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The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 41
Issue 1025

Stretching Forward to what Lies Ahead:

A Further Look at Philippians

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by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Key Points:

Philippians is the gateway epistle to Ephesians and Colossians..... 8619

In Philippians, Paul reveals his complete forfeiture of all of Israel's things. 8621

Brethren, not as yet am I reckoning myself to have grasped, yet one thing – forgetting, indeed, those things which are behind, yet **stretching out to those in front** – toward the goal am I pursuing for the prize of God's calling above in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14, CV).



Brethren, I do not imagine that I have yet laid hold of it. But this one thing I do—forgetting everything which is past and **stretching forward to what lies in front of me**, with my eyes fixed on the goal I push on to secure the prize of God's heavenward call in Christ Jesus (WT).

Brothers, I do not consider myself to have laid hold of it. But I do one thing, forgetting the things behind and **straining toward the things ahead**, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (LEB).

cree of the blinding of Israel. The Barrier Wall is down. Along with Israel, her prophetic hope and program are set aside. Paul's priestly ministry to the Gentiles during the Acts period ceased.

Yet, until the “Administration of the Secret” was actually revealed – that grand pinnacle of divine revelation – where did Paul and the rest of those in the “gap” between the close of the Book of Acts and the writing of Ephesians and Colossians have their standing?

At the close of the Book of Acts the slate of revelation was cleared, as it were, and it was not until Paul wrote the book of Philippians that we gain a perspective on the enormous “gap” that existed between “the hope of Israel” and the pre-expectation of the current Secret Administration – a calling that pre-dates the very Disruption of the Cosmos.

(continued on page 8621)

Philippians is such a wonderful treasure, especially once we see its place in the divine revelation. I have found the challenging and perplexing statements of Paul in this book to be completely cleared up, once we see where it fits the sequence of Paul's ministry. I now view it as the gateway epistle to Ephesians and Colossians.

Here is the setting prior to the writing of Philippians: The Book of Acts has closed with the judicial de-

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 41, No. 1025 – June 17, 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 unprophesied, 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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The revelation committed to Paul during the Acts Period was admittedly “out of an installment” (I Corinthians 13:9, CV), and even midway through Paul’s ministry he knew that he was yet to come to even more “visions and revelations of the Lord” (II Corinthians 12:1),¹ for he had heard “ineffable declarations, which [were] not allowed a man to speak” during that time (II Corinthians 12:4, CV). Yet, he clearly knew that “whenever maturity may be coming, that which is out of an installment shall be discarded” (I Corinthians 13:10).

In Philippians, Paul reveals his complete forfeiture of all Israel’s things (circumcision, the law, etc.), deeming them “refuse” (Philippians 3:4-8, CV). Paul eagerly longed to be “attaining” and

... grasping also that for which [he] was [already] grasped also by Christ Jesus,” “forgetting, indeed, those things which [were] behind, yet [he was] stretching out to those in front [of him], toward the goal [he was], pursuing for the prize of God’s calling above in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:9-14).

That for which Paul was “stretching out” to “obtain” was the grand revelation and writing of Ephesians and Colossians, wherewith he was granted to “complete the Word of God” (Colossians 1:25). These twin epistles of the Secret Administration were “the prize of the high calling” (Philippians 3:14). That for which Paul longed to “attain” in Philippians, we now possess in its fulness in Ephesians and Colossians – the

1. “Progressive Revelation,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #720](#).

absolute “complement” (*plērōma*).

*His Body, the **complement** of the One **completing** the all in all (Ephesians 1:23, CV).*

*That you may be **completed** for the entire **complement** of God (3:19, CV).*

*A mature man, to the measure of the stature of the **complement** of the Christ (4:13, CV).*

*To have an administration of the **complement** of the eras, to head up all in the Christ – both that in the Heavens and that on the Earth (1:10, CV).*

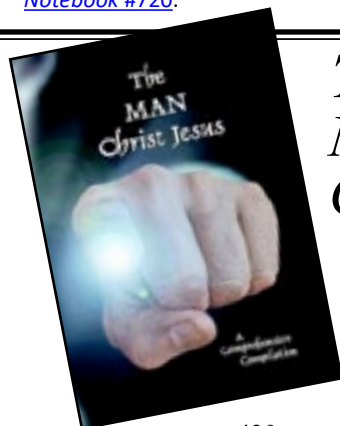
*For in Him the entire **complement** delights to dwell (Colossians 1:19, CV).*

*For His Body, which is the Ecclesia of which I became a dispenser, in accord with the administration of God, which is granted to me for you, to **complete** the Word of God (1:25, CV).*

*And you are **complete** in Him, Who is the Head of every sovereignty and authority, (2:10, CV).*

We now, with him, who have been granted *realization*, have also forgotten the prior things of Israel, and are now fully engulfed in the complement (*plērōma*) of divine revelation!

For more on the unique theme of Philippians, I would encourage rereading the book [Ephesians and](#) (see **STRETCHING**, last page)



430 pages

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The Man Christ Jesus: His Birth, Life, Nature, Faith, Suffering and Glory (A Comprehensive Compilation)

This book contains 24 authors and 74 works spanning 130 years. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams (1845-1925), William W. Bentley, Jr., William Tucker Broad (1860-1923), Leon A. Bynoe (1895-1983), E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), E.H. Clayton (1887-1972), John H. Essex (1907-1991), William B. Hallman (1903-1985), Joseph Edwin Hartill (1909-1981), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), Adlai Loudy (1893-1984), William Mealand (1873-1957), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak (1907-1988), André Sneidar, E. Al Stahl (1926-2011) and Charles H. Welch (1880-1967).

God Revealed Himself to Paul for the Secret Administration

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 4: God as Father / Lesson 9: God Revealed Himself to Paul
for the Secret Administration

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by — Mark D. Vogt
(with Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.)

For this cause, I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you, the nations, if, indeed, you did hear of the Dispensation of the Grace of God that was given to me in regard to you, that by revelation He made known to me the secret ... which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men (Ephesians 3:1-5, REB).

Key Points:

In God's present purpose all covenant and national advantages have been removed..... 8622

As God progressively revealed Himself to humanity, some truths became clearer and clearer..... 8623

At the close of the book of Acts we find Paul imprisoned for “the hope of Israel.”¹ Yet, this was not the end of his ministry, for later he was shackled for a “mystery” (or “secret”).² In Paul’s latter ministry he was given a new revelation from Christ Jesus concerning “the Administration of the Secret,”³ an administration he identified as, “the Administration of the Grace of God.”⁴

In God’s present purpose all covenant and national advantages have been removed,⁵ and believers can now enjoy a new and superior calling and hope (expectation), the Celestial appearing with Christ in Glory.⁶

The revelation committed to Paul, as with all divine revelation, was *progressive*. It was given to him “out of an installment,”⁷ for even midway through Paul’s ministry he declared that he was yet to “come to vi-

sions and revelations of the Lord.”⁸ Paul understood the temporary nature of his early ministry, and he knew that, after the final revelation was given to him, the “instalment shall be **discarded**.”⁹

While Israel’s Kingdom program was still in operation, Paul had a *Priestly* ministry to the Gentiles.¹⁰ This ministry included all of his epistles written during this time. Yet, after the close of the book of Acts, once Israel and her Kingdom hopes were held in abeyance, a *Secret* ministry was revealed in Ephesians and Colossians. This latter revelation was a comprehensive truth that involved the future occu-

8. II Corinthians 12:1.

9. I Corinthians 13:10; i.e., “discarded” as the primary revelation. The Greek word is καταργέω (*katargeō*), meaning “to be (render) entirely idle (useless)” (SEC, G2673), “to render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative ... to have no further efficiency ... to deprive of force, influence, power ... to cause to cease, put an end to, do away with, annul, abolish ... to cease, to pass away, be done away (TGL), and is thus translated in the following ways: abolished (UV); become useless (YLT, ALT); canceled (MSG); cease (GLT); disappear (CEB; GNT); done away (ED, ASV, DT); done away (KJV, REB); down-unworking (DT); end (HCSB, ERV); inactivated (EB); inactive (JMNT); laid aside (JWNT); no longer be used (GWT); no longer necessary (BBE); pass away (ESV; LEB); put out of use (LET) set aside (NET, WNT); superseded (MNT); unemployed (JMNT); unproductive (JMNT); useless (JMNT); useless (LSV, FF, SNT); vanish away (MLT).

10. Romans 15:16, CV.

1. Acts 28:20.

2. Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3.

3. Ephesians 3:9, CV.

4. Ephesians 3:2, CV.

5. Ephesians 2:14-15.

6. Colossians 3:4.

7. I Corinthians 13:10, CV.

pation and operation “far above all Heavens,” where Christ has ascended and is seated.¹¹

Paul had been a Hebrew of the Hebrews, of the tribe of Benjamin, and a Pharisee quite extraordinaire. If a man ever knew the Law of Moses and all of the rules and precepts of Judaism, it was Paul. Yet, these, in the last analysis, were of no value to him and he plainly declares so in Philippians 3:5-8.

As God progressively revealed Himself to humanity, some truths became clearer and clearer. God is not the harsh taskmaster that Christianity would have us to believe. Instead, He is the God of love, mercy and grace. He is the God Who brought forth a Son as a sacrifice to lead ALL mankind through death, burial, resurrection, reconciliation and glorification. Nobody knew this fully until God brought the Apostle Paul on the scene and imparted to him the capstone of the revelation of God to man, thereby making him the one chosen by God to complete, or fulfill (filling to the top), the Word of God.¹²

It is only by reading and understanding what Paul wrote in his latter epistles that one will have a comprehensive understanding about where people stand today, as well as just where the other portions of Scripture fit into God’s grand design of things. Paul’s epistles, especially Ephesians and Colossians, unlock the entire Bible and enable the student of the Scriptures to understand how the parts fit to make a whole.

The highest glories of God and His Son are revealed in these two epistles, as well as the highest glories bestowed upon believers. What so many are ignorant

11. Ephesians 4:10; 2:6.

12. Colossians 1:25.

of is that God has exalted His Son to be the Head of the *Ecclesia which is His Body*, and that these blessings, including the unique resurrection (the “*out-resurrection*”¹³), position believers as *unique* sons, and is something that cannot be found in the Scriptures anywhere except in these two epistles.

There is One Body,¹⁴ with Christ as the Head,¹⁵ and there is unity in this.¹⁶ No longer are the Gentiles second class citizens waiting for the crumbs that fall from the table of the Jews.¹⁷ Therefore, the “*barrier wall*,” or “*middle wall of partition*” has been broken down,¹⁸ and in God’s eyes there is no longer any distinction between Jew and Gentile. The *Secret Administration* has a unique calling, expectation and destiny, among other things, all of which were accomplished before the “*disruption of the world*.”¹⁹

All of this was hidden in God Himself,²⁰ not to be revealed until He, through His glorified Son, made it known to the Apostle Paul. Don’t be satisfied with the crumbs. Come enjoy the full banquet table of absolute grace, and feast on the greatest blessings that God has for His Ecclesia. **ESN**

TOPICS:

Major: Father; God; Mystery; Paul; Progressive Revelation; Revelation

Minor: I Corinthians 13:10; Calling; Completed Scripture; Ecclesia; Paul’s Later Epistles

13. Philippians 3:11-12.

14. Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 3:15.

15. Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; 2:10, 19.

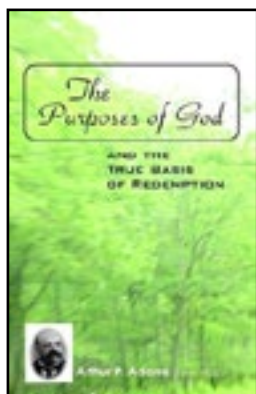
16. Ephesians 4:3-6.

17. Mark 7:28.

18. Ephesians 2:14.

19. Ephesians 1:4.

20. Ephesians 3:9.



This is a compilation of some of Arthur P. Adams’ smaller works that first appeared in his periodical *The Spirit of the Word* in 1885. Adams suffered greatly for the truths presented here. The riches found within these pages deserve to be preserved for future generations. Even though Adams wrote over one hundred years ago, in many ways his writings are just as fresh as if they had been written today.

This is THE TRUE BASIS OF REDEMPTION – God our Creator; responsible for His Own creation, and every attribute of His being pledged to its successful completion. God is able, and He will. The creature may rest secure on that basis – the all sufficient ground and full assurance of his deliverance and final triumph in the redemption of Jesus Christ. – A.P. Adams

135 pages

See [order form](#) under “Adams.”

God Revealed Himself as Father

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 4: God as Father / Lesson 10: God Revealed Himself as Father

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by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Yet to us there is but one God, the Father, from Whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom are all things, and we by Him (I Corinthians 8:6).

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one confident expectation of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Key Points:

In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself by giving them His personal name: *Yahweh*. 8624

Jesus introduced a Father relationship with God. 8625
Paul revealed that God is the Father of everyone. 8625

We have been learning about the progressive revelation of God to mankind. Early in the Hebrew Scriptures God reveals Himself to His covenant Nation Israel by the personal name *Yahweh*. Though this represented a highly exalted relationship above that of the rest of the nations, it simply pales in comparison to what would be progressively revealed.

approach to God.

Though there were slight hints of this greater truth in the Hebrew Scriptures, it was our Lord Jesus Christ Who came to reveal God's true identity and nature – as "*Father*" (cf. Matthew 5:16, 45, 48; etc.). It was a minor theme until Jesus stressed God as *Father*.

Although we can surely appreciate the great value and use of "*Yahweh*" (or, "*Jehovah*"), we ultimately dishonor Him by limiting ourselves to such a narrow

The understanding of God as "*Father*" is an advanced revelation, super-abounding that of any previous one, including *Yahweh*. With radical boldness Christ personally calls God "*Father*" over 150 times in the



Concordant Greek Text with English Sublinear

This text allows the reader to see every passage just as it was penned in the ancient uncial alphabet. An ultra-literal and consistent English sublinear is provided which uniformly expresses the Greek grammar with English standards. Wherever possible the first letter of the English standard in the sublinear stands directly under the first letter of the corresponding Greek word. With a format uniform throughout to facilitate reference, there are 20 Greek letters to the line and 50 to the column, giving 1000 to the page. Readings variant from the basic text are given in the superlinear. 735 pages. (See [order form](#) under "Bibles")





gospel accounts.

Jesus Christ introduced a *Father* relationship with God. He bridged the gap of long-standing perceived separation, providing the revelation of a loving Father-child bond with God.

“Father” was Christ’s predominant term used for God. Although He did not originate the concept, He elevated it to a major theme. He came to reveal God as “Abba” – the Daddy-God, for He prays to Him as, “Abba, Father” (Mark 14:36), or, literally, “Papa, the Father” (DNT), or “Papa, Father” (MSG).

Paul would advance this truth even further, revealing that all of God’s sons, Jew and Gentile, through “the spirit of sonship” can equally cry,

Abba, Father (Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:15).

Papa, Father (DNT, MSG).

What a rich and wonderful relationship with God we have been brought into, paling all others!

Paul took this message of God *as Father* beyond the borders of Israel, as he told the pagans of Athens,

quoting their own poet,

... as certain also of your own poets have said,
“For we are also His offspring.” Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God ... (Acts 17:28-29).

He boldly declared in Ephesians,

One God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in all (Ephesians 4:6).

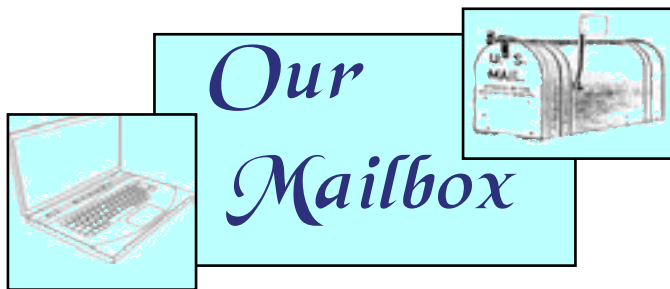
While earthly parental love can at times be a type of unconditional love, it pales in comparison to that of our heavenly Father’s love. His love is unwaveringly fixed upon us as its object; and divine “... love never fails” (I Corinthians 13:8).

So, our Creator is also our Father: we are His children, and we are on a journey to learn the limitlessness and boundlessness of His love toward us.

The change from Creator to Father is the goal of the eons. – A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Father; God; Paul; Progressive Revelation; Revelation
Minor: Love



1000 BSN issues! Thank you, Father! It should not go unsaid, dear brother André, that the life of Christ within you and Clyde has energized in your spirits to produce for Father’s glory (and the transformation of His Body, Ephesians 2:22), the milestone of 1000 issues! Thousands and thousands of manhours have been invested, through much trial and suffering, to bring about the re-illumination of misplaced, “lost” divine Pauline truth so that His Pleroma would stand perfect, complete, and blameless in the entire will of God! ... May you both rejoice in Father’s gift to His Body through your sacrificial service for His glory. You are greatly loved by Father, Son, and me! – **SD**

Congratulations on the 1000th issue of BSN! I thank God for the milestone that has been reached and for the wonderful articles that have been published over the last 34 years. That BSN is freely available all over the world is indeed a blessing. May more and more in different parts of the globe discover and learn from this rich source of biblical material. BSN has been for me in recent years the most important resource for studying Scripture. – **South Africa**

I get a big smile on my face and laugh at how creative God is. And of course, we only know a glimpse of his awesomeness. It’s amazing, though, how truth slowly and incrementally changes a person over time. It’s what he’s slowly but steadily been doing in my life. Thanks for being there for me. God knows how much I appreciate it! To Him be the Glory! – **WI**

My heart’s passion remains that of advancement in the depths of “the Word of Truth” in this administration of grace and secret. ... There remains a fixed and intense passion in my heart in digging, and the more I dig, the

more I love to dig, searching, investigating, examining, probing into and through, exploring its depths ... Thus, my heart and soul have been entrenched in a depth of study and research in Ephesians and Colossians,¹ which is progressively building a deepened realization of interwoven connections, interrelationships and interplays of the words, phrases and verses in the context. It really requires a *slowing down*, delving into and paying attention to what is stated, analyzing, detecting the distinctive form or pattern, examining the angles of the light in a word, phrase, verse ... – **ME**

*The Man Christ Jesus*² book is amazing. The compilation intensely opens the mind to whom is our Lord and the

1. For a look at the uniqueness of Paul's letters of Ephesians and Colossians, see:
– [Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Pilkington.")
2. [The Man Christ Jesus: His Birth, Life, Nature, Faith, Suffering and Glory \(A Comprehensive Compilation\)](#), on the [order form](#) under "Compilation."

STRETCHING (continued from page 8621)

[Colossians](#),² especially chapter 4, "Philippians: Paul's Pivotal Letter Pressing Toward the Mystery."

I would also encourage the reading of the compilation book, [The Pleroma: Paul's "Lost" Teaching \(The Complement of Christ, of God, and of the Ages\)](#).³

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Acts Period; Completed Scripture; Ephesians; Philip-
pians; Philippians 3:13-14
Minor: Acts 28; Complement; Mystery; Paul's Later Epistles;
Plērōma; Right Division

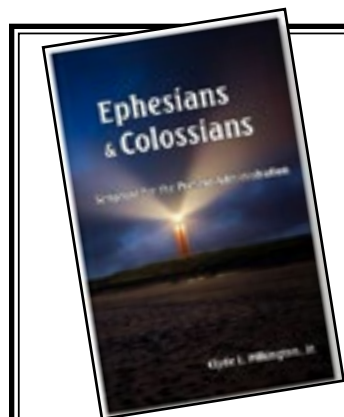
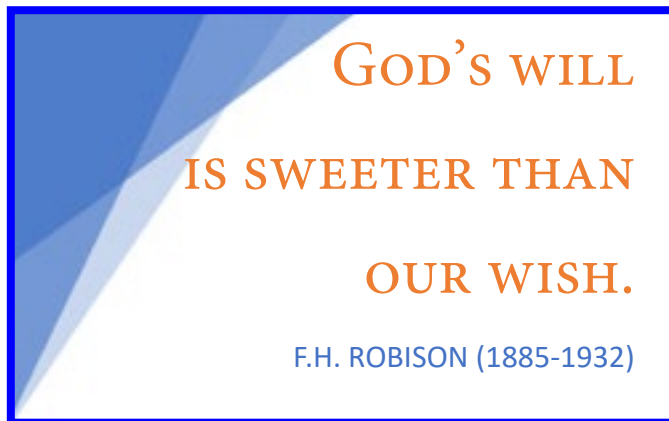
2. Available at [studyshef.com](#) on the Pilkington author page.
3. Available at [studyshef.com](#) on the Compilations subject page.

work Father has accomplished through him. ... I will be rereading this book over and over in the future. ... As always, I greatly appreciate your time, effort and dedication to these works you are producing. – **VA**

Hannah Whitall Smith³ is the best author I have read (to date) at channeling the love of God through her words. I think her writings could be so very comfort-
ing to anyone facing life's challenges, especially extreme challenges. She has felt things deeply in her heart, her words reflect that. – **IN**

I'm so glad I decided to attend the [Pennsylvania Scrip-
ture⁴] conference! I'm still basking in my experience – the love, the oneness of mind, the quickening of spirit as I was overwhelmed by the TRULY GOOD NEWS of Jesus' finished work on the cross and its ongoing heal-
ing effect on all of creation. ... May God continue to bless you, my friend, along with your family and your ministry. I look forward to seeing y'all again, hopefully in the near future. – **PA**

3. [The God of All Comfort](#), Hannah Whitall Smith (1832-1911), ed-
ited by Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., on the [order form](#) under "Hannah
Whitall Smith."
4. Pennsylvania Scripture Conference, March 23-24, 2024; 20 Vid-
eos on YouTube:
<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXXxM1xulagsnf6aGZkGKG8xMFk-C48ih&feature=shared>



Ephesians & Colossians *Scripture for the Present Administration*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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

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