



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume IV
Issue 79

Select Readings on Various Topics – Part I

THE LORD'S SERVANT MUST NOT FIGHT

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient" (II Timothy 2:24).

Let us all take this home to our hearts: *The servant of the Lord must not strive*. Under the severest provocation he must be gentle; under the most provoking and insistent ignorance he must teach; under the most exasperating and long-continued opposition he must be patient. His business is not to strive, but to correct; and to do this with all the meekness which God's grace alone can impart. The rest he must leave to God, for He alone can give the change of mind which will acknowledge the truth.

A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
The True Basis of Fellowship

OUR HIGH CALLING

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Ephesians 4:1).

We are exhorted to walk worthy of the calling wherewith we have been called (Ephesians 4:1). This implies the knowledge of our "calling." It is a "high calling." The word rendered "high" is the same as that rendered "above" in Colossians 3: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." We are called of God from beneath

to above, from earth to heaven.

We are not as those that dwell on the earth. Moralists, philanthropists, and politicians, all recognize something valuable in Christianity, and use it as helpful to their own ends; and thus has Christianity been dragged down from its lofty eminence, till almost all that is distinctive is lost amidst as many elements which are foreign. The long continued attempt at apply Christianity to the world, merely as an aid to its civilization, has led to the loss of even the theory of the Church. In time it may well be that nothing will be so offensive to the dwellers on the earth as the assertion of the peculiar privileges and special hope of the Church.

William Kelly (1821-1906)
Sin of Sectarianism

ROMANS 6-8

There is no more important chapters in the Bible for the believer who seeks the solid foundation of the fulness of life in Christ.

Norman Grubb (1895-1993)
The Liberating Secret

REGRETS

In Billy Graham's autobiography, *Just As I Am*, he confesses some of his regrets. "I would speak less

(continued on page 835)

A Letter from a Reader

"I continue to look forward to these [Daily Email Goodies]. They're like a drink of fresh, cold water to my heart, as is the BSN which I thoroughly enjoyed this month.

"I've been reading I Thessalonians lately where it talks about the 'rapture.' I've always thought about the 'rapture' verses in connection with the dispensational chart. I sometimes have read these verses wondering if the system of thought about the 'rapture' is correct. Recently, as I considered this it occurred to me – I don't have to have a system at all. Why can't I simply read and rejoice over the verses that talk about the trumpet sounding and the body of Christ being caught up to ever be with Him? It seems that before, my reading of the verses was veiled, so to speak, because my focus was on the dispensational chart and where it all fits. That veil is being lifted, thankfully. I can't say it's wrong to have a belief about the timing of events, but it is such a secondary issue. I want to learn to rejoice in these truths and not make a religion out of it as I have done in the past..."

"I enjoyed the daily e-mail about not getting frustrated with people when they don't see the same truths realizing how long it took for the Lord to teach me the same truths. How true! I need to apply this better to my life. Also, I've learned not to be quick to judge others who still see things the way I used to because I can't see their heart like the Lord can. You dealt with this issue in the BSN a few months ago.

The 'rapture' issue is a good example. My dispensational focus caused me to not rejoice in these verses like I otherwise could have, but I can't say that others who are dispensationally oriented do not rejoice like they should. Maybe they do. For me it has been like a veil. I don't have to be concerned about judging their heart in these matters. To their own master they stand or fall. I'm learning to focus on two main things right now in my life: Loving the Lord and loving others and all which that entails.

"Much of these truths that I have learned are a result of the BSN. Thank you brother for your continued labor in these most liberating truths. As I have said so often, you are a true blessing!"

A Note about our Daily Email "Goodies."

We recently we experienced difficulties with the delivery of our daily email "Goodies." After a few attempts to correct the problem, we made the decision to go with an email service. Most of those who were on our original list did not make it through the transition to the new email group we are using.

Do you no longer receive our "Goodies"?

Or, have you never received our *free* emails containing short quotes, articles, and studies?

They are now delivered through Yahoo Groups. To join, simply go to:

www.Groups.Yahoo.com

and register. The name of our group is DailyEmailGoodies.

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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This weekly publication (52 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 "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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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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(recompiled and edited)

and study more, and I would spend more time with my family ... Every day I was absent from my family is gone forever." He also says that he would "avoid any semblance of involvement in partisan politics."

FAITH AND HUMAN REASONING

[Human] reason is the greatest enemy that faith has; it never comes to the aid of spiritual things, but – more frequently than not – struggles against the Divine Word, treating with contempt all that emanates from God.

Martin Luther (1485-1546)

Table Talk

THE WEAKENED AND LOST DISTINCTIVENESS

I fear there is a tendency abroad to exaggerate the standing and state of the Old Testament saints in order to make little difference between the Church and Israel, and thus the heavenly distinctiveness is weakened and lost. The aim of the enemy from a very early date was to draw the saints from their heavenly calling. Once heaven as a present position and portion is surrendered, the great privilege and position of the Church, the Body of Christ, is drained away.

J.B. Stoney (1814-1897)

1875

DATING THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Authors and scholars differ about the dates for the various writings of the New Testament books. Undoubtedly, the Book of James and the Book of Hebrews were written much earlier than most authors give them credit for: dates for those books before Acts 12 would not be inappropriate. In the case of Hebrews, 35-40 A.D. would not be too early.

Peter S. Ruckman

The History of the New Testament Church

RECASTING

Martin Luther on trial before the *Diet of Worms*:

Inquisitor:

Doest thou admit that these books are written by thee?

Wilt thou retract these books and their contents, or doest thou persist in the things thou hast advanced?

Luther:

Unless I can be convicted of error by the Holy Scripture, I neither can nor dare retract anything, for my conscience is held captive by God's Word. Here I stand, I can do not otherwise; so God help me. Amen.

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

It will be found that the teachings of the kingdom presented in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) are in exact accord with the Old Testament predictions regarding the kingdom, and are almost wholly in disagreement with the teachings of grace.

Lewis Sperry Chafer (1871-1952)

Systematic Theology

THE REASON FOR CONFUSION

Utter confusion reigns among evangelicals because of the failure to rightly divide the Word, especially the clear distinction between Israel and the Church ...

Sad, sad that many of God's dear children seem to know nothing more than Jesus of Nazareth in His humiliation – while the risen, ascended, glorified Man is ignored, or unknown.

Paul R. Van Gorder

Foreword

Pauline Dispensationalism

A DISPENSATIONAL WARNING

Most dispensationalists and all Covenant theologians fail to realize that there are two Gospels, each dependent upon the Blood of the Cross. The one Gospel is EARTHLY (Kingdom), the other is HEAVENLY (Grace). Both Gospels are “according to Jesus,” and present only one way: by faith.

One Gospel was ministered by Christ on earth, during His pre-cross humiliation, and was exclusively addressed to ISRAEL regarding her Millennial Kingdom. The other was ministered to Paul by the glorified Lord Jesus Christ; after Calvary, from heaven, exclusively to and for His chosen heavenly BODY.

John the Baptist’s, Jesus’ and the Apostles’ Gospel concerned the Messiah and His Kingdom – specifically and repeatedly referred to as “the Gospel of the Kingdom” (Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Mark 1:14; Luke 9:2,6). The other, “the Gospel of the Grace of God,” was neither preached nor mentioned until Paul went forth to declare it (Acts 20:24; Romans 3:21-28; Ephesians 3:1-3)

...

The glorified Lord directly communicated to Paul not only the great fundamentals of the heavenly Church Gospel, but totally NEW revelation concerning His Body – truths that He never shared with the nation Israel. These truths concerned our identification with Christ crucified, buried, resurrected and ascended; our heavenly position; our co-heirship ... and much more ...

Those who do not CENTER in the truths which the ascended Lord communicated directly to Paul will not know WHO and WHERE they are in Christ, nor WHAT their portion is in the purpose of the Father. Neither will they know their privileges and responsibilities. Those who are ignorant of, and hence not centered in, the Pauline Gospel [“my gospel”] as set forth EXCLUSIVELY in his Church Epistles, are consistently astray in their interpretation of the Gospel, to say nothing of all-important Church truth ...

Be warned, all ye who would “wrest” (II Peter 3:15-16), rather than *rest* and “rightly divide” (II Timothy 2:15)!

Miles Stanford (1914-1999)
Pauline Dispensationalism

THE FAILURE AND ITS FATAL RESULT

Nearly all theological teaching since the Reformation has failed to set forth clearly our judicial end in death with Christ on the Cross. The fatal result of this terrible error is to leave the Law as claimant over those in Christ: for “*law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth*” (Romans 7:1). Unless you ... believe ... that you died unto sin with Christ, that you were buried, and that your history before God in the first Adam came to an utter end at Calvary, you will never get free from the claims of the Law upon your life and conscience.

William R. Newell (1868-1956)
Romans, Verse by Verse
(Romans 5:19)
1945

THE TRAGEDY OF ROMANS 5:12

Between Romans 5:11 and 12 there is a “great gulf fixed,” a veritable doctrinal Grand Canyon. Into this abyss the Church has fallen, seemingly unable to advance ... Ever since Paul wrote Galatians the Church has occupied much of Israel’s ground.

Miles Stanford (1914-1999)
Pauline Dispensationalism

THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS

Those early Church Fathers ... were products of a religious system already sliding into apostasy. They were the fathers of Roman Catholicism.

Albert James Dager
Vengeance is Ours

THE GRACE CHURCH AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Why should the heavenly grace-Church be subjected to Jesus' pre-Cross law-message of the kingdom to Israel? There is nothing in the Sermon on the Mount that is not superseded by Paul's Church Epistles. Nothing!

Miles Stanford (1914-1999)
Pauline Dispensationalism

THE MAN IN ROMANS CHAPTER SEVEN

The man in Romans 7 is occupied with himself, and his disappointment and anguish springs from his inability to find in himself the good which he loves. The man of Romans 8 has learned there is no good to be found in himself. It is only in the Lord Jesus; and his song of triumph results from the joy of having realized that he is "*complete in Him*" (Colossians 2:10).

H.A. Ironside (1876-1951)
Holiness: The False and the True
1912

IDENTIFICATION

"Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] SIN entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned [in Adam]" (Romans 5:12).

Unlike its product, sins, SIN could not be forgiven, for it would be sin still. A forgiven thief is still a thief. Hence SIN had to be CONDEMNED to death. "...God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for **sin, condemned sin in the flesh**" (Romans 8:3). Our SINS were forgiven via the principle of SUBSTITUTION, i.e., "Christ died for our SINS according to the Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:3).

Yet our SIN was condemned via the principle of IDENTIFICATION, i.e., "For He hath made Him to be **sin** for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II

Corinthians 5:21). The Savior did not die for sin, but for SINS. Being made sin, our sin, He was judged, condemned and crucified. He, in Himself being the sinless One, died UNTO SIN – out of the realm of sin – having paid the price in full. Hence He was free to raise from among the dead into "*newness of life*" – heavenly, glorified, "*new creature*" life.

Miles Stanford (1914-1999)
Pauline Dispensationalism

THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

One of the contributing factors to the kingdomization of the Church is the breakdown of the distinction between the "kingdom of God," and the "kingdom of heaven." During the last twenty years or so dispensational leaders have been forsaking the distinctiveness of the kingdom of heaven as set forth in Matthew, more and more making it synonymous with the kingdom of God. But when the kingdom of heaven is no longer considered to be strictly Israel's coming Messianic Kingdom, there emerges a loss of the scriptural separation between earthly Israel and the heavenly Church. Grace is made to partake of law.

Miles Stanford (1914-1999)
Pauline Dispensationalism

TRUE HAPPINESS

If we have the Lord Jesus, we have all – without Him, we have nothing. You can be happy without money, without liberty, without parents, and without friends, if He is yours. If you have not Christ, neither money, nor liberty, nor parents, nor friends can make you happy. Christ, with a chain, is liberty; liberty without Christ is a chain. Christ without anything is riches – all things, without Christ, is poverty indeed.

Miles Stanford (1914-1999)
None But The Hungry Heart

ADAMIC

My Father called the world into being, and then created Adam to be the federal head of the human race in that world. I was positionally IDENTIFIED with Adam, the same humanity. Hence, when Adam sinned and thereby died to God, I died in him. When he was condemned, I was condemned in him ...

I, the natural man condemned in Adam, was not forgiven at the Cross. My then-future SINS were forgiven, but I, as the Adamic old man, the source of those sins, was not forgiven. Sin must be condemned. While the Lamb of God was on the Cross my Father laid all my as-yet-uncommitted SINS upon Him, and His death FOR those sins freed me from their penalty. While the Lord Jesus was on that same Cross the Father IDENTIFIED me, in my Adamic life of sin, with His Son who was made to be that sin (II Corinthians 5:21). In Him, I died UNTO SIN. “Reckon ye yourselves to be dead indeed **unto sin** ...” (Romans 6:11).

In my death unto SIN in Christ’s death I was JUDICIALLY freed from all that I was in the first Adam, and I was re-created in the Last Adam as He rose from among the dead ... (Romans 6:5, II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10).

Miles Stanford (1914-1999)
Pauline Dispensationalism

DEATH

“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory” (I Corinthians 15:54).

In Peter Marshall’s biography, *A Man Called Peter*, a touching story is told of a young terminally ill son asking his mother what death was like.

“Kenneth,” she said, “you remember when you were a tiny boy how you used to play so hard all day that when night came you would be too

tired even to undress, and you would tumble into mother’s bed and fall asleep?”

“That was not your bed – it was not where you belonged.

“And you would only stay there a little while. In the morning, much to your surprise, you would wake up and find yourself in your own bed in your own room.

“You were there because someone had loved you and taken care of you. Your father had come – with big strong arms – and carried you away.

“Kenneth, death is just like that. We just wake up some morning to find ourselves in the other room – our own room where we belong – because the Lord Jesus loved us.”

The lad’s shining, trusting face looking up into hers told her that the point had gone home and that there would be no more fear – only love and trust in his little heart.

He never questioned again.

And several weeks later he fell asleep just as she had said.

SAINT

Every believer is a saint. This word does not refer to any *attainment* whatsoever, but simply expresses that the believer is “holy,” “separated,” “set apart,” “sanctified” by the call of God (I Corinthians 1:2). Hence it is no assumption to take the name of “saint.”

A.T. Schofield (1846-1929)
A Dictionary of Some of the More Common Biblical Words and Phrases
(1882)

DOCTRINAL DEARTH

The question remains: What of the great liberating, positional truths have you learned “at church” –

whether it be through your “local Bible church,” or elsewhere?

From fifty years of close observation, I would say that your chances are just about one in a thousand. If the leadership in the doctrinally sound “church” realized WHO and WHERE they are in the glorified Lord Jesus, would they stop at Romans 5:11, and not enter into Romans 5:12 and beyond? Would they be *Old Testament* and *Synoptic C* oriented, holding the Church to the earthly level of Israel and her Law?

Miles Stanford (1914-1999)
Pauline Dispensationalism

THE VALUE OF TRIALS

It is well to remember that the deepest and truest spiritual qualities are not learnt or established in us by our happy or enjoyable times, but in the difficult ones! There is nothing wrong in times of great joy and spiritual blessing; in fact we long for more of them, and look back perhaps to some days of much blessing in our lives or in the work of the Lord; but in the securing of Christ in greater measure in our lives, we find that it is by the things which we suffer that we learn most. So let us give thanks for the joyful days, and learn all that the Lord intends by the days of waiting and difficulty.

Why are the people of God suffering? That they may be conformed to the image of His Son. Of course, we may not need a world upheaval to do this, but God is going to use all conditions to that end ...

T. Austin-Sparks (1888-1971)
Quoted by Miles J. Stanford
None but the Hungry Heart

BELONGING TO GOD

It frequently happens that the value of a thing lies in the fact that someone has possessed it. A very ordinary thing acquires a new value, if it has been possessed by some famous person. In any museum we will find quite ordinary things –

clothes, a walking-stick, a pen, pieces of furniture – which are only of value because they were possessed and used by some great person. It is the ownership which gives them worth. It is so with the Christian. The Christian may be a very ordinary person, but he acquires a new value and dignity and greatness because he belongs to God. The greatness of the Christian lies in the fact that he is God’s.

William Barclay (1907-1978)
The Letters of James and Peter
(1976)

THE HUSBAND’S HEADSHIP

Christian writers have sometimes spoken of the husband’s headship with a complacency to make the blood run cold. We must go back to our Bibles. The husband is the head of the wife just in so far as he is to her what Christ is to the Church. He is to love her as Christ loved the Church – read on – and gave His life for it (Ephesians 5:25). This headship, then, is most fully embodied not in the husband we should all wish to be, but in him whose marriage is most like a crucifixion; whose wife receives most and gives least, is most unworthy of him, is – in her mere nature – least lovable.

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)
The Four Loves
(1960)

IMITATION OF CHRIST

We are all familiar with the little book of devotions by Thomas a Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*. I have read it, I think with some profit, but the whole idea upon which the book proceeds is radically unbiblical. We are not set to produce in our lives an imitation of Christ ...

“*In His Steps*” – is based upon that very idea of an external Christ whom I am to imitate, and I am to do it by asking what would Christ do if He were in my place?

Who am I to judge what Christ would do in my place? Am I doing something because Christ would do it if He were in my place? That would depend upon a good many things.

But if I take then our Blessed Lord, Who lives in me, so that He may live out His life through me, then that is quite another matter.

C.I. Scofield (1843-1921)
Where Faith Sees Christ

LOVE LIVED TO THE FULLEST

So many of us live our lives as if there is still so much time to love ... I sometimes find myself pretending that death has no purchase on my world. Sometimes I write obscure scholarly articles as if I had forever ... What will many of our accomplishments mean in that endtime? What will define our stay in the cosmos? I would argue that it is this: how deeply, how fully, how broadly have we loved ...

With what time is left to us, we are called to settle for nothing less than a passionate love affair with God and with life, embracing God and the creation through which God shimmers, living madly in the [reality] that this universe is not purposeless, but that we are called toward the drama and pain of life and love lived to the fullest.

A love which mighty waters cannot overcome,
Nor rivers drown it,
A love so much more precious than jewels,
That someone trying to buy it would
everything they had would be mocked
To love with all our hearts, all our life strength,
Until we die with our love on our lips.

David M. Carr
The Erotic Word
(Pages 176-178)

LOVING OUR WIVES TOO MUCH

Harry Ironside was approached by a young man on one occasion who came to confess a fault. He told the preacher that he felt he was loving his wife too much. "In fact, I've put her on such a high plane, I fear it's sinful," lamented the young

husband. "Do you think you love your wife more than Christ loved the church?" inquired Ironside. He didn't dare say he did. "Well, that's the limit to which we must go," he continued.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25).

H.A. Ironside (1876-1951)
Cited in *An Appeal To Husbands*
Don Currin
The Awakener (Vol. 9, No. 1)

IN AWE OF THE ORDINARY

Many believers have never seen ... the sanctity of the ordinary ... Most everyone stands ready to do a big deed. Call on people and they will participate in the spectacular ... Strangely enough, when people feel that what they are doing is really special the activity seems all the more holy. The impression is misleading, however.

The whole truth of biblical truth is that there is as much holiness in the ordinary as in the spectacular ... Some individuals spend their time waiting for the really big thing to come along and attract their attention when what is most needed is a reassessment of their willingness to serve Christ in ordinary events ...

C. Welton Gaddy
In Awe of the Ordinary
1977

THE HUSBAND'S COURSE OF STUDY

Not to overstate it, women are complicated beings. This is why Peter requires husbands to treat their wives "according to knowledge" (I Peter 3:7) ... Men must study their wives, and they must do so according to what God has revealed in His Word.

Douglas Wilson
Federal Husband
page 33