



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy

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

Volume 45
Issue 1107

The Bloody Truth

by – Stephen Hill

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Chapter 22: PSA “Plain Reading” Verses

Many readers have been taught to see Penal Substitutionary Atonement everywhere in Scripture. But when we take a closer look at the key “proof texts,” a different picture emerges – one that harmonizes with the antidote model and causes PSA to crumble.



His victory, not benefiting from a legal penalty swap.

Romans 3:25 – “Christ Jesus, Whom God purposed for a Propitiatory shelter, through faith in His blood ...”

Common Reading: Christ’s blood appeased the wrath of God so that He could forgive us.

Isaiah 53:5 – “He was pierced for our transgressions ...”

Common Reading: Jesus was punished in our place for the crimes we committed.

Antidote Understanding: The Hebrew words (*meholal* – “pierced” and *macha* – “crushed”) emphasize the suffering that Messiah endured *because of*, not instead of, our sins. He bore the consequences of sin and death into Himself to heal us: “*by His wounds we are healed.*” This is medical, not courtroom imagery. The point is remedy, not retribution.

Antidote Understanding: The Greek word *hilasterion* refers to the “mercy seat,” the covering of the Ark where blood was sprinkled. Paul’s Jewish readers would not have thought of an appeasing anger but of God’s presence being preserved among His people through cleansing. Christ is the true mercy seat – our living meeting place with God where sin and death are removed, not wrath satisfied.

Hebrews 9:22 – “Apart from bloodshedding is coming no pardon ...”

2 Corinthians 5:21 – “For the One not knowing sin, He makes to be a sin offering ...”

Common Reading: God cannot forgive unless someone is punished by death.

Common Reading: God treated Christ as sin itself so that He could punish Him instead of us.

[\(continued on page 9281\)](#)

Antidote Understanding: The Greek says that Christ was made a sin offering (*hamartia* is used this way in the Septuagint over 50 times). Paul is not saying that Christ literally became “sin,” but that His life was offered as the ultimate cleansing sacrifice, the antidote to humanity’s corruption. The result? We “*become the righteousness of God in Him*” – sharing

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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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Antidote Understanding: The writer is describing the Mosaic covenant, not laying down a universal principle. Under that system, almost everything had to be purified with blood because death and sin contaminated it. The focus is cleansing, not punishment. In fact, Hebrews itself admits exceptions (“almost all things,” 9:22), showing that God allowed non-bloody sacrifices too. The point is not payment, but purification – foreshadowing Christ’s once-for-all antidote.

Galatians 3:13 – “Christ reclaims us from the curse of the law, becoming a curse for our sakes ...”

Common Reading: Christ was cursed by God instead of us, taking our punishment.

Antidote Understanding: Paul is quoting Deuteronomy 21:23 about someone hanged on a tree being “under a curse.” In Jewish thought, this was the shameful fate of one rejected by men – not God. Christ entered the place of human rejection, carrying the weight of sin’s curse to its end. By doing so, He broke the curse – not by being cursed of the Father, but by overturning sin in humility as a man.

John 3:36 – “He who is stubborn as to the Son shall not be seeing life, but the indignation of God is remaining on him.”

Common Reading: God’s anger is burning against

unbelievers until Christ takes it away.

Antidote Understanding: “Wrath” here (Greek, *orgē*) is not an emotion in God but the present experience of death and corruption under sin’s reign. God’s “wrath” is actually best understood as intense passion to restore and save what is estranged and lost. Israelites who rejected their Messiah remained under death’s power, alienated from the life that God provided. Wrath is descriptive of our condition outside of Christ, not prescriptive of the Father’s attitude.

PSA insists that these verses show wrath, penalty and punishment, whereas the Antidote lens *proves* that they show suffering love, cleansing sacrifice, and life-restoring victory.

Christ’s blood was not the currency of divine vengeance. It was the cure applied to humanity’s deepest disease.

Chapter 22 Key Takeaways

- *Blood in Scripture is protection, not payment.*
- *Christ was our Champion, not a substitute absorbing wrath.*
- *The antidote restores humanity and creation under one Head.*

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Antidote; Blood; Champion; Death; Substitution
Minor: Life; Love; Restoration; Sacrifice; Suffering



Check out a **NEW BOOK!**



In the Super-Heavens – “En Tois Epouranios”

(A Compilation)

Our hope and calling are located in the Super-Heavens, they are merely “heavenly” in nature and character. Like Christ Himself, Who “ascended up far above all Heavens,” our destiny is an actual superior location (Ephesians 4:10). Our expectation and vocation are not merely “among” celestial beings in position, but literally located “in Super-heavenly realms,” or simply “in the Super-heavenlies.” This book provides Scripture evidence that the hope and calling of the One Body of the Secret Administration is not merely positional, but is cosmography located “where Christ sits on the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1).

The Bloody Truth

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

Chapter 23 – The Bloody Truth in Full View

by – Stephen Hill

We began this journey with a question that most believers never pause to ask: Why did God require blood? We've followed the answer from Egypt's altars to Calvary's hill, from the shadows of animal sacrifice to the blazing reality of Christ's offering. And the picture now stands complete.

BLOOD AS THE ANTIDOTE

From the first lambs in Egypt to the Lamb in Jerusalem, blood was never about appeasing a wrathful God – it was about defeating the enemies of sin and death to restore union. Sin was not a moral ledger entry to erase; it was a disease to be eradicated. Death was not a symbolic concept; it was the real separation between God and man. The antidote – life poured out – was the only cure.

The ark was sealed with pitch to keep Noah's family safe through judgment. Israel's doorframes were marked to shield them from the destroyer. In every

case, blood or its symbol stood as protection, not payment. And in the ultimate case, Christ's own blood didn't bribe God – it crushed the barrier forever.

NOT PENAL, NOT SUBSTITUTIONARY, NOT MERE ATONEMENT

The centuries-old teaching of penal substitutionary atonement tried to explain the cross in terms of punishment, replacement and reparation. But the bloody truth is simpler and deeper: Christ was our human Hero, not our substitute. He did not take the Father's blows in our place; He overcame the enemies we could not, so that we might share His victory.

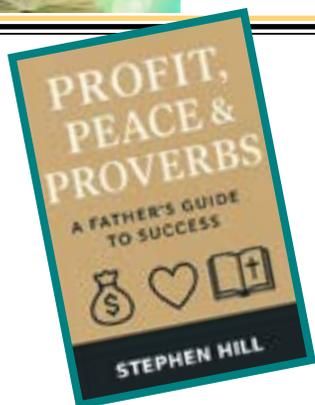
He wasn't acting *instead* of us – He was acting *for* us, with us in view, carrying humanity's destiny on His own faithful shoulders.

THE CHAMPION WE NEEDED

For Christ to be our true Champion, He had to be

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

Check out a **NEW BOOK!**



Profit, Peace & Proverbs: A Father's Guide to Success

by — Steve Martin & Clyde Pilkington

Profit, Peace & Proverbs: A Father's Guide to Success is a practical, pocket-sized manual for building a stable, joyful life. Written with warmth and wisdom, it blends biblical truth with everyday examples to provide a roadmap for money, relationships and character. Inside, you'll learn how to:

- Master money basics and avoid crippling debt
- Build positive cash now, savings, and income streams
- Choose friends, mentors and a spouse wisely
- Handle conflict with grace and patience
- Raise children who are respectful and stable
- Live simply, invest early, and build long-term peace

Whether you're just starting out or need a reset, this book offers encouragement, practical steps, and timeless principles that work in any season of life. Rooted in Scripture and real-life lessons, it's a father's heartfelt gift for those ready to walk a wiser path.

Creation and Polytheism

Bible Student's Courses

Course 2: Creation / Unit 2: Creation Repudiates Satanic Philosophies / Lesson 5: Creation and Polytheism

by — Mark D. Vogt

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

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

So far in this unit, we've seen how **atheism** and **agnosticism** serve as deceptions used by the Adversary to keep people from knowing the true God. In this lesson, we'll explore another strategy: **polytheism** – the belief in **many gods**.



Polytheism is not just an ancient idea. It is still deeply rooted in cultures around the world today and has shaped the spiritual outlook of billions of people across history.

WHAT IS POLYTHEISM?

Polytheism is the belief that **multiple gods exist**, each with specific roles, powers and functions.

This belief system has appeared in many cultures throughout history:

- The **Greek and Roman gods** – Zeus, Athena, Apollo, Poseidon, etc.

- The **Hindu pantheon** – which includes **over 300 million deities**, with **Brahman** as the supreme force.

- The **Egyptian gods** – each tied to forces in nature, like Ra (sun), Isis (motherhood), and Osiris (death).

- The **animistic deities** of tribal peoples around the world, including Native American and African spiritual systems.

In polytheism, **different gods serve different needs**. If you want rain, you pray to a rain god. If you want victory in war, you seek the favor of a war god. Every god has a “job description,” and the worshiper must figure out how to please them.

WHY POLYTHEISM MAKES SENSE TO FALLEN MAN

To the human mind – especially in ancient times – polytheism **made sense**. People saw the complexity

(see [BSC, page 9285](#))

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The Bloody Truth

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

Chapter 24 – Living Proof of the Antidote

by – Stephen Hill

The story that we've traced is not just a theological framework – it is the truest story in the Universe.

And it's not over. Our Lord and Savior's victory is still unfolding through time, and *you* are part of its living proof.

MARKED BY HIS BLOOD

The Hebrew homes in Egypt bore visible marks of blood, declaring their trust in the Most High and separating them from the fate of Egypt's gods and their worshippers.

In a greater way, believers today bear an unseen but undeniable mark: the life of God's spirit within them. That mark says, "This one has passed from death to life."

You are no longer a hostage to sin's disease or death's dominion. The antidote is in you, and its effect is unstoppable. Indeed, the very spirit of God lives and operates within us.

CHAMPIONED, NOT REPLACED

You were not rescued by a substitute who took the prize while you stayed in the shadows – you were championed by the One Who pulled you into His own win. His perfect life is counted as yours. His standing with the Father is your standing. His triumph is your triumph.

And because He is Head over all, you are joined to the One Whose authority spans the entire cosmos.

A COSMIC WITNESS

The Universe is watching. Ephesians 3:10 tells us that God's multifaceted wisdom is being made known "to the sovereignties and the authorities among the cele-

stials" through the called-out ones. **Every time your life displays the peace, joy and confidence born of the antidote, it is a declaration to spiritual powers that their defeat is final.**

Your faith, your endurance, your love – they are not small things. They are pieces of the cosmic proclamation that the Most High reigns and that love – demonstrated through the Just suffering and dying for the unjust – indeed conquers all.

CERTAIN END, PRESENT COURAGE

We know how the story ends: all in Heaven and Earth reconciled, no more death, no more sorrow, no more rebellion. That certainty fuels courage in the now. You can risk love, risk service, risk obedience – not because the path is smooth, but because the outcome is secure.

Christ did not shed His blood to inspire cautious living. He poured it out so that His people could live boldly, knowing they are part of a victory no force can undo.

THE CALL OF THE BLOODY TRUTH

The bloody truth is not morbid – it is magnificent. It tells you Who God is, what His love looks like, and how completely His plan covers you. It leaves no space for fear, no fuel for guilt, and no room for doubt about where history is headed.

So, walk in that truth. Speak it. Let your life be evidence that the antidote works. Because one day, when every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, you will stand as living proof of the cure that changed the cosmos. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Antidote; Blood; Champion; Life; Love

Minor: Death; Reconciliation; Sin; Substitution; Victory

BSC (continued from page 9283)

of life and nature, and imagined **many gods** behind the scenes, each managing their own department.

Polytheism created a **spiritual system** where:

- People had **freedom to choose** which gods to worship.
- Morality was **relative**, depending on which god you followed.
- Truth became **subjective**, and purpose often got lost.

But even today, this **multiple-path mindset** is popular – just updated with modern terms like “spiritual but not religious,” “my truth,” or “different paths to the divine.”

THE BIBLE VS POLYTHEISM

Scripture is crystal clear: **There is only one true God.**

Here are a few passages that refute polytheism:

- **Exodus 20:3** – “*You shall have no other gods before Me.*”
- **Deuteronomy 10:17** – “*For Yahweh your God is*

God of gods and Lord of lords ...”

- **Psalm 82:6** – Speaking of human rulers falsely regarded as divine.
- **II Kings 19:18** – “*They were not gods, but the work of men’s hands, wood and stone.*”
- **James 2:19** – “*You are believing that God is one.*” (CV).

Even **Pharaoh in Egypt** did not recognize the God of Israel. To him, Yahweh was just another god – equal to, or lower than, the gods of Egypt. But God used the plagues (especially the death of the firstborn) to bring **judgment upon Egypt’s gods** and show His supremacy.

SATAN’S ROLE IN POLYTHEISM

Polytheism is one of Satan’s oldest and most widespread deceptions. By offering people a spiritual system **without the true God**, he keeps them enslaved:

- They remain in **fear**, trying to earn favor from powerless gods.
- They remain in **confusion**, unsure of what is true.
- They remain in **bondage**, following traditions passed down by ancestors – never questioning their origin.

But one day, all of this deception will be shattered. ►



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11:30 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 4:15 Teaching Sessions

6:00 Dinner and Fellowship

Sunday

6:00 Free continental breakfast (hotel)

9:00 - 11:45 Testimonies and Teaching Sessions

11:45 - Closing and goodbye

PLEASE RSVP your attendance (seating is limited – even if you made room reservations)

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Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord – to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10–11).

WHY DOES GOD CAUSE THIS?

Again, it all comes down to **contrast**.

God causes people to follow false gods – not because He is powerless, but because He is setting up the stage for something greater. Polytheism, like atheism, shows us **what happens when people worship the creation rather than the Creator** (see Romans 1:22-25).

And just as Israel was surrounded by false gods, **we today are surrounded by modern versions of them** – false ideologies, philosophies and spiritualities. All of it reminds us how precious it is to **know the truth**.

BLOODY ([continued from page 9282](#))

fully human in every way – sharing our nature, our frailty, our challenges. He could not have stepped into that role as a pre-existent celestial being who already knew the whole story and merely “played a part.” He was born into the world, learned obedience, grew in wisdom, and trusted His Father even unto death.

Only such a Man could stand as the Head of a new humanity. Only such a victory could be shared by the whole team.

MORE THAN HUMAN RESCUE

The antidote's reach extends beyond us. Every plague in Egypt declared God's supremacy over their gods; the cross declared His supremacy over *every* power in Heaven and on Earth. The cure doesn't just heal individuals – it restores cosmic harmony. Heaven and Earth alike will be united under one Head.

LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURE

Knowing this changes everything. We live not as debtors trying to pay back God, but as freed captives walking in the liberty He purchased. We are not cowering sinners hoping for leniency; we are cleansed and alive, wearing the uniform of the Champion's

FINAL REFLECTION: A WORLD SET FREE

Millions – even billions – of people still believe in many gods. But the message of Scripture is this:

There is only one God – and one day, everyone will know Him.

Though Satan has enslaved people in spiritual confusion, **Christ's work will make them free**. God's plan is not to destroy the deceived – but to reveal the truth and **restore them to Himself**.

That's the hope. That's the gospel. That's where the contrast ends – and reconciliation begins. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Creation; Polytheism

Minor: Contrast; Gods (gods); Deception; Philosophy; Satan; Sovereignty

team.

And this hope cannot be shaken. It rests not in our performance, but in His finished work. The plan is sovereign, the outcome certain, and the love behind it beyond measure.

Chapter 23 Key Takeaways

- ▶ *Believers bear the mark of Christ's life within them.*
- ▶ *Our endurance and faith testify to the defeat of our greatest enemies.*
- ▶ *We live boldly because the cure is already complete.* **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Antidote; Blood; Champion; Substitution

Minor: Atonement; Cross; Death; Love; Sin; Sovereignty

