



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

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

Volume 43  
Issue 1062

## *The Hustle for Holiness*

by — Steve Martin

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### Key Points:

The harder I worked, the further I felt from the peace I was promised.....8917

“ *I*t’s not a religion, it’s a relationship.” How many times had I heard that phrase? It was supposed to be the antidote to the lifelessness of mere religious obligation. Christianity wasn’t a set of rules, they said; it was about building a personal connection with God. But here’s the thing they didn’t tell me: *that relationship was my job.*

If I wanted closeness with God, it was up to me to cultivate it – through prayer, quiet time, church involvement, and more – and I threw myself into the work. Oh, did I work. I joined committees, led the children’s ministry, helped with the street ministry, and signed up for every “opportunity to serve” that came my way. I wasn’t just involved in the church; I lived and breathed it.

I devoured books about how to be a better Christian, went to conferences that promised spiritual breakthroughs, and made it my mission to keep up with all of the “spiritual disciplines” that they said were necessary to grow in faith. My calendar was full, my energy drained, and my spirit – empty.

**The harder I worked, the further I felt from the peace I was promised.**

### **THE WEIGHT OF NEVER ENOUGH**

The promises were everywhere: *Follow Jesus, and you will find peace. Serve the Lord, and your life will*



*overflow with joy. Surrender to God, and He will bless you abundantly – but reality was harsher.*

There was no peace. No joy. No abundance. Instead, there was a relentless pressure to do more, be more, try harder. The messages were subtle, but clear: I wasn’t praying enough, wasn’t giving enough, wasn’t serving enough. I wasn’t holy enough, selfless enough, grateful enough. And when I fell short – and of course, I always fell short – there it was again: guilt, shame and anxiety.

Every sermon seemed to point out what I was doing wrong. Every Christian book reminded me of yet another way I could improve. The truth that no one wanted to say out loud was this: “You’re *never* quite good enough.”

I felt stuck. Trapped in a cycle of striving and failing, guilt and rededication, sin and shame. Instead of

[\(see HUSTLE, last page\)](#)

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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 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*

## Bible Student's Notebook™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Office: (800) 784-6010 – Local: (814) 701-0063

[bsn@studyshelf.com](mailto:bsn@studyshelf.com)

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor-in-Chief  
André Sneidar – Executive Editor

Associate Editors: J. Blake Botner, Chris Carnahan, James Fine, Rick Lemons, Joe Marcello, Steve Martin, De Trefethen, Mark Vogt, Dean Wilkinson

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# God's Passion for His Creation

## Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 6 - The Passion of God /

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Lesson 2 - God's Passion for His Creation

by — Mark D. Vogt

*...You shall long for the work of Your hands (Job 14:15, CV).*

*... the riches of His grace ... (Ephesians 1:7).*

### Key Point:

[God couldn't bring about all of His gloriously desired outcome without the backdrop of sin and misery.....8923](#)  
[God won't lose anyone, for He is a God of passion and His](#)

[passion for humanity and creation won't allow Him to do anything else.....8923](#)

**C**onsideration is rarely given concerning the passions of God. Yet, He has passions just like His created beings have. Where do you think our passions, enthusiasm, emotions, feelings and desires come from?



Have you ever thought about the sense of beauty, balance and proportion that our Father had (and still has) when He created the universe we occupy?

How about the beauty and the awe-inspiring wonder of our abode in the almost endless procession of flowers, trees, wildlife and sea creatures that are home to this planet?

How about the starry sky we see when we look up into the Heavens and at the magnificent expanse that

we view, knowing that we can observe only an extremely small fraction of the heavenly bodies and expanse that God put there?

What is needed is a significant adjustment of our thinking about our Father and His complex and varied personality.

The book of Job gives us a character study of a man (Job) who lost everything, or so he thought. As Job is going through his trials and tribulations the one thing that he is sure of is his resurrection that will occur one day in his future. It is his belief that God, his Redeemer, will raise him one day, because God *longs* for the work of His hands.

*You shall call, and I shall answer You; You shall long for the work of Your hands (Job 14:15, CV).*

[\(see PASSION, page 8923\)](#)



268 pages  
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## Death, the Intermediate State and the Resurrection (A Comprehensive Compilation)

Are you afraid of death or "hell"? Well, you needn't be. After all, Christ has the keys to both of them. Authors include:

Arthur P. Adams (1847-1925), Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), Joseph E. Kirk (1903-1974), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), Aaron Locker, Adlai Loudy (1893-1984), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Charles H. Pridgeon (1863-1932), William B. Screws (1884-1961) and André Sneidar.



# Scriptural Evidence that Enoch Is Dead and Not in Heaven

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*These all died in faith (Hebrews 11:13)*

**R**egardless of what tradition teaches to the contrary, Enoch is not alive in Heaven, but rather is dead, in the grave, awaiting resurrection.

## THE TESTIMONY OF DAVID

### None Escape Death

*What man is he that lives, and shall not see death? (Psalm 89:48).*



Paul emphatically declares that all die. This is the plain fact of Scripture.

## Even Those of Faith Die

*These ALL died in faith, not having received the promises (Hebrew 11:13).*

This statement of Hebrew 11:13 specifically **included** “Enoch” (:5). Thus, Paul emphatically declares that Enoch is dead.

## THE TESTIMONY OF SOLOMON

### All Return to Dust

**ALL** go to one place; **ALL** are of the dust, and **ALL** turn to dust again (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

## THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN

### No One Other than Christ Has Currently Ascended to Heaven

*No man has ascended up to Heaven but He that came down from Heaven, even the Son of man which is in Heaven” (John 3:13).<sup>1</sup>*

This was clearly written after the life and death of Enoch.

## THE TESTIMONY OF PAUL

### All Die

*In Adam ALL die (I Corinthian 15:22).*

1. This is the narrative of the Apostle John, written after Christ's first ascension.

## Only Christ Jesus Is Currently Immortal

*Who alone has immortality (I Timothy 6:16, CV).*

## WHAT HAPPENED TO ENOCH?

Let's examine the two passages that are traditionally used to teach that Enoch did not die.

### Genesis 5:24

*While Enoch was walking with the One, Elohim.*

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then he was not found, for Elohim took him away (Genesis 5:24, CV).

This verse does not state that Enoch was taken to Heaven. This must be read into the passage by tradition.

Genesis 5:24 states that "he was not found, for Elohim took him away," but it does not tell us where God took him, and certainly it does not tell us that he was taken to Heaven (which would plainly contradict John 3:13).

Yet from the plain testimony of Scripture, wherever Enoch was taken, it was "to another place" (Hebrews 11:5), and there eventually to die (In accordance with Psalm 89:48; Ecclesiastes 12:7; I Corinthians 15:22; I Timothy 6:16).

## Hebrews 11:5

*By faith Enoch was transferred, so as not to be acquainted with death, and was not found, because God transfers him. For before his transference he is attested to have pleased God well* (Hebrews 11:5, CV).

Whatever the meaning of this verse, it must be within the plain context, previously noted, that, "these ALL [including Enoch] died in faith" (Hebrew 11:13).

## ENOCH IN TRANSFERENCE

Enoch was divinely transferred from one place on the Earth, to another place on the Earth.

The Wuest New Testament says that Enoch was "conveyed to another place."<sup>2</sup>

*By faith Enoch was conveyed to another place, with the result he did not see death, and he was not found because God conveyed him to another place* (Hebrews 11:5).

David Tavender (BSN 807) wrote:

2. The Greek word rendered "translated" (KJV) and "transferred" (CV) is μετατίθημι (*metatithēmi*), meaning, to "put in another place" (G3346, SEC), to "convey to another place" (Arndt-Gingrich's Greek-English Lexicon p. 514).

Consider how Philip was taken away by the Spirit from the Gaza road, to be later found perhaps 20 miles away at Azotus.

*And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea* (Acts 8:39-40).

Philip didn't walk there, and he certainly didn't die first and then appear in some post-life form. God simply moved him from one place to another place, and Philip continued living as a mortal does, until at some later point he died.

Scripture tells us that the purpose of Enoch's transference (being "conveyed to another place") was "so as not to be acquainted with death" (Hebrews 11:5) – but, acquainted with *what* death, we may ask.

It is evident from Scripture evidence that God transferred Enoch from facing a circumstance of "premature" death. Yet, sometime after he was transferred to another place the testimony of Scripture is that Enoch eventually died ("these all died in faith" (Hebrews 11:5, 13). Thus, Genesis 5:23 plainly says that "all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years." Enoch lived 365 years. These were "all the days of Enoch." Therefore, Enoch remains buried somewhere on the Earth awaiting resurrection.

### BSN

Related articles on Enoch, as well as Elijah, can be found in past *Bible Student's Notebooks*:

- *Enoch and Elijah* (James Coram) [BSN 373](#);
- *Enoch and Elijah* (Thomas Wark) [BSN 807](#);
- *What Happened to Enoch and Elijah?* Reader's Question Box, (David Tavender), [BSN 807](#);
- *Enoch and Elijah: Where Are They Now?* (Tom Ballinger) [BSN 808](#).

### TOPICS:

**Major:** Death; Enoch  
**Minor:** Immortality



# The Stability of God's Varied Passions

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## Bible Student's Courses

### Course 1: GOD / Unit 6: The Passion of God / Lesson 3: The Stability of God's Varied Passions

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*... I am the Lord, I change not ... (Malachi 3:6).*

#### Key Points:

While humanity's emotions may be unpredictable, God's are steadfastly dependable.....8924

**G**od is “passionate.” Does this mean that God has “emotions,” or “feelings”? Well, the Scriptures tell us that He does. In fact, our own emotions are but a part of our being created in God’s image. Even Christ, the ultimate Image of God had emotions.

Our passions, though meager and marred as they are, are a reflection of God’s own. Of course, the limitation of that reflection is that as sinners (“missers”) we often greatly *distort* these passions.

For example, as noted many times, the essential nature and character of God is “*love*” (I John 4:8), from which we see the effectual passion of “*love*” clearly manifested (John 3:16). Make no mistake about it: love is not merely a part of God’s nature and character, but an emotional expression of it.

A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) defines love (*agapē*) as,

A complex emotion arousing appreciation or delight in and desire for the presence of its object, as well as to please and promote its welfare.<sup>1</sup>

Humanly speaking we might classify “*love*” as a *positive* emotion, along with other such passions or emotional effects that are attributed to God, such as compassion (Psalm 86:15), happiness (I Timothy 1:11), and joy (Zephaniah 3:17). Nevertheless, God

also exhibits what we might classify as *negative* emotions as well, such as grief (Genesis 6:6), jealousy (Exodus 20:5) anger (Psalm 7:11) and hate (Proverbs 6:16).

While we can easily appreciate, humanly speaking, the *positive* passions of God, these latter expressions of seemingly “*negative*” passions may seem strongly out of place and puzzling to us at first. However, we must remember that, unlike man, God in all aspects of His being is “*love*,” for “*God is love*” (I John 4:8). Love is Who God is. Therefore, all other attributes, qualities, passions and emotions of God are absolute expressions of love.

Human passions, emotions and feelings are often subjective responses to circumstances. Because of our current state, often we can see only meager and marred expressions of the full range of divine passions (those that we deem both “*positive*” and “*negative*.”)

Circumstances can sometimes lead our human emotions to *get out of hand, getting the best of us*, pushing us to make rash decisions, hastily change our minds, make reckless mistakes, impulsively break promises, etc.

However, God manifests His passions and emotions out of His omniscient sovereignty, and they are constantly and consistently an unerring reflection of

1. A.E. Knoch, *Concordant Keyword Concordance*.

(see **STABILITY**, last page)





### PASSION (continued from page 8919)

God created His Universe in perfection (*cf.* Isaiah 45:18), yet He also brought in sin, and along with sin He brought misery and disappointment with it, so that He could make something far better out of the *ruins* of His creation.

God has bigger plans than what we now see all around us. He wisely and lovingly preplanned a far different outcome, one that will be fully seen when He brings the course of human and celestial history to a climax one day.

God couldn't bring about all of His gloriously desired outcome without the backdrop of sin and misery. Only when we recognize this will we begin to understand the true personality and passion of our heavenly Father.

Does anyone really think that God wanted to bring sin and misery into the creation as some experiment, just to see how people would react and respond? As the divine prerequisite to all of His creation being brought into ultimate communion with Him and His love, He first had to alienate it from Himself so as to win them back through His son Jesus Christ.

*Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, "Return, ye children of men" (Psalm 90:3, KJV).*

Adam and Eve had the perfect world, as it were, yet there was no strong connection between them and God. They lacked for nothing and became blasé, and hence, were not thankful for what they had. There was no contrast in their lives, so there was no longing on their part for God, for they didn't see their great need for Him.

God had to put emptiness and longing for Him in their lives and hearts, as well as the rest of creation. Ultimately this is the only way, by bringing in sin and misery, that He could accomplish this masterful plan (*Logos*) of His.

God is not willing that any should perish and that all should come to the knowledge of Him, for He is the God of all things and in Him all things consist (*cf.* II Peter 3:9; Colossians 1:17).

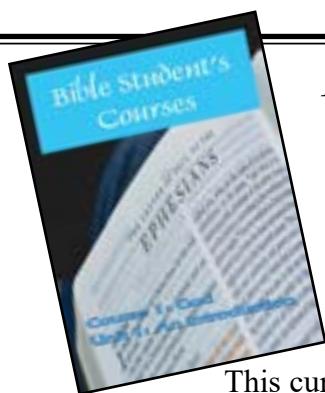
*Who **wills** that all mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth (I Timothy 2:4).*

**What God "wills" cannot be weakened or abandoned.** God won't lose anyone, for He is a God of passion and His passion for humanity and creation won't allow Him to do anything else. **BSN**

#### TOPICS:

**Major:** God; God, Passion of

**Minor:** Contrast; *Logos*; Love; Salvation of All; Sovereignty



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### HUSTLE (continued from front page)

finding freedom, I found myself bound tighter than ever. Instead of a relationship, I felt like I was checking off an impossible to-do list. And the worst part? I was still sinning. After all of the prayer, all of the Bible studies, all of the service, I still couldn't conquer the darkness inside of me. What was wrong with me?

### **FEELING THE TUG OF SOMETHING BETTER**

And yet – there was a whisper. A tiny, almost imperceptible tug in my heart that said, “This *isn’t* how it’s *supposed* to be.” I didn’t know where that voice came from, but it planted a seed of doubt. Could there be a different way? Could I escape this endless cycle of guilt and striving?

Yet doubt brought its own questions. What would others say if I started asking the hard questions?

### STABILITY (continued from page 8922)

Who He actually is: Love (*agapē*).

God’s passions are never *out of control*. We can rest assured that He never has *mood swings*; neither do His emotions ever cloud His judgment or His actions.

While humanity’s emotions may be unpredictable, God’s are steadfastly dependable.

... *I am the LORD, I change not* ... (Malachi 3:6).

**BSN**

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** God; God, Passions of

**Minor:** Love; Sovereignty

Could I step away from everything I had built my life around? And what if I was wrong? What if this was all there was: this grinding, soul-draining version of faith?

I didn’t know the answers, but I knew this: I couldn’t stay here. Something had to change.

So, I left.

I was about to begin a journey I didn’t even know I was on – a journey that would turn my understanding of God, faith and freedom upside down – and I found the peace and freedom I was looking for. But that’s a story for another day.

**BSN**

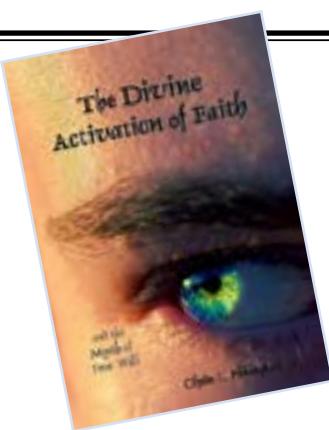
**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Freedom; Grace; Holiness; Legalism

**Minor:** Christianity; Religion; Sin

**MAN’S MISERABLE  
ATTEMPTS TO  
ELIMINATE DEATH  
ARE A CONTINUATION  
OF EVE’S DELUSIONAL BE-  
LIEF IN SATAN’S LIE, AND  
AN INDICATION OF  
THEIR UNBELIEF.**

ANDRÉ SNEIDAR



72 pages

## ***The Divine Activation of Faith, and the Myth of Free Will***

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

What is faith? Who is a believer? Is faith a matter of human choice, or is it a gift from God? Do those who have faith understand and believe everything correctly? Or, do they experience areas or degrees of unbelief? Can one be weak or strong in faith? Is there room in faith for growth? These are among the important questions that are considered in this work.

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