Brushing, Flossing and Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

By Kurt Bray

“Some people say that raising kids is not for the faint at heart. Lois and I have been blessed with two great kids who made us look like we knew what we are doing. Knowingly or unknowingly, we raised them “gracefully”. When they made mistakes, it gave us the opportunity to show them grace. As they look back and consider the mistakes we made, they will have the opportunity to show us grace. We tried to prepared ourselves to answer their questions, which actually helped us grow. And for the most part we kept up with them. But now that they are young adults, we find our selves running faster to keep up with their growth and understanding. But I can’t imagine a greater joy than the fellowship we have with them in the word.” — Kent Bray

Kent, Lois and Kurt Bray

dispensation of floss and beseech you brethren to not only be partakers in flossing, but dispensators of floss.

You may be wondering, how anyone could ever want to work in someone's mouth. Well I have not always

(continued on page 2)
wanted to be a dentist, but after looking at careers in law (long hours and lots of “Leviticus-like” reading) and pharmaceutical science (lots of reading and little hands-on work as a professor) I decided that the life of a dentist sounded pretty good. With the ability to work with my hands, setting my own hours, along with the ability and time to support a family and ministry; dentistry seemed like a good career choice. (Since we all need a job or we do not deserve to eat – II Thess. 3:10 – and I enjoy eating)

As I continue to grow in the knowledge and wisdom God has laid out in his word, I find nothing more exhilarating in life than the joy from learning something from God’s word and then being able to share this knowledge, through scripture, with others.

Little did I know the four years that first must be paid to get the D.M.D. would consume so much of my time, but I try to keep in mind that all the knowledge I am trying to shove into my brain will be of little importance in eternity future. This helps me to keep my focus on God’s Word, which will be important in eternity future. I thank God for the saints in Portland with whom I have the privilege of studying. Our studies in Romans, the mystery, evangelism and Acts throughout the past year have kept me in the Word. I was given the opportunity to teach on Romans 14, which many saints from the Northwest were able to attend. Among other gems of information I learned during the study, I grew in my understanding of the insightful terminology used by God in his Word. Just as our maturity from children to sons is directly linked to going from milk to meat doctrine, the terminology Paul utilizes when describing our justification, sanctification and exaltation are linked to standing (Romans 14:4), walking (Romans 14:15) and running. As I continue to grow in the knowledge and wisdom God has laid out in his word, I find nothing more exhilarating in life than the joy from learning something from God’s word and then being able to share this knowledge, through scripture, with others (whether they accept it or not).

I also thank God for the believers I have had the opportunity to study with from school. We have been studying Daniel and John, which at times has been difficult because the brethren at the study do not YET fully understand right division. However, the leader of the study allowed me to lead the study on Daniel 9. I had been spending many weeks studying the chapter in anticipation of this opportunity and learned a great deal in the process. (It seems unfair when you get to lead a study because you learn so much more than you ever have the time to teach at most Bible studies.) I was able to share the prayer of Daniel in chapter 9 and how it relates to the covenant as described in Leviticus 26 and the 5th course of punishment. But the main reason I wanted to teach Daniel 9 was because in earlier dealings in Daniel the topic of a pause in the time schedule set out by Daniel was discussed. I thought this was a good way to utilize the Old Testament to show the presence of the mystery and the dispensation of grace we are currently in today. By going through some specifics of the time schedule outlined in the 70 weeks of Daniel, I was able to show that the time schedule that should have been completed 490 years after the decree to rebuild the temple has not come to its completion yet.

Unfortunately, I think I attempted to cover far too much in our short one and a half hour session, which was a good lesson. However, I was able to make handouts outlining the subject in hopes that they may study it out further and come to see the importance of the mystery and rightly dividing the word of truth. Fortunately, I have three more years to try to make this exceedingly clear.

I commend unto you Jen our sister, which is a servant of the church in Seattle and the Northwest Grace Conference: for her work in putting the Seattle conference and this publication together. Salute Bill and Deb Walker and the church in their house in Portland. Salute Kent and Lois Bray, my parents and a constant support. Salute Keith Blades, Alex Kurz, Richard Jordan and John Verstegan and all the brethren that have been helpers of my joy. I salute all of the saints in the Northwest and throughout the entire world for their sufferings for Christ and the gospel of the grace of God.

I beseech you brethren to continue daily in the scripture that ye my be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works and brought unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and by cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: that we all be of one mind having the mind of Christ, that there be no division among us. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
Why go to a Bible conference?

By Jennilee Malone

Before the Seattle conference, I didn’t understand the term “redeeming the time.” But while I was there, I learned how we as believers can use time to glorify God, for example, setting time free from the darkness of this world. In the past, I had somewhat skipped over Ephesians 5:16 while reading through the Bible, but the sessions at the conference covered the meaning of redeeming the time and suggested three things to do with the time you have:

- First, edify — Feed the inner man with the Word.
- Second, employ — Walk honestly, be content in the doctrine, and glory in tribulation.
- And third, entrust — Plan meetings, share doctrine, and do so that faithful men might be able to teach others also (see II Tim 2:1-2).

I started going to Bible conferences because I was frustrated at not having a local assembly of grace believers. I didn’t want to keep going to any local churches because they didn’t understand right division and thought my “ideas” were “outrageous.” Any Bible study group I participated in would cut me off the moment I began talking about the Bible being “all FOR us, but not all TO us.”

Now I go to Bible conferences, not out of frustration, but rather to see and visit with good friends that are part of the Body of Christ, and to discuss and study the Bible. Basically, I go for the edification. The edification allows me to employ the doctrine, walking honestly according to Paul’s gospel, which enables me to entrust that life-giving doctrine and teach others.

I learned additional verses at the Seattle conference that I can refer to when discussing the final authority of the Bible. When I came home and noticed a friend reading out of the NIV version of the Bible, I was able to ask her if she thought it was the final authority and if it was, does it glorify God. We went to the Scripture, Galatians 2:16 and I explained to her the difference between “of Christ” and “in Christ.” My friend now has a KJV version of the Bible.

A conference helps you “put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph 6:22). Having attended a conference or having one to look forward to makes everyday life less negative. With such encouragement, and the awareness that you have others with whom to discuss the Word rightly divided, you are better equipped with the knowledge that you need to make it through the present difficult time. Christ is always sufficient in tribulation. What more could you need?
Northwest Grace Conferences
2523 Comstock Court
Missoula, Montana 59808

Marla, Kris, Shawna, & Danielle

Alex, Charlene & Jim

Pauline and Kelly

The Amazing Shirley Fisher with Stephen

Kent and Diane

Going River Rafting in Montana

Norm & Marie