



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 43
Issue 1071

Questions?

by — Darson Buckner

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to this article](#)

Key Points:

[The questions we have about Scripture are blessings which keep
our minds on those "things above."8991](#)
[If you believe that God is sovereign, you can continually ask your-](#)

[self questions – while not necessarily needing answers – and rest
in the fact that He has all the answers.8994](#)

What then, shall we declare to these things?

If God is for us, who is against us?

*Surely, He Who spares not His own Son, but gives Him up for us all, how shall He not, together
with Him, also, be graciously granting us all?*

Who will be indicting God's chosen ones?

God, the Justifier?

Who is the Condemner?

*Christ Jesus, the One dying, yet rather being roused, Who is also at God's right hand, Who is
pleading also for our sakes?*

What shall be separating us from the love of God in Christ Jesus?

Affliction, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

— (Romans 8:31-35, CV).

Do you ever wonder why many of the teachers in the Bible asked questions, but didn't necessarily answer the questions?¹

When we tell someone something, they really don't have to think very hard about what we are telling them, because we are giving them information which may not require a response.



However, if we ask them a question about the subject matter, they have to think about it and answer it for themselves. Once they answer the question in their own mind, they usually settle on an answer and are at peace with their answer until new data is introduced or presented to them.

As we read through Scripture, we should continually ask ourselves questions. Especially about why
[\(continued on page 8991\)](#)

1. [Editor:] Paul, the apostle, is a great example, as seen in the 9 questions that he posed in the short span of the 5 verses listed above (Romans 8:31-35).

In fact, Paul asks his readers 60 questions throughout the book of Romans alone.

Concerning the example of Jesus Christ, one author calls Him the "Great Questioner," stating, "To be precise, Jesus asks 307 questions. He is asked 183 of which he only answers 3. Asking questions was central to Jesus' life and teachings. In fact, for every question he answers directly he asks — literally — a hundred." (*Jesus is the Question*, Martin B. Copenhaver).

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Volume 43, No. 1071 – May 19, 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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we are settled on a particular answer or view to a question we have asked. Learning and growth is less about the answers we receive from others and more about the questions we ask ourselves. A well-placed question about a particular aspect of Scripture can help us pause to meditate on the Word. The pause and meditation we take allow us to settle into a place about the question. This place we settle into is called our “current understanding.”

If a question doesn't exist, what are the chances of us searching the matter out like a Berean (Acts 17:11)? **The questions we have about Scripture are blessings which keep our minds on those “things above.”** You will never run out of questions about the written Word. Questions about God's Word equal keeping our minds on “things above.”

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the Earth (Colossians 3:2, KJV).

Be disposed to that which is above, not to that on the Earth (CV).

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on Earth (ESV).

If we had the answers, we would never have the need to open our Bibles. We mistakenly sometimes think that our belief is truth, when, in fact, our belief is just the place where God has brought us to an “understanding” – all for His purpose, of course.

And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to

know (I Corinthians 8:2, KJV).

If anyone is presuming to know anything, he knew not as yet according as he must know (CV).

Ask, ask and ask! Question everything!

Some might say the following verses refer to asking and receiving earthly physical things, such as good health, etc.; but nowhere is it implied – or, is it? What do you think? How's that million dollars coming that you keep asking Him about?

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened (Matthew 7:7-8, KJV).

Request and it shall be given you. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who is requesting is obtaining, and who is seeking is finding, and to him who is knocking it shall be opened (CV).

Is it talking about asking and seeking an understanding of Scripture, or physical things you might want or need?

To whom was this passage directed?

Was this question asked during our current administration of the grace of God?

Will we get anything we request?



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(see [QUESTIONS](#), page 8994)



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The Divine Cycle ~ Introduction

Bible Student's Courses

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Course 1: GOD / Unit 7 - The Divine Cycle / Lesson 1 - Introduction

by — Clyde Pilkington

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him is all ... (Romans 11:36, BSV).

Here is the simple, glorious truth of Romans 11:36 in a nutshell:

- (1) All is *out of* God.
- (2) All is *through* God.
- (3) All is *to* God.



back of all the movements of mankind. This reveals the goal of all things. God is so guiding all His creatures that, eventually, He will become their All.¹

THREE PREPOSITIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY

The knowledge that “all” comes “out” of God, that “all” operates “through” God, and that “all” is returning “to” God settles the weary heart and brings peace to the troubled mind.

In Romans 11:36 Paul reveals to us the three prepositions of God’s absolute sovereignty:

ἐκ — διὰ — εἰς
out of — through — to



Romans 11:36 is the Divine Cycle and is a bedrock truth often repeated by Paul our Apostle:

One God, the Father, out of Whom all is (I Corinthians 8:6, CV).

All is of God (I Corinthians 11:12; II Corinthians 5:18, CV).

The One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11, CV).

A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) skillfully summarized the core truths of Romans 11:36.

This is the most comprehensive statement which can be uttered. The universe sprang out of Him, and it has its course in Him, and He will be its ultimate. This settles all speculation as to the origin of all things. Creation is out of God, not out of nothing. This explains universal history. God is the One

ἐκ (*ek*) – “out of” – is defined as:

A primary preposition denoting *origin* (the point whence motion or action proceeds), *from*, *out* (SEC).

διὰ (*dia*) – “through” – is defined as:

A primary preposition denoting the *channel* of an act; *through* (SEC).

εἰς (*eis*) – “to” – is defined as:

A primary preposition; *to* or *into* (indicating the point reached or entered), of place, time or purpose (SEC).

Thus, that “all” is “out of God” speaks of ORIGIN; that “all” is “through God” speaks of the CHANNEL; and that “all” is “to God” speaks of CONSUMMATION.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Divine Cycle; God; Sovereignty

Minor: Creation

1. Concordant Commentary, page 242.

The Flight of an Arrow

A Poem, by — Darson Buckner

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

The arrow to the string,
is securely nocked.
The thumb and the index
are tightly locked.

The arrow is pulled back
to its full length.
The muscles and tendons
exhibit their strength.

The release is quick
as the string does sing.
As the arrow does fly,
the arm feels a sting.

Missing the target
is simply a sin.
Hit or miss,
for God does intend.

God does control
the arrow's flight.
The arrow is thrust
by only His might.

Wherever the arrow
so happens to land,
Was determined by God
and only His hand.

Sin is defined
as missing the mark.
And God determines
the arrow's arc.

If in fact you miss
the elusive bullseye,
Don't be concerned,
or consider a sigh.

The nature of flesh
is to war with the spirit.
All part of God's plan,
He doesn't prohibit.

Your controlling desire
is to know the details.
His plan you won't know
until He unveils.

(see **FLIGHT**, next page)



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OBITUARY.

Pauline R. Winter

(1935-2025)

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Our sister Pauline R. Winter, 89 of Muncy, PA died on January 7, 2025. She rejoiced in the truth of God's Salvation of all and was a longtime reader of the *Bible Student's Notebook*. She leaves behind her hus-

band of 70 years of marriage, Elwood Winter.

"Good night, dear sister. We will see you in the morning!" **BSN**

FLIGHT (continued from previous page)

Your steps were determined
before time began.

Regardless of what you
think is your plan.

Whether target you hit,
or whether you sin,
Know God's work is finished,
your soul He did win.

Look around and see
man's failed scheme.
Things here on Earth

are not what they seem.

Man's time and God's time
are not the same.

Our rewards for this life
come with a new name.

Always take aim
and shoot to hit.
But accept God's will,
to Him submit.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Poem; Sovereignty

Minor: Sin

QUESTIONS (continued from page 8991)

Can we assume that these verses are accurate for us today to acquire things we may want or need? If so, why?

The questions can go on and on and on!

Maybe Matthew 7:7-8 is more about being content and coming to a place of understanding about a matter.

What do you think?

As long as you are asking questions about a verse, belief or passage in the Bible, your mind will be on "things above."

It's all about the questions!

If you believe that God is sovereign, you can continually ask yourself questions – while not necessarily needing answers – and rest in the fact that He has all the answers. He is in complete control, and He is absolutely in love with you and all of His creation.

Whether you feel your questions are answered or not, Relax!

God is really good at being God, and He has every detail of your life already worked out.

Relax and know that I am Elohim (Psalm 46:10, CV).

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: God; Questions

Minor: Scripture; Sovereignty



I have gained so much from the BSN articles and your videos and books. So, my small monthly gift is in appreciation of you and your time toward the ministry to us to whom Father has granted eyes to SEE. – CA

I have watched / read the subject *The Beauty of Sacrifice: Moving Beyond Substitution to Union in Christ*, several times.¹ What a blessing, the way that Dad's spirit has granted you to explain this beautiful truth. – CA

Thanks for all your wonderful spirit, fellowship, daily goodies, videos and connections to wonderful brothers! The blessings are so good! – NM

I am very grateful that our God and Father has given you and your inner circle of fellow laborers the strength and know-how to take on such a momentous project [Study Bible].

You guys are truly going to war, not a World War as we know it, but a Heaven of the Heavens War in high places that has been ongoing since the beginning. You guys are in my thoughts and prayers.

1. Biblical Resources YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHnpym54xHo>
Bible Student's Notebook 1066: <https://www.biblestudents-notebook.com/bsn1066.pdf>

What you are bringing about to reality is something I have dreamed about for 30 years or so. – NH

I applaud you [Steve Martin] and applaud you more! Incredible article, "You Deserve Hell."² This is a masterpiece, Steve! I appreciate you taking the time to write it and share it. I would love to have it in a pdf to share with a few of my friends. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Please keep sharing. This is one of the most moving pieces of literature I've ever read. Probably because I saw myself as that 10-year-old boy scared that my flesh would somehow regenerate in Hell and continue to burn forever! Very moving! Wow! – TN

You and your co-workers are very much on my mind. I feel so blessed to have access to your resources and that God has opened my mind to grasp and appreciate it. – South Africa

Thanks, dear brother, for the Tidbits of information you have gleaned and shared with us. – VA

You, and your family and friends associated with Study Shelf have been an encouragement to me, in just the last 4-5 years, when I first became aware, sort of by accident, when a neighbor searched the internet for a book by Eugene Callaway, for me. It came from Study Shelf, with a free paperback text authored by you. My first exposure to universal reconciliation was many years ago when a 70-year-old missionary from Taiwan gave me Hurley's amazing booklet, *The Outcome of Infinite Grace*. It would be wonderful to have even 10 believers in my area with whom to study. Why would our Father allow me to have some of these great revelations given to our

2. Article: [Bible Student's Notebook 1064](#).
Video: [Biblical Resources](#) on YouTube.



64 pages

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

An Evening with Mark D. Vogt

Mark and his wife Karyl grew up in Altoona PA, attending a church that placed emphasis on Paul's unique message, under the ministry of Henry Kulp, associated with J.C. O'Hair (1876-1958), Charles F. Baker (1905-1994), and C.R. Stam (1909-2003).

After an extensive military career as a Marine pilot stationed in Pensacola, FL, Mark had a career as a private pilot, as well as pastoring a "Grace Movement" church himself, in Williamsport PA.

Since 2020, Mark has been Associate Editor of the Bible Student's Notebook. He also serves as the Director of Curriculum for Bible Student's Courses.

beloved Apostle Paul, by the risen Christ Jesus, at my late stage in life? I look forward to more serious and enjoyable study of the books from my recent order. Yet, I am thankful because He knows all, and He is Sovereign, and He will be in All creation, eventually. – **IN**

I find [Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Kingdom](#) to be very enlightening in clarifying the premillennial program of Israel. Its in depth study of this next coming age has brought a real understanding to me. Though it has taken me weeks to study through it, I find myself wanting to re-study it again.

I just love your teachings, your videos and I'm so grateful for all the books that you brought into my life. I have learned so much through them and have had my heart kindled so many times in the love of God through your ministry! – **CO**

I finished looking over [BSN 1057](#). ... Awesome work. I had a lot of fun reading this issue. It is one of my favorites so far! Steve's article, James' interview, and Clyde's answer to the reader's question touched on so many significant points. Very clear and distinctive! – **NY**

So many interesting things to be learned! – **AR**

The *Daily Email Goodie* regarding our Happy God is so profound in contrast to the First Baptist Church god that I grew up with.

Of course, having been led to believe that our creator is only partially in control of His creation and that most of His creatures are going to eternal torment – **HOW**

COULD THIS FALSE GOD BE HAPPY? – **TX**

I have printed *Differences of Doctrine Are a Blessing*³ to place it in the back of my Bible for a ready reminder of its truth. Thank you. – **OH**

Back in the day there was a great middleweight Panamanian fighter by the name of Roberto Duran. They say that pound for pound he had the most powerful uppercut in the world. In other words, even though Roberto was small he could pack a fierce punch.

Anyway, there's this little book called [Ultimate Liberation](#), that I'm studying, and pound for pound does it ever pack a punch! All I can say is Wow! So much packed into this little, tiny book!

"You can't be forgiven if you are righteous, and you can't be righteous if you are forgiven." I love it! I'm grinning from ear to ear! – **MI**

BSN

3. [Editor:] By A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook 739](#), page 6334.

NEVER ARGUE
WITH A FOOL;
ONLOOKERS MAY NOT
BE ABLE TO TELL
THE DIFFERENCE.

Mark Twain (1835-1910)



Seven Things I Misunderstood About Prophecy

(An Exposé of Evangelical Prophetic Interpretation)

166 pages

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Early on in his life and ministry, what the author knew and taught about the themes found in this book were simply what he had learned since childhood: traditional Evangelical Christian prophetic interpretation. However, in time he would come to see things quite differently. In this work he shares with the reader things that he had misunderstood, and after fifty years of personal Scripture study, what he now understands: realizations that have brought him great peace. Important notice: This work is extracted from the author's larger work *Things I Misunderstood*, and can also be found in the compilation, *Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Kingdom*.

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