



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 42
Issue 1043

God's Immutability

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: God / Unit 5: The Attributes of God / Lesson 11: God's Immutability

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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

I am the Lord, I change not (Malachi 3:6).

Key Points:

In a world where the only constant is change, God remains unchanged.....8763

Sadly, there are some who would teach of a god who, somehow, is ever-changing. They aspire to present him as not knowing the future, and making merely tentative plans, waiting to see what his creatures will do, so as to change his mind and will according to theirs.



As the sun is the same in its nature and influences, though the earth and clouds, often interposing, make it seem to us as varying, by its rising and setting, and by its different appearances, or entire withdrawal, when the change is not in it; so God is unchangeable, and our changes and shadows are not from any mutability or shadowy alterations in Him, but from ourselves.¹

This may be a god of religion, but it is not the God of Scripture.

Immutability speaks of the unchanging nature of God. Something that is immutable is unchangeable. Immutability is defined as “not capable of or susceptible to change” (Merriam-Webster).

James calls God,

the Father of lights – with Whom is neither changeableness nor shadow of turning (James 1:17, EB)

Regardless of what a dark “shadow” of life may suggest, God has **no** “changeableness,” **no** “variableness” (KJV), **no** “mutation” (CV), **no** “inconsistency” (ISV), **no** “shifting” (JMNT), **no** “alternation” (REB),

As an author from four hundred years ago wrote,

God ever remains the same, He cannot change, or be changed. This unchanging nature of God can give us stability and peace. His character will not change. He will not suddenly stop loving us. **In a world where the only constant is change, God remains unchanged.**

... You are the same, and Your years shall have no end (Psalm 102:27).

(see **BSC**, last page)

1. Richard Baxter (1615-1691) cited in the *Matthew Henry Commentary* (1706).

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 42, No. 1043 – October 28, 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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Tidbits of Truth #74

“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's Mercy Vessels

It is that He should also be making known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He makes ready before for glory (Romans 9:23).

There is a lot of hurt in this world; a lot of sorrow, a lot of injustice, a lot of anger, a lot of disappointment, a lot of pain. This world is in dire need of God's mercy.

Vessels are simply containers. As “*vessels of mercy*,” believers are the containers of God's mercy. Divine mercy is resident on the earth – in us! As containers of this divine treasure, the mercy does not originate from us, nor is it designed solely for us. Instead, the true source of this mercy is our Father, and is primarily resident in us for the benefit of those around us. This is the nature of vessels.

Take a bowl of fruit for instance. The fruit is not produced by the container, nor is the fruit “for” its benefit or consumption. Instead, it is simply an instru-

ment for the fruit's availability.

We're God's mercy vessels. We don't create the mercy; we don't hoard the mercy. Instead, we're the Father's vessels of mercy to others.

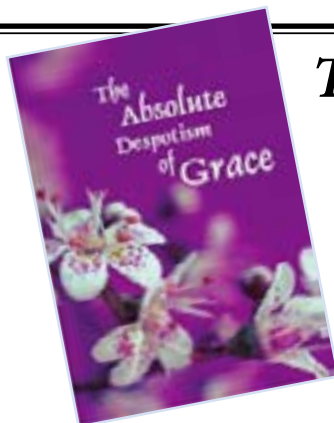
As we walk through our daily lives Father will place before us ample opportunities to be His channels of mercy; to be merciful, gracious, kind, tender, loving and compassionate. We are His refreshment to the weary world. Dare to be simply who God has made you to be and spread a little mercy around.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Happy Man of Romans 4:8 – Are You One?

Happy the man to whom the Lord by no means should be reckoning sin! (Romans 4:8, CV).

Are you seeking genuine, lasting happiness? God alone can give the highest happiness. Our sorrows



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spring from our sins and our estrangement from the great Giver of every good. Nothing that we can do will make things right again. But He wants to win our love by His grace, so He reckons men righteous apart from their acts.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

The Happy Man of Romans 4:8 - Are You One?
(1946)

Israel Failed the Test of Sinai

[To G.R.:] The law was a test. God tested Abraham's seed to demonstrate that they did not have the faith of Abraham.

God's promises to Abraham were unconditional. Yet he brought Abraham's seed to Mt. Sinai and offered them a performance-based covenant. The faith of Abraham would have rejected such a covenant. Without even hearing what their required performances were under the agreement, they ratified it, "All that Yahweh speaks we shall do" (Exodus 19:8, CV).¹

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Men Crave Religion

[*Edited Excerpt:*] What men crave for is a religion. For their affairs they have a lawyer; for their bodies, a doctor; and for their souls they want a priest.

— Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918)

The Buddha of Christendom, p. 65

1. For a further look at this theme, see,

– "Understanding the Entrance and Purpose of the Law in Relationship to God's Character of Grace" [Bible Student's Notebook 961](#).

A Conspiracy Against Christ

[*Edited Excerpt:*] The union of a sect within itself is a pitiful love; it's a conspiracy against Christ. Dogmatists love one another, not because they bear His image, but because they bear one another's. They love one another for their opinionative agreement, love for their own sakes, not their Lord's.

— Joseph Glanvill (1636-1680)

Cited by J.R. Smith in *The Retrospective Review*
Volume 1, 1853

"The Church" of Augustine

[*Edited Excerpt:*] To Augustine more than anyone else is due the theory which is most prolific of the abiding curse inflicted on many generations by an arrogant and usurping priest-craft.

The outward Church of Augustine was Judaic ... and all that was most deplorable in this theology and ecclesiasticism became the most cherished heritage of "the Church" of the Middle Ages.

— Dean of Canterbury

Lives of the Fathers,

Vol. II., page 603

Cited by Sir Robert Anderson,

The Buddha of Christendom, pp. 40-41.

Don't Let Others Live Your Life!

Many allow others to live their lives for them. They are dominated by what others think and say.

We live only twice: one temporary life now, and one immortal life in the resurrection. This truth makes



Growing in the Realization of God

by — Robert McMahon

This work, firmly rooted in the sovereignty of God, shows the vital importance of acquaintance with the Almighty God leading to a realization that He is our Father and will be "ALL in All."

56 pages

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all of life valuable; especially this first one – since it is a quickly vanishing vapor-life (James 4:14). Everyone gets one of these temporal lives. No one has the right to live your life for you, thus having more than one life for themselves.

Refuse to allow anyone to live your life for you; to pressure, to domineer, to bully, to lord over you. Father has given you the gift of His life in you. Value, honor and redeem it from the hands of those who would embezzle it from you. Not even Paul the Apostle would assume such a place over the lives of believers (II Corinthians 1:24); nor would Paul allow anyone to have such ascendancy in his own life (I Corinthians 4:3). This is why his great appeals are for us to be free from such power and control (Colossians 2:20-22).

Others may choose to judge us. However sincere their actions may be, or appear to be, we are not to be affected by this. When we, like Paul, walk before the Lord, their verdicts are to be a “*very small thing*” in our sight. In fact, if we are concerned about their opinions, it will have a hindering and hampering effect.

Stop worrying about others’ opinions and go on living the precious life that God has given to you. Don’t

worry about the expectations of others. God’s calling in your life is to be His unique prototype, not a stereotype; you are to be His original, not a forged copy. Abandon mere mortal expectations, real or imagined.

— Clyde L Pilkington, Jr.

Associations Based on Doctrine

[*Excerpt:*] Associations based on doctrine are most baneful in destroying individual study and faith. All who are enclosed within a common creed are either callous on the subject of doctrine or galled by the bands that hold them. It takes a pope, Protestant or Catholic, to hold such a company together with the dictum of infallibility.

What havoc has this ungodly course wrought among God’s servants! It is practically impossible for any of them to conscientiously study the Scriptures for fear that they may discover some truth which will disqualify them for their place and perhaps cause the loss of prestige and position, if not suffering and destitution. ... What slaves we have become!

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
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| 4. Christian Nationalism: Is It Possible to Live a Quiet and Peaceful Life? | 8. Freedom from Regret, Shame & Guilt |
| | 9. Freedom in the Middle of Evil & Suffering |

“Revelation” Song

[To K.M.:] At your suggestion, I just took a moment to listen to John Rich’s “Revelation” song. The lyrics are representative of the typical Evangelical teaching that I grew up with: “the King is coming.” While Christ surely IS coming back, there is an enormous amount of prophecy to be fulfilled before His return. We currently live in the Secret Administration, where Israel and all of her prophecies are in complete abeyance (including Christ’s return) – and *even if* the current administration were over today, there are at minimum some 700 years before Christ’s return to Earth as King in “*the Day of the Lord*.” Evangelical Christianity entirely misses “*the Day of Christ*” which precedes Christ’s return. We have videos, as well as a large book on this theme.²

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Resident Aliens

[Excerpt:] Whatever country we may naturally belong to, Paul says, we are to remember always that our real citizenship is in Heaven (cf. Philippians 3:20). Whatever opinions we have about how to solve society’s problems, we are to remember always that we cannot serve two masters (Luke 16:13).

Our allegiance, therefore, can never be to any version of the kingdom-of-the-world, however much better we may think it is than other versions of the kingdom-of-the-world. Our allegiance is to our heavenly Father, whose country we belong to and into whose family we’ve been adopted (Romans 8:29; Galatians 1:2; 6:10; Ephesians 1:4-5). We are to see ourselves as “alien residents.”

— Gregory A. Boyd

The Myth of a Christian Nation, (2005) Page 70-71

God’s Word Operates

[Excerpt:] The Word of God is living and operative (Hebrews 4:12). It always prospers in accord with

2. 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 Sneider, Bible Student’s Press, on the [order form](#) under “Compilation.”

God’s desire (Isaiah 55:11). When God said, “*Let light come to be!*” light did in fact come to be (Genesis 1:3). Consequently, we may be assured that when God says, through His chosen apostle to the nations, that He will become “*All in All*” (I Corinthians 15:28), this will indeed become so. And when He says concerning us, who are believing His evangel concerning His Son, that God prefers us from the beginning for salvation (II Thessalonians 2:13), we may be certain that this special salvation (cf. I Timothy 4:10) will be fully enjoyed, even as it is enjoyed in spirit today as we are believing (cf. Ephesians 1:13, 14; I Thessalonians 1:5). Believing what God says to us concerning the good He has achieved and that will be realized through the death, entombment and resurrection of Christ has powerful effects on us in our lives. It is a message of power, bringing grace and peace.

— Dean H. Hough

Unsearchable Riches, Volume 98, Number 6

A Political Savior

“*The era of the nations*” has a purpose which is the opposite of that of “*the Kingdom of God*.” Then, God will display what He can do, through His own Anointed. Now, however, it is necessary to expose the futility and the incapacity and the failure of human government apart from the direct supervision of the Deity. Even men with the noblest motives, with extraordinary capacity and possessing brilliant minds, are hampered and frustrated in their attempts to give the people the plenty and the peace for which these men strive, for *their efforts are out of season*.

Great as are the hardships and the calamities which come to Earth’s inhabitants because of the shortcomings of man’s rule over man, it would be an infinitely greater calamity if men could succeed in ruling perfectly apart from God. That would make them independent, self-centered, self- (see [TIDBITS, last page](#))





Editor's Desk

Another Presidential Election Year (2024)

All current human governments are usurpers. Though this, of course, is all of Divine design, our calling is not as participants or associates of their unrighteous reign, but that of remaining focused on our “high calling.”

For the first part of my adult life I was politically active – working polls, campaigning and holding party offices.

However, for the past 36 years I have, by conviction, led a quiet and peaceable life.

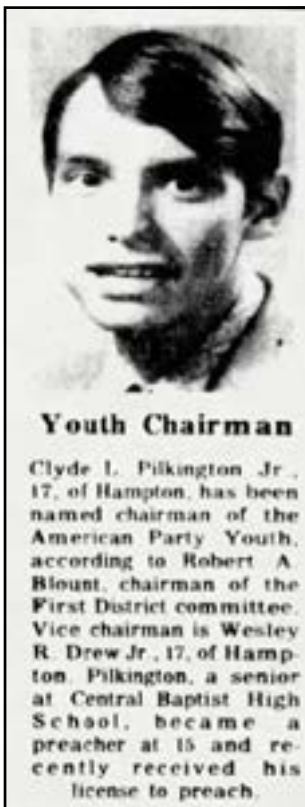
The details of my understanding and position are laid forth in my book: *World Affairs and National Politics (And the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus)*.



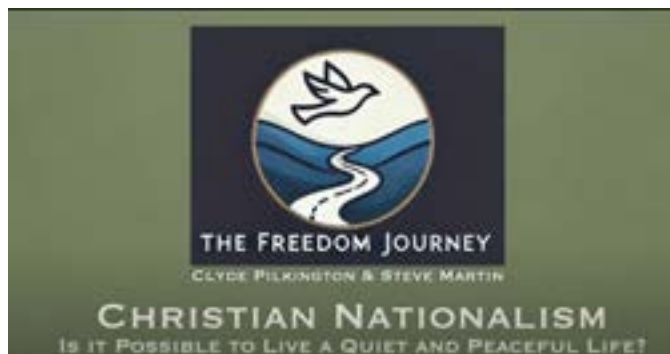
If you find yourself entangled in the current partisan process, I encourage you to use my book as a study guide to assist you in gaining your political bearings: <http://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/clp.htm#4250>

Over the years we have also carried many articles in the *Bible Student's Notebook* from other authors reflecting our same position. One such example is *Politician? or Paulician?* by Alan Burns (1884-1929) found in BSN #159:

<http://www.biblestudentsnotebook.com/bsn159.pdf>



Recently, Steve Martin and I released a podcast exposing Christian Nationalism:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGO-mFqxJuA>

Clyde

Clyde
The Pilkington Abbey
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TOPICS:

Major: Activism; Editor's Desk; Government; Politics
Minor: Calling; Nationalism

TIDBITS (*continued from page 8768*)

sufficient, so that God would become nothing to them, rather than their “All.” [Just as a sinner is given realization of his need of a Savior, so the nations will realize their need of a Savior.]

— [A.E. Knoch](#) (1874-1965)

Concordant Studies in the Book of Daniel
(edited excerpt)

Foreign Elements

[Excerpt:] We are exhorted to walk worthy of the calling wherewith we have been called (Ephesians 4:1). This implies the knowledge of our “calling.” It is a “high calling.” The word rendered “high” is the same as that rendered “above” in Colossians 3:2,

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the Earth.

We are called of God from beneath to above, from Earth to Heaven. We are not as those that dwell on

the Earth. Moralists, philanthropists and politicians all recognize something valuable in Christianity, and use it as helpful to their own ends; and thus has Christianity been dragged down from its lofty eminence, until almost all that is distinctive is lost amidst as many elements which are foreign.

— William Kelly (1821-1906)

Cited in [The Sin of Sectarianism](#)

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [Don't Let Others Live Your Life!:] Bondage; Freedom; Individualism [The Happy Man of Romans 4:8, Are You One?:] Happy; Romans 4:8 [Israel Failed the Test of Sinai:] Law; Sinai Test [God's Mercy Vessels:] Mercy; Vessels [A Conspiracy Against Christ:] Division; Sectarianism [Men Crave Religion:] Religion; Clergy; Pastor [“The Church” of Augustine:] Augustine; Church; Church History, Religion; Clergy; Pastor; Bondage [Associations Based on Doctrine:] Division; Sectarianism; Religion; Clergy; Pastor; Bondage [“Revelation” Song:] Songs [God's Word Operates] Operates; Scripture; Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 55:11 [Resident Aliens:] Government; Citizenship; Politics [Foreign Elements:] Government; Citizenship; Politics [A Political Savior:] Government; Politics

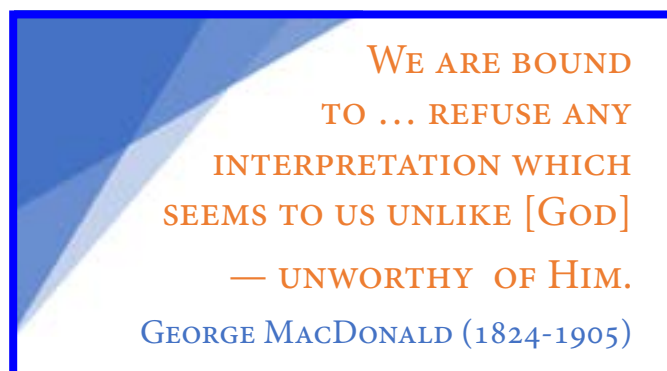
BSC (*continued from front page*)

God is not a man that He should change ...
(Numbers 23:19).

Regardless of what His finite creatures may have to say, the infinite God of Scripture is unchanging. We can rest in that. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: God; God, Attributes of; Immutability
Minor: Love; Peace



292 pages

Third Edition (2024)

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

World Affairs and National Politics and the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

When did nationalism begin? What is God's purpose for nationalism? Is the United States a Christian nation? Does any government have *Favored Nation Status* with God today? Should believers support Israel? What did Paul have to say about our citizenship? What is our role in relation to nations? Is our job to rid the world of evil? What should the believer's attitude be toward earthly authority? Should all obedience to earthly magistrates be absolute? Are believers to pay their taxes? Where does voting and jury duty fit in? Why was the apostle Paul executed?

These and many other questions are addressed in this groundbreaking work!