



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 44
Issue 1091

No Creator, No Creation

Bible Student's Courses

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

Course 2: Creation / Unit 1: God the Creator / Lesson 1: No Creator, No Creation

by — Mark D. Vogt

The Heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1).

Since the beginning of time, people have looked up at the night sky and been amazed by what they see. If you step outside on a clear night, you'll see just a tiny part of the Universe – and even that little bit is enough to leave you in awe.



starts with a fact:

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1:1).

Creation is evidence of the Creator. That's enough.

Scripture tells us that the Heavens are not silent. They speak, without words, about God's glory. Psalm 19:1-3 says:

The Heavens declare the glory of God; and the sky above shows His handiwork. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

You don't need to speak any particular language to understand the message of creation; it's universal. The stars, planets, oceans, mountains and all of life on earth quietly announce that there *is* a Creator.

GOD DOESN'T PROVE HIMSELF – HE REVEALS HIMSELF

God never tries to prove that He exists. He doesn't need to. To "prove" His existence would suggest that He's accountable to His creation. But He's not. He is God.

The Bible doesn't start with an argument for God. It

OUR JOB ISN'T TO ARGUE – IT'S TO REFLECT

We're not called to argue with people to convince them that God is real. God doesn't need us to defend Him. He's more than capable of speaking for Himself.

Romans 1:20 says that God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – are clearly seen in creation. Everyone has an inner awareness of God. Those who reject Him have usually been taught *not* to believe.

Unfortunately, many believers get caught up in arguing (see [CREATOR](#), last page)

No Creator, No Creation	9149
The Bloody Truth, Chapter 5: Blood as the Antidote	9151
The Bloody Truth, Chapter 6: Why So Much Death in the Old Covenant?.....	9153
Tidbits of Truth #85	9155
The Privilege of Silence (quote: A.E. Knoch) ..	9156



How to Access Our Resources

Our Main Website:

<https://studysshelf.com/>

Daily Email Goodies Signup:

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

Bible Student's Notebook Electronic Issues:

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

Bible Student's Notebook Article Audios:

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

Bible Student's Notebook Bound Volumes:

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

Bible Student's Notebook Master Index:

<https://studysshelf.com/BSN/BSN-Master-Index.pdf>

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BiblicalResources>

Audios:

<https://studysshelf.com/audios.htm>

Themed Blogs:

<https://studysshelf.com/our-blogs/>

Bibles:

<https://studysshelf.com/product-category/bibles/>

Books by Clyde Pilkington:

<https://studysshelf.com/clp/>

Books by Author:

<https://studysshelf.com/author/>

Books by Subject:

<https://studysshelf.com/subject/>

Newest Book Releases:

<https://studysshelf.com/>

Facebook:

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

Facsimile Project:

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

Donate:

<https://studysshelf.com/donate/>

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.

e-Books:

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

Study Bible Project:

<https://studysshelf.com/studybible donations/>

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 44, No. 1091 – October 13, 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: Bob Alan, Chris Carnahan, James Fine, Rick Lemons, Steve Martin, Marcy Moneypenny, Deverlain L. Trefethen, Mark Vogt

Copyright © 1989-2025 Bible Student's Press™

The Bloody Truth

Chapter 5 – Blood as the Antidote

by – Stephen Hill

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

When we strip away centuries of tradition, translation errors, and faulty theology, the picture that emerges is both simple and staggering.

Blood was God's chosen **antidote** to humanity's two greatest enemies – sin and death. Innocence is the antidote to sin. Life is the antidote to death. Innocent blood represents both.

Just as antivenom in the modern medical industry is made from the very venom that kills, Jesus' human blood – untainted by sin – became the medicine drawn from our race to *cure* our race.

THE TWIN ENEMIES

From Eden onward, two forces have kept mankind alienated from God: 1. Sin – the corruption that twists our nature away from God's ways. 2. Death – the inevitable consequence of that corruption.

Adam's disobedience opened the door to both. Sin took root in humanity's nature, and death became our destiny. Left unchecked, these enemies would forever prevent the union of the Heavens and Earth that God intended from the beginning.



GOD'S REMEDY FORESHADOWED

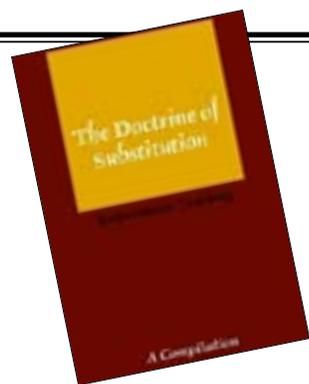
Innocence – freedom from sin – is the only antidote to corruption. Life – unending, untainted vitality – is the only antidote to death. Blood contains both symbols:

- Innocence – The blood of a spotless lamb, goat or bull symbolized sinlessness.
- Life – Scripture says, "*the life of the flesh is in the blood*" (Leviticus 17:11). Blood carries oxygen, the breath of life that God first breathed into man.

When an innocent life was offered and its blood applied to sacred space, it was a tangible sign that sin and death were being pushed back – at least temporarily.

A TEMPORARY SHIELD

Hebrews 9:22 reminds us, "*Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.*" This "*remission*" is not mere forgiveness – it's the setting aside, the putting away of the disease of sin so that death's claim is delayed. Under the Old Covenant, this was a recurring prescription. The medicine worked, but only for a season. The illness would return and had to be dealt



115 pages

The Doctrine of Substitution: An Erroneous Teaching

A Compilation

This is an exposé of Christianity's erroneous doctrine of "Substitution." Though it is widely accepted, it is not the teaching of Scripture. This is a compilation of authors, including: *A.P. Adams, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Andrew J. Jukes, A.E. Knoch.*

"The best book I've read in ten years." – Richard Kirsch

with repeatedly.

THE COST OF LOVE

Year after year, blood was offered. Innocence for sin, life for death. Yet the cure was never permanent – until the day our Savior and Master Physician made it so.

THE FINAL DOSE

When Christ came, He did what the blood of bulls and goats could never do. His life was perfectly innocent – He *never once* sinned. His blood was perfectly alive – untainted by Adam's corruption. When He shed it, He wasn't making a payment to appease wrath; He was applying the antidote once for all. Hebrews 9:26 declares,

Yet now, once, at the conclusion of the eons, for the repudiation of sin through His sacrifice, is He manifest.

The Old Covenant system *covered* sin; Christ's blood **removed** it. The old paradigm *delayed* death's ultimate claim; Christ's resurrection **destroyed** it.

But why suffering? Why such a public, brutal death? The answer lies not in satisfying some abstract "justice system" in the Heavens, but in displaying the Father's love in the most powerful way possible.

Romans 5:8 reminds us that God's love was best demonstrated to us *because* we were yet sinners. Love is most clearly seen in costly sacrifice, and there is no costlier gift than one's own life offered for others (John 15:13).

By enduring unimaginable pain, humiliation and rejection – and still remaining perfectly obedient – Christ revealed both the depth of the Father's love and the worth of His Own Headship over all creation.

The cross was not God's wrath poured out on His Son; it was God's love poured out on the world.

BLOOD ON THE THRONE

In Romans 3:25, Paul uses the Greek word *hilasterion*, which most English Bibles render "propitiation." But in the *Septuagint* (Greek Old Testament), *hilasterion* refers to the "mercy seat" on the Ark of the

(see [ANTIDOTE](#), page 9154)

Check out a **NEW BOOK!**



The Bloody Truth

(Pre-publication notice)

by — Stephen Hill

Blood runs like a crimson thread through the pages of Scripture – from the first sacrifice in Eden to the death of Christ. But what if its purpose has been misunderstood for centuries? What if blood was never about appeasing a wrathful God, but about healing, cleansing and reversing the curse of sin and death?

The Bloody Truth uncovers one of the Bible's most profound and shocking reversals: that God Himself supplied the antidote to humanity's greatest disease.

Through vivid storytelling and careful attention to Scripture, this book reveals how the sacrifices of old pointed, not to divine anger, but to a divine cure. It shows why Christ's blood was poured out, not to satisfy vengeance, but to restore life, reconcile creation, and draw us near to God.

This is not another book of theological jargon. It is a bold journey into the heart of God's plan—a plan that overturns human assumptions about punishment, atonement, and the very nature of salvation. If you've ever wrestled with questions about why blood is so central in the Bible, or if you've longed for a picture of God that is consistent with love, justice, and grace, this book will open your eyes to a truth both ancient and revolutionary.

Pre-Publication Sale

The Bloody Truth

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

Chapter 6 – Why So Much Death in the Old Covenant?

by – Stephen Hill

For modern readers, the Old Testament's sacrificial system can feel unsettling. The sheer scale of animal death – lambs, goats, bulls, birds – over centuries is hard to imagine. And yet for ancient Israel, these sacrifices were not grotesque spectacles; they were the rhythms of life, the visible reminders that life is sustained only through death.

From Eden to Calvary, God has been teaching one unshakable truth: life always comes through death. This reality was so obvious to all ancient peoples that every civilization of old, apart from Israel, performed numerous sacrifices to appease their gods, and often in much more violent, grotesque ways.

DEATH FROM THE BEGINNING

This principle appears as early as Genesis 3. After Adam and Eve sinned, God clothed them in garments of animal skin (Genesis 3:21). The text doesn't describe the moment, but it's inescapable: an animal's life was taken so that humanity could be covered and protected.

From the start, God wove the reality of unavoidable death into the story – not punishment in the PSA sense, but life given to preserve life. Every sacrifice in Israel's history echoed that first act of covering.

A RELENTLESS SYSTEM

The Old Covenant sacrificial system was relentless by design. Daily offerings. Weekly Sabbaths. Monthly festivals. Annual holy days. And towering over them all, the yearly Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies with blood – first for himself, then for the people, and even for the sacred space and its items.

During major feasts, the numbers could be staggering throughout the land, as we've previously seen.

Imagine the sight. The sound. The smell. There was no escaping the fragility of life or the necessity of sacrifice, and the ancient Israelites were keenly aware of this every second of every day. The realities of sin, death and the need for sacrifice simply could not be ignored.

WHY GOD REQUIRED IT

The purpose was not morbid fascination. It was teaching. Through repetition, God was impressing the truth upon His people that sin and death defile not only people, but everything in their sphere.

Sacrifices cleansed sacred objects, the altar, even the Tabernacle itself – not because these items had "sinned," but because death's contamination had touched them through the people who worshiped there. In many cases, those entering to offer or worship weren't even aware that they had been contaminated in some way. This constant cleansing reminded Israel that death's reach was total, and only God could push it back.

And almost all is being cleansed in blood according to the law, and apart from bloodshedding is coming no pardon (Hebrews 9:22).

POINTING BEYOND THEMSELVES

The system was never meant to be the final answer. It was a shadow: a foreshadowing of the *true* Antidote. Each lamb, goat or bull was an acted-out prophecy of the One to come.

When Christ arrived, He stepped into a world where the people already understood (deeply) that life came through death. But this time, the life offered was not from the animal realm under man's dominion. It was from the human realm itself, offered by the only Man Who had ever lived without sin. ▶

THE COSMIC AUDIENCE

Just as with the plagues in Egypt, the message wasn't only for humanity. The sacrificial system broadcast a lesson to the entire spiritual realm: sin and death will not have the last word. Every drop of innocent blood spilled in obedience to God was a declaration of His ultimate plan – a plan that would culminate in a sacrifice so pure, so complete, that it would end the need for all others.

Chapter 6 Key Takeaways

- ◆ *The relentless sacrificial system taught that life only comes through death.*
- ◆ *Sacrifices cleansed everything contaminated by death's reach.*
- ◆ *These rituals pointed forward to Christ, who ended the cycle.*

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Blood; Death; Sacrifice

Minor: Old Covenant; Sin

ANTIDOTE *(continued from page 9152)*

Covenant – the place of God's presence and cleansing. Paul's point is not that Christ appeased wrath, but that He became the new mercy seat where reconciliation occurs.

In the Tabernacle, the "mercy seat" atop the Ark was sprinkled with blood to protect the people from alienation. In the heavenly reality, Christ brought His Own blood – not to bribe the Father, but to make the Heavens and the Earth fit for union once more.

The "bloody truth" is not about divine anger being satisfied. It's about divine love being magnified. The antidote has been applied, the cure has been secured,

and death's days are numbered.

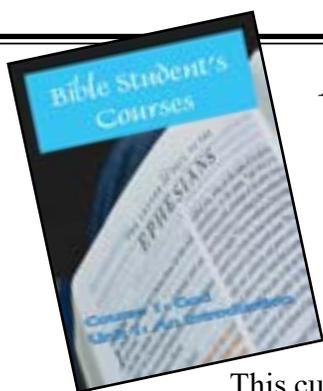
Chapter 5 Key Takeaways

- ◆ *Blood embodies innocence and life – the antidote to sin and death.*
- ◆ *Old Covenant sacrifices applied the cure temporarily.*
- ◆ *Christ's blood applied the cure once for all, permanently.* **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Antidote; Blood; Christ; Death; God; Love; Sacrifice; Sin

Minor: Faithfulness; Mercy Seat; Old Covenant; Suffering



Bible Student's Courses

TRAINING TODAY'S ECCLESIA
FOR TOMORROW'S CELESTIAL ASSIGNMENTS.

A concise, progressive curriculum, designed to address the many gaps in Scripture education, assisting believers in acquiring the necessary comprehension to transition from old religious paradigms toward a true biblical framework of understanding.

This curriculum is available through eBook courses, or as print material. Each course is divided into units containing detailed multimedia resources, with each individual lesson providing quizzes, allowing students to test their knowledge as well as providing documentation for recognition of completion.

Course 1, God: Units 1-5

The first 5 units of course 1. 5-Unit Set, with Unit Resources and Quiz links, 52 lessons, 279 pages, paperback only:

Unit 1, An Introduction

Unit 3, The Love of God

Unit 5, The Attributes of God.

Unit 2, The Sovereignty of God

Unit 4, God as Father



Tidbits of Truth #85

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

I suppose that all who do biblical research wish at times that they could set forth fragmentary and unfinished ideas in printed form without people thinking that a final and definitive conclusion has now been chiseled into imperishable granite which shall stand forever as the final word on the subject dealt with. Any such conclusion will be far from correct. — Otis Sellers (1901-1992)

Eagles and Crows

When crows attack eagles, the eagles don't fight back. Crows pose no real danger, so eagles don't waste their energy. Crows are literally not worth the trouble.

When a crow sits on an eagle's back and annoyingly peck at its neck, the eagle stays calm. It doesn't flap. It doesn't fight. It doesn't waste its energy. It simply does one thing concerning the nuisance: *it rises*.

The *higher* the eagle soars the thinner the air becomes, and the crow can't handle the altitude.

Eventually, the crow gasps, loses strength and falls off. Not because the eagle attacked, but simply because the eagle *ascended*.

Let the crows ride your back. Let them peck. You don't have to respond. Just keep going *higher*. They can't

follow you indefinitely. Your growth will suffocate their noise. So don't engage. *Elevate!*

— Adapted Anecdote

Repudiating Institutional Christianity

It was sometime after A.D. 70 that a new alignment of religions appeared in the Roman Empire. This was called “Christianity.” It was an amalgam of Greek philosophy, Mithraic ritualism, and religious elements from many sources. It called itself the “Christian Church,” and it was far removed from the simple fellowship of the first followers of Jesus Christ. It did not come out of Him, since it was built by men who today are universally acknowledged to have been “the church fathers.” Fifteen of these are recognized in ecclesiastical history between 70 A.D. and 440 A.D. Ten of them are commonly called “the Greek fathers,” and five are called “the



64 pages

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.

Latin fathers.” It was these men who produced from many sources the religion of “Christendom,” which developed into a thousand-and-one companies, a great myriad of ceremonies, rituals, acts of exterior worship, all of which together pass for “Christianity” today.

There are those who say that one is no part of Christ unless he is in some way a part of this conglomeration. This we repudiate. And in defense we would point to the truth declared by Paul in Colossians 2:8-23. This

portion when honestly translated and understood sets forth religionless ... splendor. It removes from the believer in Christ every vestige of religion both human and divine, and declares without equivocation: “*And you are complete in Him.*”

— Dan Sheridan

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [Eagles and Crows:] Antagonist [Repudiating Institutional Christianity:] Christianity

CREATOR (*continued from front page*)

ments, especially around evolution. They think that defending creation is the same as defending God. But when we focus on “winning” debates, we often lose sight of our real calling: to reflect God’s glory, not to fight over it.

The Adversary (called “*the god of this age*” in II Corinthians 4:4) tries to blind people to the truth. One of his tools today is education – especially theories like evolution that explain away the need for a Creator. But no theory can answer the ultimate question: *Where did everything come from in the first place?*

FAITH COMES FROM GOD – NOT ARGUMENTS

Here’s a powerful truth: ***Faith is a gift.***

Philippians 1:29 says that it’s been *granted* to us to believe. Romans 12:3 says that God gives each person the measure of faith. That means faith isn’t something we talk someone into – it’s something that God gives.

So instead of trying to prove God, we simply live as those who know Him. We reflect His truth, His love, and His grace (joy). We can talk about our faith, answer questions, and share what we believe – but we don’t argue to “win.” That’s not the point.

GOD CREATED IT ALL – AND THAT SETTLES IT

The Bible makes it clear: God created everything. That’s the foundation. He didn’t just create it – He sustains it – He is the divine Energy of the Universe.

The complexity of life, the order of the Universe, and the beauty of creation all point to a powerful and wise Creator.

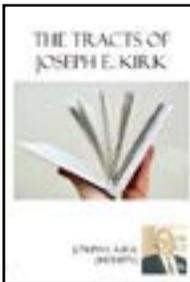
So, when someone asks, “Where did everything come from?” – the answer is simple: **God.**

We don’t need to prove it. We just believe it – and live like it’s true. **BSN**

Topics:

Major: Creation; Creator; Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1-3

Minor: Faith; Sovereignty



The Tracts of Joseph E. Kirk
 by — Joseph E. Kirk (1903-1974)
 94 pages
 Kirk was gifted at condensing Scripture truths into short understandable presentations. This is a collection of his widely circulated tracts. They are great learning tools of truth.



WE RESERVE THE PRIVILEGE OF SILENCE WHEN WE ARE SLANDERED BY MEANS OF FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS.
 — A.E. KNOCH (1874-1965)