



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 41
Issue 1019



Tidbits of Truth #67

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

The Relation of Celestial Beings to the Current Dispensation

[Excerpt:] The fact that most of the celestial beings who have visited the Earth are called “messengers” has led to the idea that all of the celestial host are “angels.” They are only the couriers between the Earth and the Heavens. Those who were gazing at Paul (cf. I Corinthians 4:9) certainly brought him no message, so we may rest assured that their message was about Paul, and was delivered to those who sent them. It seems as though the heavenly hosts took a livelier interest in Paul and his experiences than did his fellow men on Earth.¹

— [A.E. Knoch](#) (1874-1965)
[Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Kingdom \(A Comprehensive Compilation\)](#), page 270
Bible Student's Press (2023)

The So-Called “Prison Epistles,” “Perfection Epistles”

Ephesians and Colossians are the epistles of the Secret Administration. Many who came to see the dispensational boundary line of Acts 28 and/or the Secret Administration, included other epistles that they

saw as written after Acts 28. Some referred to these epistles as “the Prison Epistles,” or “the Perfection Epistles.” It is easy to understand why they did so. We in fact once held such a view. Yet, upon a closer examination of the epistles other than Ephesians and Colossians, we believe that these fit doctrinally to that hope prior to Acts 28. We now see that even Philipians stood on the threshold of the grand Ephesian-Colossian writings, it being the gateway epistle to the Celestial writings of Paul.²

— [Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.](#)

Judgment in the Book of Acts

[Excerpt:] In the Acts of the Apostles, God is still dealing directly and judging for sin (e.g. Acts 5:1-11). The age of grace, as we know it, had not yet started. When God brings in [His] earthly kingdom, sin will not be allowed to spread like a festering sore. God will deal with it directly every day,

Morning by morning will I uproot all the lawless ones of the land, that I may cut off out of the city

(continued on page 8573)

1. [Editor:] I.e., Since it was to and through Paul alone that the “Dispensation of the Secret” was revealed, delivered to him directly by the Lord Jesus Christ, then these messengers were certainly not bringing Paul a message, but we can be assured that these messengers were reporting about Paul's ministry to the Celestial authorities who sent them – they were not sent to bring a message, but acquire one.

2. For a look at this theme, see:

– [Ephesians & Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Press (see [order form](#) under “Pilkington”).

Tidbits of Truth #678571
Unity (quote: Paul, the Apostle)8578



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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 41, No. 1019 – May 6, 2024

Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unpropheied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- 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 freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. 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."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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of Yahweh, all the workers of iniquity (Psalm 101:8, REB).

— [T. Austin-Sparks](#) (1888-1971)

A Witness and a Testimony (September, 1970)

Let us be thankful that today we live in an age of abounding grace and longsuffering of God. Grace reigns (Romans 5:21), and being found “in Christ” we cannot come into condemnation (Romans 8:1).

— [Charles H. Welch](#) (1880-1967)

The Berean Expositor, Volume 43

Divine Interests

[Excerpt:] The verdict of history is clearly that God does not either tie Himself up with, nor preserve things on this Earth in themselves. Tennyson, the poet, said:

Our little systems have their day;

They have their day and cease to be.

History’s verdict upon things, however greatly they may have served a Divine purpose, is that God has left them and they have either been destroyed or left desolate. The world, and history, are strewn with such relics. Men strive to keep something going.

Aware and Unaware

What then, shall we declare to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? (Romans 8:31)

[Excerpt:] This great truth, that God is for us, is set against a background of our own individual impotence and personal groaning, and at times so surrounded by difficult and trying circumstances that we do not know what we ought to be praying for.

Romans 8:26 clearly states that, because of our infirmity, “we are not aware” what we should be praying for.

Now, similarly, the Spirit also is aiding our infirmity, for what we should be praying for, to accord with what must be, we are not aware, but the Spirit itself is pleading for us with inarticulate groanings.

Yet we are told that,

Now He Who is searching the hearts is aware



Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Kingdom – With Special Emphasis on The Overlooked Pre-Millennial “Kingdom of the Heavens” (A Comprehensive Compilation)

Editors: Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., André Sneidar

342 pages
1st Ed., A4 (8.3” x 11.7”),
87 chapters, with charts
and appendices, from 22
authors.

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“Compilations.”

There are enormous amounts of prophecy that were given to Israel in the Hebrew Scriptures that are yet to be fulfilled. Most believers simply follow some version of Christendom’s eschatology, futilely attempting to force the enormity of Israel’s prophetic scene into a few extremely abridged time periods. From this shallow vantage point, it is believed that more time has passed in God’s ages than remains. This couldn’t be further from the truth. Multiplied millennia remain, more than have yet transpired, for the fulfillment of all of the glorious plans that God has revealed in His Word. Far from being near the “end” of something prophetic, the span of God’s eonian plan is immense, and our placement is early in its timeline. Much more of God’s prophetic program remains than man’s feeble eschatologies allow.

The intention herein is to present an alternative view to the confusing message of the traditional Evangelical concept of prophecy, thus opening the door to a consideration of the idea of a Pre-millennial Kingdom as the fulfillment of many of God’s promises to Israel to have their kingdom in the Earth.

All of the material in this book, taken together, is a wonderful resolution to the confusion of the conventional religious theology that has muddled the minds of sincere Bible students for centuries. While we may live in the Secret Administration, that doesn’t necessarily mean that God’s Word regarding His plans for Israel must be a mystery to us.



what is the disposition of the Spirit, for in accord with God is it pleading for the saints (Romans 8:27).

Notice that our *unawareness* is contrasted with God's *awareness*. We cannot see the end from the beginning except insofar as it is revealed to us by God's spirit and through His Word. We do not know what is going to happen tomorrow; therefore, we cannot always be sure what God's immediate will for us is. In such circumstances His spirit comes to our aid, and in these or in any circumstances that may arise, we are *aware* that God is working all together for our good.

Now we are aware that God is working all together for the good of those who are loving God, who are called according to the purpose (Romans 8:28).

— [John Henry Essex](#) (1907-1991)

Faith Fellowship, Volume 60, No. 3

Religious Detoxification

[*Excerpt:*] Most are addicted to “church” *culture*. Take away their Sunday-service, their Bible studies, prayer meetings, and five-song worship teams and they start having withdrawals quickly. I think that it is a necessary part of this process to have a detox time.

— Jason Zahariades

Cited by Steven L. Rogers

Quit “Going” to Church ... and Other Musings of a Former Institutional Man, page 105

Is Anything too Good for God?

[*Excerpt:*] “Too good to be true!” Its goodness, then, is acknowledged.

“Too good to be true!” These words comprehend much: they tell more for this despised truth than some seem to be aware. But can anything be too good for infinite goodness? Can anything be too good for infinite wisdom, prompted by infinite goodness, to devise? Anything too good for infinite goodness, wisdom and power to accomplish?

— Joshua Britton (1803-1878)

Voices of the Faith (1887), page 338

Relax!

Relax and know that I am Elohim (Psalm 46:10, CV).

Only when we “*relax*” can we know God, and know that He is God. Only when we stop our incessant worrying, relentless striving and ceaseless chasing about the muck and mire of our circumstances – only then will we know He is there in our presence, the calm in the midst of our storm, the anchor in our storm-tossed sea, the rest in the turmoil of our struggle, our only peace in the depths of the raging battle within our soul. Relax!

— André Sneidar

[Thoughts from the Heart of an Itinerant Wayfarer](#)
(2nd edition, 2024), page 57



72 pages

The Divine Activation of Faith, and the Myth of Free Will

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

What is faith? Who is a believer? Is faith a matter of human choice, or is it a gift from God? Do those who have faith understand and believe everything correctly? Or, do they experience areas or degrees of unbelief? Can one be weak or strong in faith? Is there room in faith for growth? These are among the important questions that are considered in this work.

See [order form](#) under “Pilkington.”





Leaving Out Grace

[*Excerpt:*] Even those of us who are profoundly convinced that grace is the prime spring of God's dealings with His saints in this administration are inclined to leave it out of our dealings with one another. We prefer justice because we each feel that we have been just and, in case of a clash, the other has been unjust. We would like to display the justice of our cause before the saints and the world, when we ought rather to consider our fellow saint and hide his injustice, if it is that. Let us not seek to get our rights, to square up accounts now, but rather suffer wrong.

— [A.E. Knoch](#) (1874-1965)
The Glorious Gospel of God's Grace
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 36 (1946)

Freedom in Reading the Scriptures

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

[*Excerpt:*] 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)

God's Fresh Handiwork

Life is abundantly filled with more than just trouble. Stand in wonder and amazement at the fresh handiwork of God that is all around us. It is there for the

watchful eye. Life has been given to us this very day as a gift – a grand and glorious gift. Enjoy it to its fullest!

The Lord's mercies ... are new every morning: great is Your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23).

The goodness of God endures continually (Psalm 52:1).

Live in the day. Enjoy life in each of its moments. Don't live in the past, or in the future. Today is God's gift to you – the *present*.

— [Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.](#)

Christ Alone

[*Excerpt:*] We want to say again that our burden of message is the fullness [*plērōma*] of Christ. Not the establishment or extension of a "Movement"; not the constituting of a new "Fellowship"; but Christ! We have no tradition to keep going, and nothing here on this earth that we want to preserve. We think that we have seen something – however little – of God's thoughts and intentions for His Son, and if we do not follow the generally recognized and established system and order of organized Christianity, it is only because we have seen how much this limits real spiritual measure and so often puts things in His place.

— [T. Austin-Sparks](#) (1888-1971)
A Witness and a Testimony, January 1947



Prayer Dispensationally Considered (A Compilation)

Few subjects are as misunderstood as prayer. Why do so many of our prayers seemingly go "unanswered"? This vital collection of 16 authors and 26 works unravels the confusion surrounding prayer by simply "*rightly dividing the Word of Truth*" (II Timothy 2:15). Such a dispensational understanding can truly revolutionize one's life.

100 pages

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Mr. Rogers' Note

God, being rich in mercy, because of His vast love with which He loves us (Ephesians 2:4, CV)

After Fred Rogers' death his wife found a handwritten note in his billfold that read, "I've never met anyone I couldn't love if I heard their story."

With that profound thought in mind, how can we not know that our amazing Creator loves us all? He knows all of our stories – *He wrote* our stories!

Is it reasonable to imagine that He doesn't love us all? He has plans for each of us which includes the resurrection of all, as Paul declares in Acts 24:15,

And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

— [Mike Owens](#)

The Only One Taking Care of the Details

After watching a DVD movie, I examined the special features at the end of the DVD which were about how the show was made. I was amazed at all of the work and supporting roles that go into the production of these movies and TV shows, and all of the details that have to be considered, not just during the actual production, but even beforehand in the planning stages.

It is really quite mind-boggling when you see it. There are so many people to handle all of the little details that

go into the production of a one-hour TV show, not to mention other shows and movies of longer duration.

Then, as I thought about all of the details of Dad's creation, about how much more detail is involved and on such a grander scale, and that He is the only One taking care of those details, I was filled with such a greater wonder and appreciation for Him and all that He has done!

— André Sneidar

[*Thoughts from the Heart of an Itinerant Wayfarer*](#)
(2nd edition, 2024), page 47

Heirs of the Divine Nature

[*Excerpt:*] The child inherits all the nature of its father: so we are heirs of the Divine nature; and no power can or will disinherit one of us. In this self-evident position I rest. Neither fear, nor doubt, nor creed can shake my trust.

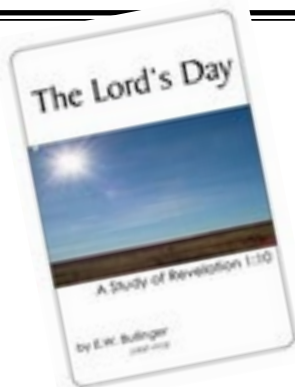
— L.M. Andrews (1836-?)

Westfield, OH

Voices of the Faith (1887)

Faith and Correct Understanding

[*Excerpt:*] The notion that one is simply not a believer or in Christ until he accepts certain important correct doctrines while rejecting certain other incompatible, incorrect doctrines, is necessarily mistaken. It is true that popular myths such as the Trinity, free will, immortal souls, and eternal torment, are incompatible with and militate against the truth of the evangel. Because of their adherence to such contradictory views, many are kept back, whether to a great



48 pages

The Lord's Day: A Study of Revelation 1:10

by — E.W. Bullinger

The object of this work is to give proof that the expression, "The Lord's Day," in the popular belief that it indicates the first day of the week, has no scriptural basis. There are few subjects on which Tradition speaks so confidently, or diverges more definitely from the recognized principles governing Bible study.

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degree or even entirely, from a true understanding of the evangel. We feel this tragedy deeply, and frequently need to be reminded that this, too, even as all else that is wrong with the world, is in God's purpose and will eventuate for good.

We have no promise that within the course of our present lifetime even relative maturity of faith will be given to all who are chosen. We only know that, whether sooner or later, concerning the one who is infirm in the faith: *"he will be made to stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand"* (Romans 14:4).

In the meantime, the ecclesia will continue to consist of all those who are chosen and called, to whom it is given to believe that Christ is the wisdom and power of God and that Jesus died and rose – however limited or faulty their apprehension of these glorious declarations may be.

— [James R. Coram](#) (1946-2022)
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 91

Never Misappropriate Hebrew Prophecy

[*Excerpt:*] We should never misappropriate any part of Hebrew prophecy bearing on Israel's eventual deliverance, such as Matthew 24, and then assume mistakenly that our deliverance is somehow determined by theirs – or theirs by ours.

— [Melvin E. Johnson](#) (1897–1979)

Honest Questions

[*Excerpt:*] In considering any subject, because of tra-

ditions and prejudices, we must exercise great care if we are to be honest in dealing with them. We should examine our beliefs by some questions such as these:

Are my beliefs and practices based upon the revelation God has given?

Do my beliefs and practices come from the Word, or have I read them into it?

Are my beliefs and practices the fruit of considering all the truth, or are they based upon consideration of only part of it?

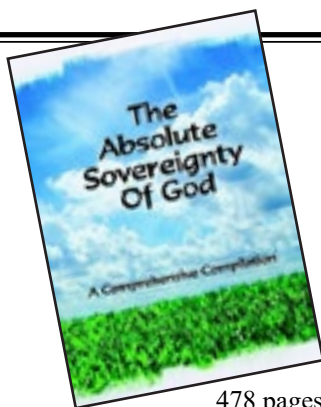
Have I gone to the Word to secure the truth, or did I go to it to find support for opinions and practices already determined upon?

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)

In His Name

[*Excerpt:*] Many things are being constructed to which the Name of the Lord is being affixed – things which appear fine and great, but which are destined to collapse. ... The church (ecclesia) is nothing which man can build by any resource in himself personally or collectively. It is an organism, not an organization.



478 pages

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"Compilations."

The Absolute Sovereignty of God (A Comprehensive Compilation)

This quintessential book victoriously celebrates and convincingly proclaims the absolute sovereignty of God. Sadly, religion has veiled the truth of the God of the Bible, making Him either an aloof deity, indifferent to the condition of the creation, or one who is at the worst cruel or at the least unloving and uncaring. Yet the loving Deity of Sacred Scripture always has had and will have sole and complete control over His entire creation. This ultimate collection of 100 works by 34 authors spans nearly 175 years. It is an extensive reference work that is essential for every library.



Eros Made Sacred: or The Biblical Case Made for Polygamy

by — James Wesley Stivers
(originally published in 1991)
74 pages

This book presents a clear biblical justification for polygamous marriage as sanctioned by the Holy Scriptures. The issue of polygamy is used to contrast current moral biases with those found in the Bible. First published more than 15 years ago, this thoughtful work has gone unrefuted. Provocative, instructional, challenging, edifying. The book chapters are:

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We are members of His Body. Build that, if you can! Launch that; organize that; “run” that! It cannot be done!

— [T. Austin-Sparks](#) (1888-1971)
A Witness and a Testimony (October, 1928)

Saul and the Medium of Endor

[*Excerpt:*] Frequently this passage is said to be proof that the dead continue to exist in a conscious condition. Else, how could the medium have produced Samuel? But the Bible is clear that there is no conscious existence in death (Psalm 6:5; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10). The giving up of life is the giving up of the soul (Acts 15:26; Philippians 2:30). And apart from resur-

rection, those who have died have perished (I Corinthians 15:12-19; 29-34).

— J. Philip Scranton

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [The Relation of Celestial Beings to the Current Dispensation:] Celestials, Angels, Spirit World [The So-Called “Prison Epistles,” “Perfection Epistles”:] Ephesians; Prison Epistles; Perfection Epistles [Judgment in the Book of Acts:] Acts Period; Grace; Judgment; Kingdom [Divine Interests:] History; Sovereignty [Aware and Unaware:] Prayer [Religious Detoxification:] Church Attendance; Tradition [Is Anything too Good for God?:] God; Salvation of All [Leaving Out Grace:] Grace, Division [Freedom in Reading the Scriptures:] Study [Relax!:] Relax [Mr. Rogers’ Note:] Love; Rogers, Mr. (Fred) [Christ Alone:] Christ Jesus; Institutions; Movements; Organizations [The Only One Taking Care of the Details:] Sovereignty [Faith and Correct Understanding:] Faith; Understanding [Heirs of the Divine Nature:] Salvation of All [Honest Questions:] Questions; Study [In His Name:] Christ Jesus; Institutions; Movements; Organizations [Never Misappropriate Hebrew Prophecy:] Prophecy [Saul and the Medium of Endor:] Witch [God’s Fresh Handiwork:] Sovereignty

“I AM ENTREATING YOU, THEN, I, THE PRISONER OF THE LORD, TO WALK WORTHILY OF THE CALLING WITH WHICH YOU WERE CALLED, WITH ALL HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS, WITH PATIENCE, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE, ENDEAVORING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT WITH THE TIE OF PEACE.”

Paul (Ephesians 4:1-3)



Ephesians & Colossians Scripture for the Present Administration

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Ephesians and Colossians are the present truth for the current dispensation. Ephesians introduces the Secret Administration in which we live, while Colossians, its companion epistle, completes the Word of God. There are no other Secret Administration letters beyond Ephesians and Colossians.

76 pages (2nd edition) See [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington.”