



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Joy!

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

Volume 45  
Issue III6

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

## Running Off the Rails [Click here to listen to this article](#)

by — Mark D. Vogt

What a strange title for an article, but this thought about “running off the rails” was what was expressed to me by someone I know. They were describing to me what others thought about my abandoning orthodox Christianity and going over to what was termed the “dark side.” Yet, in reality the “dark side” is not really the “dark side,” but it is the side of light, love and understanding.



About 15 years ago I was reading an article that shook my orthodox understanding about God and the Scriptures, and that writer expressed the understanding that all of mankind will be saved –including the Hitler’s, the Pol Pot’s, the mass murderers, as well as the religious and self-righteous of this world. When God’s Word says that all will be saved, He means exactly that (I Timothy 4:9-11).

My whole paradigm began to change that day. I began to see my God in an entirely different light. Cracks began to appear in the façade of my poor understanding of Who God is and what He is doing.

The God of Jonathan Edwards (please read Edwards’ written sermon of “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”) was beginning to be replaced by the true God of the Scriptures. A God Who is in control of everything because He ordained all that happens, and all that happens is for my good and His glory even though it may not seem like it at the time.

Nobody gets it all at one time. God is very patient with us and teaches us a little at a time. One thing to keep in mind is that religion, and that includes

Christianity, has indoctrinated most, if not all, of Western culture to the point where the average person, let alone the believer, has no real idea who Jesus Christ is, nor what He really did. Even more of an enigma is God the Father. Who is “the Man upstairs” and what is He really like?

Prevailing evangelical Christian doctrine paints God as this austere deity that is angry most of the time, even though He is the one that brought all of His creation into being. It is as if He started out with this grand experiment and it failed almost immediately in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned and partook of the fruit that was forbidden to them. Now God had to scramble and come up with “plan B” to save as much of His creation as He could. But, He couldn’t and can’t do much since we all purportedly have “free will” and can make our own decisions, and of course our will is much stronger than His will, thank you very much.

This is the tripe that is spewing from the pulpits and seminaries, and has been for hundreds and hundreds of years. The critical problem is that, as with any other philosophy, and Christianity is a philosophy (and a cult for that matter), the thinking starts with mankind at the center and proceeds to God. Man is the center and all flows from him, and this makes

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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 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](mailto: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

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God a bystander and observer at best, and a complete buffoon at worst. This reality can be observed by the personalized license plate type one can see on cars which say, “God is my copilot.” Really!

I had an uncle who flew during the time of World War II and he flew transports flying troops and cargo. They had to have two pilots at all times. One was the captain and the pilot in command and the other was the co-pilot. The co-pilot's job was to assist the pilot in whatever the pilot in command required. He was to lookout for other aircraft, read the checklists, scan the instruments, and make any suggestions he felt were necessary. His job was not to command the airplane. That was the captain's or the pilot in command's job.

Back in those days many captains felt that the co-pilots were a necessary evil, tolerated because regulations required it. This is how Christianity sometimes views God. He is a “necessary evil.” Now the adherents of Christianity would never actually think this, but by their very actions this is what they have internalized even though they don't realize it.

This view comes from the reality that many Christians see God as this austere deity who is harsh and unyielding. This is why Jesus Christ is far more important and prominent in their lives. In their minds God doesn't like people very much and this is rooted in the belief that God is going to consign the vast majority of people to this place called “hell” and torture them time without end.

If this is your view, then that is what you think, for if you believe this then God can't be any better than some of the world's worst leaders and He will be far worse. How can He be a loving God if He is going to

take the mass of humanity and torture them in this place that will burn them time without end. What kind of a God is that? Fortunately, for a few who are lucky enough to hear the gospel and then respond (with their “free will”), Jesus Christ jumps in between God and the person to stem the tide of God's wrath and keep Him (God), from extracting revenge upon the poor man or woman. You see, as the story goes, God likes Jesus Christ, and because of that His wrath will be abated.

This writer knows this picture of God and Christ is real, because a certain evangelistic group that reaches out to college age people paints this exact picture. In this concept God the Father is marginalized, and Jesus Christ is the most important figure. For the most part this is somewhat of what my belief and thinking were.

This is a quote that is attributed to Mark Twain, who most believe was an atheist and it summarizes what thinking unbelievers feel about Christianity's God:

Strange a God who mouths Golden Rules and forgiveness, then invented hell; who mouths morals to other people and has none Himself; who frowns upon crimes yet commits them all; who created man without invitation, then tries to shuffle the responsibility for man's acts upon man, instead of honorably placing it where it belongs, upon Himself; and finally with altogether divine obtuseness, invites this poor, abused slave to worship Him!

And Christianity wonders why they are losing adherents and the pews are empty.

“Running off the rails” will include, but will not be limited to, a repudiation of these three basic beliefs



## ***The Transfiguration***

### *A Compilation*

A helpful compilation of three studies on the meaning of “the Mount of Transfiguration,” by E.W. Bullinger, M. Thomas Wark and Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

of Christianity: the trinity, free will, and eternal conscious torment. These are the “holy three” that no self-respecting Christian does without. God loves you and has a plan for your life – if you toe the line.

Out of one side of their mouth the preachers shout about the wonderful grace of God and a minute later they try to put restrictions on that very same grace by putting forth these hindrances which can vary greatly depending on which denomination the preacher represents.

All of this is man’s efforts to help God with their own salvation. Much of this error has a cultural basis in western society with its emphasis on a “pulling yourself up by your bootstraps” philosophy. “Surely I have to contribute to my salvation in some way” the thinking goes. Paul says in Galatians 5:1,

*For freedom Christ frees us! Stand firm, then, and be not again enthralled with the yoke of slavery.*

This is religious slavery which is exactly what religion, and this includes Christianity, wants to occur. Religion is all about control of people.

Freedom of the believer is abhorrent to the religious leaders. The only way one can be truly free is to see that God alone completes the work of saving you. There is no contribution needed or required on your part. If you contribute even one percent to your salvation, then it is not grace on the part of God. The individual contributes nothing to get saved; nothing to keep themselves saved; and nothing to demonstrate they are saved, for some believe that if works do not follow the conversion of an individual then

that person really wasn’t saved to begin with. This idea comes from not rightly dividing the Word of Truth and mixing that teaching in the book of James (a Circumcision epistle) with what Paul said. There is no middle ground in this. It is either all grace or it is nothing.

Of course, looming over this all is the threat of hell. So, the question begs an answer. What is your paradigm of God? Is He the God Who sent His Son to die on a cruel stake to take our punishment and to suffer so a few (those lucky enough to hear the evangel and to believe, of their own “free will” of course) wouldn’t suffer, meaning that the just One, Christ, would take the punishment that the unjust deserved to receive?

All this of course makes God unjust (which many see as a minor detail). Oh; wait a minute, God is supposed to be just: so, how does the innocent (Christ) take the punishment that the guilty were supposed to receive, and God still be just?

Careful now, you need to think about this. Don’t let religious tradition influence your thinking here. Is it just for God to send billions of people to this place called “hell” for time without end; to suffer being burnt alive but never to die or escape, when most of them have never heard of the name of Jesus Christ let alone heard the evangel?

Question: what purpose is accomplished by God leaving these people in this torture chamber never to get out? Is God this sadistic? This view of God makes Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin look like Disney Land characters, not the cruel dictators that they were.

There is another view about God and His Son to con-



## ***The Barrier Wall: The Dispensational Removal of “The Middle Wall of Partition” (A Compilation)***

One of the most important principles of correctly partitioning God’s Word is the recognition of the Barrier Wall, and asking ourselves as we read, “Is this wall of distinction between Jew and Gentile up, or down?” Recognizing and answering this crucial question is an important key in following Paul’s instruction found in II Timothy 2:15. Tom Ballinger, Charles H. Welch, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

sider. What if God, being sovereign, introduced sin into the world, along with its accompanying misery, and utilized this to teach humanity that they cannot do without their Father, and that they need Him to be their “*All in all*” (I Corinthians 15:28)?

Suppose that the Father provided His Son to live as a man (because He was a man), and to experience everything a human experiences, and then to die on a stake, not to appease His angry, vengeful wrath, but to be the first man to experience death, resurrection, ascension and immortality, and to ultimately be with the Father. By doing this, He, Christ, became the template that all humanity will follow someday, to be our leader in this process of death and resurrection, so that we all will become sons of God, and hence for the Father to be “*All in all*” (See Steven Hill’s book *The Bloody Truth* – it should be required reading for all believers).

If this is “running off the rails,” please sign me up. This is completely contrary to orthodox Christianity, but this is what Father is doing in His wise and gracious way.

Orthodox Christianity demeans and denigrates the character of God the Father, and has twisted the picture of Him so that He is almost unrecognizable today – and certainly this is so in the Christian churches. Far too much influence from our Puritan forefathers has been inculcated into our being that,

if it wasn’t for God giving some the faith to see (Philippians 1:29, Romans 12:3), we would still be blind people groping around in the dark and having no grasp of any truth.

From a purely objective perspective, which God would you prefer to be your Father? The vengeful one who can’t seem to control His Universe, who doesn’t really have an answer for the sin “problem,” who had “plan A” and then when sin entered the world had to scramble to come up with “plan B,” or, the God Who really is a Father, Who had this marvelous plan to estrange man from Him *so that* He could turn around and bring man back to His bosom in loving acceptance, thus demonstrating His unlimited capacity for love, grace and wisdom.

*O, the depth of the riches and wisdom and the knowledge of God! How inscrutable are His judgements, and untraceable His ways! For who knew the mind of the Lord? Or who became His advisor? Or who gives to Him first, and it will be repaid Him? Seeing that out of Him and through Him and for Him is all: to Him be the glory for the eons! Amen! (Romans 11:33-36). BSN*

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Christ; Christianity; Father; God; Sovereignty; Will  
**Minor:** Faith; Freedom; Hell; Paradigm; Religion; Salvation of All



## *31 Days of God’s Secret Administration*

A Devotional, compiled by Steve Martin

For centuries, it was hidden in God. Then, at the appointed time, it was revealed.

31 Days of God’s Secret Administration walks you through one of Scripture’s most profound truths – the unveiling of a calling once concealed and now made known through the apostle Paul. In brief, daily readings, this devotional clarifies the distinction between Israel’s earthly kingdom hope and the Body of Christ’s celestial calling.

As the lines become clear, confusion fades. You will discover why the present administration was never the subject of prophecy, what changed at the close of Acts, and how grace now governs this era completely.

This is not speculation. It is clarity. What was once hidden is now revealed – and it reshapes how you read Scripture, understand grace, and see your place in God’s purpose.



## Editor's Desk

### **The Study Bible Project – Its Tentative Order of Publication** [Click here to listen to this article](#)

Considerable time has been dedicated to the initial staging process of the Study Bible Project – gaining our procedural bearings. This work will be completed and released in stages, beginning with Ephesians and Colossians – the epistles of the Secret Administration.

Both Ephesians and Colossians are divided into two very distinct and equal parts:

Ephesians Part 1 (chapters 1-3) / Ephesians Part 2 (chapters 4-6)

Colossians Part 1 (chapters 1-2) / Colossians Part 2 (chapters 3-4)

Both epistles have two separate theses: each book mirroring the other. These halves can be identified as:

Standing / State  
Doctrine / Department

Calling / Conduct  
Position / Practice

Absolute / Relative

The current plan is to complete the first thesis of Ephesians – Part 1 (chapters 1-3) – and then publish this work. For consistency of doctrinal content and flow, we will move on to completing Colossians Part 1 (chapters 1-2). Followed then by the second parts of both epistles:

Ephesians Part 2 (chapters 3-6)  
Colossians Part 2 (chapters 3-4)

These installments will be succeeded by Colossians' companion epistle – Philemon, and then, Philippians – the gateway epistle to the Secret Administration.

So, the current proposed plan would be to release the four epistles related to the Secret Administration in six published installments,

Ephesians Part 1 (chapters 1-3)  
Colossians Part 1 (chapters 1-3)  
Ephesians Part 2 (chapters 3-6)  
Colossians Part 2 (chapters 3-4)  
Philemon  
Philippians

Once completed, these 6 installments will be bound together as the Study Bible of the Secret Administration.



## **Scripture's Hidden Hyperlinks: How the Bible "Clicks"**

by – Stephen Hill

What if Bible verses contain echoes you were never taught to hear?

Most modern Christians read the Bible verse by verse, unaware that ancient Jews – and Jesus Himself – heard Scripture as a network of interconnected ideas, stories and symbols. A single quoted line could summon an entire psalm. An image could evoke centuries of prophecy. A phrase could "click"

open a whole world of meaning.

Scripture's Hidden Hyperlinks reveals this forgotten way of reading.

Through clear explanations and vivid examples, Stephen Hill guides readers into the ancient world of *remez* – the Jewish practice of hinting through partial quotations and symbolic references.

After this has been accomplished, we will then be moving back through Paul's Acts-Administration Epistles, contrasting them with the advancement of truth found after the close of the book of Acts.

In the meantime, from time to time, we will be releasing certain key portions of our studies as Advanced Reading Copies (Publisher's Uncorrected Proofs). These will be preliminary pre-publications offering early insight into the development of the Study Bible Project, for the purposes of edification, encouragement and editorial review. These will be sent to our contributors and co-laborers.

These Advanced Reading Copies, once edited and finished, will themselves result in the publication of new themed books. Of course, certain excerpts and findings will also continue to be released in the Bible Student's Notebook, Daily Email Goodies, as well as on YouTube's Biblical Resources.

It is important to understand that the Study Bible Project will not be rushed. This process is too important for us not to take as long as it takes to get it right. However, once we have the process running smoothly, it should pick up a steady, accelerating pace.

It is my passion to live long enough to at least complete these first six installments, as well as the rest of Paul's epistles. This in itself will be a monumental accomplishment, and if necessary, others can easily

come along afterwards and build on this foundation to finish the rest of the Greek Scriptures.

This is a humbling endeavor. Thank you for all your faithful encouragement and support.

Joy & Peace,  
Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



The Pilkington Abby  
Paint, PA

To contribute to the Study Bible Project, visit:  
[StudyBibleProject.com](http://StudyBibleProject.com)

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Study Bible Project



**Companion Bible**

*New Testament (Enlarged Type)  
with notes*

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

This is only the New Testament  
without the Appendixes.

624 pages



**Forever Friends (The Lucy Series, Book 2) – A story of God's care for every creature.**

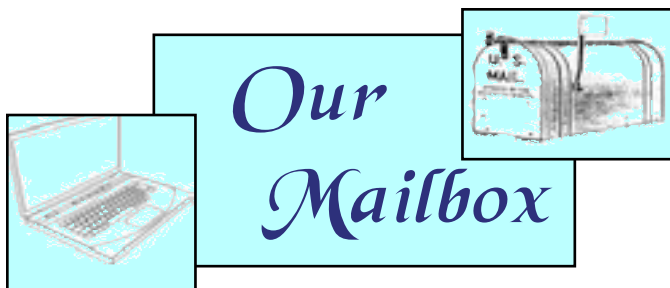
by – Steve Martin

When Lucy's best friend, her shaggy dog Rover, grows older, she begins to wonder what will happen to him someday. Will she ever see him again? With her dad's gentle words and God's promises shining through, Lucy learns that love – and every good thing God makes – lasts forever.

Forever Friends is a tender, heartwarming story about love, loss and hope told through the simple faith of a child. Based on Romans 8:21 and Revelation 21:5, it reminds children (and adults) that God's care extends to every living creature – and that one day, He will make all things new.

Perfect for bedtime reading, gentle conversations about pets, or sharing comfort after loss, this beautifully illustrated story brings peace and reassurance to young hearts.

32 pages, full-color paperback, with illustrations.



Understanding the “Logos” as Father’s plan for ALL of His creation, and that Christ was the embodiment and facilitator of it, opened my eyes to the truth that He did not pre-exist His birth. Another puzzle piece solved thanks to the BSN/Study Shelf team ... via Father (of course)! – **CO**

All the Study Shelf books and resources you have culled are a huge blessing! – **WI**

Stephen Hill’s *The Bloody Truth* is outstanding. Double thumbs up! This should be read by every Christian! – **PA**

I wanted to thank you for sharing the Joy you have in sharing what’s found in the treasures of apostle Paul’s letters. Watching you brings such joy to me as you share enthusiastically with us these findings.

I am not able to make the trip to the conference but definitely am looking forward to the videos from it.

You are a household name here, dear brother. I thank God that He has placed you in our lives through these studies.

I pray you have much joy and peace in your life today that only comes from God our Father through Christ Jesus. – **MO**

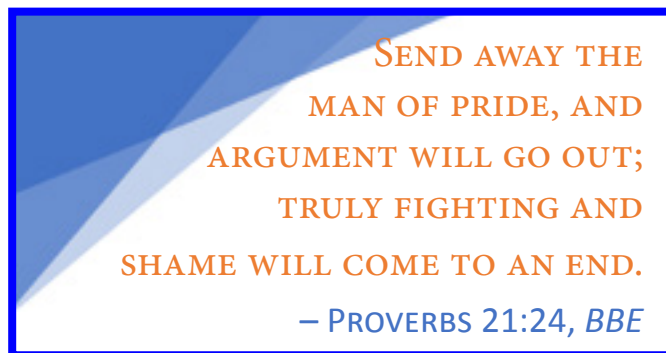
I just wanted to throw some words of encouragement your way, thank you so much for being such a huge part of being a teacher and a student of the sacred Scriptures. I recently watched a YouTube video of DC Time with Dean & Chris about Divine Energy. What a great eye and ear opener as to the realization of the loved ones around us in times of both good and not so good. I learn so much from your videos. Thank you so much. – **ID**

I, too, enjoy the study of Greek and Hebrew words. Your Video about Grace & Charis was a wonderful exposition!

I really appreciated your methodical teaching style. ... I believe that the unfortunate error in translation is assuming that the Greek or Hebrew words have exactly the same meaning as our English words. A classic example is the Greek “charis.”

Our English word “grace” may indeed carry a connotation of “unmerited favor” as one of the ways we think of grace (in English). But the Greek word “charis,” as you so well explained, certainly cannot mean “imparted favor!” Thanks for your diligent labors! – **WA**

**BSN**



## *Mars’ Hill: A Study on Acts 17*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Even among those who place a great emphasis on Paul, with his unique apostleship and message, there is an amazing neglect of one of his most outstanding messages found in the Book of Acts: his message given on Mars’ Hill. The content of his message to this group of unbelieving pagans has been overlooked for far too long.

These words of Paul contain a very rich message. Preserved in the Scriptures, we know that, not only was it a challenge to the pagans of Athens, but it will prove to be a challenge to the members of Christ’s Body as well.