



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

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

Volume 42  
Issue 1028

# *God's Attributes are Part of Him, Yet Not His Essence*

## Bible Student's Courses

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Course 1: God / Unit 5: The Attributes of God/ Lesson 1: Introduction: God's Attributes are Part of Him, Yet Not His Essence

by — Mark D. Vogt

"For My designs are not your designs, and your ways are not My ways," averring is Yahweh. "For as the Heavens are loftier than the Earth, so are My ways loftier than your ways, and My devices than your devices" (Isaiah 55:8-9, CV).

### Key Points:

The God that many people worship is really a god of their own imagination.....8643

God created all, and the intent of this creation was to have an outlet for His love.....8650

Every attribute of God is an expression and outworking of His essence: *love*.....8650

Nothing will be left to chance and not one person will be "lost," .....8650

**W**hen contemplating God, one of the first things to be aware of is that God does not think like we think, and His ways and works are so much higher than ours are.

*How great have been Thy works, O Jehovah, very deep have been Thy thoughts*  
(Psalm 92:5, YLT).



is manifested as Christianity tries to teach the idea that the essence of God is His righteousness and holiness (another humanly misunderstood concept), and that everything that flows from Him conforms to this supposed essence.

This will give rise to the mistaken concept that God abhors the sinner because, well, because we sin. Hence it is falsely supposed that God

*(see BSC, page 8649)*

The tendency of humanity is to superimpose our feelings and mindset upon God. We assign our own biases and imperfections upon God, without realizing it, and assume that God is just like us, only a little smarter and more capable.

Therefore, without divine revelation, the god that ends up being worshipped is really just the god of our imaginations. This becomes acutely obvious when God's attributes are mixed up with His essence. This

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**Bible Student's Notebook™**

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 42, No. 1028 – July 15, 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 First Resurrection” (i.e., “the Former Resurrection”)

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

*But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years (Revelation 20:5-6, KJV).*

*(The rest of the dead do not live until the thousand years should be finished.) This is the former resurrection. Happy and holy is he who is having part in the former resurrection! Over these the second death has no jurisdiction, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will be reigning with Him the thousand years (CV).*



“*T*he First Resurrection,” specifically mentioned by name, is found only in Revelation 20. This is a *prophetic* resurrection that takes place *before* the Thousand-Year reign of Christ on Earth. It is “first” only in the sense that it precedes the resurrection that takes place *after* His Millennial Kingdom.

The “first resurrection” is the former of the two resurrections referred to in this passage. It is the antithesis of the resurrection implied though not specifically mentioned in Revelation 20:12. This is the resurrection which was both the subject of revelation and the hope of Israel ...

— E.W. Bullinger’s *Companion Bible*

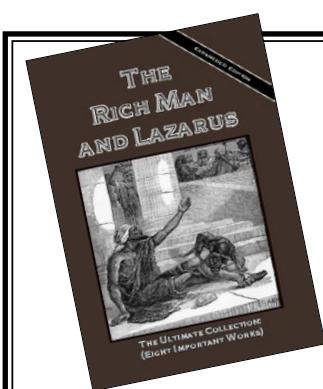
This is the resurrection concerning which Paul wrote

during the Acts Period, “*they that are Christ’s at His Parousia.*”<sup>1</sup>

1. *Parousia* (παρουσία, G3952, SEC) at its base means “personal presence,” and is used for the *official* presence of Christ on Earth as manifest during the Millennial Kingdom. The *Parousia* is initiated by Christ’s Second Advent. Thus, it is translated: “coming” (KJV), “arrival” (Moffatt; Analytical-Literal), and “presence” (Concordant; Diaglott; Rotherham; Young). The *Parousia* is central to the Messianic prophecies and Israel’s ultimate hope. However, the *Parousia* is **not** the hope of the One Body, and therefore the word “*parousia*” is not found in Ephesians or Colossians, the epistles of the Secret Administration. Our hope is our joint-appearing with Christ in Glory, “*far above all Heavens*” (i.e., among the Celestials in the Super-Heavens – Colossians 3:1-4; cf. Ephesians 4:10).

When we think of the Lord Jesus Christ returning to this Earth, we think of it as Him *Coming* to take His place as King. The normal word (Greek, *erchomai*) just means “to come,” but the special word for “personal coming” (Greek, *parousia*) is said to be “a being alongside” or “a presence” (Young’s Analytical Concordance, page 188). This word *parousia* really is a personal presence, an appearance in an *official* capacity because of who He is and what He can do. — Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992), *Glossary of Words*.

The Greek word rendered “*Coming*” (*Parousia*) does not mean simply “*coming*.” ... Many have recognized that *parousia* does



## *The Rich Man and Lazarus* The Ultimate Collection – Expanded Edition A collection consisting of Eleven Important Works:

This is the definitive collection by 11 authors spanning over 170 years. Authors include: E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), Alan Burns (1884-1929), Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992), Ivan L. Burgener, Dan Kraemer, B. Davies, Joseph E. Kirk (1903-1974), J.F. Witherell, Andre Piet, A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), and William B. Screws (1884-1961).

328 pages

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



But every man in his own order: Christ the Firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His Coming (I Corinthians 15:23, KJV).

Yet each in his own class: the Firstfruit, Christ; thereupon those who are Christ's in His **Presence** (CV).

Notice that those who participate in this prophetic resurrection are raised to,

be **priests** of God and of Christ, and they will be **reigning** with Him the thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

Thus, these are believing Israelites, for the priesthood and earthly reigning belong to them,

*And you shall be unto Me a **KINGDOM** of **PRIESTS**, and a **Holy Nation**. These are the*

not mean merely "coming," so, they have said it means "personal presence." This is partially correct, but it is not the whole of the matter. The Greeks used the word *parousia* when someone had to be present at an event because of who he was and what official function he was to perform. ...

The Pre-Millennial Kingdom is the Divine process which consummates in the *Parousia* of Christ on Earth for 1000 years. ... The consummation of "the Day of Christ" will be when He returns to Earth with great fanfare and mighty power (I Thessalonians 4:16-17), to have rule and dominion over the Heavens and Earth in His *Parousia* for a thousand years. – Tom L. Ballinger, "The Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24 and the Pre-Millennial Kingdom" (part 1), [Bible Student's Notebook 942](#).

For more information on the *Parousia*, see:

- "Parousia," Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #631](#);
- "What Does Parousia Mean?" Otis Q. Sellers, [Bible Student's Notebook #699](#);
- "The Parousia of the Lord Jesus Christ," Otis Q. Sellers, [Bible Student's Notebook #785](#).

words which you shall speak unto the **Children of Israel** (Exodus 19:6).

But you are a chosen generation, a Royal **PRIESTHOOD**, a Holy Nation, a peculiar people (I Peter 2:9).

Like Paul during the Book of Acts, those who take part in this prophetic "first resurrection," will be

... acting as a **PRIEST** of the evangel of God, that the approach present of the nations may be becoming well received ... (Romans 15:16).

Thus, E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913) wrote concerning this "Kingdom of Priests," noting that it referred to,

The whole nation being a priest with respect to other nations, as the tribe of Levi [was] for Israel. [This priesthood is] now in abeyance because Israel did not fulfill the condition in Exodus 19:5.<sup>2</sup> But in the future it will be realized (Isaiah 61:6,<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 66:21<sup>4</sup>).

— Companion Bible (1909)

"The first resurrection" is far from being the "first" of **ALL** resurrections, for a series of other prophetic

(see **RESURRECTION**, page 8649)

2. "Now therefore, **IF** you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, **THEN** you shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the Earth is Mine: **and you shall be unto Me a Kingdom of PRIESTS** ..."
3. "But you shall be named the **PRIESTS** of the **LORD**: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: you shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves."
4. "'And I will also take of them for **PRIESTS** and for Levites,' saith the **LORD**."

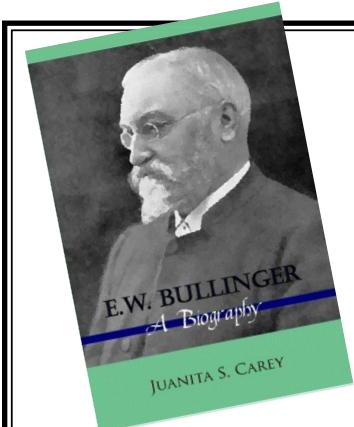
## *E.W. Bullinger: A Biography*

by — Juanita S. Carey

This is a behind-the-scenes look at the man who devoted his life to the careful analysis of the biblical text; a man rooted in the belief that the Bible truly is the written Word of God; a man who had one lifelong ambition – to search the Word of God with diligence and faithfully pass on to others the truth he found there.

"An excellent biography of a man who, while greatly respected as a teacher and preacher of God's Word, was also criticized greatly as he dared to espouse opinions contrary to the mainstream Church." — Bob Evely, Wilmore, KY

See [order form](#) under "Bullinger."



316 pages, 19 pictures

# OBITUARY.

## Juanita S. Carey (1930-2023)

Author of *E.W. Bullinger: A Biography*

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

We have learned of the death of one of our authors, Juanita S. Carey. Born in Lima, Peru in 1930, Juanita spent her teen years in Englewood, NJ, where she attended The Dwight School before moving on to Rosemont College. She married Dr. Mitchell Carey in 1955; the couple had five children and lived in Larchmont, NY.

After earning an MLS (Master of Library Science) at Queens College (CUNY), Juanita embarked on a decades-long career as a school librarian and teacher. An avid writer, she spent years researching and then writing the invaluable biography of biblical scholar Dr. E.W. Bullinger.<sup>1</sup> For over 20 years, she volunteered at Main Street Mission in Manchester, NH, and as an English tutor for Manchester's English as a Second Language program.

It was in the Autumn of 1983 that Juanita traveled to Great Britain to find out more about the life of E.W. Bullinger. She had become acquainted with his work years earlier when she began to study the Bible. Dr. Bullinger's *Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament*<sup>2</sup> was among the first volumes she acquired for her Bible study library. Later, she read and enjoyed many of his other works: How to *Enjoy the Bible*,<sup>3</sup> *Number in Scripture*,<sup>4</sup> and *The Witness of the Stars*,<sup>5</sup> to name a few. The minute detail with which Dr. Bullinger handled God's Word, and his reverence and love for it, greatly impressed her. Curious to learn more about the man, she looked for his biography. To her surprise, she dis-



covered that none had ever been written. The challenge proved irresistible. She decided to go to Great Britain and see what she could find for herself.

During her three-year stay in Great Britain, she was aided by many individuals. Notable among them was Mrs. Dorothy Bullinger Fielder, Dr. Bullinger's granddaughter. Mrs. Fielder graciously opened her home and her family papers to Juanita, and she spent many pleasant hours listening to her reminisce about her grandfather and Elizabeth Dodson. Mrs. Winifred Carpenter also gave her information and papers pertaining to her father, Mr. Charles Welch.<sup>6</sup>

Her biography on Bullinger was first published in Great Britain in 1988. The first edition of her book elicited many letters from admirers of Bullinger's work all over the world. Several of these responses added to her store of knowledge of Dr. Bullinger's life and work; one even gave valuable new information about the completion of *The Companion Bible*.<sup>7</sup>

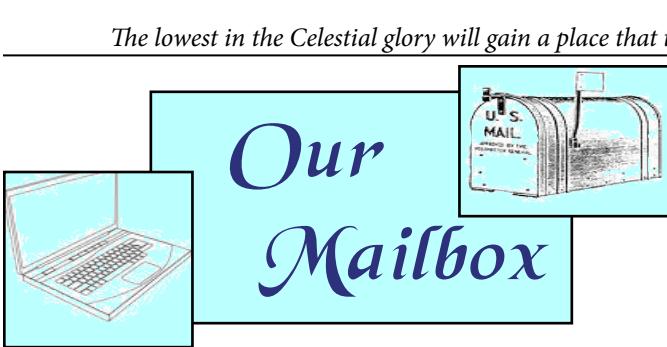
In September 1997, she returned to Europe to continue her research for an enhanced second edition of her book. The new addition was originally published by Kregel Publications in 2000, and then finally by Bible Student's Press, 2012.

BSN

### TOPICS:

**Major:** Obituaries; Carey, Juanita  
**Minor:** Bullinger, E.W.

1. [E.W. Bullinger: A Biography](#), Juanita S. Carey, Bible Student's Press (2012). See the [order form](#) under "Biographies."
2. At [EWBullinger.com](#), and on the [order form](#) under "Bullinger."
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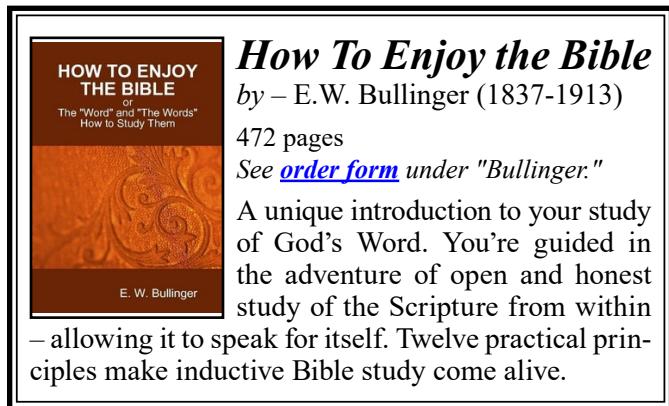
Father overwhelms us with all He is and does! It is His natural flow to love what He makes! We understand that everything is always on time, and all is well, and we delight that Father loves His world, and we have no need to think that He needs to change any of it! He is working His "A" Plan! – **AL**

Thank you so much for these *Daily Email Goodies*. They are always thought provoking and encouraging. – **FL**

I just wanted to let you know that my 92-year-old father passed away from cancer this past Friday. My family had no idea that the disease had taken over his liver, lungs, and spine until I took him to the ER two weeks ago. You would have loved my Pap, I'm sure. He was very simple, plain, down to earth.

Best of all, he knew that he was, without a doubt, in the embrace of the Savior of All, who died to reconcile the world to Himself. Dad died ASSURED that the God Who had made him in His image would reclaim His own.

I need to tell you that YOU, my friend, along with some other believers in universal reconciliation, played a huge role in helping to inculcate the One True Gospel of God's love FOR ALL of Humankind – all of creation – into me so that I could let the Hopeful Message spill over into my father.



Looking back on my life and my spiritual journey, I can see that the Lord was preparing me for this very moment, this very ministry to Pap.

Years ago, my dad and I had a strained relationship, so much so that I wanted to change my last name – I could hardly stand my dad. But Father heard the prayer of my heart and reconciled my father and me, drawing us both into His loving, saving embrace.

Now, I LOVE telling everyone about the "love that will not let me/us go"!

Clyde, God's love REALLY IS more magnificent and mysterious than I had ever imagined!

Thank you so much for being a huge part of my growth as a believer in the Gospel – the truly GOOD NEWS – of God and sinner reconciled. – **PA**

Thank you very much for the *Daily Email Goodies*. It's a nice way to start each day, and I learn a lot from them. – **NE**

The explanation of the flow of Revelation 21-22 [BSN 1022] becomes very insightful as you consider the unfolding timeframe against the ultimate goal presented in this Scripture. Interesting that Knoch seems to have missed a little bit of this understanding. Also, "*The Tree of Life*" study is most excellent! It is amazing how glazed over (and hence the shallow traditions) the insight into the detailed execution of the Kingdom of God, not only in the Heavens but also on the Earth, becomes when systems insert themselves into every detail of Scripture. This little study on "*the Tree of Life*" gives a great vision of things that are to come, and how they will be played out. This access to "*the Tree of Life*" being the glorious protocol of "attendance giving honor" that will unfold long after death is put away – just wonderful. – **IN**

I have been blessed by your books. I have purchased close to 50 and have learned a lot and added knowledge to my toolkit. – **KS**

I love your *Daily Email Goodies*, your website and your teachings. Great work! Thank you. – **ID**

BSN





### RESURRECTION (continued from page 8646)

resurrections – hundreds of years before – will span the course of the Pre-Millennial “Day of Christ.”<sup>5</sup> These earlier resurrections will all be in their own “order” or “class”: Elijah, David, the Twelve Apostles, etc.

Yet even all of these resurrections are *preceded* by one of superior revelation; for Paul reveals “*the Administration of the Secret which has been concealed from the eons in God*” (Ephesians 3:9, CV), where “*your life is hid together with Christ in God*,” so that,

*Whenever Christ, our Life, should be manifested, then you also shall be manifested together with Him in Glory* (Colossians 3:4, CV).

This glorious resurrection makes us “*pre-expectant in the Christ*” (Ephesians 1:12, CV). This is the earliest of all resurrections<sup>6</sup> – the *Out-Resurrection* – which

5. For more information on this theme, see:

– [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, Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under “Compilation.”)

6. By “the earliest of all resurrections,” we speak of resurrections to vivification (*i.e.*, resurrection beyond the reach of death). However, throughout the age there have been many resurrections that were resuscitations, where the individual was restored to mortal life, just to die again: the young boy raised by Elijah (I Kings 17); the son of the Shunammite woman raised by Elisha (II Kings 4); those resurrected by Christ: Jairus' daughter (Mark 5), the widow's son (Luke 7), and Lazarus of Bethany (John 11); the saints raised at the time of Christ's death (Matthew 27); Tabitha/Dorcas

Paul introduced in Philippians (the vital gateway<sup>7</sup> epistle to the Secret Administration).

*... the <sup>out</sup>resurrection that is out from among the dead* (Philippians 3:11, CV).

This all means that our Secret Expectation predates *all prophetic hopes*. Our expectation comes *hundreds of years before* the Great Tribulation and the Antichrist, and thus *precedes* the so-called “Rapture” (or “Snatching Away”) of I Thessalonians 4, as well as all of the resurrections associated with Israel's Pre-Millennial Kingdom. As glorious as “*the Hope of Israel*” will be, don't sell yourself short of our advanced exception (*i.e.*, our “*pre-expectant*” appearance in the celestials with Christ)! **BSN**

### **TOPICS:**

**Major:** Day of Christ; First Resurrection; Israel; Millennial Kingdom; Priestly Ministry; Resurrection; Revelation 20:5-6

**Minor:** Out-Resurrection; *Parousia*; Pre-Millennial Kingdom; Prophecy

raised by Peter (Acts 9); Eutychus raised by Paul (Acts 20).

7. Ephesians and Colossians are the present truth for the current dispensation. Ephesians introduces the Secret Administration in which we live (3:9, CV), while Colossians, its companion epistle, completes the Word of God (Colossians 1:25, CV). There are no other Secret Administration letters beyond Ephesians and Colossians. Yet Philippians, written after the close of the book of Acts, serves as a gateway to these two glorious epistles. For a consideration of these post-Acts epistles of Paul, and their uniqueness in contrast with his earlier epistles, see the book:

– [Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see [order form](#) under “Pilkington”)

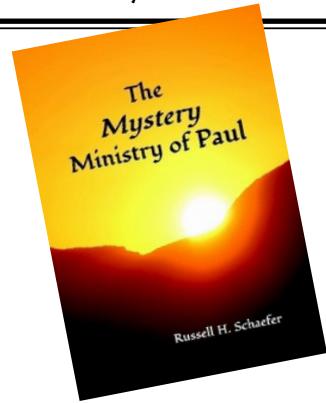
### **BSC (continued from front page)**

hates us, despises us, and wants nothing to do with us, because He is so holy and righteous.

As noted in prior lessons, God's essence is that of love. I John 4:9, 16 tells us plainly that “*God is love*.” It doesn't say that He *has* love, which He does, or that

He *gives* love, which He does, but that He **is** love. **This** is Who God is.

Love is God's very essence. Everything He does, every plan that He has, every thought that He thinks, every movement of His is totally predicated upon ►



**The Mystery Ministry of Paul**  
by — Russell H. Schaefer (1919-1999)

This book takes a look at the “Mystery” ministry of Paul as revealed in his letters of Ephesians and Colossians. It surveys this teaching as well as its relationship with the rest of his epistles.

80 pages

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





His essence, which is love.

Therefore, every attribute of God is an expression of His essence. All of His attributes are used in the out-working of His love, of Who He is.

God created all, and the intent of this creation was to have an outlet for His love. God's love is a passionate, all-encompassing love that always has as its objective the benefit of the one receiving that love, whether the person receiving that love presently believes it, or is currently unaware of it.

*Yet God is commanding this love of His to us, seeing that, while we are still sinners, Christ died for our sakes (Romans 5:8, CV).*

Thus, God's attributes are used as a means to lavish His love upon mankind. God has His plan of love, and He is executing it precisely. In executing this plan, God has to manifest all of His attributes so that mankind will reap the greatest benefit.

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

One might then naturally ask, "What are these attributes that He manifests"? The lessons to follow will deal with His Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, His justice, longsuffering, patience, mercy, grace, orderliness and immanence. Each lesson will focus on one of those attributes.

In order to manifest His great love, God is working His plan (*Logos*), and every human being ever born,

or will be born, is part of His plan. *Nothing will be left to chance and not one person will be "lost," for the sovereign God is One,*

*Who wills that all mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth (I Timothy 2:4, CV).* **BSN**

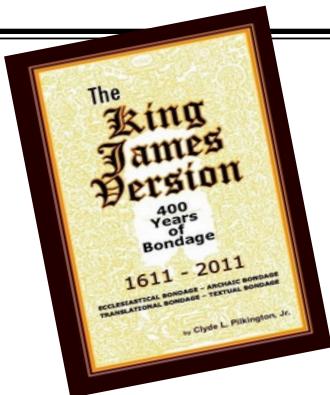
**TOPICS:**

**Major:** God; God, Attributes of; Love

**Minor:** Salvation of All

**IF YOU FIND  
SOMETHING OF  
VALUE, BUILD UPON  
IT IN YOUR OWN PER-  
SONAL STUDIES. IF YOU  
THINK, ON ANY ISSUE,  
THAT WE HAVE GONE TOO  
FAR – OR NOT FAR ENOUGH –  
MAKE ADJUSTMENTS ACCORD-  
INGLY. THOSE OF US WHO  
WALK BY FAITH HAVE THE  
FREEDOM FROM BEING DOMI-  
NATED, MANIPULATED, PRES-  
TURED AND COERCED INTO  
SOMEONE ELSE'S OWN PER-  
SONAL BELIEF SYSTEM – "FOR BY  
FAITH WE STAND."**

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



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