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The Herald of His Joy

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

Volume 44
Issue 1096

Firstborn: Exposing the Myth of Pre-existence

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(A Synoptical Examination)

Chapter 1 (of 10): A Shifting Foundation – Rethinking Jesus' Beginning

by – Steve Martin, Compilation Editor

For centuries, most of Christianity has stood on the assumption that Jesus existed long before Bethlehem – that He lived eternally in Heaven and then simply stepped into human flesh for a short time. It's a belief that has become so ingrained in tradition that many never stop to ask: Is that really what Scripture says?



◆ A Real Human Sacrifice:

If Jesus truly began His existence at conception, then His death was not a divine performance but the ultimate act of trust. Hebrews tells us that He prayed with "loud cries and tears" and learned obedience through what He suffered (Hebrews 5:7-8). That makes sense only if He was fully human – facing fear, pain and temptation – and still obeying. Philippians 2 says that He "humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death." That's not a play-acted humility. That's real.

When we slow down and read carefully, another picture begins to emerge. A picture that doesn't diminish Jesus in the least, but actually makes His story more powerful, His sacrifice more meaningful, and His example more human. Scripture shows us that Jesus' story begins not in eternity past, but in the womb of Mary. His authority doesn't rest on pre-existence but on His faithful life, His obedient death, and His resurrection to glory.

This isn't a small tweak to theology – it reshapes everything about how we understand salvation, God's character, and even our own destiny.

Why This Matters

Some will brush this off as "splitting hairs." But this isn't theological nitpicking. The stakes are high. What we believe about Jesus' origin changes how we see His sacrifice, how we understand God, and how we live out faith.

◆ One God, One Lord:

Seeing Jesus as the human Messiah keeps intact the Bible's uncompromising monotheism. "I am the Lord, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:5). Scripture never blurs the line between the one Creator God and His chosen Messiah. Paul captures this perfectly: "Yet for us there is one God, the Father ... and one Lord, Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 8:6).

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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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No confusion. No overlap.

◆ A High Priest Who Gets It:

Hebrews 4:15 says that Jesus was “*tempted in every way as we are.*” If He were really an omnipotent deity disguised as human, that statement rings hollow. But if He truly grew in wisdom (Luke 2:52), faced limitations, and had to trust God the way we do – then He really does understand us. He becomes the prototype of what God intends for all humanity: the first glorified human blazing the trail for us to follow.

◆ The Faith of Christ:

This perspective highlights something often ignored – “*the faith of Christ.*” He didn’t come armed with divine certainty about how everything would turn out. He walked by faith. He read the Scriptures. He trusted His Father. He obeyed in the dark. If He had already known every outcome because He pre-existed, then faith would have been meaningless. But He did trust – and that trust is what makes His victory astonishing.

How We’re Going to Approach This

The traditional view is strong and deeply rooted. To re-examine it, we need both courage and humility.

- Guided by God, Grounded in Scripture:

We ask God for wisdom, but we also commit to reading Scripture carefully, not cherry-picking verses out of context. We’ll let the Bible interpret itself, taking into account the language, culture and setting.

- Truth Fits Together:

Truth never contradicts itself. If verses clash, the problem is with our interpretation, not with God. Scripture is a puzzle where every piece has a place – and it all fits when we see it clearly.

- Humility Over Assumption:

We all bring baggage – traditions, assumptions and biases. Those have to be named and laid down. Otherwise, we’re just defending what we’ve always heard.

- Breaking Free from Tradition:

The hardest obstacle is tradition. For many, the church councils and creeds carry more weight than the Scriptures themselves. But if we’re going to follow truth, we need to read out of the Word instead of reading into it. Tradition can blind us – but Scripture can open our eyes.

- The Berean Way:

Like the Bereans in Acts 17, we test everything against the Scriptures. And we do it in love. Be-
(see [FIRSTBORN](#), last page)



180 pages

Was Jesus Christ Alive Before His Life on Earth Began? A Critical Look at the Supposed Preexistence of Christ

by — Aaron Welch

Paul was exact in his statement that “*there is one God, the Father ... and one Lord, Jesus Christ*” (I Corinthians 8:6, *Concordant*). The only absolute God is the Father, and He has no equals. The Lord Jesus Christ is a part of His creation; the Spirit is an expression meaning God’s spirit.

This exceptional work embraces the truth of “*the man Christ Jesus*” (I Timothy 2:5), exposing the traditional orthodox position known as the “pre-existence of Christ,” a creed vitally connected with Christendom’s teaching of the Trinity. The “pre-existence of Christ” does great dishonor to both the Father and His Son, diminishing the true glory that belong uniquely to each.

The Bloody Truth

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

Chapter 11 – The Blood that Speaks a Better Word

by – Stephen Hill

The writer of Hebrews (likely Paul) makes a fascinating statement in 12:24 – one that is often read quickly but rarely pondered: “*the blood of sprinkling which is speaking better than Abel.*”



– not by condemning us, but by *healing* us. The Father did not require the brutal death of His Son in order to vent His wrath; He required the offering of His Son so that sin and death themselves could be confronted and undone.

Abel’s blood, spilled unjustly by his brother Cain, “*cried out*” to God from the ground for justice. It was the call of a wrong demanding to be made right. But Christ’s blood, though also spilled unjustly, speaks of something entirely different. His blood does not cry for retribution; it declares victory. It does not accuse; it cleanses. It does not demand vengeance; it announces reconciliation. Recall that Jesus asked His Father to forgive His executioners *even as He was dying* (Luke 23:34).

That confrontation was not waged with the tools of men or the violence of celestial armies. It was fought through perfect obedience, perfect faith, and perfect love.

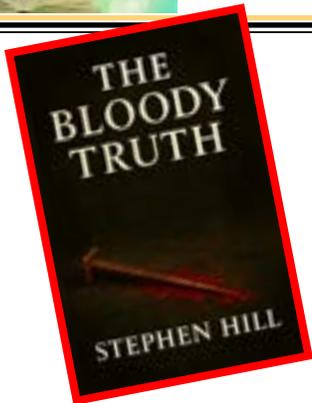
WHY BLOOD, AND NOT SOME OTHER SIGN?

God could have chosen any number of symbols to represent cleansing, life and restoration. He could have made His covenant through water, through precious metals, through rare stones. But He chose blood, and He chose it deliberately.

This is the better word: that God Himself has acted to remove every barrier between Himself and humanity



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.

Blood is life. Leviticus 17:11 (again) tells us plainly, “*The life of the flesh is in the blood.*” To pour out one’s blood is to pour out one’s life. When Christ shed His blood, He was not merely suffering – He was offering His life in totality, holding nothing back.

In the garden, Adam’s sin brought death into the human race, severing the original lifeline between God and man. Every human born after him inherited that mortality and that corruption. The antidote had to address both problems at once. Only a perfect, sinless, human life – poured out willingly – could restore what was lost.

THE CHAMPION’S VOICE

The sports analogy still serves us well here. A team’s star player doesn’t merely represent the team – he embodies its strength, its hope, and its skill. When he wins, the team wins. And our Champion is unlike any other, because He did what no human in history could do: He faced the full power of sin, death and the forces of wickedness and emerged without blemish.

His blood, then – along with His resurrection – becomes the evidence of victory. It is not the currency of a transaction between an angry God and guilty humans; it is the trophy of a battle fought and won. The Father displays it before the Universe as proof that His plan has succeeded, that the separation has been healed, and that the age-old enemies are defeated.

SPEAKING TO THE COSMOS

We’ve seen already that the Exodus plagues were

as much about declaring God’s supremacy to the spiritual powers as they were about freeing the Hebrews from Egypt. The cross operates in the same arena.

When Christ’s blood was shed, the Adversary and powers of darkness were put to open shame. The rulers and authorities in the unseen realm were forced to witness the very thing they could neither anticipate nor undo – a man, truly human, conquering every temptation, every assault, and every fear, then laying down His life willingly in obedience to the Father.

That blood is not silent. It is a proclamation ringing through both Heaven and Earth: “*The Most High reigns, and His purpose shall stand.*”

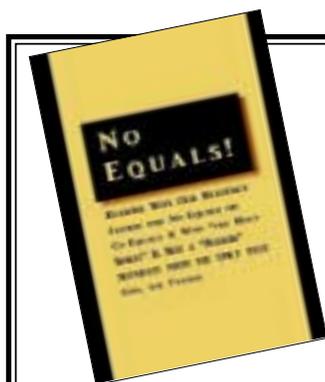
THE BETTER WORD FOR US

For believers, the “*better word*” of Christ’s blood is deeply personal. It tells us that we are no longer defined by Adam’s failure but by our Savior’s triumph. It assures us that the diseases of sin and death have a cure and that the cure has already been administered.

It also invites us into confidence. If our human Hero has already overcome the worst that our enemies could throw at Him, what remains that could separate us from God’s love? The Apostle Paul beautifully captures the answer to this question at the end of Romans 8 where he declares,

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor messengers, nor sovereignties, nor the present, nor what is impending, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, will

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



56 pages

No Equals!

Reasons Why Our Heavenly Father Has NO Equals or Co-Equals, & Why “the Holy Spirit” Is Not a “Person” Separate from the Only True God, the Father

by — Christian Educational Services

Two powerful titles in one book, both exposing the critical error of the traditional orthodox position of the Trinity. This very simple and clear presentation is a must-read.

All Back to God

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

Bible Student's Courses

Course 2: Creation / Unit 1: God the Creator / Lesson 6: All Back to God

by — Mark D. Vogt

Seeing that out of Him and through Him and back to Him is all: to Him be the glory for the eons! (Romans 11:36).

We've explored two great truths from **Romans 11:36** so far:

- All is out of God;
- All is through God.

Now we come to the **final part** of the Divine Cycle:

... and all is **to Him**.

This is the conclusion of the cycle – and what makes it a **true cycle**. Everything that begins in God and flows through God is returning **back to God**. That's the whole story. And it's a **glorious** one!

THE END IS THE BEGINNING

In a cycle, what starts at the beginning must return to the starting point – or it isn't a cycle at all. God is writing a story that starts **with Himself**, moves **through His creation**, and returns **back to Him**, complete and restored.

Why does it need to return?

Because God is not just the *source* – He's also the *goal*. Everything exists **for Him**, to reveal Who He is, and to give Him glory. That's why the final part of Romans 11:36 says, "*To Him be the glory.*"

THE JOURNEY: ESTRANGEMENT TO RESTORATION

Part of God's plan involved **estrangement**. He planned creation to become alienated from Him – not because He lost control, but that we would **need Him, long for Him, and love Him freely**.



But since He created the estrangement, **He alone is responsible** for bringing everything back together. He doesn't ask us to fix it. He already has the plan in place to do it **Himself**.

This includes:

- Restoring creation;
- Reconciling every person;
- Reuniting all the Heavens and the Earth;
- Making His love known and experienced by all.

HE'S BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER IN CHRIST

In **Ephesians 1:9-10**, Paul describes this restoration as the moment when God will,

... *Head up all in the Christ – both that which is in the Heavens and that on the Earth (CV).*

Everything – seen and unseen – will come under Christ's Headship. But here's the beautiful part: Christ isn't doing this **alone**. As members of **His Body**, we are **included** in this plan.

- When **Christ reigns**, we reign.
- When **He reconciles the Heavens**, we participate.
- When **He brings everything back to God**, we are part of the process.

We *aren't* just watching from the sidelines – we are **co-workers**, joint members of His Body, **the complement of Christ**.

A FUTURE THAT'S ALREADY GUARANTEED

This grand moment is beautifully pictured in Philip-
pians 2:9-11:

... that in the name of Jesus every knee should be bowing – celestial, terrestrial, and subterranean – and every tongue should be acclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord, **for the glory of God the Father.**

Not some knees – **Every** knee.
Not some tongues – **Every** tongue.

This is not about *forced* submission. This is **joyful recognition**. When creation sees Christ as He truly is, everyone will bow in worshipful awe and confess joyfully that He is Lord.

And all of it will be **for the glory of God the Father.**

GOD'S RADICAL, UNBELIEVABLE PLAN

Let's be honest: No human could ever come up with a plan like this.

- All things *beginning* in God.
- All things *flowing* through God.
- All things *returning* to God.
- And we – His own creation – becoming His complement – **filling what is lacking in Christ**, Who fills everything.

It sounds too big, too bold, too beautiful – but it's the truth, written down in God's love letters: **Ephesians,**

Colossians and Philippians.

REJOICE IN THE SECRET

The world looks chaotic. From a human perspective, it can feel like everything is falling apart.

But you know the secret:

It's not falling apart – it's coming together.

And you're part of it.

God has let a few in on this glorious mystery – not to make us proud, but to give us **peace, joy and confidence** as we wait for the fullness of the cycle to complete.

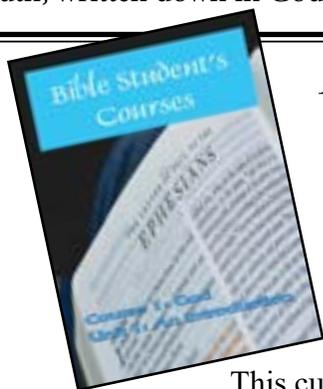
All is out of Him.
All is through Him.
All is back to Him.

That's the Divine Cycle. That's the Gospel of Grace. That's your future – and the future of all creation. **BSN**

Topics:

Major: Creation; Divine Cycle; Love; Reconciliation; Restoration

Minor: Colossians; Consummation; Ephesians; Peace; Philippians



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Unit 4, God as Father

FIRSTBORN (continued from page 9193)

cause how we treat each other matters even more than the doctrine we defend. We're not out to win arguments but to walk in truth, grace and peace.

What's Ahead

This chapter is just the beginning. We're going to take the traditional proof-texts, one by one, and lay them out in the open. We'll look at them in their context, in their original language, and in the flow of God's big story. Piece by piece, we'll see if the traditional picture

BLOODY (continued from page 9195)

be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The blood speaks, and its "voice" is not one of fear, but of certainty. Not of dread, but of hope. Not of vengeance, but of grace.

Chapter 11 Key Takeaways

- ◆ Abel's blood cried for justice; Christ's blood proclaims reconciliation.
- ◆ Blood was chosen as God's symbol because it is life itself.
- ◆ The cross announced victory to both the earthly and cosmic realms. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Blood; Death; Love; Victory
Minor: Antidote; Grace; Reconciliation

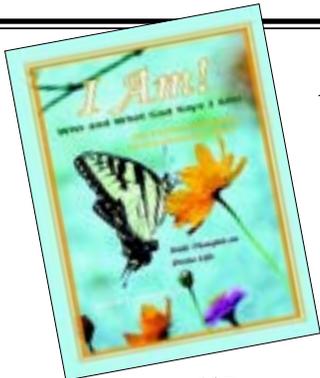
holds up – or if Jesus' beginning is more stunningly human than we've been taught to believe. **BSN**

Note: *Much of the research and insight reflected in this article draws on a series of discussion videos created by Liam McAllister, Richard Golko, Peter Meye and Mikael Solheim. Their thoughtful conversations and careful examination of Scripture provided the foundational material from which these chapters were developed.*

TOPICS:

Major: Christ's Faith; Jesus Christ (Pre-existence of); Prototype, Christ the Divine; Truth
Minor: Tradition

**TO THINK THAT
 EVERY GOOD THING
 AND EVERY EVIL THING
 IS NOT INTENTIONAL OR WAS
 NOT IN GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN
 IS TO IMPLY HE IS A MISTAKE-
 PRONE GOD, JUST HAPHAZARD-
 LY WINGING HIS WAY THROUGH
 THIS AGE WHILE EVERYTHING
 AROUND HIM SPIRALS
 OUT OF CONTROL.**
 – DARSON BUCKNER



107 pages

I Am! Who and What God Says I Am!

The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind; Daily Thoughts on Divine Life

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

People are always talking about their attempts to discover their true selves – of trying to “find themselves.” The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ needs to find out who they *really* are. This doesn't need to be such a difficult search. All that is really needed is a careful look at the Scriptures, and a simple faith in the words of who and what God says we are. God knows who we are; all we need to do is to *believe Him*. This book catalogs the Divine Record of who and what God says that you are. It is a short encyclopedia of faith – the truth about you. It is the truth about you, simply because it is *God* Who has said it. God has spoken these truths concerning you – the *real* you. Believe His record! Refuse to be the shell of a person, pushed into a mold of Adamic conformity. Be the real you that God has uniquely designed you to be. Refuse to be bullied out of your divinely designed identity that our Father has given you.