



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Issue 36

Headship: In the Fall

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOME Part XI

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

As we learned in our last lesson, the man (Adam) was clearly, by the design of God, positioned as the head of the woman (Eve). This can be seen in the account of Genesis chapter two; but something changes when we get to Genesis chapter three. Adam is no longer emphasized as the central character. Adam has ceased as the major subject. Now Satan, dealing with Eve, holds that place:

*"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto **THE WOMAN**, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And **THE WOMAN** said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto **THE WOMAN**, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when **THE WOMAN** saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, SHE took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto **HER HUSBAND WITH HER**; and he did eat" (Genesis 3:1-6).*

Notice that "the man" of chapter two has been replaced by 'the woman' in chapter three. In chapter

two Eve was brought "unto the man." In chapter three Adam is "with her." In chapter two Eve is "his wife," while in chapter three Adam is "her husband."

The simple fact is that there has been a role reversal. Eve has become the central character, she has become the leader. Notice carefully verse six:

*"And when **THE WOMAN** SAW that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, SHE TOOK OF THE FRUIT THEREOF, AND DID EAT, AND GAVE ALSO UNTO HER HUSBAND W-I-T-H HER; AND HE D-I-D EAT."*

Let us observe a few important points:

1. THE ORDER OF CREATION HAS BEEN REVERSED

Adam was created first. But here, Eve is taking the role of priority and the divine order in the relationship between her and Adam is violated.

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Dear Saints,

October was a wonderful month for fellowship, as we had the opportunity to be in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

Ohio

We spent a weekend with the saints in Minerva. This was a very special event – it was held at a ranch! We even met in a barn! (Right up my alley! – I preached in my over-all's!)

We taught on the cross-work of our Savior. We called our studies the Cross Examination. This subject is always a source of great thanksgiving, is it not? One dear man, laboring under the religious system, decided that he would quit trying and simply put his trust in Christ. He said that after years of working to be right with God, “resting in Christ” sure sounded good to him.

New York

We were then on our way to New York. We stopped over in PA for some wonderful fellowship with the Lockers. We also had the opportunity to be with Tracy Plessinger and the saints in Bellwood.

The Plessingers traveled with us to Schaghticoke, NY. We taught a series of messages on what is commonly known as Calvinism. The Mishlers, Crowthers and the rest of the saints were wonderful hosts once again. If you are interested in tapes of the meetings contact Ron Crowther at (518) 753-7451.

November has been a very busy month because of ...

Pilkington & Sons
Bible Bookstore
& Library

Our family, with the help of the saints here, has opened a bookstore in the town of Amherst. We have been very busy with this new aspect of our personal ministry. If you are ever “in the area” drop in. We are at the traffic circle at Rt. 29 Business and Rt. 60.

Love, your fellow,



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
Gladstone, VA

Bible Student's Notebook™

ISSN: 1936-9360
No. 36 – November, 1996

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.

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2. THE DIVINELY APPOINTED AUTHORITY IN THE HOME IS SILENT

God made Adam the responsible agent for the home. And yet there he stands beside his wife as she deals with Satan and makes a choice FOR THEM.

3. EVE WAS NOT THE RECIPIENT OF THE COMMAND

God had commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The commandment was issued to the home's responsible agent. Yet Eve is having a dialogue with Satan on this very crucial doctrinal issue.

This is important to note: Adam is seen here as a complete failure as the responsible agent. Adam did not properly teach his wife the Word of God, which is obvious in the passage.

Eve committed the three great errors of all Bible revisors:

❖ She *SUBTRACTED* from the Word of God

She took away "freely," and in so doing attacked the goodness of God.

❖ She *ADDED* to the Word of God

She attached "neither shall ye touch it," and in so doing presented God to be severe.

❖ She *CHANGED* the Word of God

She replaced the old archaic "shall" with the more contemporary "lest," and in so doing down-played the seriousness of the issue.

Eve's "Bible revision" was a product of the fact that she either (1) Genuinely thought that this was what God said, or (2) she had a low regard for God's Word. Either way, it was a direct result of Adam's failure to instruct his wife!

4. EVE CEASES TO BE A HELP MEET¹

1. A remarkable contrast to Eve and the fallen cherub is found in Judges 13:1-23. Here we find a wife who is approached by the angel of the Lord. This wife has such a close relationship (a cleaving helpmeet) with her husband (Manoah) that she

Eve has ceased from her God given role as "help meet." A wife can be a man's greatest asset or his greatest liability (c.f. Proverbs 14:1).

5. THE MAN BECAME IDENTIFIED WITH THE WOMAN

To use the modern vernacular, Adam became a "wimp." He idly stood by and allowed his wife to become deceived, all without so much as a "whimper" from him (see also Genesis 3:12 for Adams s "wimpy" response to God!).

After the fall, God totally disregarded the role change of Adam and Eve. God did not come looking for Eve. According to :9, God sought the responsible agent ("called unto **Adam**, and said unto **him**, where art **thou**?"). This was the call of accountability (remember that the counterpart of responsibility is accountability)!

Finally, we see that God cursed man. Notice the wording:

*"And unto Adam he said, **BECAUSE THOU HAST HEARKENED UNTO THE VOICE OF THY WIFE AND hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying. Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life"** (Genesis 3:17).*

We will close this lesson with two passages from Paul:

*"For since by **man** [not woman] came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in **Adam** [not Eve] **all die**, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:21, 22).*

*"Wherefore, as by **one man** [not one woman] sin entered into the world ..." (Romans 5:12).*

(This is part of a continuing series on the Home.)

will not even accept communication from the angel of the Lord without informing her husband and having him present.

Pride

by – Clyde L. Pilkinton, Jr.

“Pride goeth before destruction and an haughty spirit before a fall”
(Proverbs 16:18).

We are told that this is the center verse of Proverbs in the Hebrew Bible.

Pride is a very serious issue as this verse clearly reveals. The Bible has abundant teaching on pride and humility. In fact, the Bible stands apart from all of the supposed “holy” books of World religions with this distinctive feature. Beginning in Genesis, pride is viewed as the root and essence of sin; it is seeking for oneself the honor and glory that properly belongs to God.

Paul shows us that the cross is the ground for humility, for apart from it neither Jew nor Gentile has any grounds for boasting:

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Galatians 6:14).

Pride's MEANING

Definition

Pride is a conceited sense of one's superiority, “Be not wise in your own conceits” (Romans 12:16b). It is thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (Romans 12:3). It is the corruption of self-love, self-admiration, self-flattery and self-exaltation.

Webster defines pride as “Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, ability, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often contempt of others.” (American Dictionary of the English Language)

Biblical Synonyms

- ❖ Haughtiness (Isaiah 2:11, 17; 16:6; Jeremiah 48:29)
- ❖ Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13; Isaiah 13:11; Jeremiah 48:29)
- ❖ Conceit (Proverbs 18:11; 26:5, 12, 16; 28:11)
- ❖ Puffed Up (1 Corinthians 4:6, 18, 19; 5:2; 13:4; Colossians 2:18)
- ❖ Boasters (Romans 1:30; II Timothy 3:2)
- ❖ Loftiness (Isaiah 2:17; Jeremiah 48:29)
- ❖ Highminded (Romans 11:20; 1 Timothy 6:27; II Timothy 3:4)

Biblical Antonyms

- ❖ Humble (Proverbs 16:19; 29:23; Isaiah 57:15; James 4:6, 10)
- ❖ Meekness (II Corinthians 10:1; Galatians 5:23; 6:1; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:12; I Timothy 6:11; II Timothy 2:25; Titus 3:2)
- ❖ Lowliness (Ephesians 4:20)
- ❖ Lowliness of mind (Philippians 2:3)
- ❖ Humility of mind (Colossians 3:12)
- ❖ Sober (Romans 12:3)

Pride's ORIGIN

A search for the origin of pride will lead us straight to Satan.

"Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness" (Ezekiel 28:17).

Pride is a direct attack upon the person and glory of God, and Satan is the embodiment of it. He ceased to delight in the perfection of God, and became enchanted with himself. He ceased to worship the CREATOR (God) and began to worship the CREATURE (himself). He was no longer a reflector (Lucifer) of God's glory but became a usurper and opponent of it.

His philosophy is the foundation of the Religious System, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen" (Romans 1:25).

The Record of Lucifer's Prideful Fall

The Plan

The fall of Lucifer was preceded by a display of self-adoration, self-aspiration and self-exaltation. This is confirmed by the details of his plan as recorded in Isaiah 14:13-14:

- ❖ I will ascend into heaven,
- ❖ I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:
- ❖ I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
- ❖ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
- ❖ I will be like the most High.

The Results

- ❖ Lucifer became profane (Ezekiel 28:16).

- ❖ Lucifer's wisdom was corrupted (Ezekiel 28:17).
- ❖ Lucifer's sanctuaries were defiled (Ezekiel 28:18).
- ❖ Lucifer became Satan (Hebrew for "adversary").
- ❖ Lucifer became the Devil. As with those who get "caught," Lucifer began to accuse others. He became the accuser. The word Devil means "accuser" or "slanderer."
- ❖ He accuses and slanders God (Genesis 3:4).
- ❖ He accuses and slanders man (Job 1:9; 2:4, 5; Revelation 12:10).

Lucifer influenced and led others to follow his fall.

He had (and still has) an agenda to usurp all authority and take control of the universe; thus he launched a strategic offensive which encompassed:

- ❖ An Angelic Host of Heaven, and later,
- ❖ The Federal Head of Humanity on Earth (Adam)

Lucifer was condemned. (Ezekiel 28:16-19; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 25:41; The full execution of the penalty has been delayed).

Pride's EXTENSIVENESS

It Has Saturated the World

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the PRIDE OF LIFE, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:16).

It Has Saturated the Heart

"For from within, out of the heart of men,

proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, PRIDE, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man” (Mark 7:21-23).

Pride’s PATH

It Is a Path of Self Exaltation

“... being lifted up with pride ...” (I Timothy 3:6)

It Is A Path of Hardness

“... his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride ...” (Daniel 5:20)

It Is a Path of Deception

“Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart ...” (Jeremiah 49:16)

It Is A Path of Bondage

“... pride compasseth them about as a chain ...” (Psalm 73:6)

It is A Path of Contention

“Only by pride cometh contention ...” (Proverbs 13:10)

“He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife” (Proverbs 28:25)

This is true of church conflicts, politics, war every aspect of life!

It Is a Path of Separation (from God)

“... the proud he knoweth afar off” (Psalm 138:6)

“Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD ...” (Proverbs 16:5)

Pride’s COUNTERPART

Pride has a devoted companion! Pride is the precursor of ruin.

Destruction

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).

“Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility” (Proverbs 18:12).

Shame

“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom” (Proverbs 11:2).

Pride’s DOCUMENTATION

Birth and Rank

The destruction and shame that accompany pride is not just words. It can be documented over and over in Scripture. Satan is the first and primary proof. Then there is Adam and Eve. Below are a few more examples (be sure to be on the lookout for pride’s companion):

- ❖ Asahel (II Samuel 2:18-23)
- ❖ Benhadad (I Kings 20:3, 11, 32)
- ❖ Babylon (Isaiah 47:10-11)
- ❖ Azariah (Jeremiah 43:2-11)
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:30-31)
- ❖ Edom (Obadiah 3-4)
- ❖ Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:21-23)

Pride’s CONTRAST

Our Lord Jesus Christ came into a world filled with pride and manifested the divine nature.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a ser-

vant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:5-11).

Let us see some examples of this humiliation (each of these are areas where men have great pride):

"Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?" (Matthew 13:55)

Wealth

"And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head" (Matthew 8:20).

Community

"And He came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene" (Matthew 2:23).

"And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see" (John 1:46).

Reputation

"The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children" (Matthew 11:19).

Appearance

"... He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2).

Independence

"And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto Him of their substance" (Luke 8:3).

Learning

"And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?" (John 7:15).

Superiority

"For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as He that serveth" (Luke 22:27).

Success

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:11).

"For neither did His brethren believe in Him" John 7:5.

"He is despised and rejected of men ... He was despised, and we esteemed Him not" (Isaiah 53:3).

Ability

"Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise" (John 5:19).

"I can of Mine own self do nothing ..." (John 5:30a).

Self Will

“... I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me” (John 5:30b).

Party (or Sect)

“And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us” (Luke 9:49, 50).

Association

“And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them” (Luke 15:2).

Christ, with all His contrasting attributes to pride, desires to live His life **through** the individual believer. Paul says to us,

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself; and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8).

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness” (Colossians 3:12-14). ■

Redemption

(Romans 3:24)

Redemption's Definition

Vine's

“Denotes to buy out, especially of purchasing a slave with a view to his freedom.”

Webster's

“Repurchase of captured goods or prisoners; the act of procuring the deliverance of persons or things from the possession and power of captors by the payment of an equivalent; ransom; release; as the redemption of prisoners taken in war...

“Deliverance from bondage, distress, or from liability to any evil or forfeiture, either by money, labor or other means...

“In theology, the purchase of God's favor by the death and sufferings of Christ; the ransom or deliverance of sinners from the bondage of sin and the penalties of God's violated law by the atonement of Christ.”

Redemption's Author: God

“Who of God” – I Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 4:4-5.

Redemption's Channel: The Lord Jesus Christ

“in Whom” Ephesians 1:7; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 3:24.

Redemption's Price: The Blood of Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14

Redemption's Scope:

Redeemed from the “curse of the Law” – Galatians 3:10-13 (c.f. Deuteronomy 6:25; 28:1-68)

Redeemed from “all iniquity” – Titus 2:14
Redeemed of “our body” – Romans 8:23

Redeemed of “our body” – Romans 8:23. ■

Commitment

by – Major W. Ian Thomas

All that glitters is not gold, and ... it may well be profitable for us to make a sober reevaluation of those standards of commitment that are prevalent today and that pass muster for Christian dedication.

All too often, quantity takes precedence over quality, and in this highly competitive age, those outward appearances of "success" that are calculated to enhance the reputation of the professional preacher, or the prestige of those who have promoted him, are of greater importance than the abiding consequences of his ministry.

In an unholy ambition to get "results," the end too often justifies the means, with the result that the MEANS are certainly not always beyond suspicion, and the "results," to say the least, extremely dubious!

In this unhappy situation both the pulpit and the pew carry their share of the blame, though I suspect that it started in the pulpit! There are those who have insisted, that to be valid, every spiritual transaction between the believer and his Lord must be matched by some outward physical act, and that apart from the accompanying act, no worth can be attached to the inward spiritual transaction.

Inevitably on the basis of this unfounded supposition, the work of the Holy Spirit, in any given meeting through the ministry of the preacher, will be directly represented by the physical response of the congregation to some form of public appeal, "invitation" or so-called "altar call"...

The ambitious preacher, eager to climb the ladder of evangelical fame, and not altogether unmoved by the plight of the lost and the needs of the saints, will be subject to temptation so strong, that for more than one it has proved to be irresistible – that of being heavily preoccupied with devising ways and means of ensuring that a large enough public "response" on the part of the congregation

will adequately demonstrate the effectiveness of his preaching, vindicate his reputation, sufficiently reward the confidence of his sponsors, and suitably impress the crowd.

The preacher, of course, will not allow himself to be aware of the underlying motives which promote the use of his clever techniques, being careful to persuade himself that they stem only from what he would describe as a genuine "passion for souls." But the sorry spectacle is exposed for what it is by the apparent indifference on the part of the preacher to the tragic aftermath of his endeavors, once "the show is over!"

It is little wonder that the pulpit, having drilled the pew into submission, now finds itself the victim of its own ill-conceived imposition, for the community which has been taught to accept outward, physical response to some public "invitation" as the criterion of spiritual success on the part of the preacher, invariably demands this tangible evidence of success on every occasion in which he engages in his ministry.

Thus the pastor of a small church, trapped in the grip of this vicious circle, may succeed over a period of time in bringing the whole of his congregation "out to the front" – to stand at the communion rail in response to his appeals – having had all his people out once, it will be incumbent upon him to get them out all over again and again and yet again if his fervor and his zeal are not to be called into question by his church officers, and his pastorate, perhaps, becomes vacant!

The pastor has no option under such circumstances but to whittle down the commitment he demands until its whole value and meaning has been lost, for it can never be final, otherwise he would preach himself out of business!

The Saving Life of Christ
(pages 147-149)

The Real Dominion Theology

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Before we begin, let's obtain definitions of basic terms.

Dominion: “Sovereign or supreme authority; the power of the governing or controlling. Power to direct, control, use and dispose of at pleasure...”

Reign: “To possess or exercise sovereign power or authority; to rule...”

Under: “The state of ... subjection to...”

Obey: “To comply with the commands, orders or instructions of a superior...”

Placement of Dominion

- ❖ Law Reigned Galatians 3:23
- ❖ Sin Reigned – Romans 5:21; Galatians 3:22
- ❖ Death Reigned – Romans 5:14, 17

Displacement of Dominion

- ❖ Law is dethroned – Romans 6:14; Galatians 5:18
- ❖ Sin is dethroned – Romans 5:21; 6:14
- ❖ Death is dethroned – Romans 6:9; I Corinthians 15:26

Replacement of Dominion

- ❖ Grace Reigns (in contrast to law) – Romans 5:21

- ❖ Righteousness Reigns (in contrast to sin) – Romans 5:17
- ❖ Life Reigns (in contrast to death) – Romans 5:17

Conclusion

A higher power destroyed our tyrants. The tyranny of death, sin and the law were broken by the work of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross. Then, by our “one baptism,” or union and identification with Christ, His death, burial and resurrection became ours. This spells nothing short of glorious, absolute FREEDOM (Romans 6:4-6).

We are no longer UNDER the authority of Death, Sin or the Law. We are TINDER no obligation to OBEY! Therefore, we are to RESIST all of the unauthorized commands from the former dominions. They have no rights; they have been dethroned! Resist their illegitimate directives (Romans 6:12, 16)!

There are many who want you to remain in bondage, but remember that you have been made free by GOD, the God of all creation. In I Corinthians 7:22 Paul speaks of being the Lord's “freeman.” Freedom and liberty (II Corinthians 3:17) were central themes of our apostle of grace. Never forget that it is through the cross work of Christ that we are set at liberty and can enjoy *true* freedom.

We're in the midst of a FAITH FIGHT (1 Timothy 6:12; II Corinthians 10:3-5). Shall we believe God? Or shall we succumb to old dominions? We are free: Free to live, to serve, to love, to be who we are in Christ! Don't give up your freeman status! Live *UNDER* grace! ■

The Three Stages of Knowledge

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

(Colossians 1:6-10)

The Knowledge of GOD'S GRACE (:6)

This is where we must begin our journey. It is the basis of all other spiritual understanding.

“Knew” is the verb form of ‘epignosis.’ They had AC-KNOWLEDGED the grace of God in truth.

The Process:

- ❖ Presentation – “ye heard”
- ❖ Appropriation “knew”

The Content:

- ❖ Source – “God”
- ❖ Subject – “Grace”
- ❖ Structure – “In Truth”

The Channel:

- ❖ Faith – Faith is the ONLY response that grace will accept.
- ❖ Faith in Christ – Faith must have an OBJECT
- ❖ Faith in Christ according to the truth of the gospel – Faith must have a declaration from God upon which to rest.

The Issue:

- ❖ the PRESENTATION OF GRACE: SALVATION

The Knowledge of GOD'S WILL (:9)

This is the next stage in knowledge.

The Knowledge

- ❖ The word ‘knowledge’ here is “epignosis” (full + knowledge).

The Fullness

- ❖ The believer is now to be FILLED: i.e., “fully possessed,” “crammed” (as defined by Strong).

The Will of God

This refers to the plan, purpose and program of God (i.e., the divine dispensational details).

The Manifestation

The manifestation of the DOCTRINE of the will of God is reflected in our soul as WISDOM (wise + domain) and SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING (i.e., ordering the details of your life in harmony with the divine viewpoint).

The Issue.

- ❖ the REIGN OF GRACE: EDIFICATION

Are you FILLED with the WILL OF GOD?

The Knowledge of GOD (:10)

The Entrance “That”

We come to this via the knowledge of “HIS WILL”

The Fullness

The word “know” here is “epignosis” (full + knowledge).

The Goal

The ultimate goal of the believer’s life is to KNOW HIM!

How to reach the Goal?

See Philippians 3:7-10; Ephesians 3:16-17.

The Issue:

- ❖ the RESULTS OF GRACE: IDENTIFICATION

This is what is missing in the RELIGIOUS SYSTEM (II Timothy 3:5; Colossians 2:19-23). Are you filled with the knowledge of Him? There is nothing mystical here ... II Timothy 2:15! ■



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