



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 42
Issue 1044



Tidbits of Truth #75

“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)

The Man-Made Leash of Authority

*Not for that we have dominion over your faith,
but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand*
(II Corinthians 1:24).

[Excerpt:] The authority of denominations and sects in the form of tradition frustrates further needed reform and conformity to the Word of God. The authority of man-made institutions is a stubborn thing which resists change ...

We, as the saints of God, find ourselves fenced off institutionally from one another based on various interpretations of men ...

When doctrine is carved in stone as is a confession or doctrinal statement, we merely promote another man-made tradition, no matter how close it is to the truth; because if it is possible to get closer to the truth, we find out that we are tethered to someone else's understanding by a leash of authority and can proceed no closer. If we dare to break the tether, we threaten all our relationships that are still tied to it and face the trauma of breaking the communion of saints built over a lifetime. Thus, one might more readily be inclined as well to stick with mind-numb-

ing tradition rather than suffer the consequences. ...

We ought not to set up false and invalid authority structures to force conformity to some uniform human religious standard. We can't force what we believe on someone else. They must accept it and own it for themselves.

— Ross Purdy

[I Will Have One Doctrine and One Discipline](#)
Bible Student's Press, 2008

Houses for God

[Excerpt:] Stephen, before going down under a hail of stones said,

*The Most High dwelleth not in Temples made
with hands* (Acts 7:48).

[\(continued on page 8773\)](#)

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 42, No. 1044 – November 4, 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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Of course, the world hasn't heeded this at all – the Christian world. They still go on making temples and houses for God!

Why? Well, I think it's a little bit more convenient if they can put God somewhere off in a house where He can stay alone and people can come to Him, oh, once a year at Easter, or maybe more often at Christmas. But, He's not wanted in the home, that's the whole thing. The social life, He isn't wanted there, or in business, He has no place there. So, a building is made for Him, and it is called "The House of God," and they just hope He stays there.

— Oscar M. Baker (1898-1987)
The Habitation of God (1983)

I Dare Not Be Contentious

[*Excerpt:*] I cannot, I must not, I dare not, be contentious. Only, as a witness for God, I am ready to bear my simple testimony to what I have known of His truth, whenever I am properly called to it.

— John Newton (1725-1807)
Author of the Hymn, "Amazing Grace"
John Newton's Letters, November, 1775

Why Did God Give the Law?

Did you know that God's law to Israel wasn't given to make them do the right thing? Rather, under God's wise hand, the law's purpose was to:

- Give the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20);
- Make sin abound (Romans 5:20);
- Produce guilt (Romans 3:19);
- Curse mankind (Galatians 3:10);

- Work wrath (Romans 4:15).

One will notice that all these revelations concerning the true nature of the Mosaic Law given at Sinai come through the epistles of Paul written some 1500 years later. It is through his letters that we come to see that the law was designed ultimately to bring mankind to Christ.

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster ["escort," CV] *to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster*" (Galatians 3:24-25).

We also learn from him the glorious truth that Christ, through His work at Calvary, abolished all aspects of the law.

Having abolished in His flesh the enmity [hostility], *even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of two one new man, so making peace* (Ephesians 2:15).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Peace and Contentment Where God Has Us

[*To F.C.:*] God has us all right where He wants us. He is building with a much larger picture in view. We can only see what He is currently having us understand. I am content to walk in the light that I have, until He grants me further light. This is something that I am at total peace with.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



The Unpardonable Sin

A Compilation

Is there really such a thing as an "Unpardonable Sin?" Is there any sin that will never be forgiven? This is a compilation work of liberation and right division from five authors: A.E. Knoch, H.W. Martin, M. Jaegle, J.W. Williams and Phillip Garrison.

70 pages

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



But One Soul

[Excerpt:] If but one soul were to remain in the power of the devil, death, or hell, to all endless eternity, then the devil, death, and hell would have something to boast of against God. Thus, death would not be entirely swallowed up in victory, but always keep something of his sting, and hell would ever more be able to make a scorn of those who would say, "O hell, where is, your victory?"

— Paul Seigvolck
The Everlasting Gospel (1753)

Attitude

... We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if any man think that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him (I Corinthians 8:1-3).

Since I have no corner on truth, I seek to fellowship with all those who love the Lord Jesus Christ and take pleasure in His precious Word. I agree with the words of George Whitefield when he said,

I truly love all that love the glorious Emmanuel, and though I cannot depart from the principles which I believe are clearly revealed in the Book of God, yet I can cheerfully associate with those that differ from me, if I have reason to think that they are united to our common Head.

I desire to avoid destructive "uniformity" and allow for differences of opinion. I don't expect everyone to agree with me on everything, but I do trust that we will all be stimulated to further Bible study by our interactions.

As [Otis Q. Sellers](#) (1901-1992) has so well written,

I hope anyone following after me will go further than I have gone in the search for truth, will see more of the Word of God than I have seen, and will explore where I never dreamt treasures were to be found.

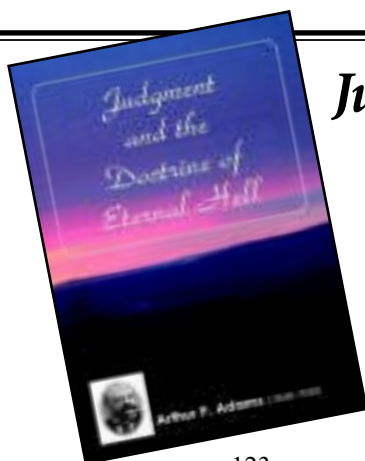
— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Love Doesn't Seek its Own

[Excerpt:] Love does not inquire into the character of the recipient, but it asks what he needs. It does not love him because he is such-and-such a person but because he is there. In all this it is quite the opposite of natural love: it *"does not seek its own"* (I Corinthians 13:5).

It does not perform the characteristic natural impulse of love and life. Therefore, it is independent of the conduct of the other person; it is not conditional but absolute. It wants nothing for itself but only for others.

Therefore, it is also not vulnerable. It never reacts but is always spontaneous, emerging by its own strength – rather, from the power of God. Love is the real God-likeness of man for which he has been created. In so far as love is in man, he really resembles God



Judgment and the Doctrine of Eternal Hell

by — Arthur P. Adams (1845-1925)

Chapters:

Judgment: Its Nature and Purposes; The Doctrine of Eternal Hell; Does Death Seal Our Eternal Destiny?; How Many Ways of Salvation are There?; Adam's Sin; The Sacrifice of Christ; The Truth about Sodom; The Purpose of the Law; The Sabbath; Translation Corrections.

123 pages

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





and shows himself to be the child of God.

truth, or in ignorance.

— Emil Brunner (1889-1966)
The Letter to the Romans (1959)

The Curse of Present-Day Israel

[*Excerpt:*] The Jews want to be a nation at a time when God does not want them to be one. ... A great deal of the trouble of today is due to the fact that this nation which God does not want to have power, is trying to get it. ... It is not in accordance with the mind of God. God's time is future, but they have underground methods. I do not blame them in a way. If we had the background that they have, of being the nation that God has chosen, we would probably do likewise. ... When any body of people tries to do something contrary to God's plans, instead of being a blessing they will be a curse.¹

— [A.E. Knoch](#) (1874-1965)
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 36, 1945

Divinely Stationed

For us to get frustrated with folks because of where they are is to be frustrated with our Father, for it is He Who has each in whatever state of realization we are. Even when there are those who demean people, we love and learn from them, since it is by Dad's Divine Design that they, and we, are where we are in

1. [*Editor:*] Knoch, who believed in the sovereignty of God, wrote relatively here, not absolutely.

I was Locked Up in Stubbornness in a false doctrine for most of my life. I *no longer* am Locked Up in it. That period of error was Divinely Designed for me to believe for as long as I did. I had *no* choice in the matter.

Having this Divine Freedom is by Divine Purpose, and it has brought me Divine Peace when brothers and sisters share their Divine Understanding with which I do *not* agree. I've come to that place of Divine Rest that they are – and I am – Divinely Stationed where Father has Divinely Purposed each of us.

Only a Divine Fool would have a Divine Desire to Debate Dad.

— De L. Trefethen²

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

[*Excerpt:*] Why did not God plant two trees, one for the knowledge of good, and the other for the knowl-
 (see [TIDBITS](#), last page)

2. [*Editor:*] De was motivated to write these words after reading – [Divine Lockup](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr, Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington").



Without Form and Void: A Study of the Meaning of Genesis 1:2

by — Arthur C. Custance

Considered a classic in Christian apologetics, this scholarly analysis of the biblical phrase "without form and void," from the opening chapter of Genesis, observes the rules of linguistics, grammar and syntax, and also examines how words are used in the rest of Scripture. This book has been described as the best argument that has ever been written for the Gap Theory.

A well respected Canadian scientist, and listed in the 1971 American Men in Science, Dr. Custance contends that we should not allow science to determine what Scripture says. Neither should we allow Scripture to determine what the scientist observes in the laboratory. Yet observed fact in the one cannot, ultimately, conflict with revealed fact in the other. Any conflict, then, is in the interpretation of the facts – not in the facts themselves.

292 pages
 See [order form](#) under
 "Other Authors."





Editor's Desk

A Vision for the Future:

The Study Bible Project

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

For over five decades, I have been on a journey – a journey deep into the Scriptures, seeking and sharing the truths of God's sovereignty, grace and love. Through the *Bible Student's Notebook*, *Daily Email Goodies*, videos and books, I've been blessed to pass on these lifechanging insights to many of you. Yet, despite all of the work being done, there's a vision I've long held in my heart – a vision that will extend far beyond my lifetime. I want to share that vision with you: *The Study Bible Project*.

A Study Bible Unlike Any Other

The Study Bible that I envision is not just another addition to the countless study resources out there. My desire is to create a Study Bible that centers on the foundational truths I have come to cherish through my years of study:

The Absolute Sovereignty of God: A truth that brings comfort and peace as we grasp the reality that God is in control of *all* things.

The Salvation of All: A powerful revelation of God's ultimate plan to reconcile the entire Universe to Himself, something often misunderstood or overlooked in mainstream teachings.

God's True Nature as Father: A focus on God's loving, fatherly character, rather than the harsh, judgmental view that many have been taught.

Correctly Partitioning the Word of Truth: Providing clarity on properly interpreting the Scriptures by understanding the distinctions in different dispensations.

Literal, Accurate Translation: Offering alternate readings, Greek word studies, and notes that dig deep into the original meanings of key texts.

This Study Bible will be a resource that leads people into freedom and understanding, allowing them to see God and His plan for all creation in a new light.


I envision starting with the key epistles of the Secret Administration: Ephesians and Colossians, as well as the gateway epistle of Philippians – books that have been central to my own journey of understanding – and then expanding to include all of Paul's letters and eventually the entire Bible.

The Legacy of E.W. Bullinger

As I consider the impact this Study Bible could have, I am reminded of the legacy left by E.W. Bullinger, a pioneer in the production of study Bibles. Over a century ago Bullinger faced a similar challenge. He had accumulated a lifetime of knowledge and insight into the Scriptures, but realized that there was no effective way to compile and distribute this information to future generations.

At the age of 70, Bullinger began work on his *Companion Bible*, which has had an enormous influence on those seeking to understand the deeper truths of God's Word. With the help of faithful co-laborers like Sir Robert Anderson, Bullinger was able to compile his notes, insights and teachings into what has become a treasured resource for believers worldwide.

The *Companion Bible* has reached people for over a hundred years – many of whom found its teachings transformative. I often meet people who tell me that Bullinger's work was their introduction to the truths we hold dear. His Bible allowed him to leave behind more than his books or periodicals ever could have. I



Are We Brainwashed?
by — By W.R. Romine
32 pages (See [order form](#))

A short, introductory look at the nature of Paul's unique ministry and the Book of Acts.



believe we have a similar opportunity today.

The Challenge of Time and Resources

I am passionate about this project, but there's also a hard reality I face: time. The day-to-day work of ministry is both fulfilling and overwhelming. Gathering and producing material for the *Bible Student's Notebook* and *Daily Email Goodies*, managing book orders, answering phone calls and emails – all of this fills my days to the brim.

While I am incredibly grateful for the growth and reach of this ministry, the time needed to dedicate myself fully to the Study Bible Project simply does not exist in my current schedule.

This is why I am reaching out to you for help. In order to move forward with this Study Bible, I need to bring on a full-time assistant – someone who can labor beside me, managing the daily tasks of the ministry, freeing me to focus on this monumental project.

The estimated cost for hiring this assistant, including salary and office expenses, is around \$60,000 per year. We hope to raise at least half of this amount to begin the hiring process.

We all have an expiration date, and none of us knows when that time will come. But what we do know is that the truths we have discovered about God's sovereignty, His ultimate plan for the salvation of all, and His deep, fatherly love must continue to be shared with future generations. This Study Bible is a way to ensure that these truths will live on, impacting people long after we are gone.

Much like Bullinger's *Companion Bible* has influenced believers for over a century, this Study Bible has the potential to reach those who are searching for answers, clarity and freedom in God's Word. It is an opportunity to push these life-changing truths into the future, to leave a legacy that will continue to educate and inspire.

Partner With Me

If this project speaks to your heart, I invite you to partner with me in making it a reality. Your financial support will allow me to hire the assistant I need to take this ministry to the next level, freeing me to dedicate my time to producing the Study Bible.

To contribute, you can give online at

<https://www.pilkingtontonandsons.com/StudyBibleDonations.htm>

A Lasting Impact



OUR BLOGS

blog: Pronunciation: \ 'blòg, 'bläg\
Function: noun

Etymology: short for Weblog: a Web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments, and often hyperlinks provided by the writer; also: the contents of such a site.

— Webster's Dictionary

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Every gift, no matter the size, will help bring this vision to life.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to partner with me in a project that will have lasting signifi-

cance for years to come. Together, we can ensure that the truths of God's grace, sovereignty and love continue to shine brightly for future generations. **BSN**

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
The Pilkington Abbey
Paint, PA

TIDBITS (*continued from page 8775*)

edge of evil? Was it not because the two are inseparable? Can good be known apart from evil, or evil apart from good? Are they not like light and darkness, which we know only by contrast? Never let us doubt God's wisdom in planting one tree for the knowledge of both good and evil. Rather let us rejoice that the knowledge of evil will always constitute the prime ingredient in our appreciation of good when evil itself is no more.

— [A.E. Knoch](#) (1874-1965)
The Unveiling of Jesus Christ, p. 167
Bible Student's Press

BSN

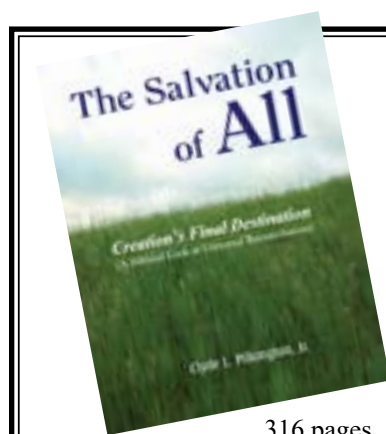
Topics:

Major: [*The Man-Made Leash of Authority*:] Authority; Creeds; Clergy [*I Dare Not Be Contentious*:] Division [*Why Did God*

Give the Law?:] Law [*Houses for God*:] Buildings [*Peace and Contentment Where God Has Us*:] Peace; Contentment [*But One Soul*:] Consummation [*Attitude*:] Attitude [*Love Doesn't Seek its Own*:] Love; Unselfishness [*The Curse of Present-Day Israel*:] Israel, Its Present State [*Divinely Stationed*:] Sovereignty [*The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*:] Good; Evil; Contrast; The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

THE KNOWLEDGE OF
GOD'S WORD IS GOOD,
AN ACQUAINTANCE WITH HIS
WAYS IS BETTER, BUT A REAL-
IZATION OF HIMSELF IS BEST.

A.E. KNOCH (1874-1965)



316 pages

The Salvation of ALL: Creation's Final Destination

(*A Biblical Look at Universal Reconciliation*)

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus is truly better “Good News” than we could ever have imagined. It is far more glorious than religion would ever have us believe. *The Salvation of All* is a book about a “Good News” that will reach its final goal in the *salvation of all* mankind.

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

“*The Salvation of All*” – An excellent book. – **MI**

The Salvation of All is the most clearly written testimony to God's ultimate grace and mercy towards man that I've seen in print. – **VA**

I'm sure I'll be referring back to *The Salvation of All* for years to come. The issues you addressed in the book need

to be discussed among believers. – **IL**

The Salvation of All is worthy reading for people on both sides of the doctrinal fence. Regardless of whether or not those who read it will agree with you, I believe they will respect you for not serving up the regurgitated fodder that fills the shelves of religious bookstores. Very thought provoking! I'll be recom-

mending it to many people! – **FL**

The Salvation of All, what an amazing book. I feel the veil has been lifted and finally I see clearly the glory of our Lord and Savior. What a joy to know the truth and understand just how amazing our God truly is to all. You are a sincere man of God whom I trust and respect. – **VA**