



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy!

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

Volume 45
Issue III3

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

For the Love of God!

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

by — Darson Buckner

The King James Version (KJV) of the Bible has 31,102 verses in total. The Old Testament contains 23,145 verses, while the New Testament has 7,957. Different versions of the Bible vary in the number of verses.

Out of all those verses, God reveals in 3 verses who He really is. These three verses do not reveal all of His attributes, but do reveal His essence: "God is". We get all three of these verses from 1 John.

1 John 1:5 – *And this is the message which we have heard from Him and are informing you, that God is light, and darkness in Him there is none (CV).*

1 John 4:8 – *He who is not loving knew not God, for God is love (CV).*

1 John 4:16 – *And we know and believe the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who is remaining in love is remaining in God, and God is remaining in him (CV).*

From these three verses, we find God's essence is two things: LOVE and LIGHT.

In fact, the definition of essence is the quality of something that determines its character.

Everything which God created was created from the essence of LOVE and LIGHT. Nothing could have been created which did not incorporate LOVE and LIGHT. Every decision God made, every emotion, every person and every blade of grass was made



from LOVE and LIGHT.

God tells us in Colossians 1:16, "*for in Him is all created, that in the heavens and that on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or sovereignties, or authorities, all is created through Him and for Him*" (CV)

He is LOVE and He is LIGHT, and all things were created by Him and for Him.

The Bible also tells us that God created evil in Isaiah 45:7,

Former of light and Creator of darkness, Maker of good and Creator of evil, I, Yahweh, make all these things (CV).

Does this verse concerning God creating evil and darkness seem contradictory to God being Light and Love?

Ephesians 1:11 says,

In Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will (CV).

Evil and darkness is obviously part of His plan, oth-
[\(continued on page 9329\)](#)

For the Love of God! 9327
[God's Plan for Evil and Sin \(1 of 4\)](#) 9331
[News Items \(quote: André Sneidar\)](#) 9334

How to Access Our Resources

Our Main Website:

<https://studysshelf.com/>

Daily Email Goodies Signup:

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

Bible Student's Notebook Electronic Issues:

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

Bible Student's Notebook Article Audios:

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

Bible Student's Notebook Bound Volumes:

<https://studysshelf.com/product/bible-students-notebook-volumes/>

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/subjects/>

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/studybibleproject/>

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 45, No. 1113 – March 23, 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

Bible Student's Press™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Local: (814) 701-0063 info.inquiries@studysshelf.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Publisher

André Sneidar – Editor-in-Chief

Steve Martin – Chief of Staff

Associate Editors: Bob Alan, Chris Carnahan, James Fine, Rick Lemons, Marcy Money Penny, Deverlain L. Trefethen, Mark Vogt

Copyright © 1989-2026 Bible Student's Press™

erwise, it would not have been created. God created all things for His purpose according to His will.

God is love and all things He created were created in love. James 3:12 says,

Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? Either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh (KJV).

Only love can come from God. God is LOVE. All from God is LOVE.

Thus, Romans 8:28 says,

*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 (CV).*

God is using everything He has created and working it all together to bring about good. As stated in Colossians 1:16, *all* was created by Him and for Him.

I Timothy 2:4 says,

[God] wills that all mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth (CV).

It is God's will that all will be saved. Who can say otherwise?

Proverbs 19:21 says,

Many are the designs in a man's heart, Yet the counsel of Yahweh, it shall stand firm (CV).

A person can plan or think whatever they want, but it is God's desire and will which will happen.

"For I Myself know the designs that I am designing for you," averring [stating the case] is Yahweh, "designs for your well-being and not for evil, to give you a hereafter and an expectation" (Jeremiah 29:11, CV).

God is LOVE. He is designing LOVE for us, not evil.

Isaiah 46:10 says,

Telling from the beginning, the hereafter, and from aforetime what has not yet been done, Saying, "All My counsel, it shall be confirmed, And all My desire shall I do" (CV).

Everything God has proclaimed will happen and every proclamation comes from LOVE. God is LOVE.

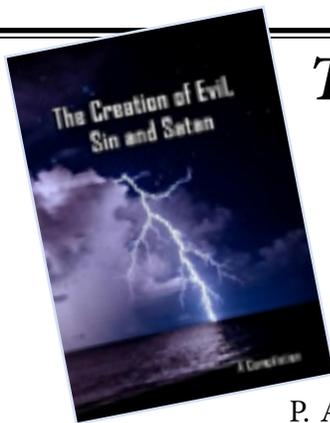
God has willed that all be saved, which means, ALL WILL BE SAVED.

The bad we experience in this life has a purpose for our good.

Evil lets us understand good when we experience good.

Darkness lets us understand light when we see light.

Pain and sadness lets us understand happiness when we are happy.



The Creation of Evil, Sin and Satan *(A Compilation)*

The truth laid forth in this work should help us greatly in our dealings with others, especially those who have failed in some way which may bring dishonor on His Name, or cannot accept His truth, or even oppose it and us, especially mature teachings such as is put forth in the pages of this book. It contains 19 authors, 49 works, spanning 150 years. Authors include: Arthur

P. Adams, E.W. Bullinger, Alan Burns, Edward Clayton, John Essex, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Norman P. Grubb, Donald G. Hayter, A.E. Knoch, William Mealand, André Piet, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Ray Van Dyke, William H. Walker, and James Webb.

Extreme hot and cold lets us understand comfort when we feel it.

Loneliness lets us understand companionship when we have a friend.

Hunger lets us understand satisfaction when we've had enough to eat.

This evil age will let us understand a heavenly age when all wrongs have been righted.

Everything created will one day be proof of the unimaginable, unending, unfathomable LOVE that God has for all of His creation, and when you experience it and see it, you will know that He loved you through every ache, pain and disappointment.

You could never fully appreciate Heaven without first experiencing "Hell" (metaphorically). This is why Paul stated in Philipians 3:8,

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

God is Love! Everything from God is Love! It may not look like Love with our eyes of flesh, but it is.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face:

now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, (LOVE), these three; but the greatest of these is (LOVE) (I Corinthians 13:9-13, KJV).

We have no idea of the LOVE and goodness that awaits us in His presence.

Just because you cannot see it does not mean His Love is not wrapping its arms around you and holding you tight through every heartache that you have.

My feeble words could never begin to describe God's love for you and all of His creation. Have peace and know that He only wants goodness for you. His creation will one day see and experience all of the goodness and love that He has waiting.

I love giving gifts. I especially love giving something I have made. If I have made something and have spent a lot of time on perfecting it, I get so excited for the person to open the gift. I know I am more excited than the recipient. But then, they open the gift, smirk and look sideways like, "what am I supposed to do with this?" Not the reaction I was expecting.

God was excited to give us a gift through Jesus Christ, a gift of justification. When we receive the perfect gift, smirk and say, "What am I supposed to do with this?" He knew what the reaction would be.

You don't have to do anything with justification. It's been given to you and cannot be returned. If you acknowledge the gift of justification, you will grow in peace and joy as you begin to better understand His sovereignty and the love and riches that He has planned for you.

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



The Mystery of Evil

by — Joseph Wilson Williams (1874-1963)

The greatest mystery about evil is God's relation to it. That makes it perplexing, at the same time that it is painful. It is the purpose of these pages to ease the pain and dispel the perplexity, through understanding. Williams was an associate of A.E. Knoch.

God's Plan for Evil and Sin

Chapter 1 (of 4): God's Plan for Evil and Sin

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

editor – Steve Martin

If God is all-powerful and all-good, why does so much evil and suffering exist in the world? For many, this is not just a philosophical puzzle but a deeply personal question, a barrier to faith, and a source of profound doubt. It is a question that matters, perhaps more than any other.



understandings, starting with the very meaning of the word “evil.”

GETTING THE WORDS RIGHT

Before we can ask *why* “evil” and “sin” exist, we must first understand *what* the Bible means by these terms. The original languages of the Scriptures draw sharp distinctions that are often blurred in modern translations. Clarifying the biblical definitions of “evil,” “sin,” and “human nature” is the essential first step to understanding God’s intricate and purposeful plan.

This guide explores a perspective drawn directly from scriptural analysis that offers an answer different from what is commonly taught. It presents a central, challenging truth: evil and sin are not accidents or failures in God’s plan, but are necessary, temporary parts of His much larger purpose. They are the dark background against which He intends to reveal the breathtaking brilliance of His ultimate goodness, wisdom and love.

WHAT THE BIBLE MEANS BY “EVIL”

In modern thought, the word “evil” is almost always synonymous with something morally wicked or sinful. Scripture, however, reveals a very different meaning.

To understand this, we must first redefine key terms like “evil” and “sin” according to their original scriptural meanings. The languages of the Bible make crucial distinctions that are often lost in modern translation. By recovering this clarity, we can begin to make sense of difficult concepts and discover a God Who is not locked in a struggle with a rival power, but is completely and sovereignly in control of all things.

A Non-Moral Definition

In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word most often translated as “evil” is *rahgag*. Its root meaning is not primarily about morality, but about effect. It describes an act that **shatters, breaks or brings calamity and distress**. It is an action that causes harm, trouble or misery, but it is *not* inherently sinful. This distinction is vital for understanding many difficult passages of Scripture.

Our journey begins by clearing up common misun-



The Problem of Evil, and, The Judgments of God

by — A.E. Knoch

This book traces the divine function of evil from its inception to its consummation, by presenting scriptural solutions to the various long-debated questions concerning God and His sovereignty. Here is what one of our readers has written about *The Problem of Evil*:

“The litmus test for motive in any writer is whether or not the power of the ‘Cross’ is being diminished or supplanted in any way; Knoch unfolds each point with the loving simplicity of someone who has faced and answered the critics with the overarching victory of Calvary. One comes away from each chapter of this work once again realizing that the offense of the ‘Cross’ has driven so many wonderful and freeing truths out of what is traditionally taught and practiced.”

Here are a few examples that illustrate this non-moral definition of “evil”:

- **Pharaoh’s “ill-favored” kine (cows):** In Pharaoh’s dream (Genesis 41), the seven lean and ugly cows are described using the Hebrew word for evil. They were a sign of coming calamity for Egypt – a famine – but the cows themselves were not morally bad.
- **An “evil spirit from Yahweh”:** The Bible states that an “evil spirit from Yahweh” troubled King Saul (I Samuel 16:14). This spirit brought distress upon him, but it came directly from God, demonstrating that “evil” in this sense is not from a satanic source and is not necessarily sinful.
- **God’s declaration, “I ... create evil”:** In Isaiah 45:7, God Himself states, “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil.” In this context, “evil” is contrasted with “peace” and clearly refers to calamity, hardship or adversity – not sin.

This distinction is preserved in the Greek translation of the Scriptures, the *Septuagint*, which uses the word *kakos* for calamity, but reserves the word *poneros* for evil that carries a moral, wicked taint.

The Crucial Distinction

In the Bible, evil is an act that can bring hardship

and trouble, but it is not automatically sinful. This distinction is confirmed in Scripture, which says that a king “sinned in doing evil” (I Kings 16:19), demonstrating that an act can be an “evil” (a calamity) without necessarily being a “sin” (a failure to meet God’s standard), and that the two concepts are distinct. This is crucial, as it allows us to understand how the Bible can say that God creates evil without making Himself sinful. He is the Creator of calamity, but He Himself cannot sin.

Now that we have a clearer picture of “evil” as calamity, we can explore the distinct, but related, concept of “sin.”

UNDERSTANDING “SIN” AS MISSING THE MARK

While the Bible defines “evil” as calamity, it defines “sin” in a completely different way. The most descriptive picture of sin’s meaning comes *not* from a theological treatise but from a vivid story about ancient warfare.

In Judges 20:16, we read of 700 lefthanded men from the tribe of Benjamin, each of whom “could sling stones at a hair breadth, and not sin.” The original Hebrew word translated here as “sin” literally means to “miss the mark.” These men were such perfect shots that they never missed. “Sin,” therefore, is fun-



The Deity of God

by – John Henry Essex (1907-1991)
Nottingham, England

Creation cannot help itself that all of its achievements are futile because of the slavery of corruption, but we take immense comfort from the fact that, in spite of all of its present “groaning and travailing,” it was subjected to vanity in expectation of the eventual realization of that glorious freedom which is now already being enjoyed by the children of God.

It is in the prison epistle of Paul to the Ephesians that we find the most absolute expression of the Deity of God in relation to the points we have been considering. Here we find the phrase which puts all other Scriptures into their perspective:

According to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will (1:11).

God is the captain of the ship of the universe; all of His creatures are its passengers. He is guiding the vessel across the ocean of time from the port that is called “All in God” to the haven that is termed “God in all.”

damentally about *failure*.

This definition is powerfully reinforced by the Apostle Paul in Romans 3:23, “*all sinned and are wanting of the glory of God.*” To “*sin*” is to fall short of God’s perfect standard, to fail to reach the target of His “*glory.*” This definition is broad enough to include not only heinous crimes but also simple mistakes, errors and any instance of falling short. It is a failure, whether large or small, to perfectly reflect God’s character.

The difference between these two concepts is fundamental to understanding God’s plan.

Concept	Biblical Meaning	Example
Evil	An act that shatters, breaks or brings calamity. It is not inherently moral or immoral.	A drought or a plague.
Sin	A failure, a mistake, or “missing the mark.” It is falling short of God’s standard.	Disobeying a direct command.

If “*sin*” means falling short, it forces a crucial question about human design: is our very nature bad?

HUMAN NATURE IS NOT NATURALLY BAD

A common theological idea is that humanity possesses a “sinful nature” – an inborn instinct that drives us toward wrongdoing. This phrase, however, is not found in the Scriptures. Scripture reveals that

human nature, our basic instinct, is good and in harmony with God’s law.

The Apostle Paul, in his indictment of the human race in the book of Romans, repeatedly uses nature as a standard for what is right, not what is wrong:

- He describes unnatural acts as being **against nature** (Romans 1:26), which implies that nature itself is the standard of what is correct.
- He observes that people without the law sometimes do **by nature** the things required by the law (Romans 2:14), showing that human instinct can lead to good actions.
- He explains that **conscience works with nature** to bear witness against wrongdoing, acting as an internal confirmation of our natural sense of right and wrong.

The true source of humanity’s problem is not a “sinful nature” but a state of **mortality**. Since Adam’s offense, humanity has been severed from the fullness of divine life. Our problem is a state of mortality – a *deficiency* in spiritual vitality that makes sin inevitable.

A useful analogy is found in the plant world: thorns are essentially undeveloped branches, stunted growths that appear due to a lack of sufficient vitality to develop into their proper form. In the same way, sin is a product of our lack of full spiritual life.

(see [PLAN](#), next page)



Biblical Resources

Training today's ecclesia for tomorrow's celestial assignments.
Highlighting important video playlists for the edification of the saints.

Biblical Resources is a dedicated space for the co-laborers of Bible Student’s Press to share our current collective journey. It is intended to be a place of education and edification in an atmosphere of freedom, love, joy and peace.

Grace Is Joy (playlist)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXXxM1xuIaqvhRUKwZ1jbFh2Vc029rjsv>

LOVE (continued from page 9330)

If you don't acknowledge the gift of justification, you still get the non-refundable gift, but you could have lived your life in peace and joy had you just known a little more about it.

We will not fully understand God's love for His creation until we see and experience His love through spiritual eyes. Until then, know that God is LOVE. God is LIGHT. Everything created was created out of LOVE and LIGHT. He created everything for

PLAN (continued from previous page)

With a clearer understanding of these foundational ideas, we can now explore the most profound question of all: why would a perfect God intentionally design a universe that includes calamity, failure and death?

Having the correct definitions for these key terms is the key to unlocking the rest of the puzzle of God's magnificent plan.

(Concepts are drawn from A.E. Knoch and have been condensed and updated for greater clarity and ease of understanding.)

(to be continued)

TOPICS:

Major: Bible; Contrast; Evil; God; Scripture; Sin
Minor: Death; Sovereignty; Suffering; Translations

Himself, of course it was created from LOVE and LIGHT.

ESN

TOPICS:

Major: God; Love; Evil; Sovereignty
Minor: Contrast; Justification; Salvation of All; Suffering

ALL OF THE NEWS ITEMS THAT WE SEE AND HEAR ARE ALL INDICATIONS OF THE "LITTLE TEACHINGS" AND THEIR EFFECT ON PEOPLE. IT'S AN INDICATION OF THOSE CELESTIAL BEINGS THAT INFLUENCE THOSE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THEM. PAUL'S WRITING OF THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE IN EPHESIANS 4 IS EVER MORE IMPORTANT TODAY. OUR BATTLE IS NOT WITH HUMANS OF AND IN THIS WORLD, BUT WITH THOSE CELESTIAL BEINGS WHO SEEK TO DISTRACT US FROM OUR GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE.

– ANDRÉ SNEIDAR



The Myth of Easter

"The Christian Mythology" Series

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

There are many myths in Christendom. They have managed to master their own form of mythology. Easter is an example of such a religious fable.

If Easter is the celebration of the historical fact of our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection, then why does its date change every year? Historical dates do not fluctuate; but Easter Sunday can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25. Have you ever wondered why?

It is one of the glaring clues that something is seriously wrong with Christendom. The Western Christian religion can't seem to get anything right when it comes to even the simplest of Scriptural truths.

Have you ever really considered if there is any scriptural basis of Good Friday or Easter Sunrise Services that are so commonly observed by the religious community? Additionally, have you ever considered what Easter Rabbits and Easter Eggs have to do with the resurrection of Christ or teachings of God's Word?

Although millions of people are of the opinion that Easter and all of its customs are Christian and originated as a result of Christ's resurrection, it is a historical fact that the observance of Easter long antedates Christianity by centuries.