



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume IV
Issue 98

Select Readings

On Various Topics – Part III

COMPLETE IN HIM

“For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:9-10).

We are filled with His fullness. Notice it does not say we ought to be complete in Him; it says we are complete in Him.

Of course, believers are to constantly grow in the knowledge of Him as they progress from babes in Christ to those who are spiritually mature. But the completeness exists from the moment of salvation
...

Even in our day, it is common for people to tell believers, “It is wonderful that you know Christ as Saviour and that you are endeavoring to live the Christian life the best you can, but you need something special in order to really have all that God wants you to have.”

They may not say it in quite these words, but this sort of teaching is causing mass confusion among Christians today.

But what we need to understand is that, having trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour, we are complete in Him and need nothing else. There is no special ordinance or any special experience that needs to be tacked on to the Person and work of Christ.

What can be added that the believer does not al-

ready possess in Jesus Christ? Our need is simply to appropriate what we have in Christ and thus, by faith, live accordingly.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

Theodore Epp (1907-1985)
Strength for the Journey (1984)

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

Our God never has a headache. He is never worried as we worry when our plans go wrong, for His plans never do. In the working out of the divine plans, there are no contingencies. All history is pregnant with the guiding counsel of the all wise God. His purposes never fail or cave in. They never collapse. No disasters ever attend the undertakings of God. He is sovereign Lord. An experiment is an experiment because of its possible failure. God never fails, hence He makes no experiments. The doctrine of annihilation discounts our conceptions of the divine wisdom.

In a little school a lad was given an assignment by

(See READINGS, page 1019)

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Dear Saints:

PAST ISSUES

Past issues of the BSN continue to be used to reach out to other hungry Bible students. We just recently had an inquiry from a man who had read and was thrilled with BSN #5. We were honored to talk with him on the phone and mail him a sample pack of BSNs.

THIS ISSUE

In this issue we bring you a short study on the Clergy System and a collection of Selected Readings.

In addition to having a passion for studying and writing, at heart I am a gleaner. Many of these "gleanings" have appeared in our free Daily Email Goodies. I trust that they minister encouragement and strength to you as they have personally to me.

NEXT ISSUE

In the next issue we will be sharing with you some new studies that I have written. I am quite eager to share them with you.

13 Books

Besides our family life, family studies, and family businesses, we have been giving special attention this year to the expansion of the Bible Student's Press book releases. Last December we released our first book. With the help of our beloved editor, Andre Sneidar, we have been able to add 10 more titles to our list since the new year began. More will be released in the next few weeks. We anticipate a host of others to follow throughout the year.

(See EDITORIAL, page 1028)

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)

his teacher. He grappled with the task of finding the solution. After hours of efforts in which the answer continued to elude his eager search, he gave up the attempt. The sum was beyond his ability to work it out, and so defeated, with his sponge he just removed the problem from his slate.

When our theology involves the possibility of man becoming an unanswerable riddle to Deity, and when annihilation suggests that God's final action of human problems is their destruction, then we have lowered the thought of the omniscience of God to somewhat akin to a boyish baffled brain. The difference between the two is only of degree.

In conclusion we may best say that if the divine interference is absolutely necessary to the salvation of any creature, it must also be necessary for every creature. The fact that He does save one of His creatures is conclusive proof that He in time will save all of them because if He saves some and not others, a few and not all, the Scriptures which HE inspired would be nothing more than a lying mockery and deceit. God is no respecter of persons.

Alan Burns (?-1929)
Faith Fellowship Magazine
Volume 58, Number 1

THE LIMITATION OF SECTARIANISM

Sectarianism is limitation. Some truth taught in Scripture, some part of the divine revelation, is apprehended, and the heart responds to it and accepts it. As it is dwelt upon, expounded, defended; its power and beauty increasingly influence those affected by it. Another side of truth, another view of revelation, also contained in Scripture, seems to weaken, even to contradict, the truth that has been found to be so effectual. In jealous fear for the doctrine accepted and taught, the balancing truth is minimized, explained away, and even denied. So on a portion of revelation, on a part of the Word, a sect is founded, good and useful because it preaches and practices Divine truth, but limited and unbalanced because it does not see

all truth, nor frankly accept the whole of Scripture. Its members are not only deprived of the full use of all Scripture, but are cut off from the fellowship of many saints who are less limited than they, or limited in another direction.

E.H. Broadbent (1861-1945)
The Pilgrim Church (1935)

FREEDOM IN READING THE SCRIPTURES

“Making the Word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye” (Mark 7:13).

It is still difficult to gain release from the process of reading the Scriptures with a predetermined background of inherited Greek philosophy, medieval dogma, and youthful indoctrination.

G.T. Stevenson
Time and Eternity (page 10)

QUESTIONS CONCERNING “THE CHURCH”

I would direct the minds of my readers toward a consideration of the subject of “the church,” a scriptural subject if there ever was one. In considering any subject we must always be completely honest, and because of traditions and prejudices we must exercise great care if we are to be honest in dealing with this one. All who consider this subject should examine their beliefs by some questions such as these:

1. Are my beliefs and practices concerning “the church” based upon the revelation God has given?
2. Do my beliefs and practices come from the Word, or have I read them into it?
3. Are my beliefs and practices concerning “the church” the fruit of considering all the truth, or are they based upon consideration of only part of it?
4. Have I gone to the Word to secure the truth, or did I go to it to find support for opinions and practices already determined upon? ►

5. If upon turning to the Word to consider all that is revealed there I should be granted the truth as a result, would I receive it, walk in it and be willing to accept all the consequences that come from following such a course? Or, would I put it aside because it clashed with my established views and practices?

Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)

The Word of Truth

Vol. 8, No. 3, (1945)

THE LOCAL ASPECT OF THE CHURCH

A partial illustration of this truth would be the relation of the Atlantic Ocean as a whole to any spot upon its broad surface. The ocean would mean the whole mass, and yet we would speak of a ship as being upon the ocean, not upon a part of it. The characteristics of the whole are seen in each one of its parts: nay, the word "parts" can scarcely be used, so homogeneous is the whole great mass ... we have simply, as it were, located a spot on the great ocean, organically linked with the whole, and in no way to be severed from it.

Samuel Ridout (1855-1930)

The Church and its Order According to Scripture

Loizeaux Brothers (1915)

PROTEST AGAINST A FALSE VIEW OF GOD

I protest against all such teaching that gives the impression that the exceeding goodness of God towards man is not the natural and necessary outcome of His being ...

The idea that God would [still] be God ... as glorious as He needed to be had He not taken upon Himself the divine toil of bringing home His wandered children, had He done nothing to seek and save the lost, is [as] false as hell. Lying for God could go no farther. [Critics propose an] idea of God [which is] less than He is, less than perfect, less than all-in-all, less than Love absolute, less than entire unselfishness! ...

[The critics' objection is] that we have fallen, and God is thereby freed from any obligation [if ever there were any]. It is but another lie. No amount of wrong-doing in a child can ever free a parent from the divine necessity of doing all he can to deliver his child; the bond between them cannot be broken. It is the vulgar, slavish, worldly idea of freedom, that it consists in being bound to nothing. [This] is [not] God's idea of liberty! ...

George MacDonald (1825-1905)

Unspoken Sermons, Series Two

"CHURCH" BUILDINGS

There is, then, no such thing as an earthly sanctuary now. The very thought is foreign to the genesis of Christianity. Any building which, by its form or furniture, encourages the thought of a worldly sanctuary really misrepresents Christianity, and is a step backward to Judaism. The Church is a heavenly body, and all its testimony should be of that character. ...

As to money for buildings, the Church is not an earthly corporation, and needs not to own houses and lands in this world.

Samuel Ridout (1855-1930)

The Church and its Order According to Scripture

Loizeaux Brothers (1915)

THE APOSTASY OF CHRISTENDOM

For many centuries the hireling shepherds of the religious world have fed their followers upon a steady diet of something called "Christianity," but which, when it is analyzed bears little relationship to the blessed Son of God. What we see on every hand is only the apostasy of Christendom, the popular religion of the western world, centering in institutions called the church. In order to give it importance, its leaders and teachers have not hesitated to give it a place of essentiality along with the Lord Jesus and a place of supremacy over the Word of God.

However, it is my conviction that if the Lord Jesus

were to appear upon the earth, He would disown and denounce the professing church and enter into fellowship with those individual believers who gave Him and Him alone the place of pre-eminence and all-sufficiency. The majority give Christ NO place, the professing church give Him A place, a very few give Him THE place of pre-eminence and all-sufficiency. I take my place and cast my lot with the few.

Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)

The Word of Truth

Vol. 8, No. 2 (1945)

BUSY AND BARREN

Someone experiences a genuine conversion to Jesus Christ that results in immediate changes. But there seems to be something lacking in knowing how to live from that point. He dutifully obeys the instructions that other believers give him, and jumps onto the treadmill of service. It isn't long before he discovers that no amount of service – sincere though it may be – will make a person spiritual. In desperation he re-doubles his efforts but, like a person struggling in quicksand, it seems that the harder he tries, the deeper he sinks.

Other people get bound up in fear and guilt, effectively frustrating their personal growth. Like children living under hyper-authoritarian parents, they live in a state of constant worry that they will suffer the application of God's big wooden spoon. Consciously or unconsciously, they live by a list of rules. When they keep those rules, they are "okay." When they slip, they get ready to bend over. As a result, many ... Christians live in terrible bondage, constantly worrying if they are obeying the right rules or doing the right activities to please God. An oppressive burden of guilt becomes their normal, everyday experience.

We don't necessarily recognize these people as hurting. On the outside, they may be smiling, repeating the usual Christian cliches, and performing the expected church functions. But inside, they know they are putting on an act. They would love to be free of the burden. They deeply desire

to share their fears, pains, and doubts, but don't for fear of being condemned, so they suffer their own silent condemnation, wondering if God will ever find it in His heart to accept them.

Is this then, what Jesus had in mind when He talked of an "abundant life?" No! But if people have never experienced anything different, they will accept their predicament as normal. They will assume "that's just the way it is."

I have got great news. The Christian life really isn't a matter of perfecting your acting ability. It can be real!

Bob George

Classic Christianity

ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED

We are "accepted in the Beloved." Our Father is fully satisfied with His Beloved Son on our behalf, and there is no reason for us not to be. Our satisfaction can only spring from and rest in His satisfaction.

Miles J. Stanford (1914-1999)

Principles of Spiritual Growth

YOUTH MINISTRY

It was in connection with my own employment as a fresh-out-of-college youth minister that I first began to question whether or not my work was biblically sanctioned. I realized that I and others in positions like mine, though with good intentions, were providing a facility for fathers to abdicate their parental responsibilities. I thus made the long-term focus of my ministry to work myself out of a job ...

Fathers are responsible for directly overseeing their children in spiritual matters – a responsibility which cannot be delegated ...

Christopher Schlect

Critique of Modern Youth Ministry

Pages 3, 16

A DEAD MAN NEEDS LIFE

Over and over we have witnessed the spectacle of people coming forward in a service to recommit their lives. In essence, they are coming down to say, “God, I’m really serious this time. This time I’ll do it if it kills me!”

To them I say, “Don’t worry. It will!” I know, because it killed me. We have simply not come to grips with the fact that it isn’t hard to live the Christian life. It’s impossible! Only Christ can live it. Our only hope is to learn that Jesus Christ did not come just to get men out of hell and into heaven; He came to get Himself out of heaven and into men!

Many Christians have been trying to ground out the Christian life on their own, resulting in failure. They cry out for God’s help. I respond; “a dead man doesn’t need help. A dead man needs life!” Salvation is not just something that Christ did for us, but it is Jesus Christ Himself living in us.

Bob George
Classic Christianity

THE GOAL OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Christian world is obsessed with sin. It’s all we talk about. Most of our preaching and teaching is directed toward getting people to quit sinning. Are you ready for a really shocking statement? The goal of the Christian life is not to stop sinning! To use the analogy of the starving man, most Christian teaching is like a person following a starving man around saying, “You stay out of the garbage! Do you hear me? Don’t eat the garbage! You stay out of there!” Look, when you’re truly hungry, you’ll eat anything – even garbage.

What should you do? I promise you: If you will get that man into the cafeteria line, and he begins experiencing what real, good food is like, he won’t be nostalgically dreaming about the garbage out back.

What is it that every human being needs? The life of Christ! [Yet] not just our initial receiving of Him into our lives; we need to experience daily the reality of knowing Christ and walking with Him in a vibrant relationship.

It is only in comparison with the riches of knowing Christ that sin begins to lose its appeal. The longer that I am a Christian, the more I feel in my heart that sin is not just wrong, it is outright stupid. I feel so dumb for settling for anything less than experiencing Jesus Christ Himself every minute. Why should I ever wallow in the garbage when the Lord has laid a banquet table for me? And yet, the “stay-out-of-the-garbage” approach to Christian education predominates today. In other words, we continue to try to use the law to produce the Christian life.

The law was never given to make men right with God; it was given to show men their need so that they would turn to a Savior who would make them right with God.

There are devastating results of using the law in the Christian life:

First, we actually end up producing what we are trying to stop – sin. I Corinthians 15:56 says, “... the strength of sin is the law.” The law not only doesn’t stop us from sinning, it actually stirs up more!

The second reason that the law is useless for producing the life that God desires is that it deals only with externals. God, we are told, is looking on man’s heart, but the law only deals with his actions. If merely shaping up our actions were what God desired, then the Pharisees would have been His favorites.

The goal of the Christian life is knowing Christ!

Bob George
Classic Christianity

The Clergy System

by – W. Carl Ketcherside (1908-1989)

"Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? If it be yet in vain" (Galatians 3:3-4).

ISRAEL'S CLERICAL SYSTEM

Before the precious blood of the Lamb wiped out distinctions and removed all thought of caste among those who are in Him, God had a special clergy. When the tribe of Levi stepped forward in answer to the call of Moses at a time of grave crisis, the members of that tribe were elevated to the status of a professional priesthood. They were separated from the people (the laity) in whose behalf they were to come before God with sacrifices and offerings, and in ritual observance. The tribe of Levi found their inheritance (*kleros*, clergy) not in the land with the people (*laos*, laity) but in the direct service of God.

As priests of God the members of this tribe could perform certain functions which were forbidden to others under the penalty of death. They could touch holy things which others were not permitted to touch.

"At that time the Lord separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister unto Him, and to bless in His name, unto this day. Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the Lord is his inheritance, according as the Lord thy God promised him" (Deuteronomy 10:8-9).

This is very clear and one need not be too astute to observe that under the Mosaic economy a select group was set apart from the rest of God's people and ordained to officiate and minister unto God. ... They ... wore a special garb, a robe or tunic, girded with a special sash, and topped off with a tall head-dress. No one outside the priesthood was allowed to wear this distinctive attire and

any person who did so would suffer death for impersonating a priest. The priest was a mediator. He stood between the people and God. Men approached God only through other men who were empowered with sacerdotal authority.

"And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the Lord concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty; or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats ... and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him" (Leviticus 4:27-31).

A special priesthood must draw its support from those for whom it officiates. The priests cannot farm or make a living. They must busy themselves with affairs of the temple. They must keep the ritual program moving. Those who constituted the priestly clergy could not farm, and those who farmed could not be a priestly clergy. So the people (laity) had to support the priesthood with their tithes and offerings.

"The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and his inheritance. Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the Lord is their inheritance, as He hath said unto them" (Deuteronomy 18:1-2).

The priest was entitled to demand the part coming to him before the contributor could use anything for himself.

“And this shall be the priest’s due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him. For the Lord thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons for ever” (Deuteronomy 18:3-5).

There can be no question but what, under the fleshly covenant, written and engraved in stones, God created a clerical caste separate and apart from the people. Members of this group encamped between the body of Israel and the sanctuary where God dwelt. They wore beautiful robes which distinguished the wearers from the remainder of the people of God. They performed functions forbidden to those who had not been anointed.

PROFESSIONAL WORSHIP

So we wanted worship to be something done for us, a performance prepared in advance and carried out by trained actors whom we could watch and applaud and appreciate for their skills. We did not want worship to be the crying out of our own hearts for help or the sobbing on the shoulder of our elder Brother, Who endured all things as we do and was yet without sin. We craved an “order of worship” printed in a program and appropriate to holy days and holy seasons. And the flesh triumphed over the Spirit. We got what we wanted and we can go through it for an hour once per week wholly detached in life and concern. Once more the startling questions of yesterday come echoing through the empty, dusty, cobweb-strung hearts which are no longer being led by the Spirit.

“Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? If it be yet in vain” (Galatians 3:3-4).

We have not progressed in the Spirit. We have retrogressed to the law. We have gone back to the weak and beggarly elements. We are acting as if the death of Jesus was a myth and the cross at Calvary a fantasy. We are not the family for which God planned. We are an organization of our own design, coming before God with a mixture of Judaistic and cultural forms which we have blended together and call worship. There is a veil over our eyes in the reading of the Word.

Let me not be vague. Let me not hint at what I mean. We have refused to believe that the God who created heaven and earth and all that is in them does not dwell in temples made with hands, and neither is worshipped with men’s hands as though He needed anything. So we continue to spend billions of dollars every year to prove that Paul was mistaken when he stood among the pagan shrines at Athens. One of the strengths of primitive saints was that they had no shrines like the pagan world. Their God could not be localized, confined or shut up, so that men would have to visit Him as they did the sick. And now we dedicate buildings to God exactly as Solomon did in the days of spiritual adolescence, and men stand up and intone in sepulchral tones,

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psalm 122:1).

We have refused to learn that Jesus did away with holy places and holy days. We are the temple of God. We are the house of God. Men can no longer dedicate material structures to God who gives us life and breath and all things. We do not go up to the house of God. It is the house of God which does the going. The only sanctuary God has on this earth is a consecrated human heart. He recognizes no place as a sanctuary or holy place because it has stained glass windows, wall-to-wall rug of institutional quality as the salesman stressed in his pitch to the building committee, or pews to match the pulpit furniture. I am the house of God when I am in a library, or the bathroom, or the shopping center ...

When we build a “house of worship” and have a dedication ceremony, call it temple or what you will, we must think of a clergyman to conduct the ritual. A temple requires a special priest to minister. The pulpit becomes a stage for a performance in our behalf and the pews become a grandstand from which spectators view the performance. When people find the Lord Jesus in a real and vital way, and want to live very close to Him and experience the fellowship of others in praise that is spontaneous and unrehearsed they find a pall and chill when forced to sit through a dramatization with a robed choir and an actor. The praise of God is not intended to be a spectator sport but the pouring out of one’s own heart ...

In Christ Jesus our Lord there is not one item of praise or spiritual performance which is the exclusive right of a particular class. Any child of God ... may serve in carrying out the will of God. The relegation of that which belongs to all to a special coterie of saints is a step away from the simplicity in Christ and God’s purpose ...

We are tricked into thinking that we are free from “the clergy system” because we have been clever enough to employ other terms to designate our clergy. But being a clergyman has little to do with whether “the common people” designate one by such titles as “Reverend,” or “Right Reverend.” ...

The pagan business world looks upon “the minister” of a church as identical in status with the parish priest ... A lot of those who inveigh against “the clergy system” from the pulpit on Sunday accept a “clergy discount” on Monday, thus demonstrating anew that where a man’s treasure is there will his heart be also ...

Not only the world which surrounds our little oasis regards us as the “the clergy” when we appropriate the function of preaching, and contract to proclaim the word at so much per annum with vacation time specified. The saints who are taxed to support the organizational complex feel the same way. It is “the minister”

who has his name on the signboard out front and upon the official letterhead. He has an office in the consecrated structure, and often a secretary who alone can admit you to the inner sanctum. The very world we have created for ourselves sets him apart.

In justification for the brethren who hoped to devote their efforts to proclaiming the message of God’s grace, I must point out that they are upset and frustrated because they have been caught in the gears of the institutional meat-grinder or are constantly being run through the congregational corn-sheller. In their hearts they believe in the ... ministry of all the saints. Secretly, I think a lot of them resent being put on the stage to say “the right things” in “the proper way” which means to employ the kind of religious jargon and double-talk which opposes sin without making it lose its respectability.

... “The System” operates to produce professionals, and a lethargic and indolent people, good-hearted though they may be, would rather hire someone whom they can own to “conduct worship,” whatever that may mean, than to worship in Spirit and in truth. ... “The System” operates only to perpetuate itself just as does the political system or the economic system ... it makes no difference who is elected or selected. “The System” does not change. “The System” uses men so long as they follow its unwritten creed and conform to its traditional method. But men are expendable. They are good only so long as they produce. Once they rebel at being owned and made flunkies they will be sent packing and reduced to a pulp, made to feel that they are deserters, renegades and apostates. And all of this will be done by good people who think they are following the will of Jesus. So it becomes easier just to play ball than to fight the team, the umpires, and the fans in the stands. I say it is easier, but deep inside it corrodes the soul.

Sound Words



Letters to the Editor

"Profound! Comforting! Calming! Wonderful! Free yet extremely expensive! Have you ever thought how good it is for us that God is exactly the way He is? **[Daily Email Goodies™ #309]** – **NC**

Thank you for printing Denis Durham's *An Open Letter to Grace Believers* [**BSN** #84]. I agree 100% with what he has written. Please send me 10 additional copies. Keep up the good work. What you are doing is absolutely fantastic. – **IL**

I want to let you know that I thought the last **BSN** [#96] was fantastic. I loved your article addressing Paul's usage of the word hereafter. This was the best article I have read in a long time! – **NY**

I appreciate the **Daily Email Goodies**.™ Sometimes they upset my applecart. But they make me think. – **IL**

Your guest writer wrote our hearts [**BSN** #84]. – **NC**

"I read the **Daily Email Goodies**™ [#222] and more and more convinced that I was misled by many preachers. I did have my doubts about lots of things I was hearing from the institution called "church." I am so free and God is really teaching me to love everyone, regardless of race, or faith. TRADITION! TRADITION! has blinded many to the TRUTHS of God's Holy Word, and I used to be one. Thanks to your ministry of not worrying what others think – just willing to change your way of teaching truths. I just love your **Daily Email Goodies**.™ A female friend was asking me about my not going to "church" and I was able to tell her why. She has her doubts about lots of things, just as I did. I shall wait for her to bring the subject up again. I know she will. I am sure there others like her, but they are afraid to speak up. I have stopped going to the so-called "church" about 7 years

now. I am no longer in bondage, and a weight has been lifted off my shoulders. God bless you and your family. I love you and your family." – **FL**

"The **Daily Emails Goodies**™ continue to bless my heart! ... Your daily e-mails provide plenty of food for thought. Thank you my dear brother for all you do!" – **IL**

I just have to comment brother on this **Daily Email Goodies**.™ It is always so confirming when the Lord has been showing me something, to have it reaffirmed by another believer. I believe that the last few months the Lord has been drawing the net and bringing together a multitude of truth for me. Without going into great detail, I believe that I've been a very anxious believer, which is not a very good testimony of the peace that Christ gives. But He's revealed to me why I am the way I am and I didn't need Prozac or therapy to make me better. I have clung to Him all these years and HE has brought me through. The long and short of it was exactly what you wrote ... strongholds in my mind kept me prisoner. The Word would encourage me but then I'd allow the day with all the media, news, people, happenings to block out what the Lord gave me in our quiet time. And I spent years trying to fight the battle in the power of my flesh. Only until I could fight no more, and HAD to give it over to Him, did He take over for me. And I see every day how He's showing me how to take the day and let it unfold and TRUST Him.

The battle is His and the warfare is His and it's all in the Word and His indwelling Spirit. In Daniel, it says, and I paraphrase, our God is able to deliver us ... but if not. I keep saying that over and over ... but if not ... guess what, He is still God and they would not bow down to the idol.

And when in the fiery furnace, they were not alone. And they had not the smell of smoke when they came out of that furnace. Perfect love casteth out fear. God hath not given us the Spirit of fear. I can give my problems to Him because HE is able to deliver me. With the mind I serve the law of God ... renew it ... think on Him and His truth and let the Spirit lift us higher.

I know I can't say it as well as you did brother, but just know that I knew every scripture you quoted and He's given them to me and it so filled my soul

with rejoicing to read your words. Casting down imaginations ... so much of my heartache was dwelling on things that never came to fruition ... or thinking that people were thinking things that they were not thinking. I'm experiencing a freedom with our son and his wife in Christ that I've never had before. Our son said last week that the sermon in his church really touched him. The preacher was talking about a relationship with Christ and not the local church and how that pans out in your husband/wife relationship. He said he has so much knowledge about God but his day to day life is so busy with the kids and work that he feels like he's wasted a lot of time with the Lord. And I just smiled and said that he was right where God has him. That God could show him these things because of where he's been these last years not in spite of them. That he could trust the Saviour's leading in his life and not to condemn himself but just rejoice in that he's going a little closer in his walk with Him. It just was so freeing not to try to get him to see what I see or "enlighten" him to our viewpoint. We just rejoiced in Christ and what HE is doing in people's lives and that we need to have patience with each other until Christ is formed in all of us.

It's Romans 13:8 – "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." It's Romans 14:19 – "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

"For meat destroy not the work of God [IT'S GOD'S WORK TO SANCTIFY US] ... Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth" (Romans 14:20-21).

It's Galatians 5:5 – "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."

Wait on Him, rest in Him, trust Him, renew your mind with all these truths and a peace that passeth all understanding will keep our hearts and quietness and confidence shall be our strength.

Thank you for your words and your constant source of fellowship with our spirits. – **NC**

(See **LETTERS**, next page)

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LETTERS (continued from previous page)

The Lord has been showing me so much about His Love ... The Song of Solomon was truly an epiphany for me! Very mature subject but the most precious truth! The Male is the giver ... God is the giver! I dare not go further ... very sensitive ... God's Word the Seed ... New life ... Love ... intimate Love ... Mankind only RECEIVES ... the man and woman relationship ... so incredibly beautiful! The Gospel in the Song of Solomon ... God's Ultimate Love for His Creation! God has led me from the truth of Romans, through the valley of religion, into the book of Job where I finally saw myself and into the presence of His Love ... the Song of Songs! God IS LOVE ... No words can express what He has shown me of HIMSELF! Why Me? Grace? I had never known Grace had I not seen myself ... I had never known Love if I had not seen myself ... it took many crises in my life ... for God to open my eyes ... and the first thing Adam saw when his eyes were opened for the first time? The Face of LOVE! Awesome truth! My heart pounds with Him! – **ME**

All the **Daily Email Goodies** are so uplifting to us. I'm becoming closer to the Lord through our eyes being enlightened to universal salvation. I don't understand it all and cannot discuss it with anyone without fully knowing what I'm talking about ... But the way I am facing things is changing. I'm becoming more trusting and confident in the Lord because I do see everything in His hands ... and that He is able. Scriptures that already are so dear, are even more so, when read with this new mindset. So please continue keeping on ... your ministry means more to us than you'll ever know.

The goodie about being outside the camp that you sent made me not feel so lonely ... I do think that the joy of this understanding, even though we're not able to share it, comes because we are ABLE to LIVE it. For the manifestation of the love of God is being seen more and more in our lives ... our fellowship, after all, is with Him ... (Philippians 3:8-15)...

The more we KNOW Him, the more He will be seen IN US and therein lies our fellowship ... us with Him ... in our invisible world of the Spirit, drawing all we need from His presence ... “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Corinthians 3:18). – **NC**

EDITORIAL (continued from page 1018)

Here are the titles that we currently have available:

Books from Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Believer's Warfare: *Wearing the Armor of Light in the Darkness of this World*, 40 pages, BK, \$7.⁹⁵

The Bible Student's Notebook: *Volume I* (Issues 1-25, 1989-1995) 274 pages, PB, \$19.⁹⁵

The Salvation of All: *Creation's Final Destination*, 207 pages, PB, \$16.⁹⁵

Books from E.W. Bullinger

God's Purpose in Israel: *Illustrated in History, Type and Prophecy*, 36 pages, BK, \$9.⁹⁵

The Knowledge of God: *His Revelation of Himself*, 50 pages, BK, \$9.⁹⁵

The Names and Order of the Books of the Old Testament, 68 pages, PB, \$9.⁹⁵

The Prayers of Ephesians: *We in Christ – Christ in Us*, 60 pages, PB, \$9.⁹⁵

The Resurrection of the Body: *How the Dead are Raised*, 40 pages, BK \$9.⁹⁵

The Rich Man & Lazarus: *Or, the “Intermediate State”* 64 pages, PB, \$9.⁹⁵

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The Spirits in Prison: *An Exposition of I Peter 3:17-4:6*, 48 pages, BK, \$9.⁹⁵

The Transfiguration: *Interpretation – Application – Consideration*, 43 pages, BK, \$9.⁹⁵

Book from J.B. Jackson

A Dictionary of Scripture Proper Names, 94 pages, PB, \$12.⁹⁵

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Your fellow,



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.