



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 42
Issue 1042

God's Orderliness and Veracity

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: God / Unit 5: The Attributes of God/ Lesson 10: God's Orderliness and Veracity

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

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

... for God is not a God of disorder but of order ... (I Corinthians 14:33, WNT).

... God is faithful ... (I Corinthians 1:9).

Key Points:

What might seem like chaos and uncertainty in the world we live in is nothing more than God working out His plan and purpose.....8755

God is the only one of Whom we can be 100% assured will do what He says He will do and when He says He will do it.....8762

ORDERLINESS

... for God is not a God of disorder **but of peace**
... (I Corinthians 14:33, WNT).

When something is in order, it means that everything is in its proper place. Things are precisely arranged and make logical sense.

God is purposeful and has a plan that He executes with precision. Without Divine order the Universe would be in complete disarray.

Thus, orderliness is the attribute of God that prevents everything from turning into chaos in His Universe. God is a God of precise order. **What might seem like chaos and uncertainty in the world we live in is nothing more than God working out His plan and purpose.**

God created His Universe with order. Everything is in its planned and proper place. We can see God's order in the position of the galaxies, planets and stars, the passage of time from day to night, and the chang-

ing seasons. We can also see His order in our own physical bodies. Our design is remarkably intricate and functions in ordered harmony.

Since God is a God of order, He deals with His creatures in orderly ways.

VERACITY

... God is true... (John 3:33)
... the living and **true God** (I Thessalonians 1:9).
... **God is faithful** ... (I Corinthians 1:9)

Veracity speaks of God being true and faithful. It speaks to His reliability and trustworthiness. Because of His veracity, He is the "true" and "faithful" God. He is always true and faithful to Himself, to His words and to His creation.

(see **BSC**, last page)

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 42, No. 1042 – October 21, 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 unpropheesied, 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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Tidbits of Truth #73

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

I suppose that all who do biblical research wish at times that they could set forth fragmentary and unfinished ideas in printed form without people thinking that a final and definitive conclusion has now been chiseled into imperishable granite which shall stand forever as the final word on the subject dealt with. Any such conclusion will be far from correct. — Otis Sellers (1901-1992)

“God Is Love, but ...”

There is no “but” associated with God’s love. His love is unconditional, unchanging, unconstrained, un-failing, unending.

Why? Because above all, “God is Love” (I John 4:8, 16). Thus, we interpret **everything**, including our understanding of Scriptures, in this light. If something appears to contradict the love of God, we have misunderstood the passage.

— Clyde L. Pilkington

The Complement Which Completes

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

[Excerpt:] We are made complete with the fullness of God. God’s fullness is ours because we are filled with the fullness of Christ Who is filled with the fullness of God. His fullness is ours, His completeness is ours, Christ’s complement is ours, His *plērōma* is ours. He Who fills Christ full is He Who fills us full in Christ; that which fills His Son also fills His sons ...



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.

That the Ecclesia is His Body is a fact that Paul uses to tell us a truth of tremendous import. As God must have the Heavens to complement the Earth, so God must have the Ecclesia to complement His Son.

This is a fact which should stagger all believers. Now we know what God was planning to do from the very beginning. Out of all of the peoples on the face of the Earth He chooses us in Him before the world disruption, and designates us in love to become sons through whom He will display the transcendent riches of His grace to the celestials (1:4-5; 2:6-7).

— [Frank Neil Pohorlak](#) (1907-1988)
The Complement Which Completes

Taking Grace Too Far

For if, by the offense of the one, death reigns through the one, much rather, those obtaining the superabundance of grace and the gratuity of righteousness shall be reigning in life through the One, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17, CV).

We will often hear about the danger of carrying God's grace too far. Nonsense! The fact is that we could not possibly carry grace any further than God has already carried it!

Take notice in the rest of our Scripture text, the extent to which Paul takes the theme of grace.

Yet law came in by the way, that the offense should be increasing. Yet where sin increases, grace superexceeds, that, even as Sin reigns in death, thus Grace also should be reigning through righteousness, for life eonian, through

Jesus Christ, our Lord (Romans 5:20-21, CV).

This passage is clear. When sin accelerates, grace goes into overdrive. God's grace will never be outdone! It will *EVER* super-exceed the measure of sin.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The “One Body” of Ephesians Touches the First and Last Age

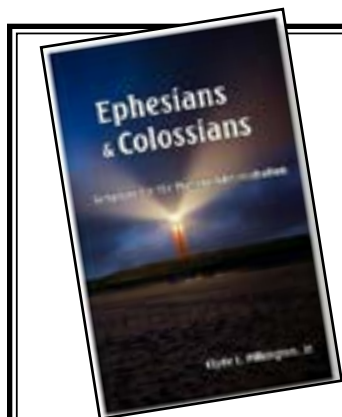
The “One Body” of Ephesians stretches all the way back to the first age (“*chosen before the disruption of the World*,” Ephesians 1:4) and stretches all the way to the last age (“*the New Humanity*,” Ephesians 2:15; cf. Revelation 21:5). The “One Body” being the subject of the Secret Administration, it stands positionally outside of the other three ages.

Just as Paul had a premature ministry to the Nations during the Acts Period, which was the foretaste of the coming age, when they would be drawn to Israel's rise, so likewise those of the Secret Administration have the foretaste of the final age, with reconciliation and a New Humanity.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Pioneering Is Costly

[*Excerpt:*] The whole history of the “Church” is one long story of this tendency to find acceptance and popularity here and to eliminate the element of conflict and of pilgrimage. That is the trend and tendency of everything. Therefore outwardly, as well as inwardly, pioneering is a costly thing.



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.”

The trend is backward and downward to an *earthly* religious system, with all its externalities, its forms, its rites, its rituals, its vestments – something here to be seen and to answer to the senses. It is a great pull.

It is a costly and a suffering thing to come up against the religious system that has “settled down” here. It is, I sometimes feel, far more costly than coming up against the world itself. The religious system can be more ruthless and bitter; it can be actuated by all those mean things, contemptible things, prejudices and suspicions, that you will not even find in decent people in the world. It is costly to go on to the heav- enlies; it is painful; but it is the way of the pioneer, and it has to be settled that, that is how it is.

— [T. Austin-Sparks](#) (1888-1971)
Royal Pilgrimage

Terrestrial Circumstances Giving Way to Celestial Ones

When I work on the *Bible Student's Notebook*, I always have our readers, as well as my faithful co-laborers, in my heart. So, I find the process quite bonding as we send these materials out. For me, there is a personal connection that I trust that you can sense and share as well.

The more time that passes, and the further that I more fully contemplate the One Body of which we are all vital, living members of each other, the more I am impressed with Paul's statement to the saints that,

For even if, in flesh, I am absent, nevertheless, in spirit, I am with you (Colossians 2:5, CV).

I always sense a spiritual fellowship and communion with you that is unrestricted and unending. My spirit is with you, and yours is with me.

*If, then, there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any **communion of spirit** ... fill my joy full, that you may be mutually dis- posed, having mutual love ...* (Philippians 2:1-2, CV).

I trust that these words resonate with your spirit.

Spread out all over the world, we are all doing the best that we can in our relationships, as our limited earthly circumstances are so constraining. However, all the while our spirits are free from such constraint and soar among the Celestials together with Him. Yet one day our limited terrestrial circumstances will give way to the limitless celestial ones. What a day that will be. This is our *sure* expectation!

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Participation of the Divine Nature

Participants of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4, CV).

Participants of the divine nature – think of it!



The Administration of the Secret

A Comprehensive Compilation

308 pages

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

The Secret Administration, revealed through Ephesians and Colossians, is characterized and empowered by the dispensing of transcendent grace (Ephesians 1:7; 2:7; 3:2). Now, believing Gentiles are “*no longer guests and sojourners*,” as they were in the Pentecostal and Readjustment Adminis- trations, but are “*fellow-citizens of the saints and members of God's family*”

(Ephesians 2:19). This outstanding work includes 45 chapters, by 17 authors, spanning nearly 200 years. Author's include: Oscar M. Baker, Tom L. Ballinger, J. R. Caldwell, E. H. Clayton, J.J.B. Coles, John Essex, J.H. Evans, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, William B. Hallman, Richard Holden, John H. Kessler, A.E. Knoch, Adlai Loudy, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., and Charles H. Welch.

Through the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, we are brought into union with the nature of the Father Himself. The idea is *not* that we somehow will become God; but that, like the Son Himself, we – His brothers – are designed to be participants of His nature.

This is our destiny!

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Adam's Nature Unchanged

[Excerpt:] Like fruit plucked from a tree, Adam was severed from vital spiritual connection with God. Such fruit begins to die the moment it is picked. Such is mankind since Adam sinned. The fruit is the same. Its nature is not changed. Its flesh is not transformed, but its vitality is ebbing away.

— [A.E. Knoch](#) (1874-1965)
[Exposé of the "Two Natures"](#)

Beyond Doctrine

As *vastly* important as doctrine is, what a joy it is when believers enter into a mutually mature experience that reaches beyond doctrine. Very few get here. It usually comes about through differences in doctrine that provided a context of grace, love, forbearance and acceptance.

Differences in doctrine are often the divine facilitator.¹ This has been my repeated experience for many years. When there is doctrinal agreement, the doctrines themselves provide the context of the relationship.

Doctrinal agreement is the foundation of sects, denominations, cults and religions. Even those who do not possess Father's spirit, or its fruit, can manage to have "fellowship" around their agreed-upon creeds. When there are differences in doctrine, Father drives relationships *beyond* individual and group understandings of doctrine *into the unity of His spirit*. This is God's method of nurturing us away from human creedalism – to the *unity* of the One Body.

1. See A.E. Knoch's wonderful comments, "Differences of Doctrine Are a Blessing," in [Bible Student's Notebook 739](#).

If we keep the unity of spirit, doctrinal *differences* will not result in doctrinal *division*. Such differences provide an arena in which the fruit of God's spirit is exercised. When we differ in our understanding of Scripture, it makes way for the genuine operation of love and grace, thus allowing us to recognize the operation of God's spirit in others. This is actually very rare, for,

Knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up (I Corinthians 8:1, HCSB).

Anyone can learn a system of doctrine and arrogantly hold to it and recite it. *Only* God's spirit can hold understanding in a heart and life of love and grace. Love and grace are the stamp of God's "approval."

For there must needs be, even parties among you, that, the approved, themselves may become manifest among you (I Corinthians 11:19, REB).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Religious Superstition

Religion is steeped in superstition!

Acts 17:22 tells us that,

Paul stood in the midst of Mars' Hill, and said, "You men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are too superstitious" (Acts 17:22).

As superstitious as the Athenians were, Christendom has mastered pagan mythology and heathen fables. We see the results of this all about us. Christianity wallows in fantasy and superstition. It has been "*turned unto fables*." Believers have lost their scriptural bearings due to a flood of *unsound* teaching.

There are two thousand years of a thick maze of twisted tales masquerading as the truth, the result being that the overwhelming majority of Christendom is found to be *deeply superstitious*.

It is not a small task for the student of Scripture to study and sort through "Christian superstition" to actually find the truth; but it is a noble and rewarding



journey. It requires a diligent, faithful, lifelong dedication to the actual words of God. It involves never allowing ourselves to be locked into *any* manmade creed or systematic theology; while cultivating an ever-adjusting heart and mind to what we learn afresh from the Scriptures. It requires an attitude and spirit of adjustableness.

Don't spend your life following religious superstitions – even supposed “Christian” ones. Join the noble sons of God who are diligently searching the Scriptures to see if those things are so (Acts 17:11).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Churchiness

[*Excerpt:*] There are doubtless many reasons for the degeneration of Christianity into “churchiness,” and the narrowing of the Gospel for all mankind into a set of approved beliefs. But the chief cause must be the worship of an inadequate god, a cramped and regulated god who is “a good churchman,” according to the formulas of the worshipper.

— J.B. Phillips (1906-1982)
For This Day (1975), page 201

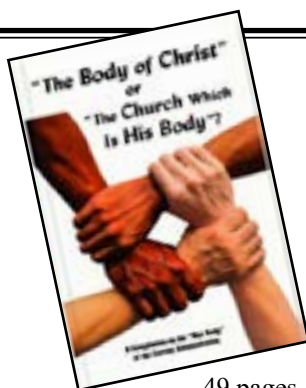
This Life Is Preparatory

[*Excerpt:*] Christ's spirituality was not that He was remote from what was practical in everyday life. It was that He was bringing heavenly resources to bear upon the practical matters of everyday life. You can wash doors, or clothes, or floors – or do any of these ordinary domestic things – in spirituality. People seem to think that spiritual work and ordinary work – household work, for example – are two different things. They talk about spiritual work and the other work.

For a believer to get through an ordinary day's work requires something more than ordinary human resources. Spirituality consists in our doing everything as out from heaven. Let us be careful how we draw a line, lest we make a distinction between the spiritual and “the rest.”

There is a great deal of strength to be drawn from the realization that things are not incidental, not general, but specific with regard to our being here on this Earth – that we are “*called according to His purpose.*”

A great many of the Lord's people are standing about waiting – marking time. They think that they are in a kind of hiatus – in some place where the real thing has no bearing upon their lives. It may be true that



49 pages

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

“The Body of Christ” or “The Church Which Is His Body”?

A Compilation on the “One Body” of the Current Administration

In the *Pentecost Administration*, during the Acts period, there were many *ecclesias*, in the plural – “*all the ecclesias*” (Romans 16:4, 16; I Corinthians 7:17; 14:33; II Corinthians 8:18; 11:28, CV). Each of these *ecclesias* were, in and of themselves “*the body of Christ*” – an integrated “*one body*,” while today in the *Secret Administration* there is but one single *ecclesia*, in the singular – “*the Ecclesia which is His Body*” (Ephesians 1:22-23, CV). This *ecclesia* is universal and not local. This *ecclesia* of the *Secret Administration* has no bearing whatsoever on locality, and is of necessity, the only “One Body” universal (Ephesians 4:4).

This “*One Body*” of Ephesians and Colossians (Ephesians 2:16; 4:4; Colossians 3:15) is the *Post-Acts* “church,” of which Christ *alone* is Head (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23; Colossians 1:24; 2:19). This is the *only Ecclesia* of the *Secret Administration*.

This short compilation has works from three authors: Tom L. Ballinger, G.J. Pauptit (1889-1962), and Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



we have not yet come into our ultimate calling, but we are in it relatively now, and this life is preparatory.

— [T. Austin-Sparks](#) (1888-1971)

A Witness and a Testimony, July 1937

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [*“God Is Love, but ...”*:] Love [*The Complement Which Completes*:] Pleroma [*The “One Body” of Ephesians Touches the First and Last Age*:] One Body [*Adam’s Nature*

Unchanged:] Two Natures [*Taking Grace Too Far*:] Grace [*Pioneering Is Costly*:] Advancement [*Participation of the Divine Nature*:] Union; Prototype, Christ the Divine; Nature, Divine [*Terrestrial Circumstances Giving Way to Celestial Ones*:] Celestial; One Body; Fellowship [*Beyond Doctrine*:] Doctrine; Division; Fellowship; Creeds; Agreement; Grace; Love; Harmony; Approval, Divine [*Religious Superstition*:] Superstition; Christianity; Creeds; Adjustable, Study [*Churchiness*:] Worship; Christianity [*This Life Is Preparatory*:] Preparation; Training; Life; Deportment; Mundane

BSC (continued from front page)

In a world where everything around us tends to being *untrue* and *unfaithful*, He alone remains constantly dependable.

Telling from the beginning, the hereafter, and from aforetime what has not yet been done, saying, “All My council, it shall be confirmed, and all My desire shall I do” (Isaiah 46:10, CV).

That God’s council “*shall be confirmed*,” is because God planned it beforehand. The veracity of what God accomplishes is found in His *Logos* or plan. Humans, who plan and then promise that the plan will come to fruition, cannot always make good on those promises.

Yet, this is not how God operates. When God says and promises something it will be accomplished, and it will be on His own predetermined schedule. This makes God orderly, reliable and dependable, and therefore worthy of absolute trust. **God is the *only* one**

of Whom we can be 100% assured will do what He says He will do and when He says He will do it. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: God; God, Attributes of; Orderliness; Veracity; Faithfulness
Minor: Creation; Logos

VERY FEW WHO
HAVE MADE ANY PRO-
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PRECIOUS TRUTH WHICH THEY
NOW ENJOY.

A.E. KNOCH (1874-1965)



3rd edition
76 pages

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“Clyde Pilkington.”

“Pastors” – The Ascension Gifts, the Higher Powers of Romans 13, and the Secret Administration

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The modern role of “pastor” is not founded on Scripture, but instead is an institutional fabrication of Protestantism. The Ascension Gifts of Ephesians 4 were prophetically a part of Israel’s Old Testament promises. The “*higher powers*” of Romans 13 were not a reference to civil authorities, but rather the spiritual rulers over the Acts-period churches. Since Acts 28 (the dispensational boundary line) the “*powers that be*” have been withdrawn. Under the current Secret Administration, all of these “*gifts*” are inoperative. The One Body has no flesh-and-blood rulers. We are to be submissive only to our Head: the Lord Jesus Christ. To Him alone do we owe our allegiance.