

# Spiritual Blessings



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The official journal of the Berean Bible Fellowship of Australia

## The Lord's Prayer

Cliff Hollard

IT IS COMMON AMONG Christians to speak of the prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 as "The Lord's Prayer." This term is, of course, what Christians themselves have applied to the prayer.

The constant use and repetition of The Lord's Prayer has had the effect of limiting our views and thoughts of it, and of fixing our attention on its application to ourselves. The consequence of this is that it has ended in our actually substituting the application for the interpretation.

The words of the prayer have a special reference to the time when they were first uttered, that is, before the church of the Mystery was revealed, and we believe that the words of the prayer have reference to a yet future time after the church of the Mystery has been removed.

It is important first of all to notice when, and under what conditions, our Lord gave this prayer to His disciples. We repeat - *to His disciples* - for it was to and for them that the prayer was given.



Come and join us for great Bible studies and fellowship at our annual conference in September - see page 9 for more details

The time of the prayer: It was given when the kingdom was "at hand" (Matt. 3:2), and after the opening words, "**Our Father which art in heaven**", a request is made for that kingdom to come. It was to come "**on earth.**"

"**Give us this day our daily bread.**" Those words look back to when Israel were in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. They lacked food and the Lord supplied them daily with manna from heaven. The words also look forward to when the "overcomers" in Israel will once again be in dire straits for bread. During the coming Great Tribulation their plight will be such that they will pray "give us this day our daily bread" as it has never been prayed before.

Through lack of space we move to the words, "**but**

### Inside

President's Word	2
God our Refuge	3
Ephesians series	4
Kids' Korner	6
Please Explain	10
Recordings	11

**deliver us from evil.**" This phrase should read, "deliver us from the evil one," - the "evil one" being the Beast who shall bring terror upon Israel in the coming Day of the Lord, during

(...continued page 8)



# The President's Word



Athol Walter

## Meetings

Don't put it off any longer. Make plans to fellowship with us at one or more of the following meetings...

### **Brisbane:**

Alternate  
Sundays  
10:00AM  
Long Weekend  
7-9 June 2003  
(07) 3297 1981

### **Sydney:**

3rd Sunday  
of each month.  
Lunch 12:45.  
Study 1:30PM.  
Community Hall  
104 Galston Rd  
Hornsby Hts.  
(02) 4996 4455

### **Newcastle:**

Every Monday.  
7:30PM  
34 Aroona St  
Edgeworth.  
(02) 4950 6708

### **Annual**

#### **Conference:**

26th, 27th, 28th  
September 2003  
Bethshan,  
Wyee, NSW.  
- see page 9.  
A rare opportunity to hear special guest speakers from the Philippines.

I AM WRITING THESE WORDS the day after we had our mini study conference in Sydney. It was a great day in all respects. A goodly number of people attended, including Peter Butcher from Victoria, who was warmly welcomed.

David Tavender, John Hutton and I were the three speakers for the day, and the studies were rich and challenging. The food brought and shared was also rich and nourishing, and the fellowship could not have been bettered. And to top it all off, it was a fine, sunny day after quite a few days of rain.

The response to our appeals for funds towards Bibles and the cost of bringing the four men from the Philippines to our annual conference in September has been quite amazing. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all who have given so generously. If you wish to help either of these causes but have not done so yet, there is still time. As we do not have any overheads, such as salaries, every cent you give is applied to the nominated appeal.

The BBFA Committee is excited about these projects we have underway, and we would ask for your prayers for their success, particularly in the matter of visas for the Philippine men. The Australian Immigration Department is a little touchy these days, so we ask that you pray for the smooth processing of visa applications.

The work of the Committee, however, is not always so exciting and uplifting. We have, in the last couple of months, had to deal with a problem that has caused considerable soul-searching and concern.

We recently received information that Brian Kelson, who has been a high-profile worker with us for many years, had certain Scriptural interpretations that were at odds with the understanding of the BBFA. Brian had resigned from our

fellowship 12 months ago, but was still producing our magazine. We asked Brian to respond, and he admitted holding these beliefs.

This is not the place to go into details, but as the Committee considered these matters to be so serious, and potentially so dangerous to the standing of the BBFA, we have severed all official connections with Brian. This decision was very hard to make, given Brian's great contribution to our work in many ways for more than 25 years.

To avoid any misunderstandings whatever, I must state plainly that Brian Kelson has no connection now with the BBFA, and does not represent us in any way.

I wish to record here my thanks to each Committee member for their support of me personally in what has been a trying time. And above all, I give praise and thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ for his guidance and strength.

Athol Walter

## Spiritual Blessings

The official journal of the  
**Berean Bible Fellowship of Australia Inc.**

Visit our Web Site:  
[www.spiritualblessings.org.au](http://www.spiritualblessings.org.au)

Articles which honour The Lord Christ Jesus, and acknowledge the principle of right division will be considered for publication. All articles are accepted on the basis that they may be used as the BBFA sees fit unless otherwise requested by the author.

The interpretation of Scripture by various authors is not necessarily the one held by the majority of the Fellowship.

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The BBFA Tenets.

1. Full Inspiration of the Scriptures.
2. The Deity of Christ.
3. All sufficiency of Christ's One Sacrifice.
4. The Bible study principle of right division.

The BBFA Committee.

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Treasurer: Sue Hall.

Secretary: Margaret Abbott.

Committee members:

Bob Davidson, David Tavender.



# God is our Refuge and Strength

Charles H. Welch

(Psalm 46:1)

**T**HERE HAVE, OF COURSE, been great doctrinal and dispensational changes since these immortal phrases were sung and penned, but human experience and need, and Divine mercy and provision remain unchanged. Let us turn, then, to Psalm 46.

"God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

"The Lord of hosts is with us : The God of Jacob is our refuge" (Psalm 46:7,11).

The land and people of Israel were not strangers to war, and this Psalm probably refers to the siege under Sennacherib. It does not celebrate "a victorious campaign, but a successful defence" (Companion Bible).

"In the whole of Israel's history, there is only one event, of which we can here think, the destruction of Sennacherib's army before the gates of Jerusalem - Isaiah 37:36 . . . after the exodus from Egypt, there was no occasion more appropriate than this for bringing vividly out the leading idea in this Psalm" (Hengstenberg).

The blessed refrain "God . . . is with us" is but an echo of the Immanuel ("God with us") that we find in Isaiah 8:10; and just as Hezekiah prayed that through the deliverance of Jerusalem the kingdoms of the earth "may know that Thou alone, art the Lord" (Isaiah 37:20), so in this Psalm we read:

"Know that I am God. I will be exalted among the heathen I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10).

We note first of all in this psalm that the exultant reference to God as Refuge comes three times - in verse 1, verse 7, and in the last verse, 11. Further, it should be noted that the reference to the earth being "removed" and the waters "roaring" in verses 2 and 3, corresponds with the "rage" of the heathen and the "moving" of the kingdoms in verse 6, where the same two words are found in the original. The "Selah" between

verses 3 and 4 draws attention to the contrast between the roaring waters without, and the gentle flow within of the river that supplied, as from a secret source, the needs of Zion.

Coming back to the thought of the Refuge in this Psalm, we note next that the Psalmist has been inspired to use two words to describe this refuge, and neither of them

being the same as that found in Deuteronomy 33:27. The word used in verse 1: "God is our refuge," carries with it the idea of something one can "trust," as will be seen by its usage in Psalm 91:4, "Under His wings shalt thou trust." It is probably derived from a word which means "to make haste" or "flee" (Psalm 40:13), and suggests that such a refuge is one to which one would flee for safety (compare Hebrews 6:18). The second word is found in Psalm 46:7 and 11 and means a "high tower." The idea of safety is evidently associated with this, for we read in Proverbs 18:10 - "The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe."

To sum up, then, we may say that God Himself is set before us as our Refuge, in a threefold light. He is a "dwelling" - prepared beforehand by God Who anticipates all eventualities (Deuteronomy 33:27). He is also a "trustworthy" refuge (Psalm 46:1), and a high and exalted place of safety (Psalm 46:7,11). This, dear reader, is a word in season for us all.

"The Eternal God is our refuge". ☞

(from the Berean Expositor, Vol 30 pp29,30)

## Psalm 46

**1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

**2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;**

**3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.**

**4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.**

**5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.**

**6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.**

**7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.**

**8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.**

**9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.**

**10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.**

**11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.**



Athol  
Walter

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

OUR CONSIDERATIONS OF THE last section of Ephesians, viz. 6:10-24 has brought us to Paul's admonition to us to be strong in the power of the Lord's might, and to put on the whole armour of God so that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

We must take care that we do not run away with the idea of fighting the Lord's battles as a good soldier, wielding the sword of truth vigorously against those whom we perceive as foes. Paul uses the imagery of the good soldier fighting the good fight in other places as well as here, but we need to be as clear as possible as to who and what we are fighting against, so that we do not jump to any wrong conclusions. So, let us examine these words which the Holy Spirit uses to teach us a little more closely.

**Whole Armour**

The word for "whole armour" is one word in Greek, PANHOPLIAN, which comes over into English as panoply. I must confess that I had no idea what panoply meant. Notice that Paul does not just say "the whole armour", but "the whole armour OF GOD." This conflict is a spiritual one, for which we are not naturally equipped, and we can only stand against Satan's deceitful attacks (in other words, the wiles of the devil) if we have put on the complete armour OF GOD.

As we try to discover what our warfare is, we must know that the word *hopla*, which is part of the word *panoply*, can mean, and is translated as, instruments and weapons as well as armour. With that little bit of information in our minds let's look at several verses:

Rom. 13:12. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." Notice the contrast between the works of darkness and armour of light. Also the casting off of the one and the putting on of the other. Paul then goes on in the next two vv. to expand these thoughts.

Rom. 13:13, 14. "Let us walk honestly, as in the day: not in rioting and drunkenness, not

in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

Surely there is no doubt about the works of darkness here that must be put off. And it seems to me that the putting on of the Lord Jesus Christ is another way of saying "putting on the armour of light". I hope you will have heard echoes of the Ephesian verses in these phrases too.

1 Thess. 5:7, 8. "For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night; but let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

2 Cor. 10:4,5. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Rom. 6:12, 13. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments (hopla) of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments (hopla) of righteousness unto God."

**The Fight Within**

Rather than urging us to rush out and fight all and sundry, Paul's use of the words armour and weapon is to do with our fight against the old nature within. Our opponents in these instances are not external foes, but the lusts of the flesh such as wantonness and drunkenness.

The strongholds that have to be cast down are the vain imaginations of minds under the influence of the old nature within, and the captives we are to take are our thoughts which must be subjected to obedience to God. I suspect that we all know that subduing these foes within is the much harder battle.

The members of our bodies can either be instruments (weapons, but maybe the word tools is more fitting) of unrighteousness, or

tools of righteousness unto God. It depends on which set of clothes we are wearing. It seems to me, then, that these are the thoughts that should come to mind when we read in Ephesians 6. "Put on the whole armour of God."

What are we fighting for in this great conflict? Perhaps the better question is, "What can we lose in this fight?" What we cannot possibly lose is our life in the Lord Jesus Christ. That has been won for us by His works, not ours, and is eternally secure. "Our life is hid with Christ in God." Col. 3:3. Also our membership in the Church, His Body, is not at stake, for that is a matter of God's choosing, before the foundation of the world.

But Satan can rob us of our crown, that is, our reward for walking worthy of our calling. In 2 Tim. 2:5 Paul says, "And if a man also strive for masteries (he's back in the athletic games here), yet is he not crowned except he strive lawfully." In plain language, you don't get the prize unless you keep the rules of the contest. And it is not too much further down in this very epistle where Paul, after saying he has fought a good fight, then says, "henceforth ... for me a crown."

### **Powers in High Places**

Before Paul mentions the various items of the whole armour in Eph. 6, however, he writes in v. 12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." This is the verse I mentioned as being difficult to understand correctly.

The words "high places" are exactly the same as "heavenly places" which are mentioned earlier in the epistle. And we know from those earlier references that the Lord Jesus Christ is seated in these heavenly places "at the right hand of God". Does 6:12 mean therefore that there is spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places at the right hand of God? I don't believe so.

Dr Bullinger suggested many years ago how this verse should be correctly rendered, and I will try to explain his thoughts.

We do not wrestle with flesh and blood. That is, other people are not our foes. Neither do we wrestle in heavenly places. It is very much a battle on earth. But we do wrestle

with spiritual wickednesses who are the rulers of the darkness of this world, not of that world at the right hand of God. With these thoughts in mind, the suggestion is that the verse should read like this: "For we wrestle not with flesh and blood in high (or heavenly) places, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness." That rendering carries my judgement, but you must make your own decision about it.

### **Satan's Wiles**

I think it is important to realise the significance of the phrase "wiles of the devil". Earlier, I gave a free translation of this phrase as "the deceitful attacks of the devil", and the child of God must ever be alert for Satan's attacks to come from the least expected quarter, and in the most unlikely guises.

The word wile is not used much nowadays, but it means a ruse, a trick intended to deceive. Willy, a word that is more familiar perhaps, means crafty. Satan's strategy has seldom been an outright frontal attack. Probably, we would not be taken in by that. No, as his first appearance back in Eden shows, he uses deceit, lies - perhaps half-lies is a better description - implanting doubts by whispers in the ear, and as Paul tells us, he sends his agents in the guise of ministers of righteousness.

While Satan has always been active, it is logical, I think, that as the ages roll on and we get closer to the great climax of the conflict between God and Satan, to expect that Satan's efforts will increase. Open warfare, however, is not yet the order of the day. Tricks, ruses, stratagems, craft, cunning, snares, wolves in sheep's clothing are words and terms used of the enemy's ways. In Eph. 4:14 the term translated "lie in wait to deceive" is "methodeia" and has been translated as "systematic deception".

Without the whole armour of God to protect us, and without being well practised in the use of the Sword of the Spirit, i.e. the Word of God which

(...continued page 9)

## **Be Strong in The Lord**

Paul now comes to the final section of the epistle, which gives a revelation of the unseen and unfelt spiritual warfare that is constantly going on behind the scenes between God and the spiritual forces for good, and Satan and the powers of darkness that antagonise the Divine plan every inch of the way. But for the complete protection that the Lord has provided, the believer would have good cause to be afraid.

The panoply of God, however, is all sufficient for such a dangerous situation: Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph.6:10-11.

Every member of the Body of Christ is reminded here where his true strength lies for this tremendous conflict. It is not in self, or on the human plane in any way,

Mere human power would be less than useless against such spiritual enemies. Nothing less than the mighty resurrection power of Christ mentioned in chapter 1:19-23 is sufficient, plus the protective armour that He provides, which covers the believer from head to foot.

*Stuart Allen.  
"Letters From Prison".*

# The Exodus

(or "going out")



We have now moved onto **Exodus**, the second book of the **Old Testament** and *the Pentateuch* (remember, meaning the first 5 books of the Bible).

**Exodus** contains the journey of the *nation of Israel* (around 1260BC) from being slaves in **Egypt**, to the promised land under the guidance of God through the leadership of **Moses** and his brother **Aaron**.

**Israel** had been in **Egypt** for nearly 400 years. The **Egyptians** treated them badly and they longed to return to the land of their forefathers, **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**.



## Why did God's people want to leave Egypt?

Read Exodus Chapters 1 to 3.

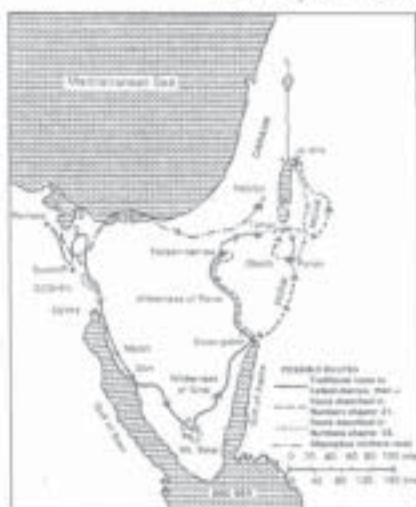
.....

.....

God sent **10 plagues** to encourage the **Pharaoh** (or king) of **Egypt** to let God's people go. Each of the **plagues** was aimed at one of the gods the **Egyptians** worshipped, showing that the **Lord God** was the **true God**.

For example, the plague of darkness was to show that the sun, which the **Egyptians** worshipped, was not a god at all.

The map below is of the **exodus** (or "going out") of the **people of Israel** from **Egypt**. It shows 3 possible routes.



 Measure the distance covered by each suggested route.

.....

.....


 Which route do you think the Israelites took? (Remember it took them **40 years**.) Give your reasons.

.....

.....



While the **nation of Israel** were wandering in the desert for 40 years, **God** gave the people **rules** or **laws** which they had to keep, if they were to follow **Him**.

 *In which chapter of Exodus are we given the Ten Commandments?* (Use the chapter headings to locate them)

.....

*Now read the Ten Commandments and then summarise them in your own words.*

1.	.....
2.	.....
3.	.....
4.	.....
5.	.....
6.	.....
7.	.....
8.	.....
9.	.....
10.	.....

These **Ten Commandments** formed the basis of the **Law of Moses**, but there were many other **moral, civil** and **religious laws** also.

 *Have a quick look through the pages of **Exodus, Leviticus** and **Deuteronomy***

 How many other laws are there? *(Circle the correct answer)*

- [a] ten or twenty      [b] hundreds      [c] thousands



From now on the **nation of Israel** was to live by the **Law of Moses**, i.e., they were to follow **all** of it's rules, not just the **Ten Commandments**.



**As Gentiles, do we have to follow these same laws to please God?**

.....

**Why or Why not? ? ? ?**

*(Give your reasons)*

.....

Thanks to M. Perry, Carol Brown, Lyn Mrotek - "Introducing God's Word" & NBM Nos. 20, 21, 34, 39 & 40.

# The Lord's Prayer

(from page 1)

the Great Tribulation (Rev.7:14), when "the overcomers" will be under tremendous pressure from persecution.

The book of the Revelation tells us that a day will come when Satan will be cast out of heaven to the earth, and when that day comes Israel will be the object of his attack. Israel's petition for "daily bread" will be answered, because provision will have already been made through the foreknowledge of God. "And the woman (Israel) fled into the wilderness where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days" (Rev.12:6). See also Dan. 9:27 and 12:11.

It is difficult to understand how thousands of Christians, in times of plenty, with money in the bank, and with larders well stored, could honestly adopt words which practically meant that they are as destitute for food as Israel were and yet will be, when their "fiery trial" is upon them, a very real baptism of fire (Matt. 3:11).

Taking therefore the context, the strong affinity with Jewish thought and practice, we believe it is impossible to deny that the Lord's Prayer belongs to a dispensation very different from that of the church of the Mystery which is operating today.

Another feature is that this prayer is not offered "in the name" of the Saviour. In John 16, the Lord said "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name". This includes the Lord's Prayer. He continued saying, "Ask, and ye shall receive" (John 16:23,24).

If we ignore this word of the Lord, and persist in using a prayer which He Himself must have included in the word "hitherto," we shall not only defeat our own ends, but we shall exhibit before

men that we do not appreciate as we should that most vital of all doctrines, namely the Mediation of Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer occurs in the "Sermon on the Mount," and it manifestly forms an integral part of it. That it pertains wholly to the kingdom is clear. It is a prayer for that kingdom to come, in order that God's will may be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Its standard is Law, and not Grace. Forgiveness is sought not on the ground of grace, but of works, and not on the ground of mercy, but of merit. The future and approaching Tribulation is contemplated as imminent, if not already present. The Evil One, the Beast, is present in power. None are able to buy or sell except those which have his mark (Rev.13:17).

Daily bread must be miraculously given if those who use this prayer are to be kept alive. No name of Christ is in the prayer, nor is it offered in His Name or merits, as He Himself declared it should be (John 16:23, 24).

*"The  
Lord's  
Prayer  
belongs to a  
dispensation  
very different  
from that of  
the church  
which is  
operating  
today..."*

It is a prayer suitable to that time, while the kingdom was being proclaimed as "at hand". A time will come when the kingdom shall be again proclaimed as being "at hand," and the "Gospel of the kingdom" shall again be preached in the coming days of the "Great Tribulation". A time will come when it will be appropriate to pray the Lord's Prayer.

The prayer belongs to the period when the kingdom was being offered to Israel, as recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But Israel rejected and crucified their King. In the book of Acts and the early church epistles we see the kingdom re-offered but again rejected. We today are living in a time when that kingdom is in abeyance, and in a period called "the dispensation of the mystery" (Eph. 3:9 R.V.), a time when the standard is NOT Law, but Grace.

Let us "rightly divide the Word!" 

*This article was originally published as two shorter pamphlets titled "The Lord's Prayer" and "The Lord's Prayer #2". They have been prepared and edited for publication as a single article here.*

Visit our web site:  
[www.spiritual\*\*blessings\*\*.org.au](http://www.spiritualblessings.org.au)



Left to Right: Albert Sison, Dwight Chua,  
Michael Paz, Ramon Perez.

**Take advantage of this rare opportunity!**

**Don't put it off - start planning today to be there.**

## Guests from the Philippines

Come and meet these four men from the Philippines Open Bible Fellowship, who will be this year's guest speakers at our annual conference in September. They will challenge our commitment to the Lord and His rightly divided Word. They, in turn, would love to meet and fellowship with you.

BBFA Annual Conference at  
Bethshan, Wyee, NSW  
26th, 27th, 28th  
September, 2003  
More details and registration forms  
with the next issue of  
Spiritual Blessings

## Ephesians No. 42

(from page 5)

is our only offensive weapon, we would not be able to stand against such a cunning and powerful foe.

Paul warned Timothy in 2 Tim. 3:13 that evil men and seducers would increase, and surely the way our own society has moved in the last few decades is ample proof of the truth of those words. But we are not to faint with fear, or lose heart, for our Lord and Head has already won the battle. Our part is to stand firm in His strength and in the armour He has provided for us.

### Work Out

In Eph. 6:13, the words "having done all" are the translation of one word, *katergazomai*. Two other occurrences of the word will help us here:

Phil. 2:12. "WORK OUT your own salvation with fear and trembling".

2 Cor. 4:17. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, WORKETH for us a more exceeding eternal weight of glory."

The Philippian believers possessed eternal life, and Paul wrote to urge them to a practical realization of their position in Christ. He speaks to them of "striving", of a "prize", of "suffering" and of "resurrection". These terms

*"We are saved not by our good works ... but there are good works that God expects from us once we have been saved."*

are not to do with receiving eternal life, but with the WORKING OUT of what has been already WORKED IN us by God.

In the second reference, we again have a context of affliction in the walk of the believer through the wilderness on the way to his promised land, where there awaits glory and honour for those who have been faithful in patient endurance.

These things speak to those who have ears to hear. We are saved not by our good works, but by the work of the Lamb of God who died in our place. But there are good works that God expects from us once we have been saved. God, by the agency of the Holy Spirit, works His work IN us. Then it is up to us to make sure that we WORK OUT what has been done in us and for us. And it is possible for us to do this, because the Lord has broken the power of sin in our lives, and we are energised by the same mighty power that God exercised when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand in the Heavenly Places far above all.

I did have a hope that this might have been the last study in the series, but there is just too much wonderful material. So one more to go. In the meantime, may these truths be reflected in our lives day by day. 📖

## WHAT IS THE B.B.F.A.?

### Please Explain



David  
Tavender

**T**HE INITIALS “B.B.F.A.” stand for the “Berean Bible Fellowship of Australia”. It is not associated with any religious denomination, nor is it a derivative or splinter group from any larger church or organisation.

The name “Berean” has been taken from Acts 17:10,11. There we read about those who lived in the city of Berea and how they “searched the Scriptures daily” to see whether the things that Paul was saying were true. They are called “noble” by the writer of Acts because they were willing to consider what was being said to them, and to check what was being said with the Scriptures.

This is a practice that the B.B.F.A. heartily endorses. Rather than just accepting the doctrines we hold, we believe that it is indeed “noble” to exercise the Berean attitude and search the Bible for yourself to see if these things are true or not.

One other important note regarding our fellowship’s name: we occasionally become aware of other groups which have also taken on the name “Berean”. We share close ties with some of these groups, but, generally speaking, unless they have been mentioned in our web site or in our bi-monthly journal “Spiritual Blessings”, they are unrelated. Some groups using the name “Berean” are some we would definitely not wish to be confused with, so, if you are unsure, please contact us for verification.



## Why Does The BBFA Exist?

Taken from our constitution, the objects of the BBFA are:

- (1) to promote a general interest in the Bible;
- (2) to encourage Bible study;
- (3) to make plain what is the Dispensation of the Mystery as revealed only to the Apostle Paul;
- (4) to foster communication through the fellowship of likeminded believers;
- (5) to do all things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objects, including: (a) printing and promoting suitable literature; and (b) conducting Bible study meetings and seminars.

To carry out these objectives, as well as for the purposes of administration, a small committee is elected every three years. There are no paid pastors or staff members however, as the fellowship is run purely on a volunteer basis.

## What Does the BBFA Believe?

It is impossible to state all of the fellowship’s beliefs in a short article like this, especially since views on some points

of doctrine are varied. However, the following are points which we see as being fundamental to our fellowship:

- (1) the belief in the full inspiration of Scripture;
- (2) the belief in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ;
- (3) the belief in all sufficiency of His One Atoning Sacrifice;

*(continued page 11)*

# 2200 Recorded Bible Expositions

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**W**E ARE PLEASED TO announce the availability of approximately 2,200 Bible study recordings! The Doaks of Bereantruth.com and the Berean Forward Tape Movement laboriously taped and digitalized these recordings. Now all of these audios may be heard for free, or very little cost.

## A Bit of History

In 1954, at the suggestion of Len Canning, Arthur Rumsey began recording the teachings of Charles Welch on reel to reel at the Chapel of the Opened Book (UK). This great work formed the Berean Forward Movement, Tape Recording Service (TRS). Today, John Porter who saw the need to digitalize these fragile recordings, with the help of Jeff and Fred Doak, transferred all of the expositions by Charles Welch, Stuart Allen, and many others freely to the Internet.

## How is it possible to be able to listen to so many of these recordings?

These files are in the MP3 format.

Simply put, they are compressed files which have been painstakingly put through a filter to remove the background noise and hiss normally found in old recordings. These recordings are clearer than the original reel to reel and cassette tapes!

## How can I hear these messages?

You may listen to any of these recordings online at the Bereantruth.com web site. Alternatively, you may order your own copies - see back page for more details on how to order.



Charles Welch - recordings available

We are thankful to the Lord for this ministry and the TRS for their efforts in providing these recordings to the Doaks so that these precious studies may be heard all over the world. 📖  
*(Thanks to Deb Hand, USA, for providing much of this information)*

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## Please Explain (cont. from page 10)

(4) the belief that the Scriptures must be "rightly divided". An integral part of this last point is the belief that the Church which is Christ's body, did not commence until after Acts 28:28.

For a cross section of other beliefs held by many of our members, you will find articles on a wide range of issues printed in "Spiritual Blessings" magazine.

Those who have access to the internet are invited to look through the articles on our web site - [www.spiritualblessings.org.au](http://www.spiritualblessings.org.au) - or contact us for our views on particular doctrines. Our address is at the end of this article.

## What Does The B.B.F.A. Do?

In keeping with the objectives listed previously, the B.B.F.A. carries out various

activities, including: publishing and distributing our bi-monthly magazine "Spiritual Blessings"; printing pamphlets and study booklets; distributing Bibles, study literature, audio cassettes, and other Bible study aids; conducting regional Bible Study meetings, as well as interstate and national Bible Study Days & Weekends; producing Bible study cassettes; publishing Bible study material via the world wide web; liaising and co-operating with similar fellowships overseas; and more.

Any further enquiries regarding the BBFA, its statement of beliefs or its work may be directed to:

B.B.F.A.P.O.Box 3141,  
Glendale NSW, 2285 Australia  
email - [committee@bbfa.org.au](mailto:committee@bbfa.org.au)

We would be glad to answer any questions you may have about our fellowship. 📖

Visit our web site:

[www.spiritualblessings.org.au](http://www.spiritualblessings.org.au)

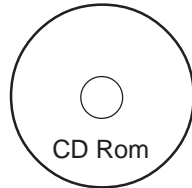


### What's there?

Great Bible study articles & charts,  
printable back issues of Spiritual Blessings,  
catalogue of our huge range of literature, tapes, etc  
**and so much more.**

## 2200 Bible Study Recordings!

Various Speakers, including Charles Welch, Stuart Allen, Brian Sherring, Arthur Lambourne, Ernest Streets, Oscar Baker, and many others.



Suitable for most computers,  
and CD / DVD players able to play MP3 files.

Here is a collection of wonderful Bible study audio messages covering a huge range of topics. And, yes, there really are about 2200 recordings in this package. As if that wasn't enough, also included are many charts to go with the recordings. These are in PDF format and may be viewed via Adobe Acrobat Reader. As a further bonus, over 60 written works by Charles Welch and Stuart Allen

come with this set! This is a phenomenal package and represents excellent value. **This package, containing all 20 CD-Roms, is only \$40.00, including postage within Australia.**

**Individual CD prices are as follows:**  
Please add \$1.00 per CD for postage.

Stuart Allen - 4 CDs - \$8.00  
Charles Welch - 5 CDs,  
including written works - \$10.00  
Arthur Lambourne - 3 CDs - \$6.00  
BFM Foundation & Anniversary Days  
(1955-2001) - 3 CDs - \$6.00  
Oscar Baker - 1 CD - \$2.00  
Ernest Streets - 1 CD - \$2.00  
Brian Sherring - 1 CD - \$2.00  
Edward Helsdon - 1 CD - \$2.00  
A. Harrop (for children), N.Dredge, B.Imberg  
- 1 CD - \$2.00

## Malawi Bibles Appeal



Recently we asked if you could help to provide some Bibles for our Christian brethren in Malawi, Africa.

The response was tremendous, and your generous gifts amounted to a total of \$2340. Remember, every cent of your donations has purchased Bibles in the Chichewa language for people who would not otherwise have access to the Scriptures.

We are grateful to our Lord,  
and we are grateful to everyone  
who contributed to this cause.

**Thank You!**

More information on the specific contents of these CDs may be found at: <http://www.bibleunderstanding.com/welchrecordings.htm>

### Important note before purchasing:

Since these recordings are in the MP3 digital format, they cannot be played on a regular CD player. A regular CD player cannot read these compressed audio digital files. They can be played by audio players already installed on most computers, and by specially marked DVD players and CD players bearing the "MP3" symbol. If in doubt, consult your local audio dealer.

Please forward a cheque / money order,  
payable to "BBFA Book Agency" to:

**B.B.F.A. Book Agency**  
P.O. Box 3141,  
Glendale NSW 2285  
Australia

More about these recordings  
on page 11 inside

**B.B.F.A.  
Annual  
Conference**  
26-28 Sept.  
2003

Come and meet  
four men  
from the  
Philippines  
Open Bible  
Fellowship  
who will  
speak at  
these meetings.

They will  
challenge our  
commitment to the  
Lord and His  
rightly divided  
Word. They, in  
turn, would love  
to meet and  
fellowship  
with you.  
**Sept. 26 - 28  
2003.**

**Decide now  
to be there.**

See page 9  
inside for  
more details

