



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Issue 30

THE PROOF:

Approving the Excellent

Texts: I Thessalonians 5:21; Philippians 1:10

An Introduction to the Doctrine of the Bible

Part VIII

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The following material is set forth so that the Bible believer might see for himself just how the modern versions of the Bible affect Bible doctrine. This is a very important subject to the student of the Word of God. It may be that many are unaware of this critical problem. Some may even have thought it to be unimportant, having been led to believe that the differences between the King James Version and the modern translations are minor. This is simply not the case.

I Thessalonians 5:21 tells us to:

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

As the old saying goes, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." As Bible believers, we should analyze the versions and see which one will stand the test! And what can be the standard – but the doctrine itself? We will test the Bible by its own words!

After having put the versions to the test we can then identify the "good" and hold to it "fast." In Philippians 1:10 Paul says:

"That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ."

After having "proved all things," we are then equipped to "approve things that are excellent." This will lead

to us being "sincere and without offence till the day of Christ." This is the idea of II Timothy 2:15,

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

CHRIST THE CREATOR

Ephesians 3:9

KING JAMES

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."

LIVING BIBLE

And to explain to everyone that God is the Savior
(continued on page 307)

The Proof: Approving the Excellent -	
An Introduction to the Doctrine	
of the Bible, Part VIII	305
Divine Forgiveness	312
Prerequisites to Body Life	313
I Am a KXY Person	316
Attacks on the Word	316
Literature's Value	316
Up on the Bible	316

Dominion Evangelism

"I sometimes have an uneasy feeling about certain missionary conventions and the missionary challenge to which we have become accustomed. You hear one speaker after another committing YOU to the TASK, claiming YOUR life for this mission field or that. 'The Need,' all too often it is said, 'constitutes the call!' There are a THOUSAND needs ... No man or woman on earth has the right to commit any member of the body of Jesus Christ to any task or to any field; that is to usurp the authority of the head of the body, Jesus Christ Himself. 'But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him' (I Corinthians 12:18) ...

"God is perfectly capable of taking care of His own affairs, and the reason so little is being accomplished by the church of Jesus Christ today is that we have all too often organized God out of business. Millions of man-hours and countless millions of dollars are being misspent on man's promotional activity, unasked, on God's behalf ...

"What an embarrassment it would be to you if you had a pair of hands that always tried to demonstrate how busy they were! Do you expect your fingers to tell you each morning what their program is for the day, and then demonstrate their enthusiasm by a vigorous show of uncontrolled activity? Do you think you would be successful in playing the piano on that basis? I would not like to ask a barber who had hands like that to shave me!

"Surely, what the head demands of every member of the body is RESTFUL AVAILABILITY

...

"The challenge we hear so often today in the name of consecration is 'Do more! Give more! Be more!' Go! Go! Go! But God says, 'Be STILL, and know that I am God!' In other words, quit the panic! Just let God be God!" – Major W. Ian Thomas, *The Saving Life of Christ*, (p. 61, 62).

Bible Student's Notebook™

ISSN: 1936-9360
No. 30 – July, 1995

This biweekly publication (24 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7)
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11)
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25)
- true freedom and liberty apart from the law (Galatians 5:1)
- the organic nature of the church, the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12)
- the distinct ministry of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13)
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15)
- the recovery of *rich* Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13).
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with ...
 - total forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14)
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6)
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4)

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "Movement," "Organization," "Mission," or separate body of believers, but is sent forth to and for all "saints."

SUBSCRIPTION

U.S.: 6 months (12 issues) - \$24⁰⁰; 1 year (24 issues) - \$42⁰⁰; 2 years (48 issues) - \$72⁰⁰; 3 years (72 issues) - \$90⁰⁰;
Foreign: 1 year (24 issues) - \$60⁰⁰;

PATRIARCHS

Remember that it is our responsibility as husbands and fathers to take the truths we learn from God's Word, the truths that we hold dear, and impart them to our families.

The Bible Student's Notebook™

bsn@studyshelf.com
www.BibleStudentsNotebook.com

PO Box 265
Windber, PA 15963
Office: (800) 784-6010

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor
Andre Sneidar – Managing Editor

Visit our online bookstore at: www.StudyShelf.com

Copyright © 1989-2007 Pilkington & Sons
(recompiled and edited)

of the Gentiles too, just as he who made all things had secretly planned from the very beginning.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

And to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

And to make all men see how God's secret plan is to put into effect. God, who is the Creator of all things, kept his secret hid through all the past ages,

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Colossians 1:14

KING JAMES

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"

REVISED STANDARD VERSION

In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

In Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

By whom we are set free and our sins are forgiven.

Is JESUS A SINNER?

Matthew 5:22

KING JAMES

"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."

LIVING BIBLE

But I have added to that rule, and tell you that if you are only angry, even in your own home, you are in danger of judgement! If you call your friend an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse him, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgement. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

But now I tell you: whosoever is angry with his brother will be brought before the judge; whoever calls his brother "You good-for-nothing!" will be brought before the Council; and whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to the fire of hell.

"Without a cause" is missing. Read Mark 3:5 in any version. Jesus Christ was angry. The modern versions make Jesus Christ a sinner in danger of the judgement.

MESSIANIC PROPHECY

Matthew 27:35

KING JAMES

"And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots."

LIVING BIBLE

After the crucifixion, the soldiers threw dice to divide up his clothes among themselves.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

They nailed him to the cross, and divided his clothes among them by throwing dice.

Mark 1:2, 3

KING JAMES

“As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

LIVING BIBLE

In the book written by the prophet Isaiah, God announced that he would send his Son to earth, and that a special messenger would arrive to prepare the world for his coming. This messenger will live out in the barren wilderness,” Isaiah said, “and will proclaim that everyone must straighten out his life to be ready for the Lord’s arrival,”

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” – “a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

It began as the prophet Isaiah had written: “‘Here is my messenger,’ says God; ‘I will send him ahead of you to open the way for you.’ Someone is shouting in the desert, ‘Get the Lord’s road ready for him; make a straight path for him to travel!’”

MARK 15:28

KING JAMES

“And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.”

REVISED STANDARD VERSION

(no verse 28)

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

(no verse 28)

NEW ENGLISH BIBLE

(no verse 28)

FAITH IN CHRIST OMITTED

John 6:47

KING JAMES

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”

REVISED STANDARD VERSION

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

I tell you the truth: he who believes has eternal life.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 4:4

KING JAMES

“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”

LIVING BIBLE

But Jesus replied, “It is written in the Scriptures, ‘Other things in life are much more important than bread!’”

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’”

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

Jesus answered, “The scripture says, ‘Man cannot live on bread alone.’”

II Corinthians 2:17

KING JAMES

“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”

LIVING BIBLE

Only those who, like ourselves, are men of integrity, sent by God, speaking with Christ's power, with God's eye upon us. We are not like those hucksters – and there are many of them – whose idea in getting out the Gospel is to make a good living out of it.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

We are not like so many others, who handle God's message as if it were cheap merchandise: But because God has sent us, we speak with sincerity in his presence, as servants of Christ.

Matthew 18:11

KING JAMES

“For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.”

REVISED STANDARD VERSION

(no verse 11)

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

(no verse 11)

NEW ENGLISH BIBLE

(no verse 11)

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

Luke 2:33

KING JAMES

~~“And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.”~~

REVISED STANDARD VERSION

~~And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.~~

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

~~The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.~~

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

~~The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him.~~

THE TRINITY

I John 5:7

KING JAMES

~~“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”~~

~~Other Versions omit the content of verse seven, and to cover it up they split verse eight in half, making the first part the content of verse seven.~~

STUDY TO RIGHTLY DIVIDE

II Timothy 2:15

KING JAMES

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

LIVING BIBLE

Work hard so God can say to you, “Well Done.” Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. Know what his Word says and means.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

Do your best to win full approval in God's sight, as a worker who is not ashamed of his work, one who correctly teaches the message of God's truth.

PAUL's DISTINCTIVE "MY GOSPEL" OMITTED

Romans 2:16

KING JAMES

"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."

LIVING BIBLE

The day will surely come when at God's command Jesus Christ will judge the secret lives of everyone, their inmost thoughts and motives; this is all part of God's great plan which I proclaim.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

This, according to the Good News I preach, is how it will be on the Day when God, through Jesus Christ, will judge all the secret thoughts in men's hearts.

DISPENSATIONAL TRUTHS: PAUL's DISTINCTIVE "MY GRACE" OMITTED

Philippians 1:7

KING JAMES

"Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace."

LIVING BIBLE

How natural it is that I should feel as I do about you, for you have a very special place in my heart.

We have shared together the blessings of God, both when I was in prison and when I was out, defending the truth and telling others about Christ.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

You are always in my heart! And so it is only right for me to feel this way about you all. For you have shared with me in this privilege that God has given me, both now that I am in prison and also while I was free to defend and firmly establish the gospel.

DO JEWS REQUIRE A SIGN? I Corinthians 1:22

KING JAMES

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

LIVING BIBLE

It seems foolish to the Jews because they want a sign from heaven as proof that what is preached is true.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

Jews want miracles for proof, and Greeks look for wisdom.

THE MISSING DISPENSATION Ephesians 3:2

KING JAMES

"If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward."

LIVING BIBLE

No doubt you already know that God has given me this special work showing God's favor to you Gentiles.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

Surely you have heard that God, in his grace, has given me this work to do for your good.

THE MISSING MYSTERY

I Timothy 3:9

KING JAMES

"Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience."

LIVING BIBLE

They must be earnest, wholehearted followers of Christ who is the hidden Source of their faith.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

They should hold the revealed truth of the faith with a clear conscience.

IN ME FIRST

I Timothy 1:16

KING JAMES

"Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."

LIVING BIBLE

But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as an example to show everyone how patient he is with even the worst sinners, so that others will realize that they, too, can have everlasting life.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

But it was for this very reason that God was merciful to me, in order that Christ Jesus might show his full patience with me, the worst of sinners, as an example of all those who would later believe in him and receive eternal life.

DIFFERENT GOSPELS, OR DIFFERENT PEOPLE?

Galatians 2:7

KING JAMES

"But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;"

LIVING BIBLE

In fact, when Peter, James, and John, who were known as the pillars of the church, saw how greatly God had used me in winning the Gentiles, just as Peter had been blessed so greatly in his preaching to the Jews - for the same God gave us each our spiritual gifts - they shook hands with Barnabas and me and encouraged us to keep right on with our preaching to the Gentiles while they continued their work with the Jews (vs. 7-9).

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

On the contrary, they saw that I had been given the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been given the task of preaching the gospel to the Jews.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN

On the contrary, they saw that God had given me the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the task of preaching the gospel to the Jews. ■

Divine Forgiveness

Colossians 1:14

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

I. THE DEFINITION OF FORGIVENESS

- A. “The act of forgiving; the pardon of an offender, by which he is considered and treated as not guilty.

“The pardon or remission of an offense or crime” (Webster).

- B. “Dismission, discharge, setting free ... The forgiveness of sins on the part of God, and with reference to future Judgement; total remission and forgiveness excluding all idea of punishment” (Bullinger).
- C. The word for forgiveness (aphesis – Strong’s #859 meaning freedom or pardon) is also the word translated remission.

II. THE TIMING OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS

- A. Present tense possession – Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14.
- B. Based upon a past tense accomplishment – Colossians 2:13.

III. THE BASIS OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS

- A. Christ is the basis of forgiveness – Ephesians 4:32; Acts 13:38.
- B. Forgiveness is the product and process of redemption – Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14.
- C. Forgiveness is trans-dispensationally based upon blood – Hebrews 9:22; Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14.

- D. Christ’s Righteousness – Romans 3:25.

IV. THE DISPENSATIONAL ASPECT OF FORGIVENESS

- A. In “time past” forgiveness was directed toward Israel – Matthew 26:28; Luke 1:77; Acts 5:31.
- B. In “time past” forgiveness was directly associated with water baptism – Mark 1:4 (c.f. Romans 3:25); Luke 3:3; Acts 2:38.
- C. In “but now” forgiveness is directed toward “ALL who believe” (Rom. 3:22, 26), and based solely and unconditionally on the merit of God’s grace – the “free gift” (Rom. 5:15; Eph. 2:8, 9)

V. THE MEASURE OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS

- A. According to the riches of His grace – Ephesians 1:7.
- B. The identity of the measure – Romans 5:20 (His grace “did much more abound”).

VI. THE NATURE OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS

- A. It is Perfect forgiveness – “ALL” sins (past, present and future) – Colossians 2:13.
- B. It is Eternal forgiveness – once our sins are forgiven they will never be brought up again – Romans 8:33, 34.
- C. It is Authentic forgiveness – many say “Yes, I forgive, BUT...” The Lord has no BUTS in His forgiveness – Psalm 103:12.

Prerequisites to Body Life

Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 2:19

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

I. A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORD OF GOD

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things ...” (Ephesians 4:15a).

For Spiritual Growth:

A. There MUST BE TRUTH

Truth is the nutrition of spiritual growth.

- ❖ The SOURCE of Truth (John 17:17)
- ❖ The DIVISION of Truth (II Timothy 2:15; II Peter 1:12)
- ❖ The ABSENCE of Truth (II Timothy 4:3, 4; I Timothy 6:5a)

We cannot get past this issue! The Word of God is the source of all spiritual life, including body life (John 6:63; Hebrews 4:12)! The Body cannot progress in spiritual growth without a steady supply of God’s Word (c.f. I Peter 2:2).

B. The TRUTH MUST BE SPOKEN

Body life must spring from faithful communication of Bible doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16, 17).

1. The PROCESS – II Timothy 3:16

❖ DOCTRINE:

Strong’s #1319: “instruction” – This word is also translated as “learning” and “teaching.”

❖ REPROOF:

Strong’s #1650: “proof, conviction” –

This word is also translated as “evidence” and “tell” (take special note of “tell” in Matthew 18:15).

The idea here is to “bring an issue home.”

❖ CORRECTION:

Strong’s #1882: “straightening up again.”

❖ INSTRUCTION:

Strong’s #3809: “tutorage or training; by implication disciplinary correction” – This word is also translated as “chastening,” “chastisement” and “nurture.”

❖ A word that describes this process: ADMONISH

Strong’s #3560: “to put in mind, i.e. (by implication) to caution or reprove gently.

Strong’s #3559: “calling attention to, i.e., (by implication) mild rebuke or warning” (See Colossians 3:16).

2. The RESULT – II Timothy 3:17

- a. Adulthood – “man of God”
- b. Fully equipped – “throughly furnished”

C. The TRUTH MUST BE SPOKEN IN LOVE

There must be the communication of doctrine in an atmosphere of divine love. The truth spoken in envy, strife, contention and pretense has little effect. It has no eternal value (I Corinthians 13:2-3).

II. A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HEAD

“... may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ: from Whom ...” (Ephesians 4:15b, 16a).

“And not holding the Head, from which ...” (Colossians 2:19).

A. Recognizing the Head

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Body (Colossians 1:18). In fact it is HIS BODY! He is the living Head and it is He who gives life to the members.

NO ONE ELSE has the right to hold this position! The life of the Body of Christ is dependent upon holding the Head in His proper relationship and function to the rest of the Body. This is essential.

B. The Meaning of HEADSHIP

What is the issue in HEADSHIP? What is the issue involved? *Authority* (Ephesians 5:23). And what is our ONLY proper response to authority? *Submission*.

The break down of the life and function of the Body of Christ begins with a failure to hold the Head in His preeminent place!

C. The Rejection of Headship

1. Not Functional At All – dead (I Timothy 5:6)

When a part of the body is non-responsive to the authority of Christ in their life they can become paralyzed (or “dead,” not functioning).

2. Functioning wildly – enemies (Philippians 3:18)

Or they can become wild and uncontrolled (palsy) and in actual opposition to the head.

III. A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER BODY MEMBERS

A. Body Members are FITTED Together

“... the whole Body fitly joined together and compacted” (Ephesians 4:16)

1. The Words

❖ FITLY JOINED TOGETHER

Strong’s #4883: “to render close-jointed together”

❖ COMPACTED

Strong’s #4822: “to drive together”

What comes to mind as we think of the word “compact?”

The idea here is one of eliminating the “space” between members of the Body; removing the emptiness that exists between them.

The Body members are then “close” (spaceless) and can be said to be, using the modern vernacular, “tight.”

The issue of “individualism” and “self” is then replaced by one of unity, oneness, fellowship, cooperation and **communion**. Some saints, echoing the philosophy of the world, say, “I need my space,” when in fact God is working to eliminate the space.

2. The Applications

a. Requires TIME & EFFORT

This, for all practical purposes, requires much time and effort. This is not an easy process. We do not “naturally” fit together.

b. There is MUCH that hinders a close FIT

We have much on the exterior that hinders a good “fit.” We all, humanly speaking, come from as many varying backgrounds and have as many unique characteristics as there are parts of us. And these must be fitted together by God.

c. NOT Limited to Position

This fitting is not just limited to position, we must have this done in our day-to-day life. We must have our “rough” edges knocked off.

d. The Fitting Process

Therefore, before full Body life can be enjoyed, there must be much “cutting,” “planing,” “rasping,” and “sandpapering” done to each of us.

e. Are We Co-operating?

Are we resisting such an effort because it is too difficult? Or are we “submitting one to another in the fear of God” so that this process can find its completion in us?

B. Body Members are HELD together

“every joint” (Ephesians 4:16)
“joints and bands” (Colossians 2:19)

1. The Word

❖ JOINT & BANDS

Strong’s #860: “ligament”

2. The Application

The “joints” are the “fasteners” of the Body members. No relationships, no Body life!

“A joint is not a member, it is the interface or ‘place of relationship’ between two members. A healthy body functions,

not simply because members are strong, but because their strengths are properly related and coupled together (Ephesians 4:15, 16; Colossians 2:19). Our spiritual growth depends upon the quality of our inter-relationships with brothers and sisters as well as upon our personal relationship with the Lord.” Dale Rumble, *The Diakonate* (p. 11).

Once the Body members have been “fitted” together, in a practical sense, then “joints” (ligaments) hold the parts together. Relationships are the “joints” and they are developed to a “holding” quality through TRUST and COMMITMENT

There MUST Be CONTINUAL RELATIONSHIP!

C. Body Members are SUPPLIED Together

“... every joint supplieth ...” (Ephesians 4:16)

“... having nourishment ministered ...” (Colossians 2:19)

1. The Words

❖ SUPPLIETH & NOURISHMENT MINISTERED

Strong’s #2024: *epichoregia* – “full supply”

2. The Application

a. The Full Supply of Growth is Now Possible

As the Body members are “fitted” together and “held” there by the “joints,” then the Body has opportunity to enjoy the supply that God has designed to come from the Body. Each Body member plays a crucial role.

b. The Result: The BODY is EDIFIED

The result is edification and spiritual growth. But mind you, it is corporate! – *“the edifying of ITSELF in love!”* ITSELF! Not ourselves, *not me, not you* – but the Body **ITSELF!**

c. The importance of MUTUAL MINISTRY AND GROWTH

We have a tendency, in our lives, to get caught up with self and individualism. We must remember that we now have been brought into living UNION with Christ and each other – our life is a Body life! God is not so much concerned with individual growth and ministry as He is with the growth and ministry of the Body. God has not designed it so that we as *individual* believers grow independently and do our own ministry thing. God is not looking for a man, nor a few good men, rather He is looking for His Body!

d. God’s Way – or NO Way

“... increaseth with the increase of God” (Colossians 2:19).

The Body is to grow in the growth of God. We are to grow in His designed way!

Truly none of us can say, “I have no need of thee.” ■

Attacks on the Word of God

“Today the attacks of Satan on the Word of God are cleverly disguised in the garb of progress, scholarship and science, but are motivated by the same purpose of destroying the literal meaning of God’s Word.” – M.R. DeHann, Founder, Radio Bible Class, *Bible Versions and Perversions* (1962).

I AM A KXY PXRSON

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll, xxcxpt for onx of thx kxys. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxrfxctly. It is trux thxrx arx forty-onx kxys that work wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs all thx diffxrxncx. Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that bxlixxrs arx somxwhat likx my typxwritxr: not all thx bxlixxrs arx working togxthxr propxrlly. You may say to yoursxlf, “wxll, I’m only onx pxrson. I won’t makx or brxak thx unity of thx body.” But it doxs makx a diffxrxncx, bxcausx for thx body to bx xffxctivx, it nxxds thx activx participation of xvqry mxmbxr. So, thx nxxt timx you think you arx not nxxdxd, rxmlxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf: “I am a KXY PXRSON in thx body of Christ and I’m nxxdxd vxry much.”

“So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another” (Romans 12:5).

(adapted by Rick Lemons)

Literature’s Value

“A good book – who can exaggerate its power?”

– T. DeWitt Talmage

Up on the Bible

“The reason people are down on the Bible is that they’re not up on the Bible.”

– William W. Ayer