



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 44
Issue 1085

Spirit of Love

by — Darson Buckner

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

For God hath not given us the **spirit** of fear; but of power, and of **love**, and of a sound mind (II Timothy 1:7, KJV).

For God gives us, not a **spirit** of timidity, but of power and of **love** and of sanity (CV).

I've heard this term, "spirit ... of love," my entire life. What does it even mean, and what does that look like in a person? I surely don't have the answer, but I can imagine and seek out some possibilities. I'm not writing today to give answers, but asking you to take a short journey with me as I search out the matter.



A body builder stresses his body by constantly increasing the weights he lifts in order to get stronger. *Resistance* is what causes his muscles to grow and become stronger.

In I Timothy 4:8, Paul says bodily exercise does profit the body – but it profits only a little. He goes on to say that godliness is profitable for all things.

I Corinthians 13 describes the characteristics of love as patience, kindness, humility, selflessness, forgiveness and perseverance.

In Matthew 5 Jesus tells us to love our enemies. In John 13 He tells His disciples to love each other as He loves them.

After reading these passages, I feel like such a mess-up because I sometimes forget stuff, but then I remember that our Father is in complete control. He causes each of us sometimes to forget these truths for the edification, blessing and teaching of us and those around us.

I don't know anyone who would consider me an enemy, but someone might. I have to trust that their considering me an enemy is surely bringing about God's perfect will for His pleasure. It is my understanding that He tells us this in Revelation 4:11.¹

1. "... for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created" (KJV);

We cannot have a stronger body without some resistance, and *we certainly cannot grow our love without resistance.*

Paul is telling us to grow in godliness. What is godliness? What is God? I John 4:8 says, "God is love."

Sometimes Father may be using you as the "love" and sometimes He may be using you as the "resistance" to bring about His will, which is love.

(see **LOVE**, last page)

"... for Thou dost create all, and because of Thy will they were, and are created" (CV).

Spirit of Love	9101
Animals in God's Story, Chapter 7	9103
Animals in God's Story, Chapter 8	9105
The Key (quote: Darson Buckner	9108





How to Access Our Resources

Our Main Website:

<https://pilkingtonandsons.com>

Daily Email Goodies Signup:

<https://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/emailgoodies.htm>

Bible Student's Notebook Electronic Issues:

<https://www.biblestudentsnotebook.com/volumes.html>

Bible Student's Notebook Article Audios:

<https://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/audios.htm>

Bible Student's Notebook Bound Volumes:

<https://www.biblestudentsnotebook.com/volumes.html>

Bible Student's Notebook Master Index:

<https://www.biblestudentsnotebook.com/bsnindex.html>

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/1424241>

Audios:

<https://www.biblestudentsradio.com/audios.html>

Themed Blogs:

<https://pilkingtonandsons.com/ourblogs.htm>

Bibles:

<https://www.studysshelf.com/bibles.htm>

Books by Clyde Pilkington:

<https://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/clp.htm>

Books by Author:

<https://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/author.htm>

Books by Subject:

<https://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/books.htm>

Newest Book Releases:

<https://pilkingtonandsons.com/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/clyde.pilkington>

Facsimile Project:

<https://www.studysshelf.com/facsimile.htm>

Donate:

<https://pilkingtonandsons.com/donate.htm>

Bible Student's Resource Index:

<https://biblestudentsresourceindex.blogspot.com/>

A Directory of Multi-Media Biblical Resources.

Bible Student's Version:

<https://biblestudentsversion.wordpress.com/>

A Continuing, Composite Translation of Scripture.

Standardized Scripture Terminology:

<https://standardizedscriptureterminology.wordpress.com/>

Clarifying Confusing Scripture Terms.

Online Key:

<https://studysshelf.com/abbreviation-key.pdf>

Definitions of abbreviations/acronyms.

Online Order Form:

<https://studysshelf.com/orderform-studysshelf.pdf>

e-Books:

<https://www.amazon.com/s?k=clyde+Pilkington+kindle>

Study Bible Project:

<https://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/StudyBibleDonations.htm>

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 44, No. 1085 – September 1, 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

Bible Student's Notebook™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

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

bsn@studysshelf.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor-in-Chief

André Sneidar – Executive Editor

Associate Editors: J. Blake Botner, Chris Carnahan, James Fine, Rick Lemons, Steve Martin, De Trefethen, Mark Vogt, Austin Willis

Copyright © 1989-2025 Bible Student's Press™



Animals in God's Story

Chapter 7: All Means All

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

by – Steve Martin & Clyde Pilkington, Jr.

Let's stop dancing around it:

You miss your pet.
You miss your mom.
Your friend. Your brother. That child you never got to grow old with.
The uncle who never went to church.
The neighbor who always helped, but never "prayed the prayer."

And you wonder – deep down, quietly, maybe even secretly:
Are they gone forever?

Religion may have told you yes.
It may have said they're lost. Condemned.
That because they didn't believe the right things, attend the right building, or say the right words, they're in hell.

But let's be blunt:

Hell was invented to control people.
It was built to scare you straight.
To keep you compliant.

To make sure you stayed in line, gave your money, obeyed your leaders, and never asked too many questions.

This is not what God is about.
It is not in His heart.
It is not how He works.

The idea of an eternal torture chamber for anyone who doesn't measure up is the worst lie ever told about the best Being in the universe.

And it's time we said so.

Because here's the truth:
God is better than that.

He's not a cosmic scorekeeper.
He's a Father. A Redeemer. A Restorer.
And He does not lose what He loves.

As in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive (I Corinthians 15:22).

Not some.
Not the worthy.
Not those who got the theology right or attended the right church.

ALL.

That means your grandmother who never fit into the religious mold – she's included.
Your friend who doubted but loved deeply – he's included.



The Supposed Lost Tribes of Israel

A Compilation Exposing British Israelism

Were some of the tribes of Israel ever really lost? Six works spanning over 125 years, by authors: A.A. Isaacs, Harold J. Berry, A.E. Knoch, Charles H. Welch, and Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

108 pages

See [order form](#) under "Compilations."

Your child who never had the chance to “understand” – undeniably included.

And yes – your pet, who never stopped loving you no matter what – that soul is included too.

*God was in Christ, reconciling **the world** to Himself, not counting their sins against them (II Corinthians 5:19).*

This is not wishful thinking. It’s solid ground. It’s the gospel as it was always meant to be – a gospel of inclusion, of restoration, of every last one.

The God Who made all things is restoring all things. The One Who breathed life into the lion and the lamb, the skeptic and the saint, is not throwing any of it away.

You were told that some people are too far gone.
You were told that death is the final word.
You were told that God gives up.

That’s a lie.

Here’s the truth:

He is the Savior of all mankind, especially those who believe (I Timothy 4:10).

Not “only.”
Not “if.”
Just “Savior of all.”

Belief matters. But it’s not the finish line. It’s the doorway.

And whether someone walked through in this life or not – God will not let them go.

When Jesus said, “I will draw **all** to Myself,” He meant it.

When Paul said, “Every knee will bow, every tongue confess,” it wasn’t a threat – it was a promise of healing and recognition and restoration.

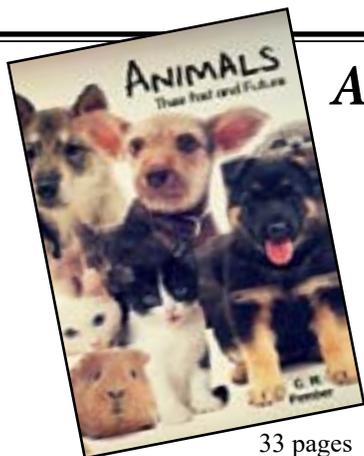
So yes, your pet will live again – because they’re part of creation, and all creation will be set free.

But even more:

So will your people.
The ones you mourn.
The ones that religion said were lost.
The ones who never fit.
The ones who hurt.
The ones who wondered.
The ones who ran.

They’re not gone. They’re not forgotten.
They are held – by the same God Who won’t lose you.

So, when you imagine what’s coming, don’t picture a narrow escape for the few.
Picture a homecoming for all.
A celebration where every soul into whom God ever breathed is made whole again. ([see ANIMALS, last page](#))



33 pages

Animals: Their Past and Future

by — G.H. Pember (1837–1910)

This short, yet insightful Scripture study of the animal kingdom is from the author of the classic, *Earth’s Earliest Ages*. Although he approaches this subject from the erroneous, traditional teaching of the ‘immortality of the soul,’ which he extends to the animal kingdom, he nonetheless aptly dispels other myths and mistranslations that have barred a proper understanding of animals. He correctly contends that both man and animal are *nephesh chaiyah* – “a living soul,” and that resurrection extends to the animal kingdom. In elementary fashion he makes a notable addition to the theme of God’s grand plan of re-

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

demption that includes animals, by what he calls “the Scriptural proof of the immortality of all God’s creation.” He also stresses the theme of the just treatment of animals, proposing that our current dealings with animals are to be vested, like ours, in their glorious future.

Animals in God's Story [Click here to listen to this article](#)

Chapter 8: For the Ones Who Think It's Too Late

by – Steve Martin and Clyde Pilkington

Let's not sugarcoat it.
This world is a mess.

People lie. Cheat. Abuse. Kill.

Nations go to war. Families fall apart. Kids grow up in systems that crush them. Sin abounds. Every day. Everywhere.

And if religion were right, God's grace would run on a timer.

Limited supply. Conditions apply. Better say the right words before time runs out.

But that's not the gospel.

Here's the real story:

Where sin abounded, grace superabounded

(Romans 5:20).

Let that sink in.

Not equaled. Not barely kept up. Superabounded.

God doesn't meet sin with just enough grace – He buries it in grace.

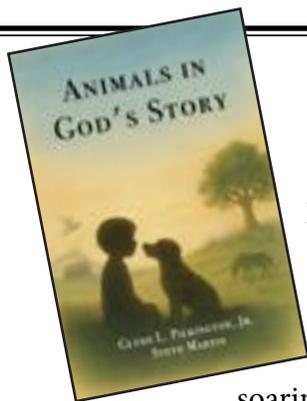
GRACE ISN'T A REACTION – IT'S THE PLAN

Religion taught us that grace is a backup. A last-minute rescue plan after Adam screwed everything up.

But grace was never God's Plan B.

It's who He is. From the beginning. Before the world began. Before the fall.

This wasn't God scrambling to fix a mistake.



Animals in God's Story (Pre-publication notice)

by — Steve Martin & Clyde Pilkington

Have you ever wondered why God made animals? What role do they play in the grand story He's telling? Are they simply background scenery – or is there something more?

Animals in God's Story invites you on a journey through Scripture and nature to discover how animals reflect the heart of their Creator. From loyal dogs to soaring doves, from lions in prophetic visions to a donkey that speaks, this book uncovers the often-overlooked ways animals have always been a part of God's redemptive plan.

You'll explore:

- Why animals were created and what they reveal about God's nature.
- How animals are used in Scripture to teach, warn, comfort and guide.
- The significance of animals in the coming restoration of all things.
- What it means that God's care extends beyond people to all creation.

This book is for anyone who's ever felt a deep connection with a pet, marveled at wildlife, or sensed that animals know more than we give them credit for. It's a gentle, grace-filled reminder that animals are not just part of God's world – they're part of His story.

This was God writing contrast into the script so that grace would shine in all of its unstoppable glory.

Sin didn't surprise God. It served Him.

Not because He condones evil, but because He knew what it would take to show us what love really looks like.

And it looks like this:

A cross, not a courtroom.

A rescue, not a religion.

A Father Who runs *toward* the guilty – not away.

GOD DOESN'T JUST FORGIVE – HE JUSTIFIES

Religion says that you're forgiven – but still guilty.

Still a sinner. Still unworthy. Still needing to prove yourself.

But real grace doesn't just let you off the hook. It puts you on the throne.

Being justified freely by His grace ... (Romans 3:24).

Justified doesn't mean "let off with a warning."

It means declared righteous. Not just clean, but holy. Not just tolerated, but celebrated.

That's what grace does.

It doesn't patch up your mess. It transforms your

identity.

You're not a sinner trying to do better.

You're the righteousness of God in Christ – even on your worst day.

GRACE DOESN'T NEED YOUR PERMISSION

If grace works only when *you* choose it, it's not grace – it's a transaction.

But the truth is:

Grace doesn't wait for your decision. It creates your transformation.

You didn't initiate this. God did.

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself ... (II Corinthians 5:19).

Before you ever asked. Before you believed. Before you were even born.

Grace isn't fragile. It doesn't need your help. It's not earned, invited or sustained by you. It is.

Because God doesn't love reactively – He loves sovereignly.

THERE IS NO "TOO FAR"

We all have names we think are beyond grace. That man who abused you.

That addict who burned every bridge. That leader who lied.



“None Other Things”

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

This is a study of Acts 26:22, “*Saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come.*” It demonstrates that Paul had two ministries and that the end of his first ministry and the beginning of his second was Acts 28.

84 pages

See [order form](#) under “Welch.”

That part of you that still feels disgusting, broken, shameful.

But listen carefully:

There is **no** too far!

- Where sin abounds;
- Where the pain is deepest;
- Where the shame screams the loudest;

Grace is louder.

Not just comfort. Not just pardon – but **restoration**. Full stop.

Because the worst thing you've done – or that's been done to you – isn't greater than what Christ already carried.

He didn't die just for the mild stuff.

He went into the pit. Took it all. Felt it all. And walked out with the keys.

Hell lost. Grace won.

GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING

When you get this – really get it – everything changes.

You stop judging people by how “far gone” they are. You stop pretending that you're earning anything.

You stop fearing God like He's angry, distant or disappointed. You stop begging for what's already yours.

And you start resting. You start loving.

You start laughing again – even when life still hurts – because you *know* how the story ends.

And here's how it ends:

In the ages to come, He will show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us ... (Ephesians 2:7).

Surpassing. Riches. Kindness. Forever.

Grace doesn't run out. It doesn't expire. It only expands.

Because this isn't a story of rules, fear or punishment.

This is a story of superabounding grace.

Grace that sees every sin – every failure – every hidden wound ... And says: “Still mine.”

Still loved.

Still wanted.

Still included.

No fine print. No expiration date. No hell to fear.

Just a God Who overwhelms everything with mercy, and makes all things new.

Even you.

Even them.

Even now.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Grace; Justification; Love; Mercy

Minor: Evil; Rest; Restoration; Salvation of All; Sin



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.”)

ANIMALS (continued from page 9104)

A world without death. Without separation. Without fear.

You'll see your dog again.
And you'll see your child. Your brother. Your friend.

That soul you never stopped grieving?
God never stopped loving.

Because "all" means ALL.

And a God Who starts with love, ends with restoration.

He will not lose a single one.
Not them.
Not you.
Not anyone.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Animals; Creation; Love; Restoration; Salvation of All
Minor: Soul

LOVE (continued from front page)

What should we do with all of this? What are you going to do?

I am going to try to change the way I look at situations when God reminds me.

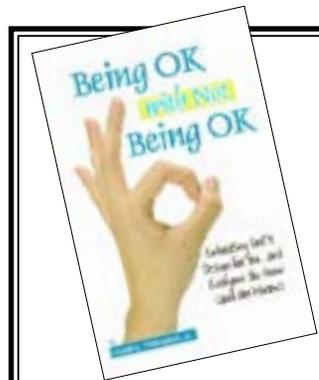
I desire to accept these uncomfortable situations and conversations that I might have with an adversarial personality as strength training, exercising the love that Father has placed within me by being more patient, kind, humble, more selfless, quicker to forgive, and showing grace to no end.

Ultimately, I will respond to situations as He has appointed. He surely has directed each step I take, but my desire will, hopefully, always be in the "spirit of love." **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Believer's Walk; Grace; Love; Sovereignty
Minor: Attitude; Division; Growth; Humility

IF THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE IS "RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH," THEN THE NOTCHES ON THAT KEY THAT ALLOW THE LOCK TO OPEN IS UNDERSTANDING IF THE WALL OF PARTITION IS EITHER UP OR DOWN.
– DARSON BUCKNER



BSN

Being OK with Not Being OK – Embracing God's Design for You ... and Everyone You Know (and Don't Know)

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

For now, you're broken, and you aren't going to be "fixed." Granted, you may have some days that are better than others, some circumstances that seem to indicate that you are "OK," but the wearisome cycle simply will recur.

Thus it is by design – by divine design. Father is bringing you to a place where you are OK with not being OK, where you simply rest in His current purpose and plan in your training and development for that grand and magnificent culmination that He has so wonderfully and skillfully designed especially for you – in your next life.

I have read it completely three times. I always refer back to certain chapters. – FL

When I read it, it was like I could breathe again. Your calming words lead me to a greater realization. – OH

Thank you for this! It brought such peace and rest to me, and brought a greater understanding of God's great love for all His creation. That He alone is in control of everything is mind boggling to say the least! – NM

So fantastic! Such peace!! – Australia