Bible Student's Notebook™
The Herald of His Grace
Presenting every man mature in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28
Volume 44
Issue 1077

Barrier Wall Razed

"Complete in Him"

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by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Early in Paul's epistles he boldly declared that there was coming a time when *"installment"* teaching would be *"discarded."*

> *For out of an* ***instalment*** *are we knowing, and out of an* ***instalment*** *are we prophesying. Now whenever maturity may be coming,* ***that which is out of an instalment shall be DISCARDED*** (I Corinthians 13:9-10, *CV*).

Thus,

> *Love is never lapsing: yet, whether* ***prophecies, they will be discarded, or languages*** **[tongues]**, ***they will cease, or knowledge, it will be discarded****. … When I was a minor, I spoke as a minor, I was disposed as a minor, I took account of things as a minor. Yet when I have become a man,* ***I have discarded that which is a minor's*** (:8, 11, *CV*).

Therefore, with the writing of Ephesians and Colossians it was granted to Paul *"to* ***complete*** *the Word of God"* (Colossians 1:25). Paul revealed that all has been accomplished beforehand by Christ, so we are now ***"complete in Him"*** (Colossians 2:10). All things emphasized in the past by the Barrier Wall have been completely removed (Ephesians 2:14, *CV*), and we now live under an administration where there is:

- no water baptism;
- no physical circumcision;
- no divinely recognized nations;
- no covenants;
- no observance of days;
- no dietary restrictions;
- no religious feasts or suppers;
- no feet washing;
- no signs or wonders;
- no miraculous healing;
- no casting out of demons;
- no snake handling;
- no raising of the dead;
- no tongues;
- no visions;
- no Mosaic law observed;
- no vows;
- no animal sacrifices;
- no ordinances;
- no altars;
- no manmade temple;
- no intermediaries;
- no priesthood;
- no confession of sins;
- no working for rewards;
- no warnings;
- no prophecies being fulfilled;
- no selling of personal possessions to have things in common;
- no neglecting of the family;
- no silenced women;
- no necessitated head-covering for women;

(see RAZED, page 9042)

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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

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A Study on Baptism

or,

From Infancy to Maturity in Christ

Part 8 of 8[1]

The "*One Baptism*" of the Perfection

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

Who shall describe the glories of the Ephesian letter? We are taken back before the entrance of evil and behold ourselves in His purposes in Christ. We are taken and seated in the very [super-]heavens in Christ; but, though the Earth is taken from beneath our feet in this twofold sense, yet in Him we find a firmer footing than ever this Earth can give.

Yet such abundant grace cannot be contained in Israel's narrow pale. They were nigh by virtue of the covenant blood. Such nearness was but distance compared with the nearness now secured by the blood of Christ. The means by which they drew near – the court, the altar, the laver, the holy place, the veil – all of these are now seen to be but barriers to their free approach.

Now these are all removed. The defilement of the flesh might keep even an Israelite outside of the camp in the days of old; but now the blood of Christ yields to no fleshly disability, and avails for all – for those afar off as well as those that were nigh. The nations have an equal share with Israel in this stupendous blessing.

The blood of Christ alone – unaided, without escort or association, without accessory or adjunct of any kind, brushing aside the embarrassment and blockade of fleshly rites, in the fresh and unsupported vigor and power of its solitary majesty – the blood of Christ alone is the champion of the sinner; that, singlehandedly, clears a passage to the very throne of God.

But is baptism brushed aside? Is it included in the abolished rites? Among the unities of the fourth chapter are:

> ***One*** *Lord,* ***one*** *faith,* ***one*** *baptism* (Ephesians 4:5).

Though there be lords many, for us there is but one Lord.

In previous dispensations, as well as in a future day, varieties of faith obtain. Favor is shown to various classes according to their relationship to Israel. In the Pentecostal era the faith for Israel was far more glorious than that for the Samaritans, while the nations were but guests at Israel's board. Now they are no lon-

1. Parts 1-7: *BSN* 1060, 1061, 1063, 1065, 1067, 1074, 1076.

108 pages

Water Baptism

A Compilation

This work answers the question as to whether or not water baptism is a part of this current dispensation. Nine chapters from the following authors: Oscar M. Baker, Denis Durham, Stephen Hill, Richard Jordan, R.H. Lampkin, Kenneth J. Morgan, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Ike T. Sidebottom.

See ***order form*** *under "Compilations."*

ger guests and sojourners, but fellow citizens of the saints, and members of God's family. Now there is one faith for all; not Israel first, not the nations first; but all are received on equal gracious terms.

As there is but one faith now, so also there is but one baptism. We have seen how the ministry of our Lord, and that of John, were characterized by one baptism: that in water. John had borne record concerning the Master:

> *For I, indeed, am baptizing you in water for repentance, yet He Who is coming after me is stronger than I, Whose sandals I am not competent to bear. He will be baptizing you in holy spirit and fire* (Matthew 3:11).

So, the Master, upon His ascension, bears witness to John,

> *John indeed baptizes in water, yet you shall be baptized in holy spirit after not many of these days* (Acts 1:5).

So that from Pentecost onward two baptisms obtained. Water baptism was accompanied by spirit baptism. In the administration of the evangel of God among the nations by Paul these two continued, but water baptism takes a secondary place, while the baptism of the spirit is the portion of all.

Now that there is a return to *one* baptism the question remains, "Is it water, or, is it spirit?"

The epistle itself gives answer: *"on believing, also, you are sealed with the holy spirit of promise"* (Ephesians 1:13). This alone entitled them to the spiritual blessings which they had in the [super-]heavenly regions.

By *"one spirit"* they were all baptized into *"one body."* Without that baptism there could never be the *"one body."* If the *"one body"* does not exist, there is no ecclesia, and our highest blessings as His members are annulled. It is by this spirit that we all have access into God's presence, and are united one to another. This unity of the spirit is one of the characteristic truths of this Secret Economy. It is vital.

So then, the baptism of spirit remains. As there is but *"one baptism,"* that in water disappears. If we take Ephesians as the textbook, then Philippians furnishes us with examples, and Colossians with review.

In Philippians, we see the apostle's own course in the things of flesh. Precious as they once appeared, he now counts them but fit for curs. As he sees those who call themselves the "Circumcision" staking all upon a mere mutilation of their flesh, he sounds the alarm:

> *Beware of the maimcision, for we are the circumcision who are offering divine service in the spirit of God, and are glorying in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in flesh* (Philippians 3:2-3).

He weeps as he warns them of the enemies of the cross of Christ *"who to the terrestrial are disposed"* (Philippians 3:18-19). It is hard to exclude baptism in water from these *"terrestrial things."* Once, like circumcision, it was necessary for Divine blessing, but now both have been fulfilled in His cross.

502 pages

See order form under "Other Authors."

Studies in Acts

by — H.W. (Herman William) Martin (1883-1959)

One of the least understood books in the Scriptures is the Book of Acts. It is usually treated as a history of the early "church," but the Body of Christ is not the subject of that book. What then is the Book of Acts? Such is the subject of this work from an associate of A.E. Knoch.

This extensive series ran for a decade in the *Unsearchable Riches* (1921-1931). Knoch's longstanding desire was that this series appear in book form. Granting his desire, these many decades later we're pleased to present this facsimile publishing of this lengthy series as a book.

In Colossians, baptism itself is taken up in conjunction with circumcision. In the days when Yahweh taught His people how to draw nigh to Him, what was the requisite for approach? The uncircumcised could not draw nigh at all. Circumcision was the prime factor in seeking His presence and blessing – but a nearer approach required still more. The circumcised Israelite could not even reach the laver. A circumcised priest could not go beyond the laver without being first baptized in its water.

Circumcision and baptism, then, constituted the Israelite's fitness to approach a *veiled* God.

And they are still necessary. They are essential. No one is properly furnished for His presence and blessing unless first he is circumcised and baptized. In this light we read that,

> *we are complete in Him in Whom you were circumcised also with a circumcision not made by hands, in the* ***stripping off the body of flesh*** *in the circumcision of Christ* (Colossians 2:10).

Here is circumcision indeed; though *"not made by hands,"* though accomplished on the cross apart from us altogether, it is *the only real, the only true circumcision.* The sons of Jacob were *not* circumcised. *We are.* They only shadowed it. We have the substance.

Let no one say that circumcision is obsolete. It is a present, practical, powerful truth. It is, however, but part of the truth. It leaves Christ on the cross, lifeless. So, the apostle goes on to say,

> *Being entombed together with Him in baptism, in Whom you were roused together also through faith in the operation of God, Who rouses Him from among the dead* (Colossians 2:12).

Christ is risen! And we are risen in Him! Here is cleansing! Here is baptism! By the power of His spirit we enter into the blessed potent truth that we have already been baptized – and such a baptism as the sons of Israel never knew. By Him we not only have died, but also have been buried and raised from the grave – in *Him.* Not from "a watery grave by the strong arm of the baptizer" but by an Almighty arm,

> *through faith in the operation of God, Who rouses Him from among the dead.*

Just as we are not circumcised in flesh, but in spirit, so also with baptism. *His* baptism, just as His circumcision, we reckon as our own. He was buried; so were we. He arose; we too are risen.

Check out a ***NEW BOOK!***

86 pages

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Freedom Journey:

Recovering from Religion ~ Discovering Grace

by — Steve Martin

This book is for every soul who's felt the crushing weight of religion and wondered if walking away meant walking out on God. It doesn't. In fact, leaving might be the first truly faithful thing you've ever done.

Steve Martin dismantles the myths that keep people trapped in church systems built on guilt, control, and the fear of hell. With clarity, compassion, and bold honesty, he exposes how religion hijacked grace and twisted God's love into a performance-based nightmare. You'll discover:

- Why obedience doesn't earn you anything;
- How the threat of hell was a lie from the start;
- The truth about God's unstoppable, unconditioned love;
- How to trust a sovereign God Who doesn't need your help;
- And what real spiritual freedom looks like – outside the church walls.

If you're burned out, beaten down, or just barely hanging on to your faith, The Freedom Journey will help you breathe again. Because you were never meant to follow a system. You were meant to be free.

As we think of this solemn glorious truth, the warning still rings in our ears:

> ***Beware!*** *that no one shall be despoiling you … in accord with the elements of the world* [the elementary religious observances] *and not in accord with* ***Christ!*** (Colossians 2:8).

O, beloved, has our God set this danger signal here for naught? How many, many, of His precious ones have passed it by unheeded! How sad to be in the toils of men when God has made us free and *"complete in Him"*!

There *is* danger! God has not warned us against that which has no existence, for multitudes of God's saints have gone blindly into this snare in spite of God's warning. He has delivered the writer of these pages: He alone can deliver those who bear His divine and solemn appeal. The exquisite joy and delicious satisfaction which is found by those who know themselves complete in Christ can be found only by heeding this divine *"Beware!"*

By the very nature of things, circumcision, while speaking of the stripping off of flesh, gave the flesh a standing it was never entitled to. Spiritual circumcision alone really fulfills its import.

Razed *(continued from front page)*

- no apostles;
- no prophets;
- no bishops;
- no pastors;
- no offices;
- no miraculous gifts;
- no local assemblies.

All of these *were* characteristic of God's past dealing with Israel, and most will represent His future work in the restoration of Israel. All of these were true when the Barrier Wall was present, *"yet now"* (Ephesians 2:13) – in the absence of that wall – we are *"complete in Him."* There is nothing that needs to be added. BSN

BSN

Topics:

Major: Colossians; Complete in Christ; Completed Scripture; Dispensational; Ephesians; Installment; Middle Wall; Secret Administration

Minor: Law; Maturity; Minority

Baptism was likewise embarrassed. While it spoke of spirit and gave the flesh no place, yet being an ordinance on the flesh, it *seemed* to give the flesh acceptance in His sight.

But *our* baptism gives flesh no place. Our cleansing is by spirit and finds a real and genuine acceptance by our God. If I am *"complete in Him,"* no fleshly rite can add to my completeness. If I do add it, then I deny that His work has fully met God's claims. I dishonor that work by subtracting from its potency, and spoil it by adding something of my own.

If I receive the wondrous truth then I am constrained to refuse these ordinances upon the flesh, both circumcision and baptism. I rest *alone* in Him in Whom I have no lack.

Complete in Christ my Saviour,
My heart is satisfied;
For He is all-sufficient,
What need for aught beside?

BSN

(*edited*)

Topics:

Major: Baptism; Dispensational

Minor: Circumcision; Colossians; Ephesians; One Body; Philippians

Eros Made Sacred: *or*

The Biblical Case Made for Polygamy

by — James Wesley Stivers
(originally published in 1991)
74 pages

This book presents a clear biblical justification for polygamous marriage as sanctioned by the Holy Scriptures. The issue of polygamy is used to contrast current moral biases with those found in the Bible. First published more than 15 years ago, this thoughtful work has gone unrefuted. Provocative, instructional, challenging, edifying. The book chapters are:

- Polygamy: A Biblical Custom
- Objections Answered; In Favor of Polygamy
- The Ministry of the Patriarch
- Polygamy as a Tool of Christian Dominion
- Feminism, Monogamy and Witchcraft

(*See* ***order form*** *under "Other Authors."*)

Goi and Ethnos:

A *Study Concerning the Use of the Term*

by — Joseph E. Kirk (1903-1974)

[Click here to listen to this article]

There is no word either in the Hebrew or the Greek Scriptures that truly corresponds with our English word "*Gentile*." Therefore, the use of the word may obscure the meaning of a passage and hence lead to false doctrine.

Goi in the Hebrew, *Ethnos* in the Greek, and *Gens* in the Latin quite closely correspond in meaning. They are *collective* nouns, used of men and of animals, but used always of a group, never of individuals, and used of those who are in a particular group *by reason of birth.* Our word "ethnology" indicates the meaning of *ethnos.*

Goi in the Hebrew Scriptures

Young's Analytical Concordance lists *goi* as occurring 557 times in the Hebrew Scripture.

The *Authorized Version* translates it as follows: *"Gentiles" thirty* times, *"heathen"* 142 times, *"nation"* or *"nations"* 373 times, *"people"* 11 times and *"another"* once.

The *American Standard Revised Version* cuts the occurrences of *"Gentiles"* to *nine,* and shows in the footnotes of five of these references that the word *"nations"* should have been used.

"Nations" is probably the best English word that we have for *goi*, and some of our best translators use it almost exclusively. Although it is not an exact equivalent term, since there is much political significance attached to it.

Ethnos in the Greek Scriptures

As far as our most commonly used versions are concerned, the New Testament presents quite a different picture. *Ethnos* occurs 164 times in the Greek text.

In the *Authorized Version* it is translated *"Gentiles"* 93 times, *"heathen"* five times, *"nation"* or *"nations"* 64 times, and *"people"* twice.

In the *American Standard Revised Version* it is "*Gentiles*" 96 times in the text and seven times in the footnotes, making 103 occurrences altogether, but it is corrected 15 times in the notes to read *"nations,"* making the final count 88.

Though the words *"Gentiles"* and *"heathen"* are used many times in the English Bibles, we must face the fact that there are no Hebrew or Greek words that would demand this translation. BSN

Scripture Studies Concern
(edited excerpt)

Topics:
Major: *Ethnos*; Gentiles; *Goi*, Heathen; Nations
Minor: Translation

Since we first began placing single-sentence quotes on the tops of the pages of the *Bible Student's Notebook* they have been a most welcomed feature.

Daily Quick Quotes are single-sentence quotes selected from past pages of the *Bible Student's Notebook* that are added to a daily BLOG and assigned topical themes, making them easy to utilize. You can view or sign up to receive these *Daily Quick Quotes* at: https://dailyquickquotes.wordpress.com/

Ready to Hire an Assistant

Update on the Study Bible Project!

The Next Step: Hiring an Office Manager

A few months ago, when we announced the Study Bible Project, we shared that we felt we needed $30,000 in escrow before taking the first steps to move forward. We are thankful to share some wonderful news: thanks to the generosity of our co-laborers, we have exceeded that initial goal! We now are ready to proceed with the next step in this journey.

As we move forward with the Study Bible Project, our next priority is hiring an office manager/assistant. We are looking for someone with office experience, proficiency in Word and Excel, and project management skills. This position will be 30-40 hours per week, and we are open to working around the ideal candidate's schedule.

We look forward to seeing what Father has in store for this next step. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support in this mission. Stay tuned for more updates as we move forward together!

If you or someone you know would be a good fit for the office manager role, we'd love to hear from you. We'll discover the plan that Father has for us!

Original "Study Bible Project" Video:
A Vision for the Future
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqhqrB13X2E

Study Bible Project Webpage:
https://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/StudyBibleDonations.htm

We're on the discovery process to find the office assistant that God has written for us. If you think that this might be you, contact Clyde:

clyde@studyshelf.com

Freedom from frustration is seeing every circumstance as designed by God for you for His specific purpose.

Freedom from judgment is seeing every individual as a vessel designed by God for His specific purpose.

Grace means letting people be who God is making them in His own time.

André Sneidar

Ephesians & Colossians

Scripture for the Present Administration

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Ephesians and Colossians are the present truth for the current dispensation. Ephesians introduces the Secret Administration in which we live, while Colossians, its companion epistle, completes the Word of God. There are no other Secret Administration letters beyond Ephesians and Colossians.

76 pages (2nd edition) *See **order form** under "Clyde Pilkington."*