



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy!

Showcasing all humanity finished in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 45
Issue IIII

There is still much light to break forth from the Scriptures. A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

God's Creative Original

Part 1 of 3

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

by — Deverlain L. Trefethen

And to the messenger of the ecclesia in Laodicea write: "Now this is saying the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, and God's Creative Original" (Revelation 3:14, CV throughout, unless otherwise noted).

Many find the term "God's Creative Original" to mean that the Father created His Son before He created anything else, and that Jesus Christ pre-existed before He was born as a baby. I'd like to share a different insight that I believe bears true from the Scripture shared throughout.



same "all" are created in the new humanity (after the similitude of Christ), and are appointed unto life beyond the reach of death, each in their own class and order.

Written in the DNA of the old humanity (in Adam): dying you shall die. Written in the DNA of the new humanity (in Christ): life beyond death's reach.

Being fully human, Jesus was born, lived, suffered and died. Yet He was the first man to be resurrected and vivified to a life that can never end. This makes Him the Original, and Head of all, preeminent by virtue of His resurrection. In Colossians 1:18, the term often rendered "preeminence" in translations like the KJV more literally means "may be becoming first," emphasizing that, through His resurrection and vivification, He became the First of all. Colossians 1:15-20 beautifully supports this profound truth.

For we are aware that the entire creation is groaning and travailing together until now. Yet not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruit of the spirit, we ourselves also, are groaning in ourselves, awaiting the sonship, the deliverance of our body (Romans 8:22-23).

Yet now Christ has been roused from among the dead, the Firstfruit of those who are reposing. For since, in fact, through a man came death, through a Man, also, comes the resurrection of the dead. For even as, in Adam, all are dying, thus also, in Christ, shall all be vivified (I Corinthians 15:20-22).

Jesus Christ was the first roused from among the dead. That is, He is the Original to be roused from among the dead – vivified – never to die again. Scripture identifying Jesus Christ as "God's Creative Original" speaks of Him as the first-in-kind to be roused to receive life beyond the reach of death.

[\(continued on page 9313\)](#)

All are created in the old humanity (after the similitude of Adam), and were appointed unto death. The

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 45, No. 1111 – March 9, 2026

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 joy (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 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).

We're just presenters, not persuaders. – Steve Martin

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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I used to spend a lot of time thinking of how I would defend my beliefs to someone, until I realized that I wasn't expected to. – Steve Martin

I encourage you to read these passages again, and as you do, rejoice in that which is to follow. That is, just as Jesus was roused to immortality, with absolutely no possibility of death, so, too, we will follow Him in glory.

As members of the One Body of Christ, may we embrace this truth that was established by “*God’s Creative Original*,” Who is the Firstborn from among the dead. At His resurrection, and vivification, God’s Creative Original was the very First evidence that He was the first-in-kind to give proof of immortality, securing the same for all who follow. We, His Body are the next to come after Him in resurrection and vivification to be manifested together with Him – *the Complement of the One completing the All in all*” (Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 3:4).

While we remain in these bodies of humiliation, may we be cognizant of our own vivification to come when we, too, will be roused to Life beyond the reach of death. May we who were chosen in Him before the disruption of the world put on, and walk in, the realization of our vivification and manifestation with Christ in glory.

To reiterate, the One Body of Christ is the next in Father’s order to be vivified after the likeness of Father’s *Creative Original* – wherein we, too, will enter into Life beyond the reach of death. Christ the Head followed by His Body – not to eonian life, but rather immortality.

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. writes,

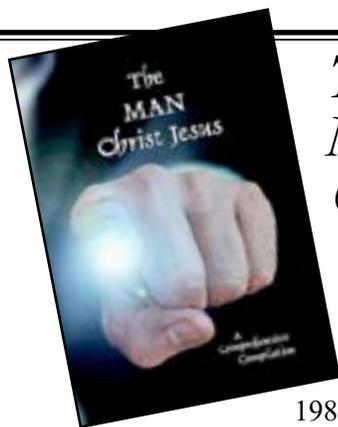
When Christ is manifested in Glory, we, too, will be resurrected beyond the reach of death and appear with Him there, being “*ascended up far above all Heavens*” (Ephesians 4:10, KJV) i.e., “the Super-Heavens.” Rather than “*eonian life*,” we have Christ’s Life! “*When Christ, our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in Glory*” (Colossians 3:4). Christ (Head and Body) makes its universal debut – its “*manifestation in Glory*” (Colossians 3:4) at “*the right hand of God*” (Colossians 3:1) “*far above all Heavens*” (Ephesians 4:10).

ALL others will receive Life beyond the reach of death, in their assigned class and order to fulfill Papa’s Divine purpose. There are other passages that support this realization, and in fact go hand in glove in understanding Christ Jesus as the First to receive Life Immortal.

Now we are aware that God is working all together for the good of those who are loving God, who are called according to the purpose that, whom He foreknew, He designates beforehand, also, to be conformed to the image of His Son, for Him to be Firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:28-29).

Do you see how the passage in Romans complements that which has already been shared?

Who is the Image of the invisible God, Firstborn of every creature, for in Him is all created, that in the heavens and that on the



The Man Christ Jesus: His Birth, Life, Nature, Faith, Suffering and Glory (A Comprehensive Compilation)

This book contains 24 authors and 74 works spanning 130 years. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams (1845-1925), William W. Bentley, Jr., William Tucker Broad (1860-1923), Leon A. Bynoe (1895-1983), E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), E.H. Clayton (1887-1972), John H. Essex (1907-1991), William B. Hallman (1903-1985), Joseph Edwin Hartill (1909-1981), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), Adlai Loudy (1893-1984), William Mealand (1873-1957), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak (1907-1988), André Sneidar, E. Al Stahl (1926-2011) and Charles H. Welch (1880-1967).

earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or sovereignties, or authorities, all is created through Him and for Him, and He is before all, and all has its cohesion in Him. And He is the Head of the Body, the ecclesia, Who is Sovereign, First-born from among the dead, that in all He may be becoming First, for in Him the entire complement delights to dwell, and through Him to reconcile all to Him (making peace through the blood of His cross), through Him, whether those on the Earth or those in the Heavens (Colossians 1:15-20).

If, then, you were roused together with Christ, be seeking that which is above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Be disposed to that which is above, not to that on the Earth, for you died, and your life is hid together with Christ in God. Whenever Christ, our Life, should be manifested, then you also shall be manifested together with Him in glory (Colossians 3:1-4).

What will be manifest is presently hidden from sight, but only until the day of our resurrection and vivification. It is then that we will together with Christ (God's Creative Original) be Dad's manifest evidence of Life Immortal. Who do you suppose will get to witness this glorious conformation of truth? All in the celestials are going to profusely rejoice and give

praise to God.

(to be continued)

TOPICS:

Major: Creative Original; Death; Firstborn; Immortality; Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ (Pre-Existence of); Logos; Manifestation; New Humanity; Prototype; Preeminence; *Prototokos* (G4416); *Aparchē*, (G536), Vivification

Minor: One Body; Realization

NOTE: For more exposés on the supposed "Pre-Existence" of Jesus Christ, see,

Books:

- [Was Jesus Christ Alive Before His Life on Earth Began? \(A Critical Look at the Supposed Preexistence of Christ\)](#), by Aaron Welch, Bible Student's Press.
- [Firstborn: Exposing the Myth of Pre-existence \(A Synoptical Examination\)](#), Steve Martin, Compilation Editor

Bible Student's Notebook articles:

- *The Genesis of Jesus Christ* (Editor's Desk), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [707](#);
- *When God Became the Father of His Son (with 10 Common Objections Considered)*, Aaron Welch, [818](#);
- *The Worship of Christ* (Reader's Question Box #23), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [710](#);
- *The Kenosis of Christ* (Reader's Question Box #35), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [806](#);
- *The Dishonoring Effect of the Teaching of the "Pre-Existence" of Christ* (Reader's Question Box #27), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [759](#);
- *Who Is on the Throne in Isaiah 6?* (Reader's Question Box #62), Aaron Welch, [871](#);
- *Alpha and Omega – Beginning and End – First and Last*, Johann Grobler, [901](#).



Firstborn: Exposing the Myth of Pre-existence (A Synoptical Examination)

by — Steve Martin

Did Jesus exist before Bethlehem – or did His story truly begin in Mary's womb? For centuries, Christianity has assumed that Jesus lived eternally in heaven before becoming human. That belief is rarely questioned. But what if Scripture tells a different story?

In *Firstborn: Exposing the Myth of Pre-existence*, Steve Martin invites readers to take a fresh, careful look at the Bible's testimony about Jesus' origin. Examining the Gospels, Paul's letters, and key Old Testament passages, this book reconsiders the verses most often used to support pre-existence and asks whether tradition has spoken louder than Scripture.

If you're ready to examine what Scripture actually says – and to see Jesus not as a divine impersonator, but as the faithful Man Whom God exalted – this book will both challenge and encourage you.

Creation and Pantheism

Bible Student's Courses

Course 2: Creation / Unit 2: Creation Repudiates Satanic Philosophies / Lesson 8: Creation and Pantheism

by — Mark D. Vogt

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

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

One of the most ancient – and increasingly popular – belief systems in the world today is **Pantheism**. It's often wrapped in environmental concern, reverence for nature, and slogans like “**Mother Earth**” or “**Mother Nature**.” But at its core, Pantheism denies the deity of the true God and replaces Him with the **creation itself**.



In short, **everything is God, and God is everything**.

This belief system has no clear creed or central religious structure. Yet it shows up in many places:

- **Eastern religions** like Taoism, Hinduism and Buddhism;
- **Indigenous spiritualities** that worship nature;
- **Modern environmental movements**, which sometimes go beyond stewardship into spiritual reverence for the Earth itself.

Let's take a closer look at what Pantheism teaches – and how it contradicts God's Word.

WHAT IS PANTHEISM?

Pantheism teaches that:

- **God and the Universe are the same;**
- There is no personal Creator;
- All things – plants, rocks, rivers, stars, animals, and people – are part of a **divine whole** (a distorted view of the immanence of God!).

Many who hold these beliefs today **don't even realize** that they're embracing Pantheism.

A QUIET COMEBACK THROUGH ENVIRONMENTALISM

Pantheism has crept into current Western culture through **eco-spirituality** – a blend of environmental



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.

concern and spiritual reverence for nature.

- People worship the **Earth** instead of the God Who made it.
- Nature is viewed as **sacred**, not simply beautiful or valuable.
- Concepts like “**Mother Earth**” and “**Gaia**” personify the planet as divine.

Of course, it is important to care for the environment.

- **Replanting trees** after logging is good.
- **Cleaning up pollution** is wise.
- **Conservation** shows respect for creation.

But when creation becomes **an object of worship**, we’ve crossed the line into **idolatry**.

They venerate and serve the creature rather than the Creator ... (Romans 1:25).

GOD IS NOT THE CREATION – HE IS THE CREATOR

The Bible makes a clear distinction:

God is **not** the creation.

He is the **Source** of all things – but He is not the **sum** of all things.

All is out of Him, through Him, and for Him ... (Romans 11:36).

That’s the proper view.

- God **created** all things.
- He **operates** all things.
- All things will return **to Him**.

Even though creation came **out of God**, it is **not God**.

Jehovah, Creator of the Heavens; He is the Deity, Former of the Earth and its Maker ... (Isaiah 45:18, CV).

God brought creation into being **exactly** as He intended, for **His purposes**. Even sin, suffering and struggle play a role in His plan. But creation itself is **not divine**, nor is it to be worshipped.

When people worship nature, they are **rejecting the Creator** in favor of the created.

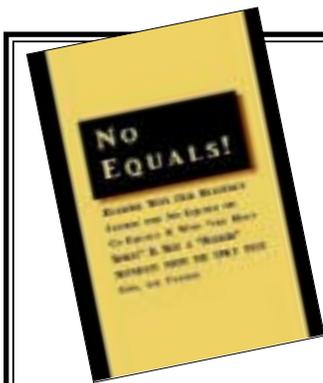
- The sun is not God.
- The trees are not God.
- The animals are not God.
- The rivers, skies and stars are not God.

They are **gifts**, not gods.

PANTHEISM IS JUST ANOTHER FORM OF MAN-CENTERED THINKING

Pantheism, like evolution, starts with **creation** and tries to work its way up to some idea of divinity. But it never begins with God. And anything that doesn’t start with God will always end up lost.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom ... (Proverbs 9:10)



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.

Pantheism removes a **personal, purposeful, sovereign God** and replaces Him with a vague “universal energy” or “life force.” It gives the illusion of spiritual depth, but offers no real truth, peace or hope.

THE BIBLICAL VIEW: STEWARDSHIP, NOT WORSHIP

God has given us the Earth **to enjoy** and **to care for**.

- We are **stewards**, not owners.
- We are to be **thankful**, not worshipful.
- We are called to **worship the Creator**, not creation.

When we start with **God**, we see the Earth as a gift – not a god.

He gives us all things richly to enjoy ... (1 Tim-

thy 6:17).

CLOSING THOUGHT: WHOM WILL YOU WORSHIP?

Pantheism believes:

- “The Universe is divine”;
- “God is everything, and everything is God”;
- “Nature is sacred.”

Scripture teaches:

- God is the Creator of all;
- The Earth is His handiwork;
- Worship the Creator, not the creation. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Creation; Pantheism

Minor: God; Sovereignty

Hell Fire!

by — Darson Buckner

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



Hell is real hot with unquenchable fire,
For every murderer and every liar.

Burn, burn, burn in your contempt and your shame.

Burn now forever in eternal flame.

Wail, scream and cry with pain in agony.

You and your friends now sing in harmony.

Whatever you did, you have done it now.

The chains of hell hold for a broken vow.

You will never get out, no person hears.

Not even God wants to see all your tears.

But God is love, and love is who He is.

For this is what the Holy Bible says.

Who Is Jesus? A Plea for a Return to Belief in Jesus, the Messiah

by — Sir Anthony Buzzard

A work dispelling the error of the Trinity.



Hell is just death, we go down to the grave.
Our flesh is planted, nothing left to save.
The life spirit given goes back to God.
The flesh now rotted will feed the green sod.

Hell is the grave not a torture chamber.
Christ gives you rest and a peaceful slumber.
Awake! He will say. Come forth from your
sleep.
He will call as a shepherd to His sheep.

Amazement we will have with open eyes.
Jesus did not lose one to their surprise.
Every knee will bow, mouths will say His
name.
Glory to God in the Highest, all exclaim.

Christ lost not one of that given to Him.
Christ conquers ALL. The outlook is not
dim.
Hell will be vacant. No one will be there.
No judgement against us, nothing unfair.

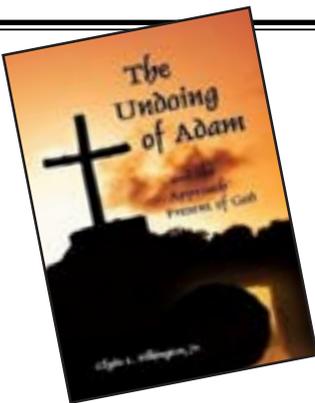
Thinking Christ loses one is hypocrisy.
Hell was religion's own conspiracy.

Come here on Sunday, the church so does
tell.
Come through our doors, we will save you
from hell.

Control you they will, a little by time.
Lies they will tell you to get your last dime.
The character of God is simply love.
He will find you fine. You don't need a shove.

Don't listen to men with tradition fail.
They just want to take you down to their
Hell.
Peace, joy, love and comfort I now feel.
No longer believing the lies of hell. **BSN**

BOOKS ARE THE
QUIETEST AND MOST
CONSTANT OF FRIENDS;
THEY ARE THE MOST AC-
CESSIBLE AND WISEST OF
COUNSELORS, AND THE MOST
PATIENT OF TEACHERS.
– CHARLES W. ELIOT (1834-1926)



The Undoing of Adam and the Approach Present of God

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Christ is greater than Adam, undoing what Adam did. In fact, Christ's work at Calvary is greater than Adam's fall. All of God's creation will be gloriously saved by the successful work of "the Savior of the world" (John 4:42). Salvation is not dependent on us at all; it is all about Christ and His work alone. Paul taught that the exact same "all" who are condemned in Adam are the exact same "all" who are justified in Christ (Romans 5:18), and that the exact same "all" who die in Adam are the exact same

"all" who are "made alive" in Christ (I Corinthians 15:22). Christianity has an Adam who is greater than Christ; however, it is Christ Who is greater than Adam.

A note concerning the cover: We wanted a cover that would immediately convey the theme of the book's content, choosing to go with a traditional "cross" scene to express the work of Christ at Calvary. Yet Christ did not die on a "cross" but was nailed to a simple "stake." An explanation is provided in the appendix.