

Bible Doctrines to Live By, Inc.  
PO Box 564  
Comstock Park, MI 49321  
Phone: 616-785-3618  
Fax: 616-785-3327  
E-mail: [staff@bible doctrines.org](mailto:staff@bible doctrines.org)  
Web: [www.bible doctrines.org](http://www.bible doctrines.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS  
MI 49501  
PERMIT NO. 915

## Christ Died for your Sins

**The Need:** "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"...there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Romans 3:12b)

"For the wages of sin is death...." (Romans 6:23a)

**The Result:** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)

**God's Response:**

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...." (Ephesians 1:7a)

**Man's Response:**

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved...For I delivered unto you that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

**Believe it. Receive it. Have Eternal Life.**

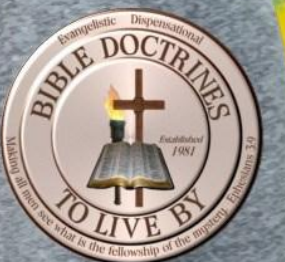
Spring / Summer 2017

# TRUTH *A flame*

A ministry of Bible Doctrines To Live By, Inc.

Introducing  
**Cindy Lippincott**

To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery.  
Ephesians 3:9







**"His Word was in my heart as a burning fire."  
Jeremiah 20:9**

*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by  
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let  
your requests be made known unto God.*

*And the peace of God, which passeth all  
understanding, shall keep your hearts and  
minds through Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,  
whosoever things are honest, whatsoever  
things are just, whatsoever things are pure,  
whosoever things are lovely, whatsoever  
things are of good report; if there be any  
virtue, and if there be any praise, think on  
these things.*

*Those things, which ye have both learned, and  
received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and  
the God of peace shall be with you.*

**Philippians 4:6-9**

**TRUTH AFLAME** is published by Bible Doctrines to  
Live By, Inc., and is an independent  
Bible study and evangelistic journal.  
We are fundamentalists, maintaining an immovable  
allegiance to the inerrant, infallible and verbally-  
inspired Word of God. We are dispensationalists,  
endeavoring to teach the whole Word of God from a  
mid-Acts Pauline perspective. We believe and  
proclaim that Christ died for all and that the offer of  
Salvation is extended to all and received by simple  
faith in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

The Truth Aflame is published at least three times a  
year (Winter, Spring/Summer, and Fall) and is sent free  
of charge to all who desire to know and grow in their  
knowledge of the Word of God. In addition the  
magazine serves as one line of communication  
between our ministry headquarters and our faithful  
prayer and financial partners. If you would like to  
subscribe contact us at:

**Bible Doctrines To Live BY**  
PO Box 564  
Comstock Park, MI 49321

#### STAFF

Joel R. McGarvey - Bible Teacher, Evangelist, Executive  
Director, Editor  
S. Lee Homoki - Bible Teacher, Evangelist, Ambassador at  
Large  
Pastor Matthew Ritchey - Assoc. Exec. Director, Director  
Youth & Family Ministry Outreach  
Darlene Homoki - Treasurer, Ambassador at Large  
Janice Bultema - Office Manager, Editor  
Carolyn Mencer - Secretary, Bookkeeper  
Bev Price - Secretary  
Susan McGarvey - Secretary

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joel R. McGarvey - Executive Director, Grand Rapids, MI  
Matthew Ritchey - Director of Outreach Ministries  
S. Lee Homoki - Founder, Grand Rapids, MI  
Darlene Homoki - Secy./Treas. BDTLB, Grand Rapids, MI  
Harry Bultema - Pastor, Grand Rapids, MI  
Norman Price - Businessman, Grand Rapids, MI  
Neil Schnaath - Chairman, Pastor, Livonia, MO  
Jim Stringham - Businessman, Grand Rapids, MI  
Paul Turner - Businessman, Omro, WI

#### BOARD OF ADVISORS

Dwight Anderson - Pastor, Minneapolis, MN

**To receive the Truth Aflame by email send us a request.**

Or contact our office by phone:

Telephone: (616) 785-3618  
Fax: (616) 785-3327

Contact us on the WEB:

E-Mail: [staff@bibledoctrines.org](mailto:staff@bibledoctrines.org)  
Web: [www.bibledoctrines.org](http://www.bibledoctrines.org)

The BDTLB WEB is home to one of the largest selections  
of Mid-Acts dispensational Bible study materials.

Our ministry location is:

895 West River Center Dr.  
Comstock Park, MI. 49321

We'd invite you to visit our office anytime you are in  
the greater Grand Rapids, Michigan area. Come see us  
and check out our large assortment of Gospel Tracts  
and solid Bible Study books and booklets.

# Prayer Requests



Praise the Lord for the many Blessings received throughout 2016, but especially for those who came to Christ. Please pray for them as they begin their new life in Christ.



Pray for Lee and Darlene for continued health and strength. Pray too for all of the staff for health and keeping.



Pray for the financial needs of BDTLB. With the continued downturn in the economy the support levels continue to drop off as well. **We MUST see an increase in our regular support levels if this ministry is to continue.** Why not pray about your own part in making a regular donation to BDTLB?



Pray for the home office staff as they press ahead in the ministry of BDTLB. We are always looking for the Lord's leading in expanding our ministry outreach. New books and tracts are being added regularly. The home staff labors diligently to get these materials printed and distributed.



Pray for the expanding ministry of BDTLB as we seek to reach children, teens and families for Christ and the Word of God.



Pray for Jennifer Ritchey as she struggles with the affects of chronic Lyme disease.



Please pray for saints to partner with Cindy Lippincott and her missionary labors with BDTLB.



Pray for the McGarveys as they embark on their travel schedule sharing the Glorious Gospel of the Grace of God through eight VBSs, Bible conferences and preaching engagements.



Pray for those in leadership at all levels of government, who are in Christ, that they may allow their faith and the Word to direct their decisions. Pray for those without Christ that they might hear the Gospel and say "Yes" to Christ.

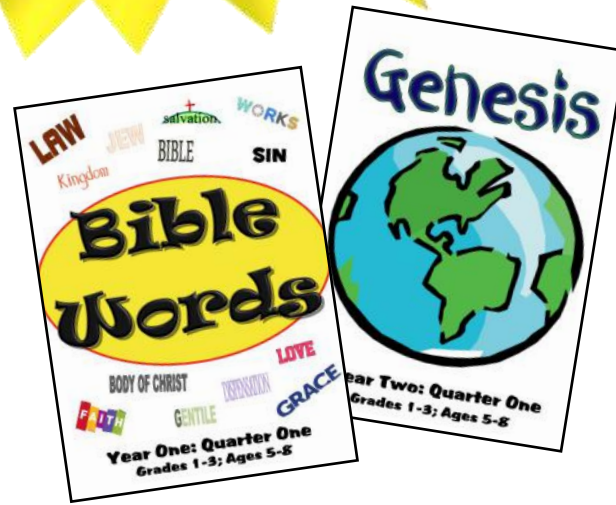


Pray that 2017 will be a real year of stepping out with boldness to share Christ through your life and lips. You cannot share the love of God without also sharing the Grace of God extended through the Gospel of salvation.



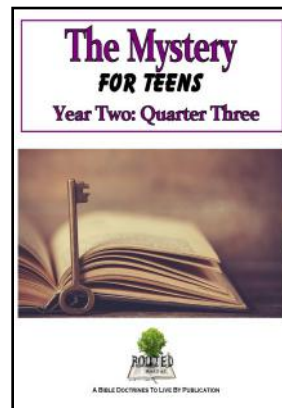
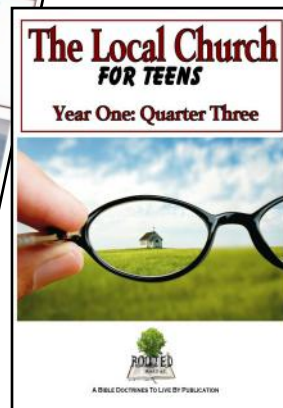
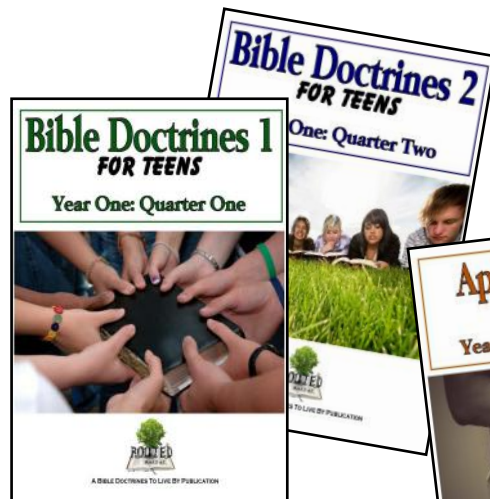
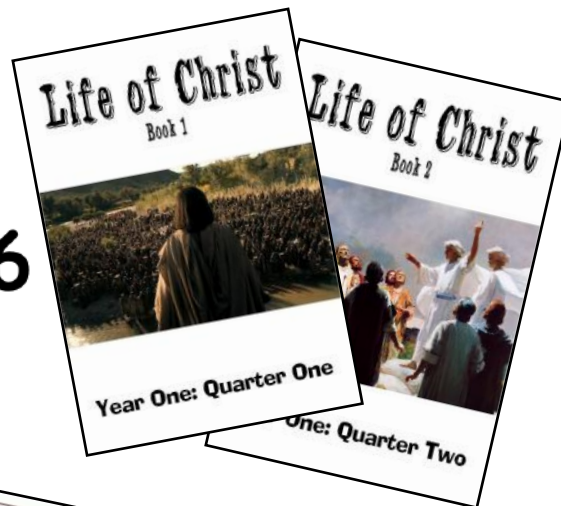
# Now Available Lesson Curriculum

With more on the way.



Grades 1-3  
Ages 5-8

Grades 4-6



Teens

Call for Pricing

616-785-3618

## Personal from the Director

2017 has brought many changes to our world, nation and here at BDTLB. As to the world and the nation the jury is still out as to the long-term gains or losses that will be the result of the changes. Our nation remains divided right down the middle with good people on both sides of the debate. As in all issues only one real viable solution is available and that is prayer.

***"I exhort therefore, that, first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."***

1 Timothy 2:1-2

May I ask, when was the last time you paused from your complaining and ranting and simply bowed your head in prayer for the President, Governor, Congressman, Senator, Judges, Mayor, Councilmen, Commissioners, Clerks and all who are involved in running the government? We're all pretty good at expressing our opinions to one another, but how often do we simply lift these people up in prayer, praying **for** them rather than **against** them. How often do we pray for their salvation?

As this new era continues, I would urge your faithful participation before the Throne of Grace in adherence to Paul's words of instruction.

Friends, there is no doubt America is a troubled nation, a troubled people who desperately need Christ. The issues so loudly proclaimed by well-meaning Christians are in truth the fruit, or lack of fruit that results from a sinful heart. Before we can ever expect the public acceptance of Christianity and Christ, we must have a public that knows Christ, that has a personal relationship with Him. I am not saying that the Church should not express its concerns, but I am saying that the Church needs to get busy sharing the Gospel with the same, if not more, enthusiasm that it uses to march for and against their pet issues.

Change has come to BDTLB as well with the loss of one staff member and the gaining of another.

Bev Price, our true "Girl Friday" has left BDTLB and

will be moving away from the area with her husband Norm. Bev was an integral part of the office staff for many years and will surely be missed; but God is faithful and has brought to us Cindy Lippincott. Cindy has been involved in various ministries over the years along with secular positions which make her the perfect fit.

Not only will Cindy be picking up the work done by Bev, but as a full-time staff member she will also be assisting me in some of the layout and design work. We believe that Cindy was truly sent to us by the Lord. We had actually advertised for two part-time positions but when Cindy read the ad she understood it to be a reference to two functions of the same position. When I explained to her what we were looking for and what was involved her response was simply, "I thought it was one position and I'm wanting to do them both." We didn't know how long it would take to fill the roles and in an instant we had filled both.

Cindy has been with us now for about two months and is learning the ropes very well.

But BDTLB is a missionary endeavor and we largely depend upon the faithful gifts of churches and individuals to meet the financial needs of the staff and ministry. I would invite you to read the two letters that are included in this issue of Truth Aflame and pray about what part you might have in helping us meet the need.

Note also the need for an upcoming ministry opportunity to Turkey coming up this October.



*Joe*







The McGarveys have been invited to join a tour group visiting several cities where the Apostle Paul ministered on a couple of his missionary journeys. Cities include Attalya, Perge, Lystra, Antioch of Pisidia, Colossae and Miletus. In addition the group will tour the seven cities mentioned in the Book of Revelation. It will be to this group that Joel will be teaching and sharing from the Word of God. This is an exciting opportunity to walk and preach where Paul stood and boldly proclaimed the special message of God's rich Grace.

We need the help of our BDTLB family to raise the necessary funds to cover our obligation of \$2,000.00. If you would like to help please use the return slip below. **Thank you.** And do keep us in prayer as we have open doors to share the saving Gospel of the Grace of God.

Want to go along? There is still room. For more information and reservations call Pastor Brent Biller (304-726-4063) or email him at: [brentbiller@atlanticbb.net](mailto:brentbiller@atlanticbb.net). **Do it soon.**

**MCGARVEY TURKEY MINISTRY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I want to partner with the McGarveys on the ministry trip to Turkey. Enclosed I am sending a gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**ISRAEL'S HOLY DAYS** By **Pastor Brent Biller**



**\$3.00**

Plus S/H  
MI Residents add 6% tax



**\$2.50**

10/\$20.00

Gain a better understanding of the plan of God in using the spring feast days of Israel to foreshadow the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (First Coming) and the fall holy days which foreshadow the Second Coming of Christ.

**Perfect for teens & Adults**

**YES** *I will become a supporting partner in BDTLB's Missionary ministry to the lost.*

**CLIP AND RETURN**

**YES.** I want to be a partner in the Missionary Outreach Ministry of Bible Doctrines To Live By. I know that battle for the souls of mankind is waging strong and I want to stand with those who are on the front lines. As the Lord prospers I will faithfully send a monthly financial gifts as indicated below. I will also faithfully hold up the ministry in Prayer.

I will pledge a monthly gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the ministry(s) of....

one time gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the ministry(s) of....

- ☐ Ev. Joel R. McGarvey \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month
- ☐ Pastor Matt Ritchey \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month
- ☐ Cindy Lippincott \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



# REVELATION

A Brief Study of the Times and Events of the Apocalypse



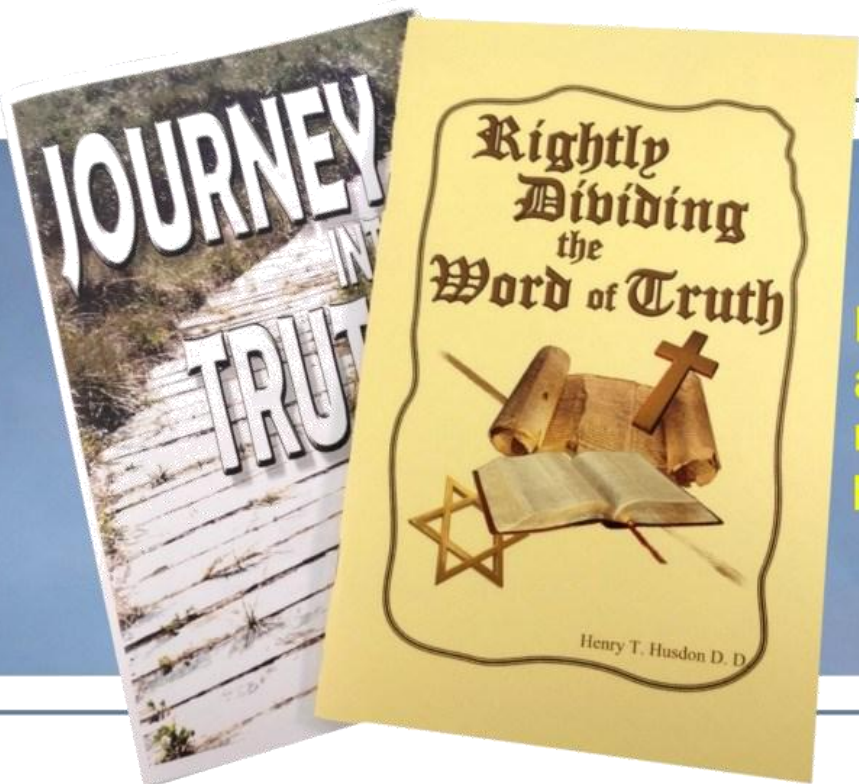
**Order**

- 5 Student books
- 1 Teacher book
- 1 Comments on Coming Things (Root)

**Receive**

**Revelation for the Advanced Student FREE**

~~\$70.00~~ **\$50.00** **Order Today**  
**Ends July1**



**\$4.00**  
plus S/H  
MI residents add 6%

Excellent booklets to "give away" and lead individuals out of religion and into the Word of God Rightly Divided.

# It's Really **NOT** All About the \$

Change has come to BDTLB as well with the loss of one staff member and the gaining of another.

Bev Price, our true "Girl Friday" has left BDTLB and will be moving away from the area with her husband Norm. Bev was an integral part of the office staff for many years and will surely be missed; but God is faithful and has brought to us Cindy Lippincott. Cindy has been involved in various ministries over the years along with secular positions which make her the perfect fit.

Not only will Cindy be picking up the work done by Bev, but as a full-time staff member she will also be assisting me in some of the layout and design work. We believe that Cindy was truly sent to us by the Lord. We had actually advertised for two part-time positions but when Cindy read the ad she understood it to be a reference to two functions of the same position. When I explained to her what we were looking for and what was involved her response was simply, "I thought it was one position and I'm wanting to do them both." We didn't know how long it would take to fill the roles and in an instant we had filled both.

Cindy has been with us now for about two months and is learning the ropes very well.

But BDTLB is a missionary endeavor and we largely depend upon the faithful gifts of churches and individuals to meet the financial needs of the staff and ministry.

The space that is usually taken by an article written by myself is given to this change and the needs that accompany it here at BDTLB. These are changes we believe the Lord has orchestrated to further advance our ministry.

Yes, there are requests made within these pages for funds. While I fully sympathize with the thought of, "They want more money again." I also understand that funds are a necessary path to

more ministry opportunities. So yes, I am seeking your partnership in the ministry of BDTLB. Many of you read, and according to your comments, appreciate the sound Bible teaching received. But, many of our subscribers never financially contribute to the ongoing ministry of BDTLB and that is ok as we do not send out the Truth Aflame under a paid subscription. If you benefit spiritually from the articles contained in the Truth Aflame but are unable to contribute we understand and are pleased to continue to send the magazine to you free of charge. We never want anyone to feel an obligation. We, like the Apostle Paul, do not ask anyone to give what they do not have. **For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.**" (2 Cor. 8:12)

Our chief desire is that lost souls would come to a saving relationship with God the Father in Christ Jesus and that the Saints would be edified through the study of God's Word Rightly Divided. To reach that goal we need faithful partners who will pray, and partners who will give, knowing that all that is accomplished through our labors here will be laid to the account in Glory of all who faithfully labored with us. **"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account."** (Phil. 4:17)

I would strongly urge you to read the two letters that follow on the next pages. As you read I ask you to prayerfully consider becoming a partner with us in ministry. A regular financial gift to the ministry, or the ministry of a particular missionary serving under BDTLB will greatly enhance our ability to share the Gospel and see lost souls saved. It may sound very trite but it none-the-less is true; without you, without your prayers, without your faithful giving the ministry of BDTLB will fall silent.





# Bible Doctrines To Live By, Inc.

**A Fundamental, Dispensational, Evangelistic, Publishing and Teaching Ministry**

**Joel R. McGarvey, Executive Director**

P.O. Box 564  
Comstock Park, MI 49321  
Phone: 616.785.3618

Dear Friend and Partner of BDTLB,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I want to invite you to join with the Board of Directors, as well as staff here in the office in Praising the Lord for all that He has and is doing through this ministry. As you probably know, nearly two years ago Pastor Matt Ritchey joined the staff on a part-time basis with the responsibility of developing educational material for children, teens and families. Although he was "part time," Matt has exceeded all expectations and has nearly completed four quarters of teaching materials for young teens. In addition, he has put together a series of follow-up lessons for new believers, written to both children and teens. It has been exciting to see the ministry of BDTLB grow in this often-neglected area. I would ask that you continue to financially support and pray for Matt and his ministry.

When I joined the team of BDTLB, the ministry had a full-time graphic arts individual who designed book and tract covers and handled most of the printing. In 2008 the layout and design work was added to my daily duties, while the printing was primarily handled by Bev. While I have enjoyed doing the work, it has kept me from adequately doing other things associated with my position as Executive Director.

At our fall Board meeting, it was determined that we needed to add a graphic/layout person to the staff and so we began the search. At the same time Bev informed us that she would be departing and so that meant we also had to find someone to take over the printing and other duties she carried on. We began our search for two people to fill these part-time positions. We prayed that the Lord would bring us individuals who had hearts for BDTLB, who shared our vision in ministry and knew the Word of God. God is so good; He brought us one individual who desires to take over both positions.

I want to introduce to you Cindy Lippincott, a woman with a true heart for ministry, a woman who has had a desire to minister in a work such as BDTLB for some time. Many of you may already know Cindy as she is the daughter of Pastor Bill and Kay Russell. She comes with a wide range of experience as you can see in her accompanying letter. We are excited to welcome Cindy to the staff of BDTLB and truly believe that the Lord has brought her to us. Her experience and education will be a real benefit to the overall ministry and we look forward to years of faithful laboring together for the sake of the Gospel.

BDTLB is a missionary endeavor and as with all missionaries the financial needs are met by the faithful financial and prayer support of individuals and churches. In order to continue the ministry, each of us require partners who will pledge to financially support our individual ministries with regular monthly gifts. As Cindy states in her letter, "Even the smallest gift can be multiplied into many blessings." So true.

**"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give:**

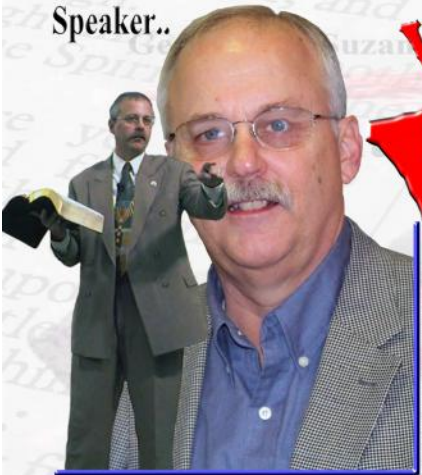
Email: [staff@bibledoctrines.org](mailto:staff@bibledoctrines.org) Fax: 616.785.3327 Web: [www.bibledoctrines.org](http://www.bibledoctrines.org)

***A Missionary Enterprise...Servants of Christ and Stewards of the Mystery***

27th Mid-Atlantic  
**Grace Bible Conference**  
September 15~16, 2016

George & Suzanne Potter

Speaker..



**Ev. Joel R. McGarvey**  
Pastor, Author,  
Conference Speaker

**We've WON**



**The Inn at Reading**  
Wyomissing, PA

**Cost: \$175.00** \$35. deposit due by July 22

1-2 Adults (Includes all fees, Sat. breakfast and lunch.  
Children under 18 stay free. Sat. breakfast \$10.00 ages  
13-18, \$8.00 ages 0-12.  
Additional adults (2 max) \$35. each.

**Call: 616-785-3618** for more details

**All reservations MUST be made through BDTLB**

**Schedule**

**Friday, September 15**

- 4PM Registration
- 6:30 Dinner (on own)
- 8:00 **"Laying the Foundation"**
- 9:00 Fellowship

**Saturday, September 16**

- 7:30 Prayer Group
- 8:00 Breakfast (included)
- 9:15 **"Working Hard"**
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 **Pastor Brent Biller**
- 12:30 Lunch (included)
- 2:00 **Pastor Randy Parker**
- 3:15 Break
- 3:45 **"We've Won"**
- 4:45 Dismissal

**If you live in the PA MD WV VA  
NY NJ CN area we'd love to see  
you. You will enjoy a great time  
of Bible study and fellowship.**

**Available Again**

**\$3.00**

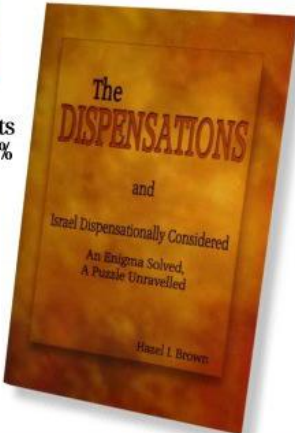
Plus S/H  
MI Residents  
add 6%

First published over 40 years ago, **The DISPENSATIONS** is a true classic and an excellent tool for Bible study. A wonderful tool to introduce your friends to the Word of God Rightly Divided. Dispensational Bible study is truly the key to understanding the Scriptures and the times in which we live. Order your copy or copies *today*.

By: **Hazel Brown**

Bulk Price: (10/\$25.00) (20/\$25.00 plus free shipping)

616-785-3618





when we advertised a sermon series entitled, "Answering the Accusations." I do not know what, if any, fruit was born outside of the assembly, but the saints inside the walls of the church seemed to appreciate the reassurance that the Bible can be trusted. It does have answers for the arguments against it, it is still the power of God unto salvation, and it continues to be important in life. It is with much prayer and consideration that I announce the start of a condensed version of this series that will appear over the next several issues of "Truth Aflame."

My prayer is that these articles will equip you to answer some of the most popular accusations made against God's Word, not so we can win the debate but so people will consider the truth of Jesus Christ. I also pray that these articles will serve to reaffirm your faith in God's Word. The Bible is a Book that can absolutely be trusted, which means the free gift of salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is real, relevant, and life-changing! I know you know this; you have the indwelling Holy Spirit signifying that you are a child of God (Rom. 8:16). Don't you want others to share this same assurance?

Until next time, continue sharing the Word of God and listen to people's questions. Our responsibility is not just to reap the fruit, but also to plant and water. Unfortunately, we don't always see the results of the planting and watering stage. What a wonderful comfort to know we can still trust God to give the increase!

**Volunteers  
Still Needed**

**"Back  
to the  
Future"**

There is a treasure trove of messages delivered by some of "yesterday's" great Grace preachers. These will be lost forever unless we act now. "Back to the Future" seeks to transfer these old messages from deteriorating magnetic tape to a digital format (CD or MP3). This will ensure the power of these messages will be available for generations to come. But it will take many hands, hours, and funds to complete. We NEED YOUR HELP! Your investment of time will reap eternal results. Call our office and say "YES, I want to be a part of the future."

☐ Transfer Studies to CD  
☐ Proofread

☐ Transcribe to Print  
☐ Donate Equipment or Tapes

**Call our Office: 616-785-3618**

**not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."** (2 Cor. 9:7)  
**"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account."** (Phil. 4:17)

The Apostle Paul speaks of giving on several occasions but in the passages cited above he is addressing very specific things. First, the Saint is to give as he has determined to give not as someone demands he gives. Elsewhere he uses the term "willing heart" to address the emotion behind the gift. Second, the request is not made just for a self-serving purpose but rather it brings the whole Body of Christ together in their labor for the Gospel. Not all can go, but all can give and all can pray and the result is those who partner share in the reward.

I would invite you to prayerfully consider the ministry of BDTLB and the staff as you purpose in your heart to give. Join with us as we travel the course the Lord has laid before us. Please join with us in praying for Cindy as she makes this giant step of faith that the Lord will honor and lead her. Pray for her financial support and ask the Lord what part you may have in meeting her goals.

Though we write concerning Cindy, do not forget the remaining staff and their needs as well. If you would like to add Cindy, or any of the Staff to your mission budget, please indicate this on the enclosed return slip.

On behalf of the Board I thank you for your prayerful consideration of this need and your partnership in the Gospel of His rich Grace.

Keep Looking Up!

In Christ,

*Joel R McGarvey*  
Joel R McGarvey

Home Missionary Staff

- Secretary
- Orders
- Printing
- Graphics
- Layout







# Bible Doctrines To Live By, Inc.

**A Fundamental, Dispensational, Evangelistic, Publishing and Teaching Ministry**

**Joel R. McGarvey, Executive Director**

P.O. Box 564  
Comstock Park, MI 49321  
Phone: 616.785.3618

Dear Friend,

*"Now unto HIM, that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus...." Ephesians 3:20*

Years ago God planted in my heart a desire to be a part of Bible Doctrines to Live By. I met Lee and Darlene Homoki and Joel McGarvey, of the Joint-Heirs, when BDLTB began in the 1980s. I appreciated their burden for the unsaved and their desire to expound on the Word of God. Being grounded in the truths of God's Word gives us a stronger foundation, on which to live out its principles, giving power to walk worthy of the Lord, (Colossians 1:10). It was exciting for me also that my second son experienced traveling with Lee and Darlene for a few weeks the summer of his junior year. That definitely had a positive impact on his life and today Nathan is in the pastorate.

As I began looking for full-time employment, I also had a desire for ministry. The "Help Wanted" notice in the Truth Aflame jumped out at me, as God nudged me to apply.

Raised in a Christian home, I was taught salvation and the message given to the Apostle Paul, while I was young. Thankfully, at the age of 10, I trusted Christ as my Savior. Moving to Puerto Rico, where my parents served under Grace Missions, strengthened my walk in the Lord, stirring my desire to serve Him.

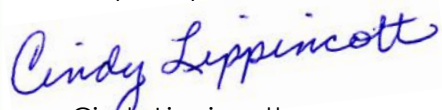
Through 30 years of ministry, God has permitted me to teach women's Bible Studies and Sunday School classes, to direct choirs and lead youth groups, and to do secretarial work, including publicity and outreach. I have had the joy of serving as a Christian school teacher, insurance agent and customer service representative in banking and retail. In 2008, I graduated from St. Louis Bible College and Seminary. Recently I was able to direct OATH, an adoption outreach ministry.

Homeschooling four of my seven children was very rewarding. I have also been blessed with nine precious grandchildren, and another one due in April.

The opportunity for this position is humbling, as it could only take place through the Lord's orchestration. As I step into this new ministry, I would request your prayerful support. Bible Doctrines is a missionary endeavor, so it requires financial support. Our ministry and staff are completely dependent upon the faithful gifts of those who share a concern for reaching the lost for Christ and edifying believers in the Word of God. Prayerfully consider if you could be a part of helping me to become a part of the Bible Doctrines staff. Thanking you in advance for your participation, I am enthusiastic about what God will do. My needed support is set at \$1900 per month. Even the smallest gift can be multiplied into many blessings. I am sure that anything that is accomplished will be through the work and power of Christ alone.

***"Being confident of this very thing that He who has begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6***

Prayerfully,



Cindy Lippincott

Email: [staff@bibledoctrines.org](mailto:staff@bibledoctrines.org) Fax: 616.785.3327 Web: [www.bibledoctrines.org](http://www.bibledoctrines.org)

used items and traditions of His day to teach truths concerning the Kingdom. Prophets were given object lessons to drive home spiritual truth.

In trying to effectively minister to our present culture, it is important that you understand we are no longer speaking to people that have a Biblical foundation. While I am certainly a believer in the perspicuity of Scripture, never assume your audience understands or accepts concepts like: depravity, born spiritually dead, reliability of the Bible, indwelling Holy Spirit and a variety of other doctrines. They are going to want you to show its relevance and its trustworthiness.

How did you feel when I used the phrase, "the perspicuity of Scripture," in the paragraph above? What about the words "adiaphora," "ignominy," "obduracy" and "predilection" from a few paragraphs ago? Now, remember how you felt when reading those words and imagine sitting in an entire service where several of the words and concepts are foreign to your entire worldview. By the way, the perspicuity of Scripture simply means that I believe the Holy Spirit will illuminate people to the truths of God's Word, which should tell you that I believe the Holy Spirit will teach those who are willing to be taught. That is HIS responsibility in the matter. OUR responsibility is to preach the truth in a way our hearers can understand.

Today's culture determines truth by assuming: "All you can believe is what's in your own heart, count on intuition and faith, give up on the idea of truth, have an experience instead."<sup>1</sup> People want to know something is relevant and trustworthy. Oftentimes, we have to begin by planting seeds of doubt in their personal, faulty conclusions and continuing to what can be trusted – the Word of God.

I understand our tendency to want to make pronouncements such as: "God said it. That settles it. I believe it." After all, we are convinced the Bible is God-inspired, truthful, reliable, and relevant in every aspect. We may need a little more time to allow the Holy Spirit to convince others that the Bible is indeed the Word of God. Consider this: the Muslim who sincerely tells you that the Koran is the

word of God, do you believe them? Why or why not? What makes the Bible so different? Do you believe it just because your Sunday School teacher told you so many years ago? These are the questions people are asking. When you tell them not to worry about such matters, you are telling them that we have a blind faith that cannot be rationalized. This is not true! There are many aspects of God and His Word that we just have to accept by faith, but the foundations of our faith (inspiration, salvation, sanctification), while the totality of them comes down to trust, does not exist without logic and proof.

You are never going to convince the one whose mind is set against God; the Holy Spirit can certainly convince them though, so keep sharing those Scriptures. You may be used, however, to get someone searching for honest answers into the Word of God for the Spirit to work.

Making our job of sharing the Gospel more difficult are the various accusations against God's Word that are readily available to the person looking for an excuse to discredit God's Word. Such accusations sound very troubling on the surface and have led many to give up on God. The person who has swallowed these accusations is not going to respond to threats of Hell if they don't believe in Hell anyway, or someone stating "the Bible is true" in a loud voice. Listen, if the Bible is truly profitable for life, it will have the answers we need to address people's concerns. Therefore, it should not surprise us to learn that the Bible does have answers for the accusations claimed against it. This approach takes patience, persistence, and gentleness.

I am not suggesting you to stop preaching the truth of God's Word. I am not instructing you to hide the authority of God's Word. I am asking you to consider that most unchurched people and even some in the church have doubts about the reliability and relevancy of the Bible. You need to help them with their questions. It is not your job to convince them; that responsibility relies with the Holy Spirit. It **IS** your job to always be ready to give an answer for the Hope that is in us.

A few years ago, I was a pastor in Beloit, Wisconsin

***A Missionary Enterprise...Servants of Christ and Stewards of the Mystery***





"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

1 Peter 3:15

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

Colossians 4:6

Many of you grew up in a day when most in society had a Biblical foundation. Holidays still had a religious focus, businesses were closed on Sundays, there was a Bible in most homes, and church attendance was a given. You had the advantage of sharing the gospel with people who, for the most part, accepted God's existence. This does not mean that everything in society was God-honoring, but the presence of God was assumed. Yes, there have always been adamant deniers, but nothing like the society we live in today. The shift from God-acknowledging has been taking place over several decades, but I think it is safe to say that the Biblical foundation has been gone from American society for many years. Society now operates on the assumption that God is not real, and if He does exist, He is not significant to every day life. Currently, most individuals have very little, if any, knowledge of the Scriptures, including professing Christians. This is particularly true of younger adults and teenagers; the very generations who will soon enough determine the focus of

society. Yet, the Scriptures are still as relevant and life-giving today as they were when God inspired the writers to record them.

For readers of *Truth Aflame*, it is no secret that believers in Christ's finished redemption are instructed to tell others the good news. I would like to implore you to consider the audience with whom you are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. As a pastor, I am aware that there is, or should be, more to planning a sermon than picking a topic to preach on for a certain week. A good speaker must always speak the truth, but the presentation of the truth needs to be effective for his particular audience. The way we construct sentences may be fine for some audiences, while not as efficient for a different audience. For example, "the ascertaining of adiaphora should not be formed by ignominy, obduracy nor predilection" is not going to be a good sentence for Sunday School classes. However, "Eve ate fruit. Adam ate too. Sin is bad." is probably not going to captivate your adult audience on Sunday morning.

We need to know the audience with whom we are sharing the truth. Paul took this into account in his Gospel presentations (1 Cor. 9:20-22), and we know his fluid presentation did not mean that he was watering down the truth (1 Cor. 9:23a). When preaching to the Jew, he showed the redemption of Christ in the Law (Acts 17:2-3). When preaching to the polytheist, He spoke of the true Creator-God Who sent His Son to spare us from judgment (Acts 17:22-31). Jesus did the same in His ministry when He

**The answer is NO, NO, NO!** Recently some of you received a letter from the Berean Bible Institute stating that Pastor Matthew Ritchey had agreed to help in several areas of that ministry. Matt graduated from the BBI and served as a Pastor for nearly ten years in Wisconsin before accepting his current position as the Associate Director of Bible Doctrines To Live By, Inc. (Matt is also currently pastoring the Croton Community Church on a part-time basis.) Over the years Matt has served on the Board of the BBI and upon accepting the position here at BDTLB he was given the okay to continue in that association. BDTLB is pleased to stand with Matt and the BBI in their ongoing training up of Pastors, Missionaries and church workers in the Word of God Rightly Divided. We count it a privilege to have Matt as a part of our staff and are extremely pleased with the knowledge, skill and work that he has brought to this ministry. His labors are beginning to spring forth real fruit and we know the Lord is truly blessing His faithful service. But Matt's time and work with the BBI is limited, but none-the-less an essential part of that ministry.

So **NO**, Matt has not, and is not planning to leave BDTLB. We thank all of those who currently support Matt through your financial gifts and prayers.



## McGarvey's Itinerary

### JUNE

11-16	VBS	Grace Family Bible Church	Duncansville, PA
18		Victory Bible Church	Apollo, PA
22-25	VBS	Union Church	Fulton, KY

### JULY

2		Old Bethel Bible Church	Alpha, KY
9-14	Conf	Grace Bible Fellowship	Clear Brook, VA
16-21	VBS	Grace Bible Fellowship	Ridgeley, WV
23		Grace Bible Church	Indianapolis, IN
24-28	VBS	Douglas Bible Church	Oxford, WI
30-4	VBS	Lakeview Bible Church	Carter Lake, IA

### AUGUST

6-11	VBS	Grace Bible Church	Oshkosh, WI
13-18	VBS	Friendship Bible Church	Friendship, WI
20-25	VBS	Croton Community Church	Croton, MI

### SEPTEMBER

15-16	Mid-Atlantic Grace Bible Conf.	Reading, PA (see ad)
-------	--------------------------------	----------------------





"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the **Law of the Spirit** of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the Law of Sin and Death" (Romans 8:1).

The Holy Spirit is identified as God. He has no name given to Him except for descriptive names like: "Comforter," "Intercessor," "Consoler," "Advocate." He is also called the *Spirit of God, Spirit of Truth, Spirit of Life, Spirit of Adoption, Spirit of Promise* and the *Spirit of Grace*.

I do not know of any verse of Scripture that would be more central or would focus more attention on answering the question: "**What is the Holy Spirit doing today?**" In fact, Romans Chapter 8 is foundational for understanding the work and the ministry of God the Holy Spirit today. Here, in this verse, we are introduced to the "**Law of the Spirit!**"

**The Law of the Spirit!** Whoever heard of the **Law of the Spirit** before this? Prior to this, the focus was always on the Law of Moses. Now here, in the New Testament, unexpectedly, we have a NEW LAW - **the Law of the Spirit, with new information! NO!** The Holy Spirit is not being ignored nor has He hid His works in the Old Testament, even though the phase Holy Spirit occurs only three times in the Old Testament. His work is, nevertheless, evidenced there; consider Genesis 1:2, 6:3, and Job 25:13, Isaiah 32:15, 11:1-5, 42:1-9 Numbers 27:18, Judges 3:10, 6:34, 13:25, 14:6, and Ezekiel 2:2. Comparing the Old Testament and New Testaments, it is obvious that God has shifted gears (Progressive

Revelation) with NEW and multiple manifestations of God the Holy Spirit with this **new law**. Think of the millions of believers in Acts 19:3 who, "Had not so much as heard whether there is any Holy Ghost." Who would have ever anticipated a **Law of the Spirit - a Law that would set us free from the Law of Sin and Death?**

What is the Holy Spirit doing today? Well, for one thing, the Holy Spirit gives the believing sinner a standing of righteousness before God, something which **could never** have been accomplished through the energy and activity of the flesh.

"For what the **Law could not do**, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin condemned sin in the flesh; that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk** not after the flesh, but **after the Spirit**" (Rom. 8:3- 4).

"For they that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after **the Spirit, the things of the Spirit**; for to be carnally minded is death but to be spiritually minded [to be controlled by the Spirit] is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity [opposed to] against God; for it is not subject to [not under the authority] the Law of God, neither, indeed, can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if so be that the **Spirit of God** dwell in you" (Rom. 8:5-9a).

Think of it! Who had ever heard it? Who had ever

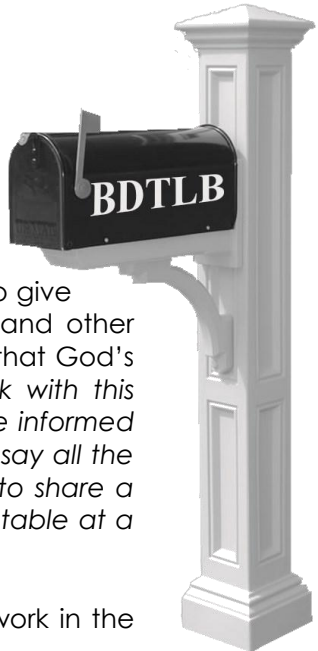
working and laboring for souls to be saved. **It is needed! We need to rekindle the flame!** I have a responsibility to be an ambassador for Christ and also the Sunday School teachers, the Board members, the members of the Church. There will never be a time when we stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and be able to come up with one excuse for not giving the gospel to the lost. We'll not be able to say, "Well, Lord, I didn't know you wanted me to be a soul winner." **You cannot divorce the ministry of the Holy Spirit from God's interest in souls.** That is where it all starts. Pastor J.C. O'Hair used to say, "Listen, you cannot teach them until you win them." The fact that we have a ministry of God the Holy Spirit is the fact that, "God is not willing that any should perish" (2 Pet. 3:9). And, oh, I pray, "Dear God, give us a revival." I'm saying that to myself. I need a revival in my heart, a new interest, a new enthusiasm, a new zeal.

**That's what the Holy Spirit is doing today!**

## From the Mailbag

We received a call from a fellow in TN who received one of our tracts, "My Life Was Saved by a Blood Donor." It wasn't clear where he had acquired the tract but he was curious about what it was about. It gave Beverly the opportunity to give him the gospel on the phone and then we sent him several gospel tracts and other materials. For those who think tracts are old fashion, here is another example that God's Word is what convicts the heart – not us. (Editor: We were able to speak with this gentleman again and inquired as to how it was that he received the tract. He informed us that he had found it lying in a laundry mat. This serves to support things we say all the time. First, Gospel tracts have not gone out of style. Second, it is not difficult to share a tract. It can be as easy as handing it to an individual or even placing it on a table at a restaurant or a washing machine.)

"Thank you for all the hard work all year long, and may you keep the hard work in the New Year. We pray for you every day. Thank you."





wonders. Do you know that the Kingdom is going to be a happy, joy-filled place because every believer will be indwelt, empowered, and associated with the ministry of God the Holy Spirit? I'll tell you what - the Kingdom is going to be great!! Why? Because it is in fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.

Now, you and I will not feel the enjoyment of the Millennial Kingdom like the nation of Israel. Why? Because we are members of the Church, the Body of Christ and we have a different inheritance and a different promise. I'm not saying we will not be celebrating with the Kingdom saints but not in the same sense as Israel; i.e., the Church, the Body of Christ will reign with Christ, "*seated with Him in the heavenly places*" (Eph. 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10) far above the earthly Kingdom! But Oh!! Never minimize God's blessings and promises to Israel! God promised them, in the Abrahamic, Davidic, Palestinian, and the New Covenant, things that are way beyond our ability to comprehend. And, when God pours out His Spirit upon all believing flesh, it is going to be like Heaven on earth. It's the Golden Age!

Unbelievers will NEVER SEE or enjoy the Kingdom. The modernist, the liberal, the unsaved educator, the atheistic leaders of the world governments, unconverted health officials who work for a world without disease, sickness, poverty, ignorance, illiteracy - a world without God - the unbeliever WILL NEVER SEE it because *they* "sought it not by faith" (Rom. 9:32) in the resurrected Christ and through the unregenerate nation of Israel. Again, they will never see the Kingdom!

During the Kingdom there will be a great spiritual awakening. One of the reasons being - **the Devil is gone** (Rev. 20:2)! He's locked up for 1,000 years and the demons are removed from the earth. Can you imagine what this would be like right now if the Devil and the demons were gone? Yes, the Kingdom will result in a great spiritual revival - A great knowledge of the Bible. In Ezekiel Chapters 35 and 36 it says that the Holy Spirit will gather godly men, like the sacrificial flocks. Multitudes of men will be saved in the Millennium. Everybody going into the Millennium is saved at the start. The Lord Jesus Christ will sit in the Temple and He will be filled with the Holy Spirit (Isa. 11:2) and the Lord Jesus, the King of Kings and

Lord of Lords will also teach Bible doctrine daily. Talk about a teacher! The Lord Jesus will do it. The Bible says that the "*earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea*" (Isa. 11:9) ... the filling of the Holy Spirit!

### Conclusion

Now, I pray for what they used to call, in my youth, a *Heaven-sent, spontaneous. Holy Spirit Revival.*" Wouldn't it be wonderful if America would turn back to God? Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a God consciousness in our community? Wouldn't it be wonderful if you would pick up the paper and have an awareness that even those who are making the news are interested in God and surrendering to God's plan? Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a revival? You know it happened once in America. There was a time when people realized that without God we would perish as a nation. There was a time when people got on their knees and prayed as believers. God help us to know the Word of God. God help us to preach to Word. God help us to be soul winners. You know there was a great revival, great soul winning when hundreds and thousands of churches were built and modernism was set back. Our Grace-Movement churches were planted during that time of controversy between liberalism and fundamentalism. We need that kind of revival again! I pray believers will get serious about the things of God, to study the Word of God and to be Spirit-filled soul winners.

Do you know we are all supposed to be soul winners? Now, we know that we are not operating under the Great Commission but we have a Pauline Commission (2 Cor. 5:14-21). To whom, do you suppose God gave the ministry of reconciliation? He gave it to us - the Church, the Body of Christ! Not only corporately but individually. We are to be ministers of reconciliation - not just the preacher, evangelist, choir leader, Sunday School teacher, Church Board member – BUT EVERYBODY. You know it is going to take that. We are not only going to have to preach Pauline truth but we are going to have to practice it. Every believer has a responsibility to do what God has given to us: a commission to be ministers of reconciliation. This is what we are to do. That is one of the reasons why we are praying,

dreamed that every believer could be indwelt by the Holy Spirit?

"Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His and If Christ be in you the body is dead because of sin, but the **Spirit is Life** because of righteousness. But **if the Spirit** of Him that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also give life *[quicken, make alive]* to your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors *[we are in debt]* not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye **through the Spirit** do mortify *[put to death]* the deeds of the body, ye shall live; For as many as are led by the **Spirit of God** they are the *[adult]* sons of God; For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of Adoption** *[the placing of an adult son]* whereby we cry, Abba Father *[dear Father]*. **The Spirit** Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children *[born ones]* of God" (Rom. 8:9b-16).

### **The Holy Spirit's Ministry is Progressively Revealed**

Just as salvation is dependent on faith and trust in the finished work of Christ alone, so also the believer is dependent upon the work and ministry of God the Holy Spirit for growth, blessing, victory and power in our life.

From a historical viewpoint, "Progressive Revelation" is a stage on which the dispensational actions are performed. It is important for us to see that, as history unfolds, the Holy Spirit's work and His ministry has NOT ALWAYS been revealed in total or at a singular moment in time. For example, we do not see the Holy Spirit working today as He once worked in the past. Neither will He work in the future as He is working today. The Bible is an inspired Book and the ministry of the Holy Spirit becomes increasingly full and meaningful by following this Great Highway, verse by verse, in order to accumulate the full knowledge of His ministry.

For example: "For *the Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*" (Jn. 1:17; 14:16-17; 26:16-24). This is a matter of what we call "Progressive Revelation" (Heb. 1:1-2). Things are different now! Our salvation is NOW based on faith in the shed blood of Christ and not in the blood of bulls and goats. Today our worship is NOT based on the Law, ceremonies, or rituals but on the work of the Holy Spirit. When we observe closely the **process of revelation**, we will see the close connection between dispensationalism and interpretation.

God had a stewardship program that, as time unfolds, has changed. If we miss that, then a great deal of misunderstanding occurs simply because the ministry of the Holy Spirit has not been recognized or dealt with on the basis of Progressive Revelation. And, there are, of course, times when the Holy Spirit's ministry does change with the changing of the dispensation and sometimes not. Many people know what the Holy Spirit is **not doing** but how many of us know what He **is doing** today?

"Seeing then that we have such hope we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, but the children of *Israel could* not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished; but that minds were blinded; for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that **Spirit**, and where the **Spirit of the Lord** is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:12-17).

I believe acknowledging "Progressive Revelation" is necessary to arrive at correct Biblical interpretation! Certainly a great deal of confusion concerning the person and work of the Holy Spirit is eliminated if, like in other areas of Bible Doctrine, we would "rightly divide" the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15). Remember, today the Holy Spirit reveals Himself in ways distinct from dispensations in the past: we are living in a new dispensation - The "Dispensation of Grace" - The Mystery (Eph. 3:2). If this is true, it is of absolute, supreme importance if we are to know **what the Holy**



Spirit is doing today.

The Holy Spirit's Pre-Cross Ministry

The Old Testament saints had the promise of the Holy Spirit; many times this promise is repeated (Jer. 31 and 33; Joel 2). They had been promised that the Messiah and His Kingdom would come in a future age; then God the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all believers. Jesus said that: "...you being evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children how much more shall your Father in Heaven give you the Holy Spirit **if you ask Him**" (Lk. 11:13). During this period of time they had the offer - **if you will ask, you will get**. But you know what? Those stubborn Disciples didn't have any more spiritual insight, depth, and perception than many Christians today ... when the gift was offered they refused it! Can you imagine, the Disciples did not ask to be filled or to have the Holy Spirit? Therefore, the Lord Jesus asked on their behalf. He said: "*The Father and I will ask Him to send you the Comforter*" (Jn. 14:16). Then finally the Lord Jesus said: "*He breathed on them and said receive ye the Holy Spirit*" (Jn. 20:22); and so, they received the Holy Spirit in a special way. Do you think anybody receives the Holy Spirit that way today? NO, NOT SO! But, thank the Lord, they received the Holy Spirit in a unique fashion - which was the exception to the rule!!

Now, during the pre-Cross ministry of Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, the Twelve, the Seventy, and the Holy Spirit announced the "*Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*." Throughout that time, they had a three-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit of how the believer ought to live: 1) **born of the Spirit**; 2) **walking in the Spirit**; and 3) **working in the Spirit** - "...not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the LORD of hosts" (Zech. 4:6).

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was **with** all believers but He was not **in** all believers. In fact, it was not God's intention for every Old Testament believer to have the Holy Spirit. No provision was made! Furthermore, in the Old Testament no instruction was ever given to show how an Old Testament believer might have the Holy Spirit. In fact, God's program in that day was to dwell

among men in the Tabernacle/Temple. The exception was the Prophet Elijah, who prayed to have the Holy Spirit and was indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's Post-Cross Ministry - After Pentecost

We do not have any other, real or lasting offer of the Kingdom until after the Cross. In fact, that is the whole testimony of the Book of Acts. Christ had gone into a "*far country to receive for Himself a Kingdom, and to return*" (Lk. 19:12). However, the citizens and the rulers hated Him saying, "*We will not have this man to reign over us*" (Lk. 19:14). They hated Him and persecuted His followers. They imprisoned them: Stephen was stoned to death and James was killed by a sword!

The Book of Acts is the offer of the Kingdom and the Jews and the nation of Israel repeatedly said, "No! No! No!" (Rom. 1:18-32) until finally, God gives them up saying, "*Lo, we turn to the Gentiles*" (Acts 13:46; 18:6, 28). The promised Kingdom is in suspension, and will not come until judgment is poured out at the "*great and terrible day of the Lord*" (Rev. 8:9; Mt. 24:29-31).

During this period of time, God has promised a baptism by the Holy Spirit which came packaged with miracles, signs, and wonders: "*a pouring out of the Holy Spirit on all flesh*" (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17). Pastor Otis Wasson called this "*The Second Coming of the Holy Spirit*." These great manifestations of the Holy Spirit pointed forward to the coming Kingdom. God made this promise of the Kingdom to Abraham and the nation of Israel. This is the reason why we have over 100 recorded miracles, signs and wonders in the Book of Acts. It was like a flashing, warning light saying, "**The Kingdom is coming! The Kingdom is Coming!**" However, by way of opposition, the Antichrist's working in the Tribulation will be according to "*the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders*" (2 Thess. 2:9) and will stand in bold contrast to the Holy Spirit's mighty miracle ministry.

The Book of Hebrews records the Jews living on the Day of Pentecost "*were made partakers of the Holy*

**Continued from page 10**

*Ghost, and have tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come*" (Heb. 6:5). Notice they **only tasted**: it was a foretaste. The full ministry must yet await the coming of the Kingdom of God. This was a very special ministry of God the Holy Spirit, especially addressed to the nation of Israel. Now there were those who are anxious to have the work and power of the Holy Spirit (and rightly so!) who were taught that you can ask for the Holy Spirit and He will give Him to you - like on the Day of Pentecost. **No, you can't! Not today!** There are thousands of people, who, on Sunday morning, will kneel at an altar or go to a prayer closet and pray saying, "*Dear God, please give me the Holy Spirit*" - **You can't get Him that way!**

Furthermore, once you have the Holy Spirit you cannot lose Him as was possible in the Old Testament. This was King David's concern because of the heavy burden of his sin of adultery and murder. He prayed, "*Lord, take not Thy Spirit from me*" (Psa. 51). This was David's confessional to God of personal sin and said to be one of the greatest confessionals that has ever been written; in the Old Testament they could lose the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's Ministry in the Tribulation

Now, I want to skip over the Church Age because that is what we want to talk about in more detail. But I want you to see in contrast the whole picture before we come to what the Holy Spirit is doing today.

The day will come when the Body of Christ will be removed from the earth (1 Thess. 4:16-18), by the beginning of seven years of tribulation on the earth. The Tribulation is a time when God's wrath will be poured out on the earth (Mt. 24:21-29). During the Tribulation period, the Holy Spirit is removed. At the Rapture the sanctifying restraint on sin reverts to an Old Testament form of ministry. He will only indwell and empower a few, such as some workmen: a king, prophet or a priest, but that is all. You think the conditions of the work are bad today, you haven't seen anything yet. The Tribulation will be the Devil and the demons' heyday! In the Tribulation period, the Holy Spirit will empower, indwell, seal, anoint,

and protect only a few. For example: 1) the 144,000 Jews (*not Jehovah's Witnesses*); and 2) the Two Witnesses.

At the end of the Tribulation period, we have an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and immediately after the Tribulation, **all Jews will be saved**. "*And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob*" (Rom. 11:26).

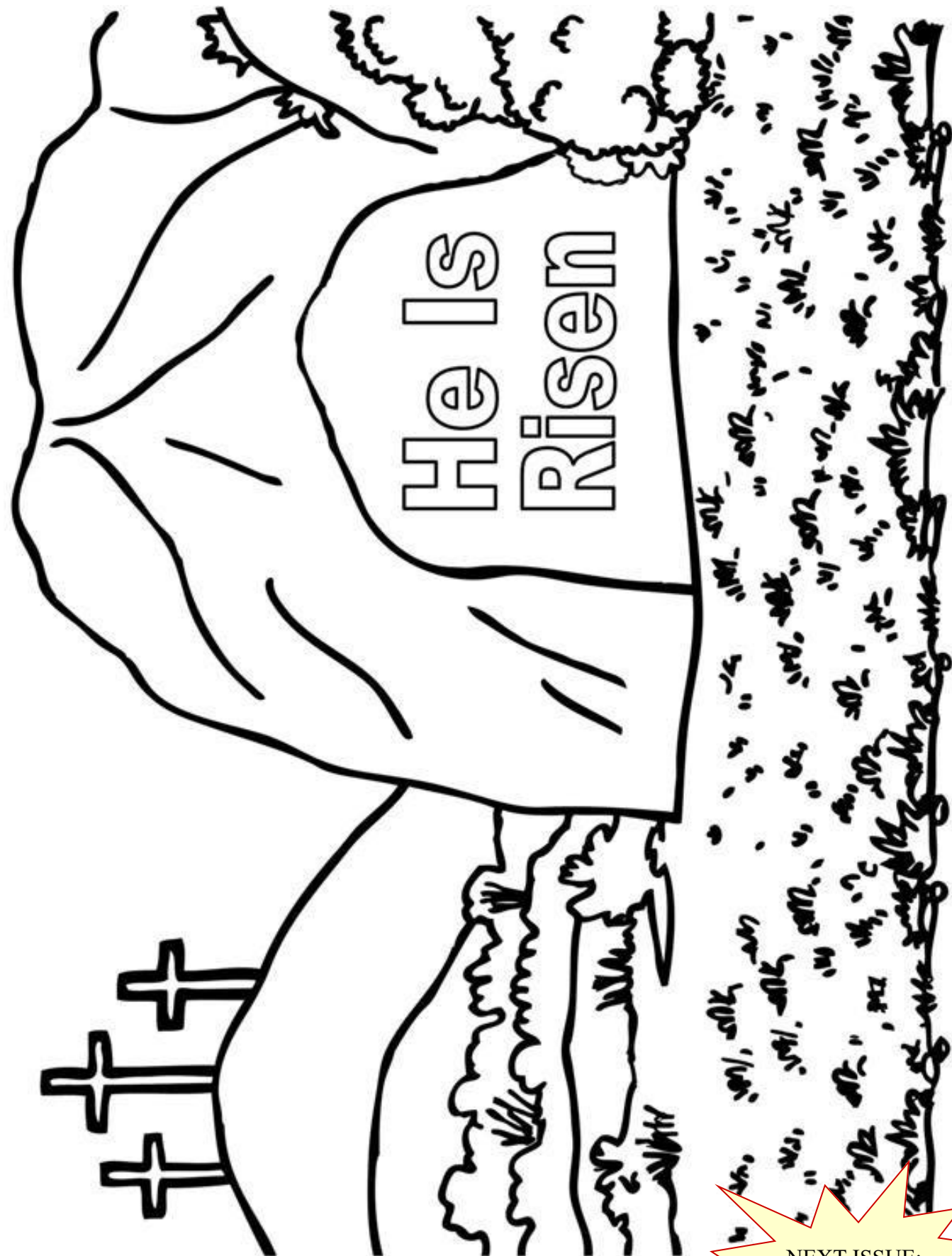
**I believe that in the Tribulation period** (*the time of Jacob's trouble* - Jer. 30:7), Israel will be saved spiritually and then, likely, toward the end of the Tribulation period, they will be gathered nationally, at which time, God said that Israel will pray and "*before they call I will answer*." "*Call upon Me and I will show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not*" (Jer. 33:3). God says that a soon as they pray, God will deliver them from the oppressing armies and "*will pour out His Spirit upon them and their sons and their daughters will dream dreams and have visions*" (Acts 2:17).

A lot of people want to have dreams and visions today and that God will speak to them through a dream or vision. **Not so! Not according to the ministry of the Holy Spirit today!** I don't know where or how people get these dreams or visions. Now, I have dreams, occasionally, but it usually is the result of having eaten sauerkraut and wieners before I went to bed. Or, it could be caused by some mediation, or some traumatic, psychological, emotional experience. And, if someone were to look me in the eye and say they had a vision, I'd never say I don't believe you because I believe they did. But, I do know one thing - it was, not at all, like the dreams and visions God the Holy Spirit gives! It had nothing to do with the ministry of the Holy Spirit today - NOTHING!

The Holy Spirit's Ministry in the Kingdom

There will come a time when a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit will begin (which is the baptism by the Holy Spirit). There was a foretaste of it on the Day of Pentecost. However, when the Kingdom comes, the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit will be fulfilled. The world hasn't seen anything like this yet when it comes to miracles, signs and





NEXT ISSUE:  
"Our Hero"

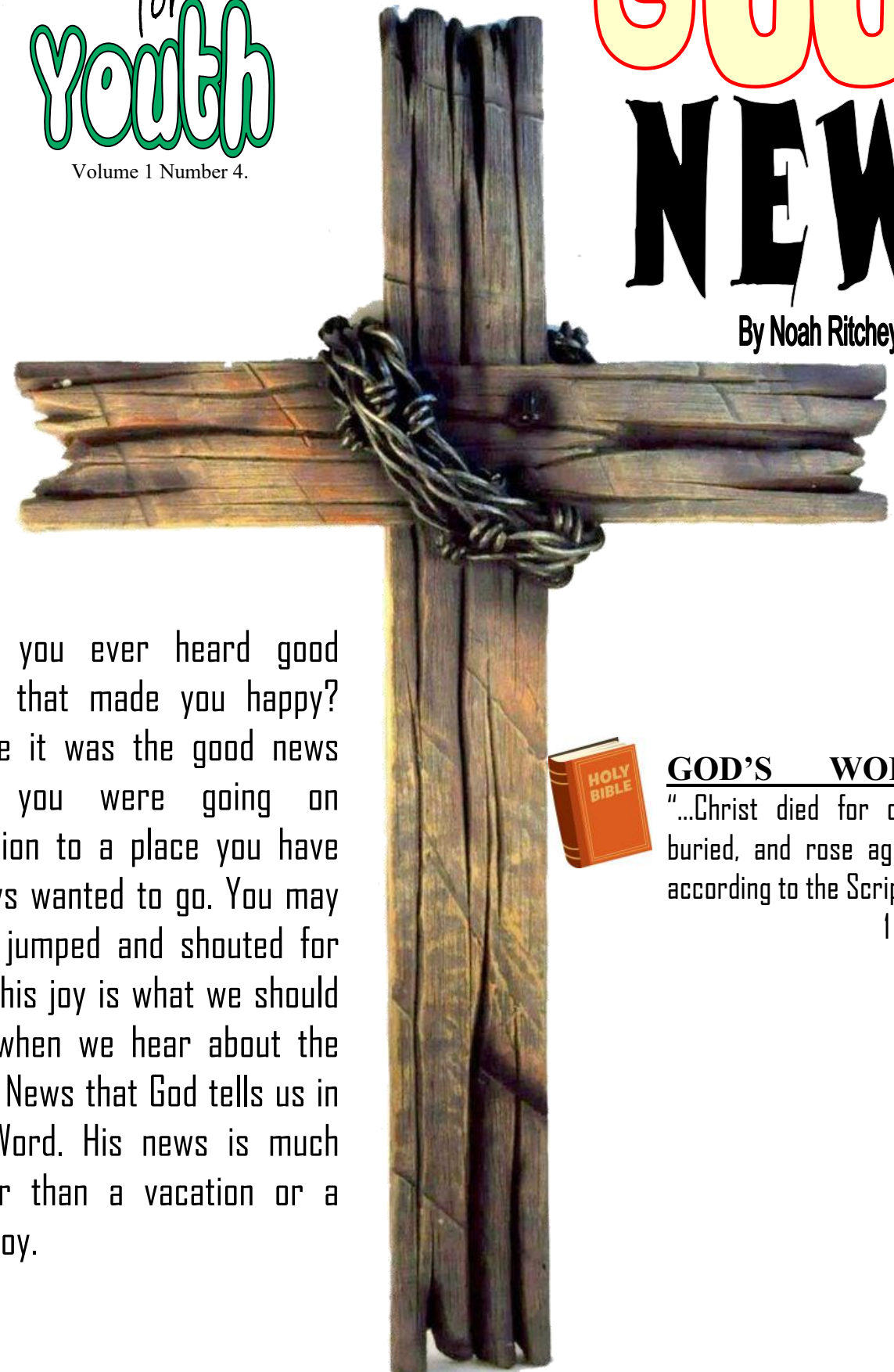
TRUTH

for  
youth

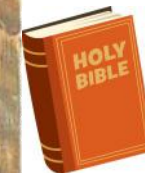
Volume 1 Number 4.

# GOOD NEWS

By Noah Ritchey



Have you ever heard good news that made you happy? Maybe it was the good news that you were going on vacation to a place you have always wanted to go. You may have jumped and shouted for joy. This joy is what we should feel when we hear about the Good News that God tells us in His Word. His news is much better than a vacation or a new toy.



## GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"...Christ died for our sins...He was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4



# The Bad News



"You....were dead in trespasses and sins..."  
Ephesians 2:1



First, the bad news. Adam and Eve were the first people God created, but they disobeyed God. When they did, sin entered the world. Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory." You were born spiritual dead in trespasses and sins. This is bad news! God cannot allow sin into Heaven, and all of us were born sinners.

# The Sad News



"Christ died for the ungodly"  
Romans 5:6

Next, the sad news. The perfect Son of God had to come to the earth as a newborn baby. Jesus Christ came to die for the sins of everyone in the world. He was beaten, made fun of, whipped, and spit on. Then, He was nailed to a cross. He hung there for hours in pain. Finally, He said, "It is finished." They stabbed Him with a spear to make sure He was dead.



# The Good News



GOD'S WORD SAYS: "But now is Christ risen from the dead..."  
1 Corinthians 15:20

They took Jesus' body, buried Him, and sealed the tomb. Soldiers were placed at the tomb to make sure no one stole Jesus' body. After three days had passed, Jesus rose from the dead. The stone was rolled away, and Jesus walked out of the tomb. He had risen from the grave and defeated death!



GOD'S WORD SAYS: "God demonstrated His loved toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."  
Romans 5:8

God loved us and sent His Son to die for our sins on the cross, be buried and come back to life. We can be forgiven and have a home in Heaven if we will just trust in Jesus Christ. Have you trusted in Him?

