



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 42  
Issue 1046

## The Adjustment Period

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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... toward the adjusting of the saints for the work of dispensing ... (Ephesians 4:12, CV).

### Key Points:

The destruction of Israel was essential before the revelation of the Secret Administration. ....8789

The gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11 were created for the adjustment period.....8790

**FOREWORD:** This study is interesting and thought-provoking. At first, when I read it, it seemed like a stretch, but the more I read it, the more it made sense. I never considered how much the change of administrations would have impacted real people at the time. I can only imagine the confusion they must have felt, especially with the destruction of Jerusalem thrown into the mix. People had to be wondering what it was all about, and only a chosen few knew the plan. I sometimes forget that these were real people, struggling with their times just like we do. For us, looking back, it can be difficult to understand. — Steve Martin

There was a unique period of time – between Paul's decree against Israel in Acts 28:28 and his writing of the letters of Ephesians and Colossians – where a divine dispensational *adjustment* was made among the saints, through the operation of the ascension gifts (Ephesians 4:8-16). This period was a minimum of two years (Acts 28:30-31), during which Philippian-truth was taught to "the Body of Christ" assemblies.<sup>1</sup>



During this adjustment, Paul's earlier epistles no longer directly applied,<sup>2</sup> and the grand truths of "the Administration of the Secret" were yet to be revealed in Ephesians and Colossians. The only "present truth" available to the saints of the adjustment period was Philippian-truth. In this transition-truth all of Israel's things ("circumcision," "law," etc. – Philippians 3:4-6) were now "forfeit" and "refuse" (:7-8, CV), resulting in an apostolic "stretching out" to "pursue," "grasp" and "attain" that for which Paul was already Divinely "grasped" and "attained." The goal of this adjustment was the "pursuing for the prize of God's calling above in Christ Jesus" (continued on page 8789)

1. For a look at the stark contrast between "the Body of Christ" and the "One Body" of Ephesians, see:

– "The Body of Christ" or "The Church Which Is His Body"? A Compilation on the "One Body" of the Current Administration, Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Compilations").

In the Pentecost Administration, during the Acts period, there were many kingdom 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 kingdom ecclesias were, in and of themselves a "body of Christ" – an integrated "one body" of a particular location, while today, in the Secret Administration there is but one 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 book has works from three authors: Tom L. Ballinger, G.J. Pauptit (1889-1962), and Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

2. "Those things which were 'out of an instalment' have now been 'discarded.'" [I Corinthians 13:8-11, CV] — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 50 (1959).

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### Bible Student's Notebook™

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

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*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).

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Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Stephen Hill

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(:11-14) which came with the Secret Administration.

During this adjustment period Paul “*continued to preach about the Kingdom of God*” (Acts 28:31, ISV),<sup>3</sup> while awaiting the *execution* of his judicial decree of Acts 28 regarding the abeyance of Israel. *Spiritually*, Israel was set aside in Acts 28, yet *physically* in 70 A.D.

While the *pronouncement* of his apostolic decree took place in Acts 28, the *execution* of the decree was the destruction of Jerusalem, with the Temple, priesthood and genealogical records, and the scattering of its citizenry, all of which were essential before the revelation of Ephesian-truth.

This *physical* execution of Paul’s decree of Acts 28:28 was accomplished by God’s servant, the Roman Gen-

3. When it says that for 2 years Paul taught concerning the Kingdom, it does not say *what* he taught concerning it. Paul was NOT making an announcement or offer of the Kingdom, but an “adjustment” of it – short of the yet to be revealed Secret Administration. He taught that Israel was in abeyance, with Israel’s things “refuse” (“dung,” KJV), and that Christ’s prophecy would soon come to pass. These all concern the Kingdom.

Thus, Paul was teaching concerning the Kingdom much the same way that we would today (and we did at the Birmingham conference, and in the PMK book, *Rightly Dividing Israel’s Prophetic Kingdom*, see the ad below), except he obviously could not add the dimension of the Secret Administration at that time (II Corinthians 12:4; Ephesians 3:4-6).

eral, Titus Flavius Vespasianus.<sup>4</sup> This was the *first* of a two-stage result of Jesus’ prophetic declaration concerning the destruction of the Temple (Matthew 24:2; Mark 13:2; Luke 21:6).<sup>5</sup>

It must be remembered that, while Israel was already *judicially* in abeyance during the adjustment period, it was still a prophetic era until the writing of Ephesians. Thus, it remained an apostolic/prophetic period, administered by the ascension gifts of which Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:8-16, until “*maturity*” [*teleios*] came (I Corinthians 13:8-11, CV) – the “*mature [teleios] man ... the measure of the stature of the complement of the Christ*” (Ephesians 4:13, CV).

4. Concerning Titus’ Siege of Jerusalem. A.E. Knoch wrote:

“... the divine decree had gone forth. Nothing could save it from its doom. And so, it was leveled with the ground and no stone remained upon another.” ... “Hence these stones of the temple may well stand for the whole structure of the priesthood, for not only the sanctuary, but the whole Levitical system was demolished at the siege of Jerusalem, about four decades later.” ... “The present interval being an absolute secret, we must banish it from our view entirely when considering the prophetic forecast here given. It is contained in the “*eras of the nations*” (:24) but the vision of the future is as though we were looking at two mountain ranges, one before the other, which look like one, and hide the valley that lies between.” – *Concordant Commentary of the New Testament* (Matthew 24:1; Mark 13:2; Luke 21:6)

5. This first fulfilment was of the temple at the end of the Acts Administration. The second fulfilment will be of the temple at the end of the Day of Christ.



## ***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  
1<sup>st</sup> Ed., A4 (8.3” x 11.7”),  
87 chapters, with charts  
and appendices, from 22  
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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.

The ascension gifts' – "apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherd-teachers"<sup>6</sup> – ultimate and final role was "toward<sup>7</sup> the **adjusting** of the saints for the work of **dispensing**" (Ephesians 4:12, CV). This "dispensing" was that of the "Administration of the Secret" (Ephesians 3:9) – the "Administration of the Grace of God"<sup>8</sup>. Thus, the writing of Ephesians and Colossians brought an end to

1. the adjustment period,
2. the prophetic scene, and
3. the ascension gifts.<sup>8</sup>

Here we are critically distinguishing between two things:

1. Israel's judicial abeyance, and
2. the pause of the prophetic program.

6. According to the grammatical construction, *shepherds and teachers* refers to a single class of gifted persons. – RCV, Ephesians 4:11, footnote 2; "or the shepherd-teachers" ESV, footnote Ephesians 4:11
7. The preposition 'for' [or 'toward' CV: 'unto' YLT] denotes the *ultimate* purpose. ... The radical idea of *adjustment* is brought out in Ephesians 4:13. (VWS).
8. For more on the distinct and vital nature of the ascension gifts, see:  
– "Pastors" – [The Ascension Gifts, the Higher Powers of Romans 13, and the Secret Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington").

The former is clearly set with Paul's decree against Israel found in Acts 28:25-28, and the latter is finalized with the writing of Ephesians and Colossians.

"The Secret" of Ephesian-truth and Prophecy are mutually exclusive. *The Secret* came with the writing of Ephesians and Colossians. So, before they were written, Israel's prophetic clock was still running.

Thus, the time between these two (Israel's judicial abeyance and the pause of the prophetic program) is the *adjustment period*, during which three crucial things were accomplished:

1. the writing of Philippians,
2. the adjustment of the saint accordingly, and finally
3. the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

All three of these were vital before the writing of the absolute secret of Ephesians and Colossians could take place.

Thus, Philippians was written after the decree of Acts 28:25-28, but before Ephesians and Colossians. In other words, it was written after Israel was judicially in abeyance and yet before the start of the Secret Ad-  
(see [ADJUSTMENT](#), last page)



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# Israel's Prophesied Return

by — Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)

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*I will even gather you from the peoples, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence (Ezekiel 11:17).*

*... I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them ... for they shall return unto Me with their whole heart (Jeremiah 24:6-7).*

*... All the house of Israel wholly (Ezekiel 11:15).*

## Key Points:

The land of Palestine belongs to the seed of Abraham, but their full return and restoration will occur only in the future when God establishes His sovereignty over the Earth. .... 8791

Current interpretations of Israel's restoration are premature and not biblically grounded. .... 8793

The name "Israel" used in this study means the direct descendants of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) that came through Isaac (Genesis 17:19; 21:12; Romans 9:7; Hebrews 11:18) then through Jacob (Genesis 28:13), whose name was changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28).



[After the current administration], these seed of Abraham must receive the land from God as a single unit, since God did not say "to seeds as of many, but as one" (Galatians 3:16). The only way the descendants of Abraham can ever be unified is in the Messiah (Christ). Even as Paul declared to those who were "Jews by nature" (Galatians 2:15),

*And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:29).*

Jacob became the father of twelve boys who as men became heads of twelve families, each of which became a tribe, and these with their descendants became "the seed of Abraham" to whom certain promises of great value were made by God (Galatians 3:16).

These promises, along with the covenants, are prophetically inheritable and passed down intact to the rightful heirs until they are completely fulfilled. Thus, "To whom does the land of Palestine belong?" Prophetically, there can be only one honest answer. It belongs to those to whom it was promised, the seed (descendants) of Abraham, and in the future Day of Christ they will possess it.<sup>1</sup>

1. [Editor:] There is a distinction between what will take place in the future, once Israel's prophetic program resumes, and what has been going on in Palestine for the past two millennia. Presently Israel and her prophecies are in absolute abeyance. For more information, see:

– [Present-Day Israel](#), Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Compilations").

God alone can produce this unity. It will be established and become a reality when He gives Abraham's descendants "one heart" and a "new spirit." This is something which He has repeatedly said He will do (Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26; Jeremiah 24:6-7).

There are many who speak glibly about the unbreakable promises of God who do not seem to know what He has promised to the seed of Abraham concerning their restoration and return to the land He promised to Israel. Through the prophet Jeremiah He declared,

*For I will set Mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will*

*build them, and not pull them down; and will plant them, and not pluck them up. And I will give them an heart to know Me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto Me with their whole heart (Jeremiah 24:6-7).*

There is nothing in the history of Israel from Jeremiah's day down to the present moment that can in any honest manner be called a fulfillment of this prophecy. There is nothing taking place today that indicates a realization of the promises God made in these words. For many years I have been constantly hearing about the restoration of Israel to her ancient land while still in a state of unbelief. The supposed return of the Jews to Palestine is an event that is said to be predicted in the Old Testament. While I fully and firmly believe that the Bible prophesies of the future return, restoration and establishment of Israel, it does not have anything to do with the Balfour declaration in 1917.

The return, the restoration, and the conversion of the seed of Abraham will take place only after God has assumed sovereignty over all of the Earth and its inhabitants – that is, after the Kingdom (government) of God becomes a positive reality upon the Earth. Until this takes place, the land of Israel will remain in the same lamentable condition it is today until God acts in a supernatural way to relieve this distress. As Isaiah declares,

*Upon the land of My people shall come up thorns and briers; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city (Isaiah 32:13).*

While these thorns and briers are literal, since Palestine is a marginal land which must be cultivated con-

stantly to keep it from being overrun by unwanted plants, yet these terms are also used metaphorically to signify the fierce and evil men who are in action continually. These malignant conditions which Isaiah set forth still persist today, in spite of all that has been done to relieve them.

Indeed, both thorns and briers, literal as well as figurative have characterized Palestine since the days of Isaiah. And these unwanted and undesirables still set the character of life in Palestine today. But will this always be? Will this condition prevail forever? Most certainly not, declares Isaiah!

Yet, when will it end, and what will stop it? We turn to Isaiah for the answer:

*until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest (Isaiah 32:15).*

One of the contemporaneous acts of God related to His Kingdom (government) coming upon the Earth is that He will pour out of His Spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17). "All flesh" cannot mean less than every human being upon the Earth. It will be poured out upon "all flesh" in order to bring all mankind into accountability and responsibility to the divine government which will then have assumed manifest sovereignty over mankind.

Since God, in giving of His Spirit, always acts in regard to a definite purpose, the pouring out of His Spirit upon Israel, the seed of Abraham, will have a special end in view. This will result in their unification and identification so that they as a unit can stand as the seed (not seeds) of Abraham and receive



## *Exposé of the "Two Natures"*

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

Long have believers labored under the false premise that within them resides "two natures." This is a refreshing, liberating, scriptural investigation of this key subject.

42 pages

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✍ For centuries Christendom has misappropriated all of the glorious things promised to the real Israel. – George L. Rogers (1869-1947)  
the promises of God as such. This end is clearly seen in the words:

*And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you (Ezekiel 11:19).*

Ever since the Balfour declaration in 1917 in which the British Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, publicly declared that “His Majesty’s government view with favor the establishment in Palestine a home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of that object ...” the dispensational premillennialists have seized eagerly upon every activity of the Jews in relationship to Palestine and proclaimed it as another step in the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the return and restoration of Israel. The climax came in June 1967 upon Israel’s conquest of Jerusalem in the “Six-Day War.” This event was called by John F. Walvoord, President of Dallas Theological Seminary, in an article on *The Amazing Rise of Israel*, “one of the most remarkable fulfillments of biblical prophecy since the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.”

Concerning this I must say that, even though I have diligently studied the Word of God since 1919, I know of no prophecy that predicts any such event. Nevertheless, his statement is received by many and repeated gladly.

Finally, Hal Lindsay brought it all together. In his book *The Late Great Planet Earth*, he firmly declares:

We have seen how current events are fitting together in the precise pattern of predicted events. Israel has returned to Palestine and revived the nation. Jerusalem is under Israel’s control. Russia has emerged as a great northern power and is the avowed enemy of revived Israel. The Arabs are joining in a concerted effort to liberate Palestine under Egyptian leadership. ... It is happening. God is putting it all together.

There you have it. The prophecies of Israel’s return have been fulfilled, according to Mr. Lindsay. However, at no time are we invited to take a close look at the prophecies that speak of Israel’s return. These are submerged and ignored since they do not come out as Mr. Lindsay and his premillennial-dispensational

friends say they will. We will take a look at one of these prophecies.

*Therefore say, “Thus saith the LORD God; ‘I will even gather you from the peoples, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: that they may walk in My statutes, and keep Mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God. But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads,’ saith the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 11:17-21).*

These words were spoken to “*all the house of Israel wholly*” (Ezekiel 11:15). This prophecy has never been fulfilled, and there is nothing in the migrations, movements, and machinations that can honestly be set forth as a fulfillment.

*Therefore, if what is happening in Palestine today is the fulfillment of the prophecies of Israel’s return, will someone tell us exactly which prophecy they do fulfill, and also, when and how Ezekiel 11:17-21 will come to pass?*

I borrow the words of the Lord Jesus to ask the question:

*But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? (Matthew 26:54). BSN*

— *Seed & Bread* 154  
(edited)

#### **TOPICS:**

**Major:** Day of Christ; Ezekiel 11:15-21; Israel; Jeremiah 24:6-7; Pre-Millennial Kingdom; Prophecy; Seed of Abraham  
**Minor:** Balfour Declaration (1917); Six-Day War; Walvoord, John F.; Lindsay, Hal

**ADJUSTMENT** (*continued from page 8790*)

ministration.<sup>9</sup> Philippians was the *gateway* epistle toward Ephesians and Colossians.

Israel needed to be scattered and her temple removed before the revelation of the Secret Administration. So, between Acts 28:25-28 and the writing of Ephesians and Colossians was the time of ascension gifts for the “*adjustment*” of the saints. This “*adjustment*” needed to be made BEFORE the revelation of Ephesians and Colossians, since clearly the *ascension gifts* were prophetic, for Paul quotes Psalms 68:18 concerning the prophecy concerning them in Ephesians 4:8 (“*Wherefore he saith ...*”), not to mention that one of the gifts was that of “*prophet*.” Therefore, these gifts couldn’t continue after the writing of Ephesians and Colossians, and thus this “*adjusting*” done by them had to have taken place after Acts 28:25-28 and before the writing of Ephesians and Colossians.<sup>10</sup>

By Divine decree it is easy to overlook the “*adjustment*.” The vast majority have never experientially made the essential transition of *the Adjustment*.

The Greek word in Ephesians 4:12 translated “*adjusting*” (CV, SLT) is καταρτισμός (*katartismos*).<sup>11</sup> meaning “a perfectly adjusted adaptation” (MGED<sup>12</sup>). Καταρτισμός is also translated as “*accordant-fitness*” (DT).

9. For a detailed studies on the Secret Administration, see:

– *The Administration of the Secret*, Bible Student’s Press (on the [order form](#) under “Compilations”).

10. For a look at the uniqueness of Paul’s letters of Ephesians and Colossians, as well as Philippians, see:

– *Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student’s Press (on the [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington”).

11. G2677 (SEC).

12. Cf. JMNT.

It is significant to understand that Ephesians 4:12 is the *only* place in the entire Greek Scriptures where this word is used.<sup>13</sup> This word “differs from *katártisis* (G2676) ... [which is] the process in progress, while *katartismós* denotes the process as completed (Ephesians 4:12)” (CWS).

How absolutely imperative it was to the adjustment period to,

... *distinguish between things that differ* (Philippians 1:10, MKJV). **BSN**

**TOPICS:**

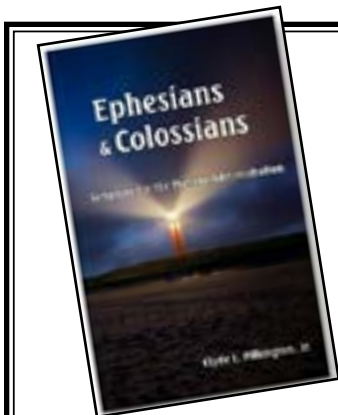
**Major:** Acts 28:28; Administrations; Adjustment Period; Ascension Gifts; Clock, Prophetic; Ephesians 4:12; Philippians; Temple, Destruction of

**Minor:** Colossians; Dispensational; Ephesians; G2676; G2677; Mystery; Prophecy

13. “Only here.” (CB).

BEFORE DEFINITELY  
DECIDING AGAINST  
ANY NEW UNFOLDING  
GIVE YOURSELF A YEAR  
OR TWO FOR PATIENT  
CONSIDERATION, AND THE  
PROBABILITY IS THAT YOUR  
OPPOSITION WILL COOL AND  
MELT AWAY AS FURTHER  
FACTS ARE OFFERED.

A.E. KNOCH (1874-1965)



## *Ephesians & Colossians* *Scripture for the Present Administration*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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