



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

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

Volume 43  
Issue 1054

# *Christianity Is a Delusion*

by – Steve Martin

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**C**hristopher Hitchens famously said, “Religion is humanity’s oldest delusion.”

A delusion is defined as a false belief that persists even when evidence proves otherwise. Religion, in all its forms – Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, modern Judaism, and yes, Christianity – is built on such delusions. But Christianity is the most harmful because it uses the name of Christ to lend itself credibility. It claims to be “the truth,” yet it binds people with fear, guilt and manipulation.



offering nothing in return but fear and guilt.

### **TWISTING SCRIPTURE AND DISCOURAGING QUESTIONS**

Christianity twists Scripture to fit its agenda.

Take Hebrews 10:24-25: “*Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together.*” This verse is often used to guilt people into attending church, yet there’s no clear guidance on where, how often, or with whom these gatherings must happen.

Christianity also discourages honest questions. When people ask hard questions, they’re often told, “It’s a mystery” or, “*God’s ways are not our ways*” (Isaiah 55:8-9). Instead of encouraging deeper understanding, these answers shut down discussion, leaving people to wrestle with doubt and confusion on their own. Truth doesn’t need to fear scrutiny – if something is true, it will stand up to questioning.

### **FEAR, GUILT, AND THE BAIT-AND-SWITCH**

Christianity doesn’t just discourage critical thinking; it actively controls people with fear and guilt. The system guilts you into tithing, even though the practice isn’t biblical today. Most of the money doesn’t help those in need – it goes to buildings and salaries,

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But here’s the catch: you get these promises only if you do what they say. Otherwise, you’re told that you’ll face eternal torment in hell.

Christianity pulls you into its system of rituals, claiming that they make you holy and protect you from sin. Baptism, communion, tithing – these are presented as visible proof that you’re part of the right group and have God’s approval. Yet no matter how many rules or rituals they add, their central demand remains the same: “Accept Jesus, or burn in hell.”

The irony? God has already done everything for us. Religion blinds people to this truth, keeping them trapped in systems that thrive on rules and rituals,

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*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 43, No. 1054 – January 20, 2025

*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 saints 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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feeding the system instead of the people.

The message starts as good news: "You're free in Christ!" – but the moment you're inside, it becomes a never-ending list of expectations. Instead of peace, it gives you fear – fear of hell, fear that your family and friends are doomed, fear that one wrong move will send you over the edge.

What's good about *that* news?

The truth is, Christianity has turned the gospel into a conditional offer: "This is good news, but **only if** you accept it." That's not an announcement of grace – it's a transaction. The real good news is that God's grace benefits everyone, whether they realize it or not.

### THE REALITY OF BONDAGE

Religion isn't freedom – it's bondage. It uses fear of hell, rejection and disapproval to keep people in line. It manipulates its adherents with tradition, bad translations and flawed interpretation, promising community but abandoning people the moment they fail to meet expectations.

If you're trapped in this system, let me say this: *Run. Don't walk.*

### A KINDNESS TOWARD THE BLIND

I don't hate the people caught in the religious system – I hate the system itself. Many sincere people are trapped, blinded by teachings designed to keep them in line. In reality, it's not their fault. God has blinded

their eyes for now, shielding them from the truth for His purposes (*cf. II Corinthians 4:4*). Eventually, they will see and understand – most of them at the resurrection. At that time, they'll experience what my friend Mike Owens calls *Post-Resurrection Amazement*, when the veil is lifted, and they finally comprehend the fullness of God's love and grace. So, how do we treat the blind? With kindness. We guide them away from danger and toward safety, not with anger but with understanding.

### JESUS ISN'T PART OF CHRISTIANITY

One of the biggest reasons that people reject Jesus is because they think that He's part of the Christian religion. But Jesus isn't part of any religion – He stands outside of them all.

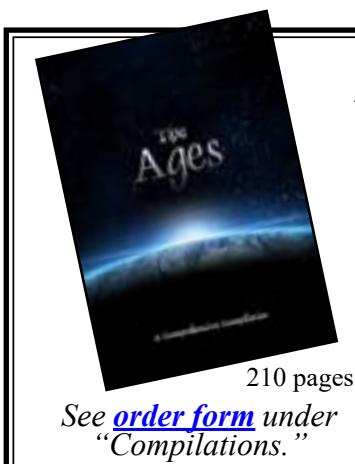
Many people fear that leaving Christianity will lead to moral collapse – as if missing one church service on Sunday means that suddenly I'm a criminal mastermind by Monday – but that fear is another tool of the system. Leaving religion doesn't lead to chaos – it leads to freedom.

### LIVING IN TRUE FREEDOM AND PEACE

Freedom and peace are never found within the walls of religion. These systems thrive on control, fear and guilt. True freedom doesn't come from keeping rules or meeting expectations; rather, it comes from trusting God to guide you.

When God reveals Himself to you, everything changes. You no longer need rituals or rules to feel secure.

(*see DELUSION, last page*)



## *The Ages (A Comprehensive Compilation)*

To know and understand "*the ages*" is to embrace God's design from beginning to end. This vital work's authors include: Arthur P. Adams (1847-1920), Thomas Allin (1838-1909), Leon A. Bynoe (1895-1983), Edward Henry Clayton (1887-1972), E. Lynwood Crystal (1872-1946), John Dokas, Bob Evely, Joseph E. Kirk (1903-1974), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak (1907-1988), André Sneidar, Alexander Thomson (1889-1966).



## Universal Reconciliation Questions and Answers

[UniversalReconciliationQA.wordpress.com](http://UniversalReconciliationQA.wordpress.com)



# URQA #3

## Romans 8:9

*... He is None of His ... (KJV).*

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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

*But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His (Romans 8:9, KJV).*

*Yet you are not in flesh, but in spirit, if so be that God's spirit is making its home in you. Now if anyone has not Christ's spirit, this one is not His (CV).*

**Q**: If all belong to God, and all will be saved, how is it that Paul states that there are some that are “none of His”?

**A** : Let's break down the verse by the two important distinctions in the verse: “God's spirit” and “Christ's spirit.”

*Yet you are not in flesh, but in spirit, if so be that God's spirit is making its home in you. Now if anyone has not Christ's spirit, this one is not His (Romans 8:9, CV).*

### “GOD'S SPIRIT”

Concerning “God's spirit,” the Greek word translated “dwell(s)” in most English versions is οἰκέω (*oikeō*). Strong's (G3611) defines it, “to occupy a house that is, reside.”

*Oikeō* is more than mere presence, as Strong's definition goes on to state, it means “to cohabit,” or, as A.T. Robertson (1863-1934), in his classic Greek work, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, explains, *oikeō* is the “present active imperative of *enoikeō*, to make one's home, to be at home.”



56 pages

## God's Revealed Purpose

by — Henry William Fry (1848-1938)

H.W. Fry was an associate of E.W. Bullinger and A.E. Knoch and contributor to *Things to Come* and *Unsearchable Riches* magazine. His many works included *God's Plan in the Bible*. He was a grandson of Elizabeth Fry, the Quaker prison reformer. He was also an intimate friend of the Salvation Army's founders, William and Catherine Booth. It is said that it was largely owing to Fry's influence that the Salvation Army would not observe baptism and the Lord's Supper. This book shows that in introducing sin and evil into the universe, God was giving the greatest proof of His wisdom, love and goodness. Chapters include: (1) God's Revealed Purpose; (2) The Three Spheres; (3) Pentecost; (4) Biographical Sketch. See [order form](#) under “Other Authors.”



Thus, the *Concordant Literal Translation* rightfully renders it “making its home in you.”

*Yet you are not in flesh, but in spirit, if so be that God's spirit is making its home in you.*

So, while we can gain some sense of *oikeō* from the English translation of “dwell(s),” a more literal rendering better reveals the true force of the word.

In the most expansive reality, God is in fact *omnipresent* – He is everywhere-present. God's all-encompassing presence fills His ENTIRE creation, and this would certainly include within ALL beings.

Further, it may be said that in the *absolute* sense, it is God's *breath* (His *spirit [pneuma]*) that is in ALL living beings. So much so that, when God “breathed into his nostrils **the breath of life**; man became a living soul.” Thus Job 34:14-15 plainly declares:

*If [God] places it in His heart concerning [humanity], He can gather back His spirit and His breath to Himself; [and] all flesh would expire together, and humanity would return to the soil.*

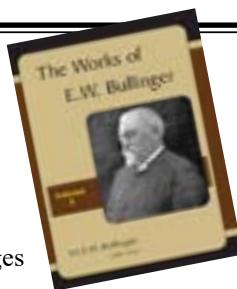
Therefore, when man *expires*, breathing his last breath,

*... the spirit, it returns to the One, Elohim, Who gave it* (Ecclesiastes 12:7, CV).

Thus, Paul boldly declares, even to the Athenian pagans on Mars' Hill,

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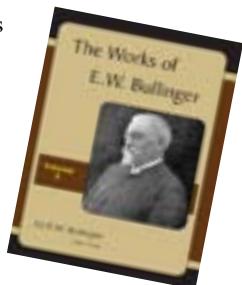
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times in his letter of Romans, however, well over half of all of these occurrences (22) are found in chapter 8.

When God's spirit is at **home** in you, we come into possession of "Christ's spirit," and likewise we become uniquely Christ's possession. Christ and the believer have a reciprocal possession of each other. He belongs to us, and we to Him. This is not now true of all humanity. One day this mutual possession will be a reality for all, when Christ's work of reconciliation has been completed. Then all will be Christ's, and He will belong to all, and then God in turn will be "All in all" (I Corinthians 15:28; Ephesians 1:23).

For now, all *belong* to God – as His "offspring" (Acts 17:28-29) – and He is "*in all*" (Ephesians 4:6). Yet, the majority of humanity remain *alienated* from Him in their *minds* (Colossians 1:21), and thus, "God's spirit" is not "*making its home*" in them. They know nothing of *spirit* life – they know only *flesh* life. As a result, they do not yet *belong* to Christ, they are "*not His*," (Romans 8:9, CV), because they do not presently possess Christ's *spirit* – "*the spirit of life in Christ Jesus*" – which makes them "*free from the principle of sin and death*" (:2, ULB).

However, in the Consummation all will belong to Christ and will be gloriously set free. We are a foretaste of what all humanity will be, for, "*we ourselves also ... have the FIRSTFRUIT of the spirit*" (:23).

We who have been granted faith are free from fear

### *A Manual of Doctrinal Truths*

by — By Leon A. Bynoe (1895-1983)

68 pages, PB (See [order form](#) under "Bynoe.")

An associate of A.E. Knoch, this founding editor of *Grace & Truth Magazine*, takes a brief look at some fundamentals of the Sacred Scriptures.

and can embrace God as Father! For, "*Christ's spirit*" is "*the spirit of sonship*," whereby "*we are crying, 'Abba, Father!'*" having been freed from "*slavery's spirit to fear*" (:15).

Thus, surveying our *spirit standing*, we learn that "*nothing, consequently, is now condemnation*" (:1), and that we are "*in accord with spirit*" (:5), and that "*the disposition of the spirit is life and peace*" (:6).

All of the rest of creation are "*awaiting the unveiling of the sons of God*" (:19). They have this as a "*premonition*" (:19) that they "*ALSO, shall be freed from the slavery of corruption into the glorious freedom of the children of God*" (:21). In the meantime, "*the entire creation is groaning and travailing together until now ... awaiting the sonship, the deliverance of our body.*" (:22-23).

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#### **TOPICS:**

**Major:** G3611; Romans 8:9; Salvation of All; Spirit; URQA  
**Minor:** Consummation; Sonship; Translation



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# Prayer

## A Poem

by — Darson Buckner

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to this article](#)



When I was just a boy,  
I would pray most every night.  
I would pray for everybody,  
and to keep me from all fright.

I wish someone had told me,  
not to have an ounce of fear.  
Like David wrote in Psalms,  
he made it very clear.

God has a book of life,  
and in His book He wrote.  
He listed every day,  
and every moment did denote.

All our days were written,  
before we were ever born.  
We live each day in His will,  
not a moment will be torn.



We've never spoken, but you have inspired me in truths for a while now. We are growing in the realization of who we are in Christ daily. I just wanted to say hi and let you know I appreciate you, brother, and the work you have done. – **MO**

Since growing older, and being found *late to the party*, so to speak, I find myself trying to catch up on the real truth. – **NE**

I usually don't comment, but I just want you to know

Psalm one thirty nine,  
it says in verse sixteen,  
All my days were written,  
before any days were seen.

When I pray to my father now,  
I don't ask Him to change.  
I know my life was written,  
every day He did arrange.

That takes a lot of pressure,  
completely off of me.  
Now I know I'm living,  
just how He made me be.

**BSN**

**TOPICS:**  
**Major:** Poems; Prayer

that I always appreciate the articles. Thank you for your work! – **TX**

Thank you, Clyde, for your encouraging writings. – **CO**

Mike Owens<sup>1</sup> has a tremendous testimony. His touching insight into the sovereignty of Father God is very impactful reading; I will keep this article handy for personal encouragement and to share with others. – **IN**

I am very thankful for how our Father is blessing me through your teaching. Every day I am learning something new about Him and myself. – **TN**

I've persistently read your material over the years,

[\(see MAILBOX, next page\)](#)

1. [Editor:] “How a Deadly Tornado Revealed God’s Perfect Hand in All Things,” [Bible Student’s Notebook 1038](#).



**DELUSION** (continued from page 8855)

You see that God has already done everything for you. His Spirit works within you – not through fear, but through love, grace and truth.

Living outside of the religious system means walking in the freedom of knowing that God's love isn't conditional. It doesn't depend on your performance, your church attendance, or your adherence to someone else's interpretation of Scripture. God's love is constant, unchanging and fully sufficient.

This is where true peace is found: not in religion, but in relationship; not in fear, but in trust. God holds you, leads you and transforms you. That's the *real good news*. That's freedom.

**BSN**

Author's other articles in past *Bible Student's Notebooks*:

- *Chillax: The Power of Taking Time to Just Be*, [1024](#);
- *The Christianity Maintenance Program*, [1035](#);
- *Trusting the Journey: Misunderstandings and God's Ultimate Surprise*, [1037](#);
- *Twists, Turns and Truth*, [998](#);
- *Gods Perfect Plan Through an Imperfect Dad*, [1053](#);
- *Does Hell Make Sense*, [1053](#).

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Blindness; Bondage; Christianity; Deception; Freedom; Religion; Sovereignty

**Minor:** Believer's Walk; Grace; Love; Peace; Salvation of All

**MAILBOX** (continued from previous page)

and it never fails to educate, inspire and inform. I want to thank you for that. – **MI**

Awesome article in [Bible Student's Notebook 1035](#) ["*Gentile]! Charles Welch is always fun to read as he presents some "controversial" ideas in a gentle way.*

I totally agree with him that "*gentile*" is not a divinely inspired term. I read that its origin came from the Latin Vulgate and has more in common with Catholicism than the Scriptures.

Obviously, I understand why people use it for its cultural familiarity; but it's interesting to know.

Also, I wanted to mention that I really like the book [None Other Things](#) by him too. Thanks for publishing them both. – **NY** **BSN**

WHO LOVES  
NOT WINE, WOMEN,  
AND SONG REMAINS  
A FOOL HIS WHOLE  
LIFE LONG.

MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)



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Thanks for your ministry and the time you put into this work. – **TX**

Interesting, instructive and faith building. – **Canada**

I love that you have done this for

us. There is no way that we could go through half the amount of material you go through and pull out these tasty morsels. – **VA**

What a treasured collection! – **MI**

You have made me aware of authors I didn't even know. – **GA**

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These gleanings are so encouraging! – **Kenya**