



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 42
Issue 1045

Our True Identity

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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

For to me to live is Christ ... (Philippians 1:21).

Key Points:

It is impossible to know who you really are apart from Christ.....8779 *The Father is doing the work - not us.....8781*
We are being transformed "into the same Image" of the Son.....8781

KNOWING HIM

If you want to get to know who you are, who are you going to have to get to know? *Christ!* In other words, to discover *your* true identity, you will have to discover Him Who alone is your life.



*It is impossible to know who you really are apart from Christ – apart from knowing Him. Realizing this one simple truth frees you from the “know thyself” worldview. You are delivered from it by knowing the Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom you have your new, *true* identity.*

Hear Paul again,

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death (Philippians 3:10).

The call of the believer's life is not some human, self-centered psychology of “know thyself,” but by the divine, Christ-centered spirituality of “*know Him.*”

E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913) wrote,

The ancient philosophy had a motto continually sounding in its ears, “Know thyself.” This saying was introduced by Solon, one of the seven wise

men of Greece, and the wisest of them all. A lawgiver, a great reformer, and a great patriot, 638 years before Christ, Solon gave this as his most precious wisdom. It was carved over all the schools and seats of learning, its letters may be seen today carved in the marble ruins of Greece. It was good, so far as man's wisdom went; it was the best that man could do!

[But], we can only know ourselves by the knowledge of Christ. [Paul] came and brought a loftier motto, a heavenly wisdom, a Divine truth: “*That I may know Him.*”¹

Paul also wrote,

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glo-

(continued on page 8781)

1. [The Works of E.W. Bullinger](#), Vol. 1, Bible Student's Press, 2008; The Christian's Standing, Object, and Hope. See the [order form](#) under “Bullinger.”

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 42, No. 1045 – November 11, 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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Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Stephen Hill
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ry to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord (II Corinthians 3:17-18).

BEHOLDING AND BECOMING

Paul tells us that as we behold the glory of the Lord, we are changed into His Image. This is the principle of what we might call *Beholding and Becoming*. As you behold *Him*, you are transformed into *His Image*. This *beholding and becoming* is carried out and accomplished in the very details of your life. The Father is steadily at work in you, manifesting the life of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, He accomplishes this in the most difficult circumstances that life may throw at you. This is the great plan of God in your life.

Changed

The Father is transforming you, so that you are being “*changed into the same Image*.” This word “*changed*” is the Greek word *metamorphoō*² from which we get our word “metamorphose,” which Webster defines as,

to change into a different form; to transform.³

It appears three other times in the Greek Scriptures. It is used twice of the Lord Jesus Christ’s transfiguration:

And after six days Jesus takes with Him Peter,

2. SEC, G3339.

3. Noah Webster, *American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828.



102 pages

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

and James, and John, and leads them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and He was **transfigured** [metamorphoō] before them (Mark 9:2).

And was **transfigured** [metamorphoō] before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light (Matthew 17:2).

This same word is used again by Paul in Romans chapter 12:

And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed [metamorphoō] *by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God* (Romans 12:2).

Image

Just exactly what is this “*change*”? We are being transformed “*into the same Image*” of the Son. The Greek word for “*image*” is *eikōn*.⁴ Its usage by Paul the Apostle is very telling. He uses this word in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ being in the “*Image of God*”:

... *Christ, Who is the Image* [eikōn] *of God* ... (II Corinthians 4:4).

... *Who is the Image* [eikōn] *of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature* (Colossians 1:15).

(see [IDENTITY, last page](#))

4. SEC, G1504.

Sonship: A Comprehensive Compilation

The Romans 9 “sonship” is the exclusive prerogative of “*Israel according to the flesh*,” the Galatians 4 “sonship” extends to the spiritual seed of Abraham who are not “*after the flesh*” (:23), but was associated with “*Jerusalem which is above*” (:26). However, the Ephesians “sonship” has no relationship whatsoever to Abraham or Israel. It has no connection with the promises made unto the fathers, it is not founded on an earthly inheritance (allotment). The Ephesians “sonship” extends back before the disruption of the world, and extends “*far above*” all heavens. These three “sonship” distinctions correspond to the three distinct spheres of blessing. This book contains 14 works from 10 authors, spanning 100 years.

Authors include: Tom Ballinger, John H. Essex (1907-1991), M. Jaegle, A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., George L. Rogers (1869-1947), Russell H. Schaefer (1919-1999), C.R. Stam (1909-2003) and Charles H. Welch (1880-1967).



God's Love Directs All of His Attributes

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

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 5: The Attributes of God / Lesson 12: God's Love Directs All of His Attributes

by — Mark D. Vogt

God is love (I John 4:8, 16).

Love never ends (I Corinthians 13:8; HCSB).

Key Points:

All of the good, bad and indifferent things that happen are the result of God's plan.....8782

All of God's attributes find their root in His essence of love. God's love rules ALL. There is not one thing He does that is independent of His love.

God has caused everything that has happened, is happening, and will ever happen. He has done so for attaining the goal which He has determined. All of this outworking of His plan, through His attributes, is for the express purpose of God ultimately being "All in all" (I Corinthians 15:28). God not only wants to, but will be, *Everything to everyone*. In that glorious day the creation will lack for nothing. There will be no more tears, pain, disappointment, discouragement, frustration or sin, for God will be "All in all."

What we have through the course of history is God meticulously working toward that goal. All is from His hand. This is not just the situation of God *knowing* everything that is going on, but is the situation that God had *determined* everything that is going on. He is *responsible* and *accountable* for everything.

All of the good, bad and indifferent things that happen are the result of God's plan. God doesn't make mistakes; hence all is according to His plan. Luxuriate in the God of the universe for He is our Father and He is lovingly guiding us, as well as the rest of



the world, to His glorious conclusion. So, even when looking around at the world, and deplorable conditions are observed, rest in His steadfast love.

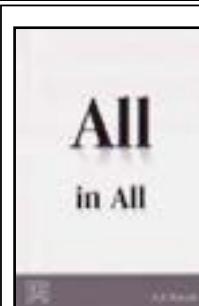
Everything God does, every plan of His, every longing in His heart is rooted in His love. It always has been and always will be.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: God; God, Attributes of; Love

Minor: Salvation of All; Sovereignty



All in All: The Goal of the Universe

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

(#6269) 219 pages

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

This publication is a compilation of the writings of A.E. Knoch on human destiny. The author examines three major theories on this topic current among students of Scripture. The striking phrase "All in all," which pertains to the vivification of all mankind in I Corinthians 15:28 and relates to the reconciliation of the entire intelligent creation in Ephesians 1:23, is discussed at length. Two extensive appendices are included, exploring the usage of the terms "eon" and "eonian" in the Scriptures.



To Know God

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

by — Johann Grobler

Key Points:

Knowing God is one of the most precious possessions one can have.....8783

Without revelation, a person cannot get to know God.....8784
We will be teaching celestial beings about God.....8785

In this world, few have a burning desire to really know God. Knowledge about other things seems to be more relevant. In the world of psychology, there is an emphasis on getting to know oneself.

Clyde Pilkington made this wise observation,



The call of the believer's life is not the human, self-centered psychology of "know thyself," but the divine, Christ-centered spirituality of "know Him".¹

That I may know Him ... (Philippians 3:10).

Even in some circles in Christendom, self-analysis programs are promoted to "discover one's temperament and personality type." Whilst this, by itself, is not necessarily wrong, there is often a "missing of the mark" (which is what sin is), in that getting to know God is overlooked.

Although we cannot do anything on our own to grow spiritually, Scripture tells us that by fixing our eyes on the glorified Christ (not the traditional picture

of Jesus with long flowing hair), we are being transformed into His image.

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding, as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same Image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (II Corinthians 3:18, NKJV).

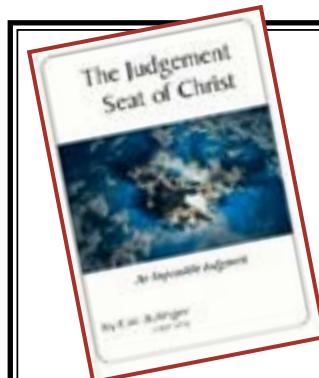
We know that Christ is the exact representation of God (Hebrews 1:3). When you get to know Christ, you get to know God.

Aspects of God that are generally undervalued are His depth of love, His wisdom, intellect, knowledge and sovereign authority. What the world does not realize is that knowing God is one of the most precious possessions one can have.

God's perspective is totally different than that of man. What man considers as "success" and "achievement" is irrelevant in God's eyes. Wealth, power, popularity and worldly wisdom count nothing to God. What counts is to understand who God is and to know Him.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the

1. [Editor:] See, [Daily Goodies](#), "July 11," by Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Press (see [Order Form](#)).



The Judgement Seat of Christ

An Impossible Judgment

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

(along with Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. and David R. Hettema)

What is the true meaning of the "Judgment Seat of Christ," and will the members of Christ's One Body be a part of it?

32 pages

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

Heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9, NKJV).

“... but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands, and knows Me, that I am the LORD exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the Earth. for in these I delight,” says the LORD (Jeremiah 9:24, NKJV).

Getting to know God does not come automatically and no one can attain to that knowledge by his or her own effort.

The one who really knows the Father is Jesus, His Son. It is the Son Who reveals the Father, and He does so according to His will and desire, which will be in line with the Father’s will and desire. Without that revelation, a person cannot get to know God. That is why Jesus said.

All was given up to Me by My Father. And no one is recognizing the Son except the Father; neither is anyone recognizing the Father except the Son and he to whom the Son should be intending to unveil Him (Matthew 11:27, CV).

As we grow in our knowledge of Him, our appreciation and love for Him will increase accordingly.

For the Apostle Paul, no knowledge was more important than knowing Christ.

But to be sure, I am also deeming all to be a forfeit because of the superiority of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, because of Whom I forfeited all, and am deeming it to be refuse, that I

should be gaining Christ ... (Philippians 3:8, CV).

Paul’s earnest prayer for the Church in Ephesus was

... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may be giving you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the realization of Him ... (Ephesians 1:17, CV).

For us, who are part of the One Church which is His Body, it is God Himself Who opens our hearts and eyes to receive wisdom and revelation regarding knowledge of Him. It is something we cannot generate by ourselves.

In eons to come, that revelation of Who, what and how God is, will be granted to more and more people. For Israel, there is a prophecy that there will be a time when all of them will know God.

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah – not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them,” says the LORD.

“But this is the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days,” says the LORD: “I will put My Law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the

Daily Quick Quotes

Since we first began placing single-sentence quotes on the tops of the pages of the *Bible Student’s Notebook* they have been a most welcomed feature.

Daily Quick Quotes are single-sentence quotes selected from past pages of the *Bible Student’s Notebook* that are added to a daily BLOG and assigned topical themes, making them easy to utilize. You can view or sign up to receive these *Daily Quick Quotes* at:

<https://dailyquickquotes.wordpress.com/>



greatest of them,” says the LORD. “For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jeremiah 31:31-34, NKJV).

Part of the New Covenant with Israel will be that God will remove the scales from their eyes so that they will get to know God for Who He really is. This will apply to all Israel across the board, from the least to the greatest. No one will have to explain God to another, for they will all know Him. This illustrates the fact that God is the One Who calls the shots, the One Who decides when and to whom He will reveal Himself.

This knowledge of God will in time spread over all the Earth.

For the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea (Hab 2:14, ASV).

This is what “eonian life” is all about. It is about getting to know the only true God and His Son, Jesus Christ. It will be the main focus. The focus of this life, whether it be the pursuit of money or wealth or possessions, or the struggle to make a living or to excel in any human endeavor, will in future eons become irrelevant.

Now it is eonian life that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Him Whom Thou dost commission, Jesus Christ (John 17:3, CV).

Even celestial beings are now, and will be in future eons, learning about the great wisdom of God. Interestingly enough, it is the Ecclesia (the One Church which is His Body) that plays a part in this.

... that now may be made known to the sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials, through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God, in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord; (Ephesians 3:10-11, CV).

There will always be room for growth in the knowledge of God and Christ. As one gains in this knowledge, the depth of one’s appreciation of Him will be like an ever-rising graph. The desire to give Him glory will never fade. It will rather grow stronger as

time passes by.

Yet be growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory now, as well for the day of the eon. Amen! (II Peter 3:18, CV). [BSN](#)

Johann Grobler, of South Africa, a practicing lawyer since 1978, has dedicated much of his life to learning the truth about God and His plan. He holds a master’s degree in theology from North-West University. For a time, he served as a part-time pastor. He now enjoys independent study and local fellowship with a few of God’s called-out ones. His writings are available on his website GodisGod.co.za, where every article is in English as well as in Afrikaans, an official language of South Africa. He is also the Coordinator of Curriculum Resources for *Bible Student’s Courses*.

See Grobler’s previous articles in the *Bible Student’s Notebook*:

- Did God Predestinate Everything that Happens? [BSN 1009](#);
- The Realization of God’s Presence, [BSN 1015](#);
- Does the Bible Teach that All Will Be Saved? [BSN 1018](#);
- The “Wrath” of God, [BSN 1027](#);
- The “Happy” God, [BSN 1033](#).

TOPICS:

Major: Realization

Minor: Sovereignty



I was excited to watch your Steve Martin interview where you talk about your desire to do a Study Bible¹ with correct teaching in it. I’ve had that thought since I came into the knowledge of the Salvation of All. I’ve said, if only I had a study Bible with correct teaching. ... – **TN**

The Bible study on God’s holiness was illuminating to me.² So often we hear that the reason why God is justified in punishing unbelievers forever, is His holiness. How interesting that Scripture connects His Holiness to His Mercy and Grace. ... I appreciate

1. [Editor:] YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HqhqB13X2E?si=SZ5-aKV659Z1y>
2. [Editor:] “God’s Holiness” (Bible Student’s Courses), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook 1035](#),



what I learn from you and your team! – **South Africa**

I always benefit from Mark Vogt's articles.³ They are well thought out and spot on with the doctrine. Wonderful. – **IN**

I have been looking forward to beginning my studies, I am new to all of this and thought this would be a good place to start. ... Looking forward to an

3. [Editor:] The series, *Bible Student's Courses*.

IDENTITY (continued from page 8781)

Then Paul uses this *same word* in reference to believers:

For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the Image [eikōn] of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers (Romans 8:29).

And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the Image [eikōn] of the Heavenly (I Corinthians 15:49).

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the Image [eikōn] of Him Who created him (Colossians 3:10).

The Lord Jesus Christ is in “*the Image of God*,” and you are being transformed into “*the Image of His Son*.” What a truly astounding truth!

The first principle of knowing who you *really* are is to

understanding that supports my intuition, God is Great. – **CA**

Love the new podcast⁴ and videos on YouTube.⁵ Driving up to Toronto this weekend and have them ready to listen to on the drive up there. Love you! – **OH**

BSN

4. [Editor:] *The Freedom Journey*, on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXXxM1xulaqu3s-mwMNx-2awRigQ7EAVy&si=Xhm2x3txNpTIGHd0>

5. [Editor:] <https://www.youtube.com/@1424241>

look to Him, to know Him, to keep your eyes upon Him – for all that you are is “*in Him*.” **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Icon; Identification; Identity; Image; Transformed
Minor: Philosophy; Psychology; Solon; Sovereignty

EVERYTHING I AM
ABOUT TO SEE AND GO
THROUGH TODAY COMES
FROM THE HAND OF GOD,
NO MATTER WHAT IT LOOKS
LIKE OR FEELS LIKE. NO MAT-
TER HOW SEEMINGLY SMALL OR
TRIVIAL. WHETHER IT STRESSES
ME OUT OR BRINGS ME JOY.
IT IS ALL OF GOD.

JOHN MONEY PENNY

The Seven Administrations: ***The Basic Dispensations of Scripture***

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Throughout Scripture we are presented with various administrations. These administrations, sometimes called “dispensations,” or “economies,” are divine managements, stewardships or households. They are the organization and implementation of a specific divine purpose.



69 pages

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

This is an introductory look at the seven basic administrations in Scripture. Grasping the overall scope of these will greatly assist us in understanding the

Scriptures. Such an awareness of our place in the Divine plan can save us from much confusion, heartache and despair. Extensive endnotes. Overview chart.