org, and we will guide you through the process. Currently, the cost of international shipping is \$50 per Bible. We plan to ship prepaid international orders in November and January.

Back cover quotes: If you have a short quote you would like to submit for consideration for the back cover of the *Berean Searchlight*, please send it to berean@bereanbiblesociety.org. We would love to hear from you!

Upcoming Conferences to put on your calendar!

TBG Regional Conference-Virginia

October 10-11, Roanoke, VA

Texas Special Meetings

November 8, Fort Worth, TX

BBF Winter Conference

January 16-17, 2027, Inverness, FL



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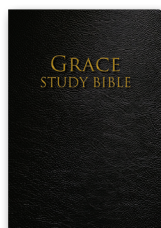
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