



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 44
Issue 1082

Animals in God's Story, Chapter 3: Groaning and Glory

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

by — Steve Martin & Clyde Pilkington

Key Points:

All creation—including animals – is groaning.....9077
Animal suffering is not meaningless.....9077

[A glorious freedom is coming – for us and them.....9084](#)
[Their groaning will turn to glory.....9084](#)



If you've ever looked into the eyes of a suffering animal – one in pain, or fear, or grief – you've felt it.

That ache. That silent groan. That deep-down knowing that something in this world is not the way it's supposed to be.

The Bible doesn't ignore that pain. It names it. It honors it. And it promises that it will not last forever.

Paul writes,

For the creation was subjected to futility – not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it – in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its bondage to corruption and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now (Romans 8:20-22).

All creation. Not just people.

The whole thing – animals, Earth, everything that breathes – is groaning.

Why?

Because when sin entered the world through Adam, it didn't just fracture humanity. It fractured everything under our care – including the animals.

Fear replaced trust. Predators replaced peace. Death replaced life. Animals began to run, to hide, to fight. And we began to forget they were ever meant to be our companions.

But Paul doesn't stop at the groaning.

He points us toward the glory.

Creation groans because it knows something better is coming. It's not groaning in despair. It's groaning in *expectation*. Like labor pains before birth – pain that means something new is about to arrive.

(see [ANIMALS](#), last page)

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 44, No. 1082 – August 11, 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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Ego and Shimei

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

by — Darson Buckner

Key Points:

God's sovereignty means every insult, loss, or humiliation has divine purpose..... 9079
Ego distorts our perception of life and suffering..... 9079

Changing your view changes your response..... 9079
[You don't have to respond to everything..... 9980](#)

Do you ever get your feelings hurt? Have you ever had a loved one disappoint you? Have you ever been honked at or given the finger while driving?



how you deserve better. It reminds you of all of the wonderful things you have accomplished and all of the accolades you have received. Ego feeds you these “feel good” endorphins every time you do something noteworthy. These endorphins keep you searching for the next thing you can do which will get you recognized and acknowledged. Your ego keeps you in a constant reward-based cycle.

How about someone giving you the side eye? Do you know what the side eye is? I get this from my wife and my dog on occasion.

Maybe someone has made a sarcastic remark in response to something you have said.

Maybe you didn't get the promotion and bonus you expected, like Clark Griswold.

All of these examples are an attack on your ego.

One of my first revelations after coming to know that God is sovereign was that people who were bruising my precious ego were not really my enemies. The people in your life who you feel are being mean to you cannot really help themselves. Let me explain.

Your ego can be the loudest voice in the room – talking to you every minute you are awake. It tells you all of the ways that others are being mean to you and

We learn how to feed our ego at a very early age, and then we spend the rest of our life searching for ways to keep our ego well nourished. We look back on our lives and judge our entire life on how well we supported and encouraged our ego. Our houses, our cars, our clothes, our family, our friends, our social status, our salaries, our habits, our pastimes, our hobbies – all of our “choices” could be related to our ego. We all are slaves to our egos and can feel empty and always wanting when our ego is hungry.

Do you realize that how you feel is directly related to your perception and view of the situation affecting you? What would happen if how you observed a circumstance changed even by just a couple of degrees?



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

The Comfort and Encouragement of Hope (A Comprehensive Compilation)

The authors of this reassuring work includes: Tom L. Ballinger (1931-2022), Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), Edward H. Clayton (1887-1972), Dr. Edgar Gerald Jones (1894-1974), Joseph E. Kirk (1903-1974), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), J.C. O’Hair (1876-1958), C.H. Mackintosh (1820-1896), George Matheson (1842-1906), J.R. Miller (1840-1912), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank N. Pohorlak (1907-1988), Theodore Joseph Silva (1909-1974), Tony Smith, André Sneider, and Dean Wilkinson.

I recently went through a career gut-punch. It was traumatic because it was the main resource to feed my ego endorphins. I was so blinded by how wonderful I am that I could not see what God was doing for me. The gift He was giving me was less responsibility and more time without having to juggle so many daily tasks. My ego had been completely hiding the fruits of this calmer life behind a career.

It was a lot to process as I moved into this new head-space. God had me exactly where He wanted me the entire time I was living this ego nightmare.

Have you had a similar experience?

I feel that God has revealed this to me in the most painful way, but now I am getting a glimpse of what my life could possibly be by refusing to feed my starving ego. Our ego is a bottomless pit which is never satisfied and never content. I am just now beginning to realize that a response is not required from me for every circumstance. God has all things worked out. I really do not need the best house, car or status. I do not need a compliment every 5 minutes when a compliment every hour or so will suffice perfectly. (Just kidding.)

I am not saying that I think ego is a bad thing. Ego is needed in order to have new experiences. We may not pursue these experiences if we lack confidence. Ego builds confidence and encourages us to get out of our comfort zone. All of God's creation has purpose – including our ego. Could you imagine not being able to go outside your home due to lack of confidence? It is a serious condition, and many people suffer from this extreme anxiety. According to helpguide.org 1.7

percent of the population have agoraphobia, which is the fear and avoidance of leaving home or a familiar setting. We all probably suffer from a degree of agoraphobia from time to time in our life.

A couple of verses come to mind:

I Thessalonians 5:18 says,

In everything be giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Romans 11:36 says,

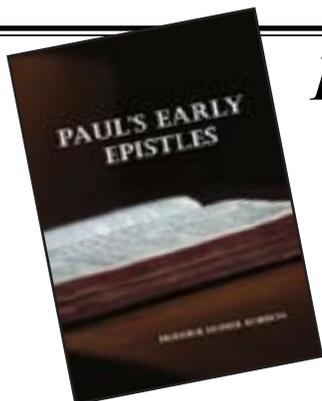
Seeing that out of Him and through Him and for Him is all: to Him be the glory for the eons! Amen.

It's all from Him, through Him and to Him.

It didn't say "all is from (insert your name here), through (insert your name here), and to (insert your name here)!"

There is a Bible story rarely mentioned. It is one of my favorites, and I want to share it with you. This passage really changed me. I always felt like I had to respond in defense to every cross word spoken to me. I don't. You don't. God is love, and He is in control of EVERYTHING.

David and his men are fleeing David's son, Absalom, who is trying to kill him and take over the throne. David was enroute toward the Jordan River traveling away from Jerusalem and away from Absalom. As he and his men approached Bahurim, Shimei, a relative of Saul, came to the roadside and started cursing



Paul's Early Epistles

by — F.H. Robison (1885-1932)

An important dispensational look at the place of Paul's early epistles in the plan of God. This is taken from the pages of Robison's classic work *Are Bride and Body Identical?*

36 pages

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and throwing rocks and dirt at David. David's guard, Abishai, wanted to go over and cut the head off this loudmouth, but David wouldn't let him. What David said to the guard and his other men was a lesson for all of us walking the Earth and interacting with other people. David said, "He is saying and doing all these things against me because God made him do it. Maybe God will look on my humiliation and restore goodness to me."

Wow! Wow! And Wow! How profound was that?! Could the humiliation we sometimes experience just be God preparing to restore goodness to us?

When your ego shows up next time, will you be able to remember this story? When I can remember this story, I am able to overcome the bad feelings, I'm happier, and I realize that what is happening to me is not my responsibility. Let the horns honk and the birds fly. Father is restoring goodness to you and me just down the road.

My real problem is that, when I am hungry, tired or in pain, and the arrows and darts come flying at me, I can't remember this awesome story. My mouth gets me in trouble, and I realize afterwards that my Ego got the best of me again. But ...

We CAN be thankful in all situations!

All is from Him, through Him and for Him.

I hope that this story helps you to endure your next difficult situation with a little less anxiety, more hope, and more faith in our sovereign Father. God is in the business of restoring goodness.

You can read the entire story in II Samuel 16:5-14.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: I Thessalonians 5:18; II Samuel 16:5-14; Divine Cycle; Ego; Romans 11:36; Sovereignty
Minor: Circumstances; Perception; Suffering; Thankfulness

JOYizer vs. Judaizer

Living in Freedom vs. Enforcing the System

by – Steve Martin

JOYizer	Judaizer
Drinks deeply from scandalous grace	Measures grace with a teaspoon
Knows they're loved – period	Thinks God's love is offered on probation
Sees others as beloved children	Sees others as threats, projects or sinners
Rests in Christ's successfully finished work	Hustling for God's approval
Says "It is well"	Says "Try harder"
Expects God to win in the end – for everyone	Expects most people to burn
Lives like all is a gift	Lives like everything's a test
Doesn't fear hell – knows it's a lie	Uses hell to scare people into line
Full of laughter, wonder and freedom	Full of anxiety, judgment and suspicion
Celebrates mystery and contrast	Demands certainty and control
Sees sin as part of God's bigger story	Sees sin as a deal-breaker
Believes God is better than we imagined	Believes God is barely better than we feared
Frees others to explore and be honest	Pressures others to conform and obey
Believes "It is finished" means what it says	Still adding terms and conditions
Spills grace like water	Hoards grace like it's in short supply
Hugs prodigals and throws parties	Points fingers and crosses arms



Biblical Resources Videos

Open Recording Day

Saturday, August 23rd 2025

Advanced Scripture Education Series

The Airport Sessions

John Murtha Airport
Johnstown, PA

One Day:

Saturday, August 23rd 2025

10:00am – until ...

Those who are interested in attending,

Contact: clyde@studysshelf.com



Editor's Desk

What are

“Open Recording Days”?

On August 23rd we will have an “Open Recording Day” at the Johnstown (PA) Airport. This isn't a formal meeting or conference, but we announce them because all are welcome to attend.

The purpose of these is simple: set up the recording equipment and start teaching – without the extra planning or structure that a typical meeting requires.

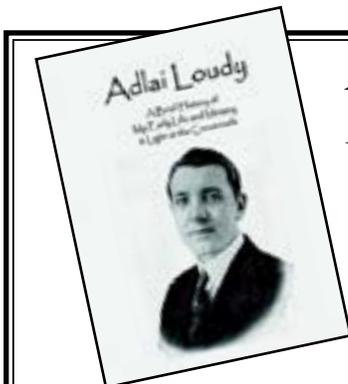
I often have teachings on my heart that don't fit the usual conference format. It's difficult just to turn on a camera and teach alone, so having even a few people present really helps.

Our normal opportunities to record teachings are limited. Conferences happen only once a year, and the topics are usually kept introductory to serve newer students. That's why a few years ago we started holding occasional “Open Recording Days” – to create space for deeper or more specific teachings.

We typically hold them on a Saturday. There's no formal schedule, no organizing – just whoever shows up to teach and whoever shows up to listen. Local teachers like Stephen Hill and Mark Vogt often join in, and sometimes others like André Sneidar or Steve Martin as well. We simply take turns teaching until we run out of material or time.

Usually, a few local friends attend to listen and fellowship, but everyone is absolutely welcome. Sometimes we go out for breakfast beforehand or grab dinner afterward. It's casual, focused on capturing meaningful teachings on video for our [Biblical Resources](#) YouTube channel.

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Adlai Loudy: A Brief History of My Early Life and Ministry & Light at the Crossroads

by — Adlai Loudy (1893-1984)

A memorial history of Loudy's early ministry as well as his work in Fairview Crossroads, SC and Pulaski, VA, etc.

104 pages

See [order form](#) under “Loudy.”



Your GRACE TO JOY¹ article and videos truly are a game changer. – **TN**

I have been receiving your *Daily Email Goodies* for quite some time, and want to thank you for each and every one, each day.

I have just listened to your message *He Spares Not His Son* – thank God for speaking to us through you, much was learned today. – **Australia**

Lately I've been so super amazed at the amount of things we receive just because God decided to give it to us. I didn't do anything. Freely He gives us grace, freedom, peace, and truth. It just blows my mind. – **PA**

I am a regular book customer. My latest book order arrived on my 74th birthday! ... I am a long-time Acts 28 Dispensational guy. Like

1. **[Editor:]** Article & Video: *Grace: "Undeserved Favor"? Or Something Far Better?*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook 1080](#); [Biblical Resources](#) on YouTube.

Video: *Freedom from Unworthiness - The Unstoppable Joy of Grace* (Freedom Journey Podcast), Steve Martin & Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Biblical Resources](#) on YouTube.

many others, I was Acts 2, then Mid-Acts and finally Acts 28. I was, as a young man, with a small group of believers that was part of Oscar Baker's study group. Unfortunately, these fine folks were considerably older than I and eventually disbanded and all have long since died. I have been pretty much alone ever since. In recent years, your ministry has revolutionized my whole concept of God and Bible study. You are so right that we change when our image of God changes! Liberation, not fear and legalism. Thank you for all that you do. – **MI**

I want to mention to you how much I appreciate the *Daily Email Goodies*. I also greatly enjoy the many different writers you feature in addition to your own. – **FL**

Each week's *Bible Student's Notebook* is like a letter from home. – **TN**

The books that I have ordered from you have been a real comfort and encouragement to me and have given me some positive answers to the confusing questions I asked when I first became a Christian, which I have never found in Western theology. And this crazy idea that a God of love could also be a God of eternal torment and punishment has never made any sense to me. – **Scotland**

The *Bible Student's Course* on God's Immanence [[Bible Student's Notebook 1033](#)] was a great source of

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



Biblical Resources

Our YouTube Video Channel

This is a YouTube channel where you can enjoy select videos containing wonderful truths from Scripture, some of which are single topics, while others are part of a series. The videos are great to watch alone or with family and friends. Among the teachers is your editor Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. Check out these topics/titles (at <https://www.youtube.com/@BiblicalResources>):

- *Bible Basics*
- *The Scripture Minute*
- *Things I Misunderstood*
- *The Divine Lockup*
- *The Undoing of Adam*
- *The Pentecost & Secret Administrations*
- *Male & Female*
- *The Greatest Truth I Know*
- *The Freedom Journey*
- *Interviews*
- *Celestial Realms*
- *Voices from the Past*

ANIMALS (continued from front page)

This isn't just poetry. It's promise.

Your pet's suffering? It's not the end of their story.

That groan of aging bones, or the quiet whimper of loss when you leave the room – it's part of the brokenness that God has promised to heal.

And what's coming isn't just relief. It's glorious freedom.

Freedom from death.

Freedom from fear.

Freedom from the curse.

And here's the beautiful part: creation doesn't get there ahead of us – it gets there with us. It will be "set free into the glorious freedom of the children of God." The renewal of all things starts with God's children being revealed in glory – and the rest of creation, including animals, gets swept into that same tide of redemption.

Think about that:

MAILBOX (continued from previous page)

peace. Not only are we "in Him" but He is also "in all"! (Acts 17:28; Ephesians 4:6) – Divine Saturation! I will never, ever, never be alone again! It's a tremendous relief to my heart. Thank you! – SD

[[Bible Student's Notebook 1039](#)] was yum, so yummy. Mike Owens did another good job, of excellence, in simplicity.² – CA **BSN**

2. [Editor:] Mile Owens' articles in this issue are: *Is Man Autonomous?*; *Jonathan and Scott*, & *God's Will*.

We're going to be made new, they will be too.

Our groans will turn to praise, so will theirs.

We don't have all of the details. We don't need them.

What we have is better: a God Who sees every tear, hears every groan, and has promised redemption – not just for us, but for **all** of creation.

So, when you remember a pet you've lost ...

When you watch a beloved animal suffer in old age...
When you wonder if their life mattered ...

Remember this:

**They groaned.
But they will glory.**

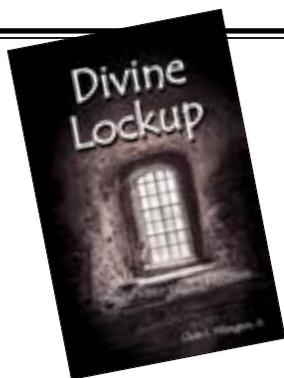
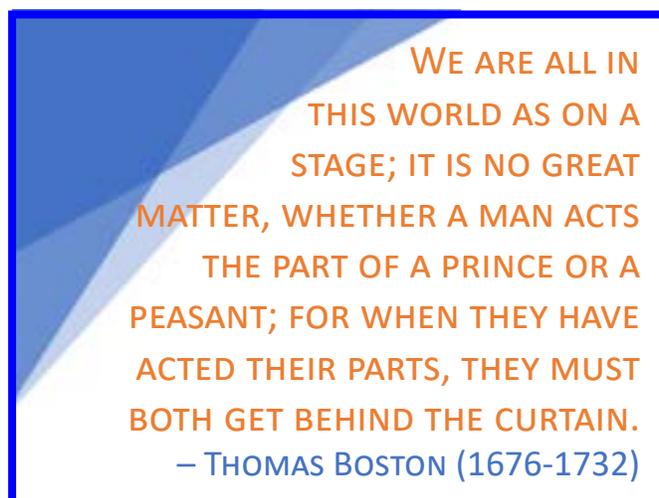
And they'll be there when all things are made new.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Animals; Creation; Freedom; Pets; Salvation of All; Suffering

Minor: Death; Love; Redemption



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."