

# Spiritual Blessings



Vol. 18 No.2  
March / April 2004

The official journal of the Berean Bible Fellowship of Australia

## Personal Bible Study

by E. W. Bullinger

**A**LL BIBLE STUDY must, in the end, be individual.

As with ordinary bodily food, others may prepare the food and serve it up in various forms. They may cook it in more senses than one. They may present it in "made dishes". They may carve it, and cut it up, and even put it in the mouth, as with babes - but after all, there is no more that they can do.

They cannot eat it or digest it for us; they cannot assimilate it for us. Even so, it is with the Word of God.

The great necessity remains - the work of Bible study must be, to the end, intensely personal and individual.




Come and join us for one of our group Bible Studies.  
See page 2 for a meeting venue near you.

Each one must look out the references for himself. He must trace the words through all their occurrences where these are given. He must consider their usages. He must read the contexts. He must make his lists and tables, and do his countings for himself.

For so only can he feed upon the Word and the words, and be nourished, and be strengthened himself, and grow thereby - so only will he be able to say with Jeremiah ...

### Inside

<i>President's Word</i>	2
<i>Meetings</i>	2
<i>Apostleship &amp; Paul</i>	3
<i>All Things Work for Good</i>	4
<i>Kids' Korner</i>	6
<i>Facts of Faith</i>	10
<i>Annual Conference</i>	12

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." (Jeremiah 15:16) 

(an extract from  
"How To Enjoy the Bible")

# The President's Word



**Athol Walter**

## Meetings

Come along and meet with us! All meetings (except annual conf.) are free. All welcome.

### Brisbane:

Alternate Sundays 10:00AM  
Redbank Plains High School.

### Study Weekend:

June Long Weekend  
June 12-14, 2004  
(07) 3297 1981

### Sydney:

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

### Study Day:

Sunday May 16  
(10am start)  
(02) 4996 4455

### Newcastle:

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

### BBFA Annual Conference 2004

22nd, 23rd, 24th  
October 2004, at  
Camp Toukley. See  
page 12 for details.

IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS JUST the other day when I was commenting on the New Year in the last issue of our little mag.

But now it is just past the Easter weekend as I am writing this and here, in the southern hemisphere, the days are getting shorter, the nights cooler and we are enjoying some glorious Autumn weather. All that will sound strange to our readers on the other side of the equator, I know, but Australia is not called "Down Under" for nothing.

Last month saw our Brisbane Berean group hold their usual conference weekend at this time of the year. John Hutton, with his wife Coral, went up to lead the studies for them, and he reported that they had a wonderful time. It is pleasing to hear of new folk coming to the meetings in Brisbane, and the children of the families there are growing up and still showing keen interest in the Word of God.

Next month, on May 16th., the Sydney group will be holding a one day mini-conference at the Hornsby Heights Community Hall. The first meeting is at 10 am, and there will be three studies presented during the day. Our previous two mini-conference days have been great times of rich blessing from God's Word, and we invite readers in Sydney and the Central Coast, even from the Hunter Region, to come and share the day with us. The speakers for the day are David Tavender, John Hutton and myself.

Our weekly meeting in the Newcastle area continues strongly with John Hutton currently leading a series of studies on Satan, His activities in Scripture, and relevance to members of the Body. There has been some very helpful and thought-provoking material arising from that series.

How blest we are, with speakers and

writers who can not only find treasures in God's Word, but can then present them to us in ways that interest, stimulate and challenge us in our service for our Master.

I pray that each reader of this magazine will continue to know God's power and presence. As He has promised never to leave us, and also to give us even more than we can ask or think, if there is any lack in our lives, the fault is not on His side. I trust you enjoy this issue of Spiritual Blessings.

Athol Walter.

## Special events coming up soon ...

### Sydney Study Day:

**Sunday May 16**, Hornsby Hts  
Community Hall. 10.00 am start  
Contact: (02) 4996-4455

### Brisbane Study Weekend:

**June Long Weekend (12th,  
13th, 14th)** Redbank Plains  
High School. 9am start each day.  
Contact: (07) 3297-1981

## 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.

### **BBFA Postal Address:**

Box 3141  
GLENDALE, NSW 2285  
AUSTRALIA

The journal is registered by Australia Post  
PP255003/00975.

### **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:**

President: Athol Walter.  
V-President: Anne Ward.  
Treasurer: Sue Hall.  
Secretary: Margaret Abbott.  
Committee members:  
Bob Davidson, David Tavender.



# Apostleship & the Apostle Paul

by John Hutton



**O**UTSIDE THE “Christian Community” the word “apostle” is almost never used and really never needs to be. Inside the “Christian Community” the word means different things to various groups.

Some years ago two young men knocked on my door and told me that the twelve Apostles were active in America and were controlling and giving absolute authority to the “true church” which happened to be the one that they belonged to. The Roman Catholic, Anglican, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Lutheran denominations. etc. believe that the office of “Apostle”, usually under the title of Bishop, is handed down from one group to the next in a ritual where prayer and the “laying on of hands” plays an important role. This passing on of the office of Apostle is called Apostolic Succession.

The office of Apostle is recognized as being very important because it lends the authority of God to what is taught by the various denominations of the Christian Church.

## One that is “sent”

The Greek word for Apostle is *apostolos* and is made up of *apo* and *stello*. *Apo* is a preposition which denotes “motion away from” and *stello* means “to send”. Therefore *apostello* means “sent away from” or “sent from another” and the Apostle (*apostolos*) is the one that is sent.

A valuable demonstration of the use of the word is its only

## Apostleship in John 17 (excerpts)

- (1) These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father...
- (3) this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (*apostello*) ...
- (4) I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.
- (7)... Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.
- (8) For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me (*apostello*) ...
- (14) I have given them thy word...
- (17) Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
- (18) As thou hast sent me (*apostello*) into the world, even so have I also sent (*apostello*) them into the world.
- (19) And for their sakes I sanctify (set apart) myself, that they also might be sanctified (set apart) through the truth.
- (20) Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;
- (21) That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me (*apostello*).
- (22) And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one..
- (23) and that the world may know that thou hast sent me (*apostello*)...
- (25) and these have known that thou hast sent me (*apostello*).

occurrence in the Septuagint (the Greek O.T.) and is found in 1 Kings 14:6:

“And it was so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself to be another? For I am sent (*apostello*) to thee with heavy tidings.”

The Hebrew word which is translated *apostello* in the Septuagint is *shalach*. *Shalach* is used in Genesis 37:13 when Joseph is sent to his brethren in the field; also in Exodus 3:14 when God sends Moses to His people Israel; and in Isaiah 6:8 when God asks whom He should send to the people. The messages delivered are not always welcome ones.

In chapter 17 of the Gospel of John we are given some powerful usages of this word *apostello*. On this page are some selected portions, but the whole chapter is well worth reading when you have the time.

## Christ’s Apostleship

It might be argued that being sent to perform a task does not necessarily make the sent one an apostle. That is true - they could be termed a faithful servant, and the Lord was certainly that. That He was an apostle is made clear in Hebrews 3:1,2 ...

“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him ...”

In John 17 it is clear that the Lord Jesus Christ recognized that He was sent by the Father to deliver a message and that task had been accom-

(continued on page 8)



# All Things Work Together For Good..

by Charles H. Welch

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

## Romans 8:22-28

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh

intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

**T**HE EXPERIENCES OF JOB will throw some light upon the bearing of this verse, and its relation to the context.

“Behold, I go forward, but He is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive Him. On the left hand, where He doth work, but I cannot behold Him; he hideth Himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him” (Job 23:8,9)

Job could indeed say “We know not,” but he adds, “He knoweth”; and this saves his reason and his faith. He realizes, too, that the trials through which he is called upon to pass are governed by purpose, and planned by love.

“But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10).

In the same way, the believer today, however baffled he may be, has one anchorage in it all - the Lord knows, and makes all things work together for good.

### All things

We have on other occasions drawn attention to the necessity of distinguishing between “all things” (Gk: *panta*), and “the all things” (*ta panta*). The passage before us, together with the context, illustrates the difference very clearly. We scarcely need to be told by inspiration of God that the things of God, the things of the Spirit, the things of Christ, are for our good. To question this would simply indicate that we were irrational. What does, sometimes, present a problem is the question of things which are in themselves evil. The evil and the good are so intermixed, motives are often so

complex, the results of actions so widespread, that we might sometimes begin to doubt whether such things could make for good. The verse before us assures us that all things (*panta*) - all things without discrimination or exception - work together for good.

“All things (*panta*) are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s” (1 Corinthians 3:21-23). As we read these sweeping statements, our minds travel back to Romans 8:38,39:

“For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

In contrast with this universal aspect of “all things” (*panta*), including both good and evil, we read: “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things (*ta panta*)”? (Romans 8:32).

Here we see the two terms. “All things” (*panta*) work together for good; “the all things” (*ta panta*) are graciously given us with Christ. We must remember to distinguish these “things that differ.”

Among “all things” in the widest sense of the term must be included those sinful acts of men that are transgressions of the will of God. These cannot in any sense be said to be “graciously given us with Christ.” The idea is impossible and

unscriptural. Nevertheless, we do know that the Lord makes even the wrath of men to praise Him.

We dare not teach that God put it into the heart of the fraudulent Bank Managing Director so to act that our small deposit vanished, but we can and do teach that the miracle of the widow's cruse has had its modern equivalent. We do not teach that God intended that men should slander us and accuse us wrongfully, but we do teach that He overrules all such attacks and opposition in order to reveal us to ourselves, and to cast us the more upon Himself. The believer can safely say of all life's experiences:

"The Lord may not definitely have planned that this should overtake me, but He has most certainly permitted it. Therefore, though it be the attack of an enemy, by the time it reaches me it has the Lord's permission, and therefore all is well. He will make it work together with all life's experiences for good."

### Love and Redemption

To them that love God - The title of the believer here seems to have been specially chosen for his encouragement. This is the first occurrence of *agapao* in the epistle. At the close of chapter 8 we read:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We love Him because He first loved us; and the love of God is manifested in the gift of His Son. Is there a single passage of Scripture which teaches that God loves man apart from Christ and His redemptive work? If there be such a passage, we have yet to meet it. Consequently, if

it be true that "the love of God is in Christ Jesus our Lord," it is a love that has dealt with our sins, reconciled us to Himself, given us of the spirit of Sonship, and made us to cry, "Abba, Father." How can we, therefore, have the slightest doubt?

Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, tribulations work patience, patience works experience, experience works hope, and all things work together for good.


Joseph realised the truth of Romans 8:28, when he said: "But as for you, ye planned (Heb. *chasab*) evil against me, but God planned (Heb. *chasab*) it for good, to bring to pass as it is this day, to save much people alive" (Genesis 50:20).

To return to Romans 8, we must not fail to observe that the saints are given a double title, the second being in some measure a safeguard to the interpretation of the first. "To them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). As has already been quoted, "We love Him because He first loved us." This additional title gives us the only "reason" why God should ever have loved us - it was "according to His purpose".

"The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people. But because the Lord loved you, and because He would keep His oath which He had sworn unto your fathers" (Deuteronomy 7:7,8).

"The Lord loved ... because He loved." He "chose ... because He would keep His oath." If we turn to Ephesians 1, we meet the same argument.

"Blessed be .... God .... Who hath blessed us .... according as He hath chosen us . . . in love .... in the Beloved ... according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Ephesians 1:3-11).

Here then is our haven in life's storms, our rock while tempests rage, our fortress, and our high tower, summed up for us by the words: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" 

Romans 8:22-28	
A   WE KNOW (22-25).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a   The whole creation.</li> <li>b   Groaneth and travaileth together.</li> <li>c   Until now.</li> <li>a   Ourselves also, firstfruits.</li> <li>b   Groan within ourselves.</li> <li>c   Waiting for adoption.</li> <li>d   Saved by hope.</li> <li>e   Seen.</li> <li>f   not seen.</li> <li>d   Wait with patience.</li> </ul>
B   WE KNOW NOT (26).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f   Spirit helpeth infirmity.</li> <li>g   Prayer.</li> <li>h   As we ought.</li> <li>f   Spirit maketh intercession.</li> <li>g   Groans.</li> <li>b   Cannot be uttered.</li> </ul>
B   HE KNOWETH (27).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i   He that searcheth the heart.</li> <li>j   Knoweth the intention of the Spirit.</li> <li>i   He maketh intercession for the saints.</li> <li>j   According to God.</li> </ul>
A   WE KNOW (28).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>k   All things work together for good.</li> <li>l   To them that love God.</li> <li>l   To them who are called.</li> <li>k   According to His purpose.</li> </ul>

# The Bible is ...



Start

AGLRPLESBCURK

Pick every second letter,  
then write your answer here:

"A L L S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ,

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ,

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ "

(Check your answer with 2 Timothy 3:16)

# Who is the Bible About?

Some of the Bible  
is only about  
ISRAEL a long time ago.

"Tell the people of Israel ...  
you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.  
These are the words you are to speak  
\_\_\_\_\_." (Exodus 19:3,6)



Some of the Bible is  
only about  
YOU and ME today.

"God raised \_\_\_ up with Christ and seated \_\_\_ with  
Him in the heavenly [places]" (Ephesians 2:6)

## What to do:

(1) Look up these 3 verses  
in your Bible and fill in  
the missing words.

(2) Draw "ALL OF US"  
here (Israelites and us  
today together).

(3) Colour in this page.

Some of the Bible is about EVERYONE -  
Israelites a long time ago  
*and* you and me today.

"There is no condemnation for those who are  
\_\_\_\_\_." (Romans 8:1)

# Apostleship & the Apostle Paul

(cont. from page 3)

plished (verse 4). He had delivered the message that He had been sent (*apostello*) to give (verse 8).

Earlier in the Gospel of John, the Lord had stressed the point that He was delivering the words of another.

“For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father Which sent me, He gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak” (John 12:49,50).

If the messenger was rejected then the message delivered would be the judge of the one who would not listen:

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

The Lord Jesus was appointed by God, given His message by God and spoke only those words which were given Him. The same authority of Apostleship that applied to The Lord applied to Paul as well.

## The “worship” of an Apostle?

To those who read Spiritual Blessings, or any of the various publications that are advertised in the journal, it is obvious that the Apostle Paul plays an important part in the message that we present for your consideration. Sometimes we are accused of placing Paul on such a pedestal that we treat his message as of more importance than that of the Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospels. It is true that the Apostle Paul is quoted often in our

messages and it is understandable that some might get the wrong impression of his importance to us, so perhaps an explanation might be in order.

In the Gospel of Mark, the Lord Jesus makes the following statement in Chapter 7, verse 10; “For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother (Exodus 20:12); and, whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death” (Exodus 21:17).

In chapter 7 of John’s Gospel, verse 23, the Lord calls the law, “the law of Moses”.

I’m sure that nobody reading Mark 7:10 would think for one moment that the Lord meant that the words were important because they were Moses’ own message. We all know that the words were spoken by God to Moses, and he relayed them to the people. The Lord does not have to say, “God spoke these words to Moses and he passed them on to the People”. He simply says “For Moses said”, and everybody knows what He meant. Similarly, we know that when He says “the Law of Moses”, He means God’s law given through Moses.

Moses was never meant to be worshipped by the people of Israel - all worship belongs to God - but he was greatly respected by the Israelites because he was the one whom God chose to be His messenger to them.

## Paul

Now what about Paul? In Acts 26 Paul tells Agrippa of his conversion and adds some details that are not given in the earlier accounts of the event:

“...I saw in the way a light from heaven, ... and when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me ... And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest .. I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee ... delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send (*apostello*) thee (vv.13-17).

The Lord was the one who was sending Paul, firstly as a witness of the things he had already seen, and then with a message that would be delivered by Him personally. In 1 Corinthians 15:8 Paul testifies that that appearing took place - “And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time”. The word “seen” in that verse is the Greek word *optanomai*, and

means “to gaze” i.e. with wide open eyes, as at something remarkable (Acts 1:3).

### Message given to Paul

In Galatians chapter 1, Paul stresses the point that his message was not passed on to him by any man:

“Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead” (v.1) ... “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man” (v.11) ... “For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ” (v.12) ... “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen (Gentiles); immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus” (vv.15-17).

When did this appearing take place? Perhaps it was in Arabia. The fact that it had taken place was obvious to Peter, James and John as recorded in Galatians:

“But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man’s person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me: But contrariwise. when they saw (recognized) that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter: (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be

pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship, that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision” (Galatians 2:6-9).

Paul realised the important fact that he was writing what the Lord had given him to write and that it was on the same plane as all other Scripture. He is careful to tell us when he is only writing his own opinion.

“Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, yet I give my judgment (opinion), as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful” (1 Corinthians 7:25).

The message that the Lord gave Paul obviously differed in some respects from that which He taught the disciples between the time of His resurrection and ascension. Don’t forget that these disciples were taught by the Living Word, with the great advantage that the eyes of their understanding had been opened to what He taught. (Luke 24:45)

Peter was one of the number who sat at the feet of the Lord, so let us take note of what he had to say about the message given to Paul.

***“ ... an apostle speaks with all the authority of the One Who sends him ... ”***

“... our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:15-16).

Firstly let us note that Peter had great difficulty understanding Paul’s message that had been “given unto him”; secondly, he acknowledged that Paul’s writings were to be considered as Scripture; and thirdly, that the wrong attitude to Scripture leads to destruction.

### Apostle to the Gentiles

Paul is acknowledged in Scripture as the apostle - the sent one - to the Gentiles, and being Gentiles his message must be important to us Gentiles. We respect him as a great man of faith, and our apostle. His importance to us is that he has God’s Word for us. He is the one whom God has chosen to bring the message to us Gentiles who were “... without Christ, ... aliens from

(continued on page 11)



I AM WRITING these words on the eve of Good Friday, the day on which tradition would have us commemorate the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus

Christ. Yet there are many good reasons to believe that Christ did not die on a Friday at all - reasons well known to many of our readers.

The day - and also the hour - on which the Lord died are important. For one thing, the integrity of Scripture is involved.

From another point of view, however, it makes little difference to me when it was the Lamb of God took my place, became the doer of my sins, suffered the awful and, to us, incomprehensible agony of being abandoned by the Father, and then paid the price by dying.

What matters most to me is that it was done. **Christ did die in my place.** And from the simple viewpoint of faith, that is all that matters.

I derive great blessing and enjoyment from wrestling with the accounts of the suffering and crucifixion of my Saviour, and I think I know the day in which He died. But others can put up weighty arguments for different days, so the matter is not cut and dried.

Fortunately, all that is not the main issue. The vital points are not in doubt. This is a fact. In the birth of the baby who was called Jesus, God became one with us. Another fact: He lived His life in accordance with the will of His Father,

and went to the Cross without spot or blemish. Even His enemies testified to that. It is also fact that, without either sin or sins of His own to pay for, He was thus able to become the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.

And, glorious fact, He flung out the triumphant cry from the cross, "IT IS FINISHED". And then He handed up His life of His own free will. He died. He was put into the tomb. It was sealed and guarded, and His friends mourned. But all the power of Rome and the grave could not hold Him, for He was without sin.

I believe that, as precisely as He died, He rose at the precise moment required by redemption's plan. Once more, it is uncertain exactly when, but the important fact is that when His disciples came seeking His body, the angel could say, "He is not here, He is risen."

Again, from faith's simple standpoint, we need no more.

To complete the sequence, the Lord also ascended into Heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of God. And, most glorious fact of all, as members of the Church which is His Body, through faith we have jointly shared in each of those steps with Him. We pray that you know and acknowledge these truths in your life. 📖

**Crucified with Him (Galatians 2:20)**

**Died with Him (Romans 6:8)**

**Buried with Him (Romans 6:4)**

**Quickened with Him (Ephesians 2:5)**

**Risen with Him (Ephesians 2:6)**

**Seated with Him (Ephesians 2:6)**

**Appear with Him (Colossians 3:4)**

# **Apostleship & the Apostle Paul** (continued from page 9)

the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world"; and that "... now in Christ Jesus ye (we) who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:12-13).

Paul's importance to us is that he is the chosen messenger of Christ Jesus, and that we have the most detailed record of his manner of life of all God's people in the New Testament. That "manner of life" won for him the sought after "Crown of Righteousness".

Having said all of that, we have no Saviour or Redeemer, no hope, no standing before God at all outside of the Lord Jesus Christ who has "... loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" (Ephesians 5:2).

## **Apostles' words**

Apostles spoke what God would have them say, whether it was the Lord Christ Jesus, the chief Apostle, or Peter, or James or Paul, "the least of the apostles" (1 Corinthians 15:9). An Apostle speaks with all the authority of the One Who sends him. The people turned away from the Lord and one day His words will indeed judge them.

People also turned away from the words of Paul (2 Timothy 1:15) and "the form of sound words" that had been committed to him (v.13). The result was that the Christian World descended into the "Dark Ages" firstly, and then absolute moral decline. It was the words given by the risen Lord through Paul which gave rise to the Reformation, both inside and outside of the established church.

## **Are there any Apostles today?**


Colossians 1:25-27 tells us that the revelation of the Mystery fills up the Word of God:

"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; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory".

The word "fulfil" in verse 25 is the same word that is used for "complete" in chapter 2:10, "... and ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power".

With that revelation the Scriptures were completed and the need for Apostles and Prophets was finished. All of the information about the plans of God (i.e. those that He wanted revealed) have been given, and for our protection there isn't any more.

Why then was it important to keep the office of Apostle alive in the church? With time, the Scriptures became less and less important as far as Christian practise was concerned and for new innovation to be accepted as further revelation, it needed authority. Apostolic Succession was sufficient. The authority of Scripture has decreased over time and the Bible is now regarded by an increasing number of people as a sacred book to be revered, but one that is entirely out of date with the needs of modern society.

It seems that modern society knows nothing of sin, so the need of a Saviour has become irrelevant. That being the case, it is no wonder that Scripture is being downgraded and God's messengers ignored. 

**People  
turned  
away  
from the  
words of  
Paul -  
the result  
was the  
Dark  
Ages**

Visit our web site:

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

Visit our web site:

**www.spiritualblessings.org.au**



**What's there?**

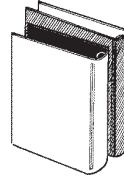
Great Bible study articles & charts,  
printable back issues of Spiritual Blessings,  
catalogue of our huge range of literature, tapes, etc  
**and so much more.**

# 2004 Annual Conference . . . . .

Start planning today to join us at Camp Toukley for the BBFA's 2004 Annual Conference

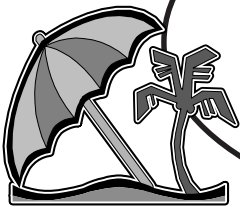
The emphasis in our program will be the study of the Scriptures, as always. This time our venue offers a variety of family activities, too.

The ultimate chance to have a break from the daily routine, and focus on God's Word, all in a holiday setting on NSW's Central Coast



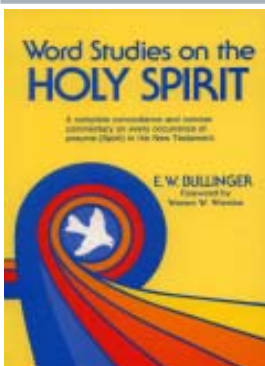
- Great Bible Studies
- Question & Answer session
- Loads of great outdoor activities, including: archery, canoeing, tennis, swimming, surfing, and so much more!
- 2 min walk to lake
- 5 min drive to beach
- 10 min drive to shops
- Huge bookstall with books, tapes & CDs free and for purchase
- Comfy air conditioned cabins
- Choice of meals
- Terrific fellowship

**Set aside these dates in your diary today...  
22nd, 23rd, 24th  
October 2004**



Watch for booking details in future issues of Spiritual Blessings.

## Books for Study and Encouragement



**Word Studies on the Holy Spirit** - E.W. Bullinger  
224 pages HB /PB  
\$16.00 inc. postage  
An in-depth study of the Holy Spirit and His work. Investigates the use of the Greek word "pneuma" (which means spirit) and gives a complete listing of all occurrences in the N.T., with explanations of each.

**How to order:**

Please send a cheque / money order for \$16.00, payable to "BBFA Book Agency", to:

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

