



## To the POINT

Joel R. McGarvey

This article may not be as long as most, but I have been thinking of this issue for some time and wanted to take this opportunity to share a few thoughts on a most important question. So, let's just get to the point.

**Q.** What must I do to be saved?

This issue may seem strange to our regular BDTLB family, but it is one, nevertheless, of utmost importance. We live in an era where clarity on this subject is muddled by a wide variety of answers. A simple search on social media reveals a mind-boggling number of answers. This should not be a surprise, for man from the beginning of time has sought to reach God on man's terms rather than that which was established by God. Cain is an excellent example of a religious individual approaching a Holy God with a sacrifice, but not the offering God had required; rather, he offered the fruit of his own hands, i.e., his own way. After all, this is what religion (used here as "a man-made approach to God in contrast to God's revealed Word") has always done from the very beginning of time. Cain slew his brother Abel over the rejection of his sacrifice, which was not what God had requested (Gen. 4:1-8). As one takes in "Christian" broadcasting, you'll hear things such as: "Believe in Jesus," "Believe in God," "Believe that Jesus died for your sins," even, "Just love God." No list would be complete without, "Pray with me as we pray together the Sinner's Prayer." Or finally, "Just ask Jesus into your heart." But, are any of these the Gospel, the Good News of salvation? Where can any of them be found in the Word of God?

Before we begin to answer the question, it is imperative that we make one additional point. A phrase that we use so very often, "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth", fully applies to the Gospel of God's saving grace. To illustrate this point, listen to the response of Jesus (Luke 18:18-22) when asked, "...*Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*" I believe we can all agree that the inquiry was how this young man could be saved. Now note Jesus' response: "*Thou knowest the commandments (Mosaic Law) Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor thy father and mother.*" Jesus' initial response was to keep the Law. But when the inquirer

stated that he had done all of that, Jesus added, "...*sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor...*". If this young man followed the words of Jesus he would have "*treasure in Heaven,*" Is this the Good News, the Gospel for today? Is this what you would share with an individual desirous of Heaven?

But wait, listen to Jesus' instructions to the Apostles as He gave to them the so-called "Great Commission" (Mark 16:15-16). "*And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*" Here Jesus' words seem to be crystal clear, the Gospel the Apostles were being told to preach involved a belief, followed by a baptism, resulting in a salvation. [The Greek translation makes this clear. "*The one, having believed (completed action) and having been baptized (completed action) will be saved (future, in that it follows the previous actions).*" Jesus' words can't be any plainer, stating that an individual *must* believe and be baptized in order to be saved.

If we are to take the words of Jesus (WWJD) and apply them to the present age in which we are living, the Gospel of Salvation is very clear, "*Keep the Law,*" "*Sell your possessions and give them to the poor,*" and "*believe and be baptized.*" But is this the Gospel? Not if one truly "Rightly Divides" the Scripture and understands the unique role the Apostle Paul plays in this age of Grace.

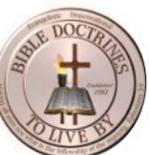
Only the Gospel of the Grace of God saves today. How does the Apostle Paul outline the Gospel for today in his writings? It is best presented in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4;

*"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand:*

*By which also ye are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

*For I delivered unto you first of all 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:"*



Here the Apostle makes it very clear that the gospel is something he "received." Received from whom? Note **Galatians 1:11-12**: "**But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received of man, neither was I taught it [by man], but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.**" Paul makes the claim that the gospel he preaches was kept a secret until it was revealed to him by the ascended Lord Jesus Christ. "**Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world (ages and ages of time) began**" (**Romans 16:25-26**). Paul presents the glorious truth that Christ died for our sins, that He paid the price of sin through His shed blood (**Rom. 3:25**), that He was buried, that He bore away the sin of man, and that He rose again for our justification (**Rom. 4:25**). You see, friends, this is **the** Gospel of salvation. It is the full expression of what Christ accomplished on the behalf of mankind. Christ fully accomplished what man, in all of his religion or self-effort, could never achieve for himself. Don't try to short-change the Gospel of salvation, since there is too much riding on it-- eternity.

But what about his words to the Philippian jailer? I hear this one too often. So let's just see what it says. "**...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**" Pretty simple, straightforward question. How did Paul answer him? "**...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.**" So then I am told, "Just believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" like Paul said. But is this really the end of the story, or does the text add more information? What does it say? "**And they (Paul and Silas) spake unto him the word of the Lord...**" Now what do you think may have been included in that message? Well, if we back up in Paul's ministry a few years, we find that in Antioch in Pisidia Paul's first recorded sermon is presented. Note **Acts 13:28-29**, "**...that he should be slain. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid Him in a sepulcher, But God raised Him from the dead.**" Now as we move forward we see Paul calling this "**glad tidings**" (good news) (**vs.31**). If that's the good news, the glad tidings, **the gospel**, don't you think this is what Paul told the Philippian jailer when he inquired as to what he had to do to be saved? Yes, the jailer had to believe, but believe what? This is more than simply believing. What if one is

told and believes the wrong thing?

Once the Apostle Paul began to preach his message of good news, the Gospel never altered. No, the death, burial and resurrection are not mentioned in each presentation of a message by Paul, but does the Word of God record every word ever spoken? Of course not. Once we know what Paul's Gospel was/is let's not deviate from it simply because the three things are not mentioned in every passage. For instance, **Romans 4:5** states: "**But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly his faith is counted for righteousness.**" Are we not justified through the finished work of Christ and the cross? "**...if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences (isn't the death and burial implied here?) and was raised (resurrection) for our justification**" (**Rom. 4:24-25**).

To the point, the Gospel of the Grace of God is **the** Gospel for this age of Grace in which we live and is found **only** in the writings of the Apostle Paul. Phrases such as, "Ask Jesus into your heart" or "Ask Jesus to live in your heart" are never found anywhere in Scripture. Nowhere in Scripture is anyone ever asked to pray a Sinner's Prayer. The **only way of salvation** today is in the faith, trust, and belief in the finished work of Christ - His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is not found simply in believing in Jesus or God (**James 2:19**). Salvation is not gained through a love of God, or laboring for God (a.k.a. works, see **Eph. 2:8-9**).

Do not allow those who don't "believe the way I do" dissuade you from sharing the true Gospel, their eternity depends on it. There is but one way to have the assurance of a place in Glory and that is by placing one's faith, trust, belief in that finished work of Christ on their behalf - His death, burial, and resurrection. Satan works hard to deceive the lost (**2 Cor. 4:3-4**), often by convincing them that what they believe is correct. Don't allow Satan's deception to turn you away from sharing the Gospel.



Look who became  
**GREAT GRANDPARENTS**  
 Jasmine Iris Klahn  
 June 25, 2022  
 Zach & Elise (Turner) Klahn

# The MAILBAG

The Bible conference on June 25, 2022 was a great encouragement to believers of Right Division here in Camarines Norte. Copies of Tagalog booklets ("The Mystery" by Ptr Joel McGarvey) were given to visitors and members of different churches. The printing is good - readable!

I will bring copies to the Grace Christian Church in Nabua, San Jose, congregation and Abucayan church and Body of Christin Labo. It is our prayer that every one who receives and reads it will grow spiritually.

**Percival** (a brother we have made contact with in the Philippines)

I pray this finds you all busy, healthy and serving our Lord. Summer is upon us! I'm sure you are moving fast to get everything done and keep the VBS schedule moving. Thank you for all you do and please keep up the Lord's work.

Prayers for you all,

Our Precious Wonderful Savior is Worthy

**OH**

Greetings! PTL for saved souls this summer.

Continue to pray for our group. We talk to lots of folks...share our invites. Some say they will come...but don't. God is faithful.

We enjoy your Facebook and YouTube ministries when we can get them.

**N.C.**

Greetings to all,

The days are growing shorter, the nights are getting cooler, leaves are starting to turn orange, red, and yellow. All the signs that fall is quickly approaching! As Grace believers we don't look for signs but we do look for our Savior!! Living in anticipation of His return we keep our lives here filled with His service. We thank God and pray for you all as we labor together.

**Love, IL**

Wow, with all my heart I thank God for this. Just to let you know Ptr. McGarvey I have been giving my life to the ministry since I was in high school and I grow at the same time learning the truth rightly dividing. A Bible woman impacted my life when I was in grade three during VBS..... I usually do VBS in the mountains making my own materials. My husband worked in any way he could earn to support my VBS. When our 3 sons were grown up we moved in the city. Still I am engaged in the ministry. Now in my small way, I make visual aid to help other Sunday school teachers. I have gone to 1 month training under CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP. So, some of the materials are coming from them that I still need to examine before teaching. In my 45 years in the children and youth ministry, materials with a rightly dividing way were not available. So, every time I use materials from other publications, I still have to scrutinize it. When I heard that you have all the materials I needed, I secretly prayed for it since I am also just a housewife. But I know that the God whom I serve...is able to supply my needs. Because I have already experienced it before while doing VBS and other neighborhood Bible studies. Before the pandemic we had 2 weekend kids Bible teaching in different venues near our place. Also giving them snacks afterwards. What a great blessing If I can have your helpful materials. I have a printer and internet connection. Even if the materials are old issue, still it would be of great help. I am always keeping you in my prayers. I am so wonderfully blessed by your live Bible studies and Morning Coffee though it is evening time and sleeping time in my country. Thank you for replying my request. Again I am so thankful to God.

**R. C. Philippines**

(Editor: Many who listen to our broadcasts will know of this Bible Woman, Rhoda. Rhoda began listening to the broadcasts about a year ago and when we announced our various curriculums she immediately commented on the program, asking how she could receive the materials. Thanks to the generosity of you, our supporters we were able to send her one of everything we have available. Since then she has been using the materials in teaching Sunday School, and this past summer used our "Whistle Stops of the Apostle Paul" to conduct 5 VBS's. We are thankful we are able to partner with Rhoda and others around the world through our broadcasts and literature.)

circles, dispensationalism is a biblical concept. It is a concept found in verses such as Ephesians 1:10, 3:2; and Colossians 1:25. It can also be evidenced by current traditions. For example, why is no one offering literal animal sacrifices today? Because something has changed: Jesus Christ is the once-for-all sacrifice. 1 Corinthians 9:17 declares a dispensation, a program of the way God was working, was revealed to Paul.

Second, a dispensation is God revealing His purpose and plan, including His requirements. It is the rules of a household, in this case the household of God. Yet, a dispensation is more than just rules and regulations (although they are included). It is the way things are done and how things are run. Think of management on a farm/ranch, where they raise cattle or crops or both. The dispensation of that farm/ranch would be how the cattle are raised, what crops are planted, and all decisions surrounding the running of the farm/ranch.

It is through Paul that God reveals the truth of the Body of Christ with Christ in position as the Head (Eph. 1:10, 22-23). We enjoy a different relationship than in times past. God has made a unique arrangement in the way His house is managed today. In Ephesians 3:2-5, we learn this current program was a mystery. It was a dispensation not known before. It was not hidden in the types and shadows. It was not foretold. It was not simply progressive revelation. God was not working this way at all until he entrusted His new dispensation to Paul, the same program we are currently under.

Next, a dispensation involved a stewardship, or a house supervisor. The steward was the one overseeing the house. He received his instructions from the master. He was responsible to carry out the master's wishes in the operation of the house. It was required of stewards that they be faithful to the task their master had entrusted unto them.

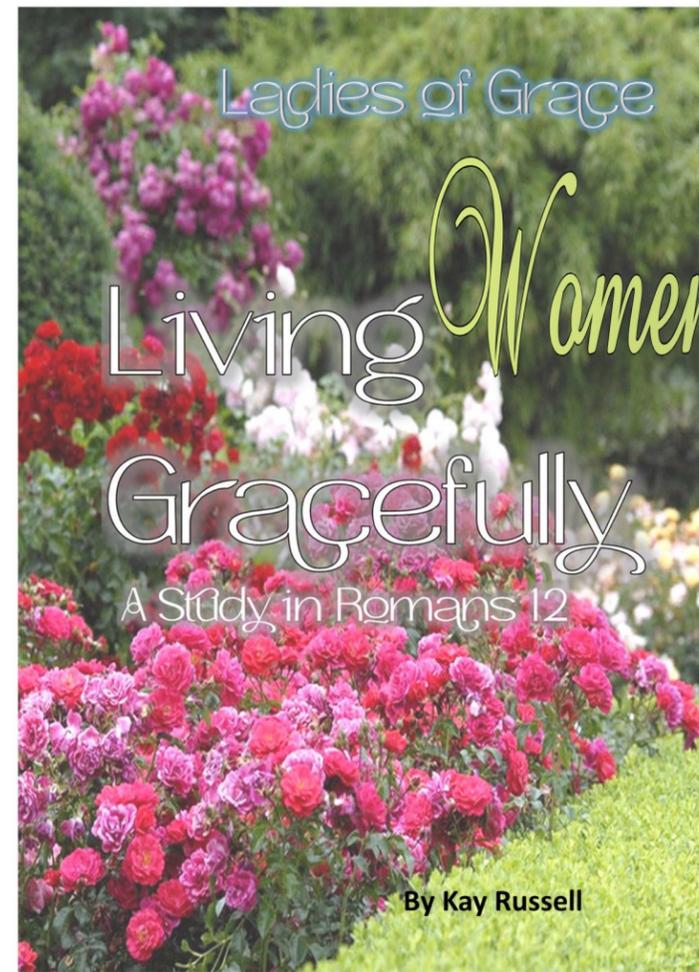
The team surrounding the president of the United States is called the Presidential Administration. The president chooses his team to administrate according to his focus on how to run things. Now, I could pretend that I do not have to pay taxes that

the current presidential administration imposes, but does that make it untrue? No, it just gets me in trouble. The rules and priorities of the presidency change with administrations.

Paul refers to himself as a "steward of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1-4). The proper response to the administration (dispensation) entrusted to him was faithfulness.

Colossians 1:25: "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God." Christ revealed to Paul the last inspiration that needed to be known before the Word of God was complete. It is through the revealing of the Dispensation of the Grace of God that God's eternal purpose is fully revealed. We are now aware of His plan for earth and His plan for Heaven. While we must read the entirety of the inspired Scriptures, we are to do so with an understanding of the rules and instructions we are under in the plan of God. It is only through an understanding of Paul's unique apostleship that we can completely understand God's desires, instructions, and expectations for the Church today.

In the next several articles, we are going to be looking at different dispensations in God's Word. Before we go further, let me talk about similarities in dispensations that we must never ignore. These similarities seem to be the biggest argument against dispensationalism, and they can also lead to some confusion within Pauline circles. There is only ever one eternal source of redemption, the Lord Jesus Christ. God is always God and His attributes are eternal and unchanging. The Scripture spanning theme of redemption means that death, burial, and resurrection has significance for all dispensations.



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# BDTLB Reaching Around the Globe

BDTLB is pleased to be able to partner with the saints in the Philippines with various ministries operating under Things To Come Mission Philippines. Under the leadership of Rhoda Acabal (with whom we came into contact through our Internet broadcasts), a Kids Camp, 5 Vacation Bible Schools, and a Teacher's Enhancement Seminar were held in the summer of 2022. Many of the materials used were published by BDTLB. With the generous support of our ministry partners, BDTLB is able to send materials free of charge to missions and missionaries around the world.

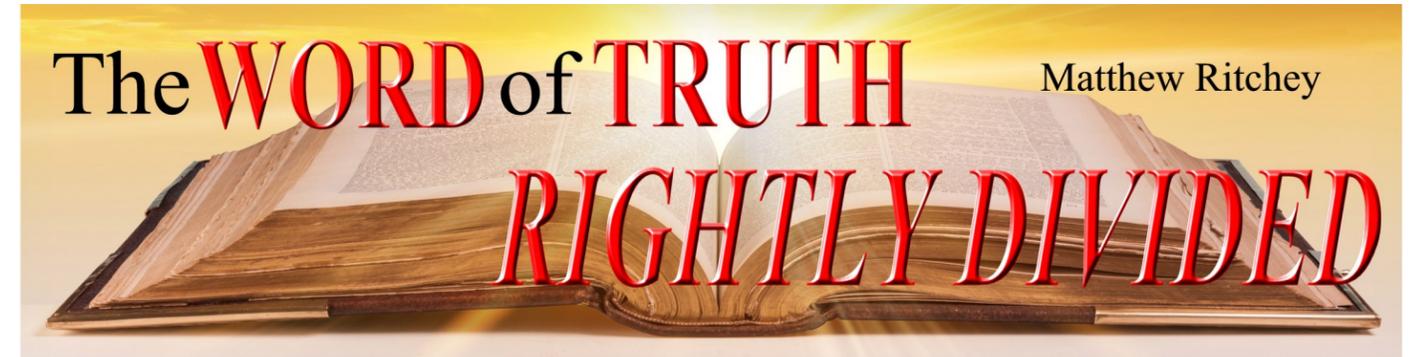


Left and above; Kids gather for "The Whistle Stops of the Apostle Paul" VBS (a BDTLB Publication).

Below: Kids practicing sharing the Gospel using the Wordless Book



Sunday School Teacher Enhancement Seminar



The account of redemption flows through the pages of the entire Bible. It is through the Holy Scriptures that we also find God's desire for our lives. We turn to its pages to find instructions. It is our authority for life and practice.

It is in God's Holy Word where we find passages like Isaiah 58:13-14:

*"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."*

These two verses state the importance of faithfully observing the Sabbath. The weekly Sabbath was the last day of the week, Saturday. So, each Sunday you gather for church services means that you are ignoring this instruction. If we claim to abide by commands of Scripture, why do we break the Sabbath? We also do not offer the animal sacrifices (Lev. 1-6) or observe the dietary restrictions (Lev. 11), so why are we so disobedient?

The only way this makes sense is by recognizing that there are different programs, or dispensations, within God's Word. We need to be able to rightly divide the Word of Truth in order to know what God desires of us today. Accurately recognizing the dispensation we are in gives us our understanding of the weekly Sabbath. First, we recognize that we are under no such obligation to meet every

week on Saturday, for we are not under the Law (Rom. 6:14; Col. 2:16). Since Jesus rose on the first day of the week, the Body of Christ began meeting on Sunday, the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2). This is why most of us gather on Sunday rather than Saturday.

In the last few articles, we have touched on how important the Bible is and some tools to properly study it. Today, we briefly discuss the importance of being able to put the instructions of the Bible in its proper placement in the plan of God.

2 Timothy 2:15 says an approved workman must be able to "rightly divide the word of truth." Rightly dividing does not simply mean determining what is truth and what is error. The Word of God is all true. The term does not mean properly applying truth because that is a work of the Holy Spirit. It does not simply tell us to use it correctly, like treating it with respect and approaching it with the reverence it deserves. It means "to make a straight cut" or "dissect correctly." If you have ever seen me slice a loaf of homemade bread, you know I do not rightly divide the bread. Some slices are bigger than others and, most often, the slice is lopsided. Hey, it still tastes good. But God wants His Word partitioned appropriately according to **His** divisions. So, rightly dividing is taking God's truth and recognizing what of God's Word applies directly to us today and what does not. It is discerning how God is working at the current time.

We rightly divide by recognizing the dispensation under which we are operating. Paul affirms in 1 Corinthians 9:17, "a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me." Keep this fact in mind as we further explain about dispensations.

First, despite the opposition against the dispensational method of study within religious

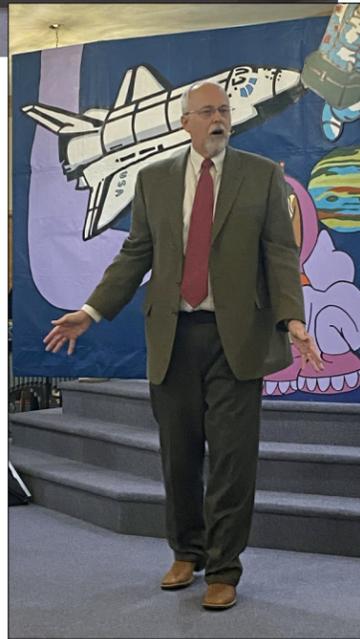


Top Left: Behind the scenes at set up. Wires, wires everywhere.

Top Right: Set up  
Left: Building a rocket for a prop.



Pastor Mike Morris, a young new Pastor at First Grace Gospel Church, Ashtabula, OH.



Preaching at Grace Family Bible Church, Duncansville, PA.



**51** decisions for Christ with each receiving their own Bible, plus Lesson 1 of 5 of the Follow-Up study guides.



Susan conducting a lesson time in Sioux Falls, SD.

Jared takes a pie to the face as the boys finished a close second in the Penny Weighing contest.



Our 2022 FBS Team. (L-R) Sky, Susan, Elizabeth Turner, Sonic, Emmy and Jared Finck.



Right: Opening Session of FBS at Grace Family Bible Church, Duncansville, PA.

