



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

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

Volume 42  
Issue 1047



## Tidbits of Truth #76

“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 True Ecclesia

[Excerpt:] The true Ecclesia is scattered throughout the land, some nominally in every branch of the Christian church, some outside of all of them. They have no outward organization, no visible bond of union, but “*the unity of the spirit*” binds them together in inseparable fellowship. We may be sure that, whatever human institution may fail, “*nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, ‘The Lord knoweth them that are His’*” (II Timothy 2:19).

— [Arthur P. Adams](#) (1847-1925)  
[The Spirit of the Word](#)  
Bible Student's Press

### God's Loving Restoration Extends Even to Sodom

Paul's unequivocal testimony is the reconciliation of “*all things*” that have been alienated from God. The context is abundantly clear – the “*all things created*” ARE the **exact same** “*all things*” RECONCILED (Colossians 1:20). God will leave no corner of His vast and wonderful universe outside of His unfailing love.

This reconciliation is truly universal! Nothing will be left alienated or unreconciled to God. *Even Sodom*, the great example of God's wrath and judgment, will not be exempt from the glorious restoration of God's Love. Read carefully this passage:

“As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “Sodom your sister has not done, she nor her daughters, as you have done, you and your daughters. ... **When I shall turn back their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I turn back the captivity of your captives in the midst of them ... When your sisters, **Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then you and your daughters shall return to your former estate**”** (Ezekiel 16:48, 53, 55).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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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 unpropheesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
  - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

*We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar*

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

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## 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 (1820-1906)  
Cited in [The Sin of Sectarianism](#)  
Bible Student's Press

## He Will Finish What He Started

*Being confident of this very thing, that He Who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).*

You're God's work. He started you, and He'll complete you. This is something about which you can be confident, because it is all of God. This is a divine process that He Himself will carry out to its completion.

Delighting in this glorious truth can settle the weary

heart and bring peace to the troubled mind. Regardless of what appears to be happening in our lives, Father is in control, performing His work.

Rest in that.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

## Faith and Hope are Temporary

*Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity (I Corinthians 13:13).*

Unlike love, faith and hope are temporary. They are not necessary beyond a certain point.

Our culture embraces “faith” and “hope” as equal to “love,” however, that's not an accurate parallel. Faith and hope allow us to walk in an area that is unseen – but once seen – they are useless. After death and resurrection, we will all see – leaving only “love.”

— Mike Owens

## The Dark Stages of Spiritual Growth

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1-3).*

There are a number of similar patterns in all forms of life. Early stages often can be characterized by tremendous energy and acceleration of growth. Then there are periodic plateaus that take place along the way. This is the lesson of nature. We see these lulls clearly demonstrated with regularity:



## Reader's Question Box:

*A Comprehensive Compilation  
(Volume 1)*

This is a collection of the first fifty questions and answers from the Bible Student's Notebook feature by the same name.

191 pages

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

There is the lull of the day – the daily recurring cycle of night.

There is the lull of the year – the yearly recurring cycle of winter.

Don't be discouraged at the progress of Father's work in our spiritual growth, or of the seemingly dark periods of lull. He is the Creator, you are His creature. He is the Potter, we are His clay. He is the Workman, and you are His workmanship.

*To everything there is a season ...*

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

### Christ vs. War

Christ says, "Love your enemies;"

War says, "Hate them."

Christ says, "Bless them who curse you;"

War says, "Curse them that curse you."

Christ says, "Do good to them;"

War says, "Do them harm."

Christ says, "Pray for them;"

War says, "Slay them."

Christ says, "I am not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them;"

War says, "I am come to destroy men's lives."

Paul says, "Overcome evil with good;"

War says, "Overcome evil with evil."

Paul says, "If your enemy hungers, feed him;"

War says, "Starve him."

Paul says, "If he thirsts, give him drink;"

War says, "Destroy his wells."

Paul says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood;"

War says, "We do wrestle against flesh and blood."

— Daniel Vaniman (1835-1903)

*Christ and War* (1900)

### God Is Sovereign in ALL of the Affairs of Men

Nebuchadnezzar was an earthly monarch who *appeared* to be a sovereign; but there is a Sovereign in heaven Who has all things under His control. Nebuchadnezzar would learn the great truth that,

*... the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whoever He will* (Daniel 4:17, 25).

*He does according to His will ... among the inhabitants of the Earth: and none can stop His hand ...* (Daniel 4:35).

God's sovereignty over all of the affairs of men – even those who appear to be "sovereign" – is taught throughout the Scriptures.

*The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as*



80 pages

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

## The Outcome of Infinite Grace

by — Loyal F. Hurley

"The last enemy to be destroyed is death!" It was this verse which caused the author, a pastor, to study afresh the subject of the fate of the wicked. The three choices apparent from a surface reading of various biblical texts were eternal torment, extermination or ultimate reconciliation. The author studied to find which one was true.

"A helpful introduction to the great truth that God is the Savior of all mankind." — A.E. Knoch, *Unsearchable Riches Magazine*



*the rivers of water: He turns it wherever He will*  
(Proverbs 21:1).

In fact, it is God Who is the,

... *Great King over all the Earth* (Psalm 47:2).

Regardless of what His creatures may assert, the God of Scripture is the all-wise, all-powerful Sovereign of His Own universe. He is not a god who, somehow, has lost control of his creation.

Rest in that.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

### Reciprocal Influence

There are some two dozen “*one another*” verses in Paul’s letters. Those who are around us are there for a divine reason – God uses others, both positively and negatively, as part of His molding of our lives.

Positively, He uses aspects of someone’s life to awaken our hearts to something lacking in our own, and then He steadily develops it in us.

Negatively, He uses something in the life of another to move our hearts away from a certain trait, character or lifestyle – to purge something out of our life.

We are also in the lives of others as God’s influencing agent in them as well. He uses this divine placement of our lives reciprocally. Like stones in a rock tumbler; the stones actually being used as a part of

the polishing process – mutually to each other in the midst of agitating circumstances, until a smooth, beautiful stone appears from an otherwise rough and ordinary rock.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

### Forsaking Paul for Politics

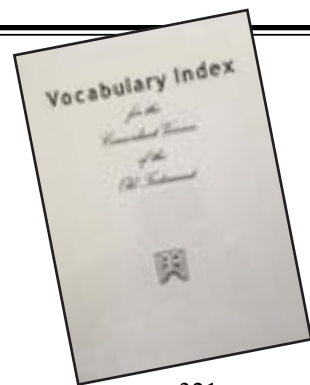
The saints of God of this Secret Administration are aliens here on Earth. Let that sink in.

No believer, as such, can be a Republican or a Democrat, for in his heart he believes in and is related to a Celestial sphere.

Republicanism and Democracy are merely political Arminianism – they believe in human ability in some form. How can a rejected king become a member of a rebellious republic?

If Christ be the King, forget not that we are His body. Individually we may be ambassadors entreating the world to be conciliated to God, but does England’s ambassador to the United States vote? Can any ambassador legislate in the country to which he is sent? Of course not.

Paul was no politician. Once, it is true, he claimed Roman citizenship, but see what happened thereafter. The events that followed after he claimed his “rights” quickly led to a conclusion of the preaching of the Kingdom of God. If, as a Roman citizen, he received Roman protection for a season, it is also true that as a Roman citizen he was put into a Roman prison.



321 pages

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

## Vocabulary Index for the Concordant Version of the Old Testament

This index is an attempt to provide users of the Concordant Version of the Old Testament access to full listings of the occurrences of each major Hebrew or Aramaic (Chaldee) word (except most proper names) used in the Old Testament. It is admittedly more complex and less convenient than the *Keyword Concordance* published with the New Testament, but until such a concordance using the vocabulary of the CVOT can be made available this may serve as a useful substitute. This is an abridgment of a full list of the English terms used in the CVOT. The list is keyed to *Englishman’s Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance* (5<sup>th</sup> edition).

Paul had no political program. The cross put an end to man in the flesh. It assessed the natural man and declared him bankrupt. Bankrupt politically, morally, spiritually, totally. Instead of being a citizen of the world he became a corpse in it: *"I am crucified with Christ"* (Galatians 2:20). As far as the world is concerned, the ecclesia of God is a cemetery full of nothing but dead men, and men with their names on tombstones do not run for political nominations.

The religious world of today prates much and often of the glories of "democracy"; yet the believer's hope is centered not in democracy but in Theocracy, not in man-ocracy but God-ocracy. If the reader ... has learned the truth of Paul's epistles, he will not claim to be either a Republican, a Democrat or a Socialist; for God's choice and not his, God's vote and not his ballot has made him a member of the Theocratic party by the grace of God. *"Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world"* (II Timothy 4:10) would correctly describe the modern religious political attitude toward Paul's theocratic teaching.

— Alan Burns (1884-1929)

*Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 15, page 273 (1924)  
(edited)

### Sin Drives Us into His Bosom

How gloriously blessed it is to know our God, Who has given us an understanding, not only of His ways and His words, but of His heart! His nature is love. Love may thrust away its object for a time, but only that it may draw it back more closely. He suffers men to be estranged from Him in order that they may be reconciled.

Sin is not His tyrant but His slave. It crushes that He

may cure. It kills that He may make alive. Its function is to show God's creatures their utter dependence on His power. It gives them a wholesome horror of existence without Him. It will change them from His creatures to His friends. It will drive them into His bosom.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

[\*Exposé of the "Two Natures"\*](#)

### Israel's Genealogical Records

It is evident from the underlying testimony from Scripture that Israel kept detailed genealogical records of births, marriages and deaths, which were vital for determining allotment and inheritance rights, as well as relational status within the nation. These meticulous registers preserved tribal identity and maintained family, social, political, and religious status and function.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

### The Echo of Our Own Voice

The student of the Bible must study the Bible honestly. This is to say, he must go to the Bible to find and to seek the truth, and not to prove a case about which he has already made up his mind. It is common – it is almost usual – for people to use the Bible as an arsenal of proof texts to prove things about which they have already made up their minds. A man can use the Bible to find in it what he wants to find. He can use it to hear the echo of his own voice rather than the sound of the voice of God.

William Tyndale once said that the students who were taught by the priests and the monks came to the



## *The Eonian Times*

*or, God's Purpose of the Eons or Ages*

by — Leon A. Bynoe (1895-1983)

Contents:

1. The Eonian Times 2. God ALL in All 3. The Way of Salvation 4. Leon A. Bynoe Biography 5. Leon A. Bynoe Obituary

54 pages

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Bible “armed with false principles, with which they are clean shut out of the understanding of Scripture.”

— William Barclay (1907-1978)

*Introducing the Bible* (1972), page 93

## An Unknown Period of Time

The element of time which intervenes between the realization of our present hope and the beginning of Israel's national restoration to divine favor is something Scripture nowhere reveals, nor is it needful for us to know. It is our conviction that the deliverance we are awaiting must precede anything which signals the beginning of Israel's renaissance, but we are not told how much the one may precede the other.

— Melvin E. Johnson (1897-1979)

*Treasures of Truth*

## The Morality Police

Paul warns us of those who, under guise as “*ministers* [dispensers] of righteousness” (II Corinthians 11:15), propagate their shameful shams to enslave their followers. They preach and crusade for their legalistic bondage to be imposed on others. They are the self-appointed morality police who judge another's servant (“*domestic*,” Romans 14:4, CV).

The Scriptures speak of six sins that God hates, seven that are an abomination to Him (Proverbs 6:16-19):

- (1) *a proud look*
- (2) *a lying tongue*

- (3) *hands that shed innocent blood*
- (4) *a heart that devises wicked imaginations*
- (5) *feet that are swift in running to mischief*
- (6) *a false witness who speaks lies*
- (7) *he who sows discord among brothers*

While the many “moral sins” with which religionists are obsessed (sexuality, crude language, use of alcohol, etc.) are missing from the list of “sins” that God hates, some of the sins listed are actually very prominent in moralistic, religious circles! Specifically look at the first and the last from the list – “*a proud look*” and “*sowing discord among brothers*.” These are what God hates.

No wonder that, when Christ came, He was much more at home with “*publicans and sinners*” (Matthew 9:10-11; 11:19; Mark 2:15-16; Luke 5:30; 7:34, 39; 15:1) and “*prostitutes*” (Luke 7:36-50; cf. Matthew 21:31) than with the religious Pharisees!

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

BSN

### TOPICS:

**Major:** [*The True Ecclesia:*] Ecclesia [*God's Loving Restoration Extends Even to Sodom:*] Sodom; Consummation [*Foreign Elements:*] Government; Politics [*He Will Finish What He Started:*] Philippians 1:6 [*Faith and Hope are Temporary:*] Faith; Hope; Love [*The Dark Stages of Spiritual Growth:*] Growth [*Christ vs. War:*] War [*God Is Sovereign in ALL the Affairs of Men:*] Sovereignty; Government [*Forsaking Paul for Politics:*] Politics [*Reciprocal Influence:*] Reciprocal; Influence; Body Life; Intersected Lives [*Israel's Genealogical Records:*] Genealogy; Israel [*An Unknown Period of Time:*] Premillennial Kingdom [*Sin Drives Us into His Bosom:*] Sin; Love; Consummation [*The Morality Police:*] Legalism; Moralism; Proverbs 6:16-19 [*The Echo of Our Own Voice:*] Study; Proof Texts



## Editor's Desk

### 50 Years Ago

I preached my first “sermon” at the age of thirteen. I guess all of those sermons that I had preached as a boy to my dog in the back yard under the weeping willow tree served as my early preparation!

This first message was delivered in 1972 at a multi-church youth rally held at my home church.<sup>1</sup> Within two years I was developing and conducting weekly youth meetings at our church, as well as giving an occasional message for our Sunday morning “junior church.”

Fifty years ago, in 1974, I began conducting weekly services at a nearby hospital for the chronically ill,<sup>2</sup> as well as many local rest homes and senior centers.

1. The P.B.Y.F. (Peninsula Baptist Youth Fellowship) gathering at Victory Baptist Church, Hampton, VA.

2. Patrick Henry Hospital, Newport News, VA.



I continued this weekly ministry for six years. This was a very special time for me, as I learned to love the people to whom I ministered, and the various speaking opportunities would prove valuable, as they allowed me to learn to communicate what I learned with others.

THE STRUCTURE  
FOR THE WORD  
OFTEN TRANSLATED  
“PRAYER” IS A THREE-  
PART, GREEK COMPOUND  
WORD: TOWARD-  
WELL-HAVING.

OUR APPROACH AND  
ATTITUDE “TOWARD” ALL  
THINGS, OURSELVES,  
OTHERS, AND ALL OF OUR  
CIRCUMSTANCES – EVERY-  
THING THAT WE FACE – IS  
THAT WE ARE “HAVING” THEM  
(POSSESSING AND HOLDING  
THEM) IN “WELLNESS.” THEY  
ARE ALL FIRMLY SECURE IN  
THE ABSOLUTE AND LOVING  
SOVEREIGNTY OF FATHER.

CLYDE L. PILKINGTON, JR.



Northside Baptist Church, in Newport News, VA.

During summer vacation from High School that year I also held several revival and youth meetings, such as seen in the picture above.

I would never have imagined then the journey that Father would have me on, and to where it has led me today. From a zealous youth, firmly centered in his denominational view of “ministry” to a place far away – in freedom and liberty, and with an *entirely different* view of God and Scriptures.

In the tie of peace,

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

*We must go “outside the camp”  
to learn the “ways” of Jehovah.*

– E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)



## *Divine Lockup*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

This work deals scripturally with God's sovereignty in the midst of humanity's current condition of, and future deliverance from, unbelief, sin, vanity and corruption. Without question, for all creation, the best is yet to come.

66 pages

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