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JOINTS & BANDS

(COLOSSIANS 2:19)



January 2015

REDEDICATION

As we welcome another year we also welcome a new organization for the Berean Forward Movement and the Berean Publishing Trust. These trusts have been merged and succeeded by The Berean Publishing Trust CIO. The name Berean Forward Movement has been retained as a 'working name'.

We have included below the words spoken at the rededication of the Chapel of the Opened Book in order to reaffirm our determination to continue to uphold the written and spoken word as it has been with the two previous trusts.

On an administrative note, would anyone making a donation please continue to send it to the usual address but make any cheques or P.O.s out to 'Berean Publishing Trust CIO, thank you.

Our gracious God and Father, in the name of Thy Beloved Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, we thankfully acknowledge the earnest desire for the unsullied Word that led men and women of God in days gone by to search their consciences, to search Thy Word, and eventually to build this House, and for many years to hold fast and to hold forth in this place the 'truth as it is in Jesus'

We come into Thy presence on this day of reviving, and humbly rededicate this place organisation and all those associated with it to the continued testimony to Thine infallible Scriptures, and to the proclamation of the One Foundation, the One Mediator, and the One Offering of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the teaching and training of those who shall be raised up in days to come to continue this Witness until that day when all Thy servants, both past, present, and to come, shall stand before Thee and render an account of their stewardship.

With that day in mind we earnestly pray that no sectarian division shall mar our testimony, but that we may ever seek to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Grant, too, our gracious God, that all who now take up this ministry, or shall be associated with it, may steadfastly keep before heart and mind the injunction of the apostle Paul to his son in the faith:

'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth' (2 Tim. 2:15).

'Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves but our sufficiency is of God' (2 Cor. 3:5)'.

The Trustees

God with us – Matt. 1:23

'With us – God' is the literal word order in Matthew's account of Isaiah's prophecy, and the slight re-arranging places the emphasis on Who it is that is 'with us' i.e. God.

It may be that we have sung quite recently, '...and through all His wondrous childhood He would honour and obeyBut not only childhood but also manhood would have seen Our Saviour as 'holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners' (Heb. 7:26).

This separateness tells us that there is no salvation for mankind in the earthly life of Jesus of Nazareth, God Incarnate though He certainly was. Wonderfully, Isaiah reminds us that Christ in His Death was 'numbered with the transgressors' (also in Luke 22:37). This 'numbering' is also the word 'reckoning', 'accounting as'. At Calvary it was God who reckoned Christ to be 'sin for us'; as He bore away the sin of the world His words were, 'My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me' (Mark 15:34). Not only can the truth of substitution now be heralded, (...Surely He hath borne our grief and carried our sorrows Isaiah 53:4), but the truth also that Identification can now be announced. Understanding this, we can be closer now to Him than when the crowd thronged and pressed Him (Luke 8:45), such is the value of 'crucified with', 'dead with', 'buried with' and as Ephesians tells us 'quickened together with Christ' (Eph. 2:5)

Preston Fellowship

During 2014 the study of God's Word Rightly Divided has continued, although the numbers have remained small, the fellowship has been rich. As the world becomes less dedicated to God's Word, (sadly that includes many churches) the familiarity how some refer to our Lord is upsetting.

It is encouraging to know that not only here in Preston, but small fellowships and individuals throughout the world who very often stand alone are honouring the Scriptures. We pray that they will be given strength to continue.

We are privileged to see the Truth of the Mystery and the desire to let others know of this glorious Truth. The Bible warns us of the

difficulties which lie ahead, see 2 Tim. 3:1-9, but we are encouraged by the wording of 2 Tim. 3:14-17.

Alan Schofield

Carazonabel Bible Conference

September 19th -21st 2014

Twelve gifted speakers presented a blessing-packed weekend at the Ebenezer Community Club in West Union, South Carolina. Good fellowship prevailed, and in addition to spiritual food, we enjoyed the talented baking and cooking skills of the Carolina Bible Group. Some of our 'Northern' folks got their first taste of 'Southern' grits.

After welcome and dinner, host Ronnie McCurry introduced first speaker, Jason Brzezinski, who was new to this conference. Jason's Power Point presentation got the week-end off to a great start with a question, 'What is the meaning of *dokimos* in the context of 2 Timothy, and how do we present ourselves 'approved'?' An explanation followed of 2 Tim. 2:15 and James 1:12 in which the Greek word '*dokimos*' is translated as 'approved' and 'tried'. Our 'approval' is based on rewards, and how we handle trials and suffering. Spiritual discernment is necessary for a worthy walk and thus, our approval. More importantly, in our effort to be approved, we must 'follow the rules' of the present 'hope and calling' of the mystery. That mystery was in God's mind before the overthrow of the world (Eph. 1:4), but was revealed to the imprisoned Paul. Jason summarized his message by reviewing *how* we rightly divide the Word of Truth and *why* we study the way we study.

Josh Dakon, also a new speaker, discussed the 'Unity of the Spirit' and ways to apply truth in regard to keeping the unity of the Spirit. They Scriptures used, were Eph. 4:2-3, Gal. 5:14, John 15:13, etc. We are to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace with humbleness and patience, not being judgmental or condemning. We are to treat each age group as taught in Titus 2:2-8. In regard to the contrast between denominationalism and right division, many of us can relate to Josh's memorable quote: 'I feel set free to be a servant of Christ!'

Our beloved Cecil McCurry closed Friday's session using Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac, his most precious gift, knowing that God had power to raise Isaac from the dead to continue the lineage. God offered His most precious gift, His Son. An important point was, that we came from dust, but Christ came from Glory to experience life as 'lowly dust'. 'What He laid aside is what

we pick up'. As a helpless infant, He depended totally on his earthly 'parents'. The 5 senses given to Adam came into play with Christ as a babe. Christ *smelled* his mother's milk, *heard* her voice, *felt* her arms and heartbeat, *tasted* her sweet milk. Cecil's GPS = God's Perfect Son. 'If we do what is in our Operator's Manual, (the Bible) we will be OK.'

Saturday morning's lessons began with Forrest Cottrell filling in for Barney Bagby, who was unable to attend. He noted that our nation is falling apart from inside, very similarly to Israel during Jeremiah's time (Jeremiah 44). Forrest's Power Point presentation detailed similarities among Jeremiah, the apostle Paul, and our own times. The Israelites told Jeremiah (who had warned them against their wickedness), 'We will not listen to you!' Because they refused to humble themselves before God, they suffered consequences. Likewise, Paul warned his hearers not to listen to blasphemers speaking lies but to hold fast to sound words. His listeners, the Jews, refused their Messiah. They also suffered consequences. They were cast aside with the result that the Gentiles now have direct access to 'the salvation in Christ'.

Roger Dillman's Power Point Presentation stressed, 'God's Special Gift, Enlightenment' (Eph. 1:15-18). All enlightenment comes from God. It is His gift to us to distinguish between the calling of the 'Church of God' which began with Jesus calling of the 12 apostles and ended around Acts 28:28, and the calling of 'The Church of the Mystery' of which Christ Jesus is the Head, that began after Acts 28:28. Paul wrote 7 Epistles during the 'Church of God' period when he was free to travel. Those Epistles covered prophesied and searchable territory. Paul wrote 7 prison Epistles when he was bound to an armed guard. Information in these was un-prophesied and un-searchable but was revealed only to Paul. The armed guards did not realize they were *protecting* Paul so that he could send out God's divine message. Only by God's enlightenment are we able to understand the different callings. We cannot make others 'see' Roger said, 'When the spiritual eyes are cleared and the believer can say, 'I understand and I see it!' you can be sure that God's special gift of enlightenment has arrived!''

Peter Redmon used a colorful flip-chart to present 'The World That Then Was', the Heavens and Earth Which Are Now, and the New Heavens and New Earth to come. He prefaced his lesson by explaining that he teaches 'from the whole to the part'. This is important particularly in scripture because otherwise you have 'truth out of place'. A part of scripture obviously is true, but if it is not taken in the context of the whole it is 'truth out of place' a tactic used

by Satan to mislead and confuse people, and a huge problem today. Peter spoke about the Earth That Then Was: Gen. 1:1, Isaiah 46:18 and I Peter 2:5. God created everything perfect. But in Genesis 1:2, it was [became] without form and void, desolate. Unbelieving scientists assign millions of years to man's age because of earth's deformation. Our earth is not 6,000 years old, but Adam's race is. Before this destruction, caused by Satan in Gen 1:2, God chose his Body (Eph 1:4). The Heaven and Earth Which Are Now began in Gen 1:3 and will continue until Revelation 21, the New Heavens and New Earth.

Tony Lopez spoke about 'God's Guardrails'. God has a system to keep people from straying out of boundaries. In Gen 3, Gen. 12:7, Gen. 9 and 13:15, God promised to bless Israel and his progeny with specific land and blessings. In Jer. 31:31, God covenanted with the house of Judah and the house of Israel. All these promises were for Israel: no gentile was included. This is a 'guardrail', a boundary that we as workmen in the Word understand and share. Another guardrail is found in Acts 2:22 where Peter addressed the men of Israel at Pentecost with the kingdom message. No gentiles were added to the church there. Up to Acts 10:28, no gentiles could keep company with Jews. Up to Acts 26:22, only Moses and the prophets were preached. In Acts 28:20 Paul was bound for the hope of Israel. Acts 28:28 gives us a new 'guardrail' which many don't heed. From that time, the message of salvation went to the gentiles. 2 Tim. 2:24 admonishes us to teach this message of right division gently and patiently. Be guided by God's guardrails. [Some folks with speech patterns differing from Tony thought he was saying 'Godrails'. Either way, God established the boundaries!]

Mike Mecikalski reiterated John Dakon's sentiment of 'freedom to be a servant of Christ'. Like others, he expressed thankfulness for right division. His lesson gave us some new insights into the life and experiences of Onesimus. We are not told what compelled Onesimus an unprofitable slave, to leave his master and journey 800 miles to Rome to see Paul. Perhaps he saw the Lord in Paul and wanted more knowledge. Paul 'fathered' and taught Onesimus in the mystery and ultimately begged Philemon, his master, to take back Onesimus, not as a useless, unprofitable servant, but as an equal in Christ. What Onesimus learned from Paul are points of our calling as well. See Eph. 3:7-10, Col. 1:8-12, Col. 4:7-9.

Former Coach, Forrest Cottrell, titled his lesson 'Coaching and Mentoring 101, 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy'. The apostle Paul had to prepare Timothy for his work of bringing others into the body of Christ and teaching them. Throughout his message, Forrest asked:

What have you done to help someone out? Who will carry the message after you? Who are you mentoring? Who are you coaching? How are you guiding others to what we have? Scripture references besides many in Timothy included Eph. 4:12, 29; Col. 1:25-27. To bring others to our message, we must follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. We must not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord. Like Paul, we must be able to say that we have fought the good fight, finished our course, kept the faith. If so, we will be looking for and loving Christ's appearing (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

Bob Guenther used Power Point on John 8 to teach 'The Great I AM'. Man was given life in Gen. 2:15 but because of sin man returns to dust (Eccl 12:7). Christ taught His disciples the truth concerning death, that for believers it is sleep (John 11:11-13). Only believers could comprehend his sayings. Our hope is different from the hope in John (Eph 2:5). We are not subject to Jewish ordinances. Figurative death gives us freedom from man's religion (Col 2:20). This truth should change our life. 'When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in Glory (Col 3:4).

David Bickel's message 'Path to Acknowledgment' began with Eph 1:17-18 regarding the spirit of wisdom and revelation. He illustrated acknowledgment by using his experience with the Masons. Seven years after he was saved, he demitted from the Masons He took back his *acknowledgment* of them. In regards to Christ, '...in all your ways *acknowledge* Him and He shall direct your path' (Prov. 3:5-6). He will shower you with knowledge of Him. David knew he must be an apologist for Christ. David and Linda were tested for their acknowledgment of the mystery in regards to communion, but they didn't compromise their future reward. David closed with the challenge from Eph. 6:19 to make known the mystery with boldness. 'The Holy Spirit will deliver the message. Do not keep the secret, secret'!

Jack Eberle's message 'Some Thoughts on Ephesians Four' began with a personal testimony of how God let him get fibromyalgia in order to get him working on translating the prison epistles of right division. Jack used examples of current events to illustrate that there is spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12) which is being copied here on earth. He also gave examples of ecclesiastical movements which are not of the Lord. The nature of God's unity are the ones; one body, one Spirit, one calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and these are for the 'perfecting of the saints'. If you are 'doing what you are supposed to be doing', you are 'building up the Body of Christ.'

Stefan Janhunen's Power Point 'In His Name' sought to teach what it means to do anything 'In His Name'. Some pray in His name; some play in His name; some name their businesses in His name. Jesus, while on earth, came in the Father's name and executed authority over diseases and unclean spirits. In Acts 19:13-14, vagabond Jews tried to cast out evil spirits 'in His name', but they were unbelievers, and the unclean spirits only taunted them. Body believers are told to '...do all in the name of the Lord Jesus' (Col. 3:17), and 'do all heartily as unto the Lord' (Col. 3:22-25). How? 'Let others see the presence of Christ in every area of our lives.'

You have all probably seen funny cartoon characters such as kindergartners saying, 'What happens in kindergarten stays in kindergarten!' In his closing remarks and before his closing prayer for the conference, Ronnie McCurry said, 'What we say for Christ and do for Christ does *not stay stored here*. We take it out of here for our love of Christ.

Melda Eberle

NOTES FOR YOUR 2015 DIARY

APRIL - Birmingham Conference at Carrs Lane Conference Centre
B4 7SX 1:30 and 4:30 pm

MAY - Scottish Conference (Probably) 9th May in the city of Perth

MAY - FOUNDATION DAY at the Chapel of the Opened Book
EC2A 2ER on the 30th of May 2:00pm and 4:45pm

SEPTEMBER – ANNIVERSARY SERVICES at the Chapel of the
Opened Book 26th September at 2:00pm and 4:45pm

Positions as Treasurer and Secretary

Positions as Assistant Treasurer and Secretary of the Berean Publishing Trust CIO are still vacant. Jobs would entail taking on the day to day operation with continuing support from the current incumbents.

Would anyone interested in taking this further please contact Barry Marple, at the address at the bottom of page 8 of this publication.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Throughout January, February and March 2015, the Ministry at the Chapel of the Opened Book (Wilson Street, London. EC2A 2ER) on Sundays at 11.00 a.m., will be, D.V., as follows:

January	February	March
4 th M.Garstang	1 st M.Garstang	1 st M.Garstang
11 th M Garstang	8 th M.Garstang	8 th M Garstang
18 th M.Garstang	15 th M Garstang	15 th M.Garstang
25 th Roy Ginn	22 nd M Garstand	22 nd G.Falisi
		30 th M Garstang

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS AT THE CHAPEL ARE:

Wednesdays at 1:05 to 1:35 p.m. Bible studies for anyone in the City at these times, for business or pleasure. Chapel Telephone No. Monday to Friday 02072471467

Saturdays at 3:00 pm, (2 p.m. November to March) on the first Saturday in each month, Meeting for discussion. Please contact Michael Garstang on the phone to confirm that the meeting will be held. 02084468902.

*Please Note – First meeting in New Year – Saturday 3rd January 2:00pm

OTHER BIBLE STUDIES

Preston (3 Library Street) Second and Fourth Sunday at 3:15 and 5:15 p.m. (Phone 01772 702236).

PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS, NOTES, INFORMATION AND ITEMS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER TO:

Mr. Barry Marple, Orchard Close, 52A St. Mary's Lane, LOUTH, Lincolnshire LN11 0DT as soon as possible **and not later than 6th February 2015.**

We wish to once again thank the anonymous benefactor for the generous gifts