



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy!

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

Volume 45
Issue III8

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

Briefed on the Secret

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

Life Inside the Administration of Grace (Joy)

(A Brief Survey of Ephesians' Truth)

by — Steve Martin

Most Christians talk about “God’s plan” the way people talk about the weather – something vague, unpredictable, and always changing. But Paul doesn’t describe God as merely having a plan. He describes God as running an administration.



OUR LEADER IS JESUS; PAUL IS THE CHIEF OF STAFF

If you want the “administration” analogy, don’t stop halfway.

- The Administrator is God the Father
- Our Leader is Jesus Christ.
- Paul is the appointed steward and spokesperson of this present administration – tasked with making known what was previously hidden.
- And we are not spectators. We are not religious volunteers. We are included members of the operation – part of the “cabinet,” so to speak – representing the will and work of the Head.

That word matters. An administration isn’t a religious mood. **It’s an ordered operation.** It has a leader. It has a stated purpose. It has appointed representatives. And it moves forward because the One in charge is actually governing. That’s what we are part of right now: the Administration of Grace (Joy).

And to make the idea concrete, let’s borrow a simple picture.

Think of a presidential administration.

There’s a President. There’s a chief of staff. There’s a cabinet. There are appointed roles. There’s an agenda that is going somewhere.

Now elevate that thought – without cheapening it – and you start to see what Paul is revealing in Ephesians: God is not asking humanity to cooperate in order to “make things work.” **God is operating. God is administering. God is carrying out what He planned before the disruption ever arrived.**

That doesn’t puff you up. It steadies you.

Because when you realize you’re part of an administration, you stop living like the whole thing depends on your performance.

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING MEANS EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING

Paul begins with a sentence that is either true or it isn’t:

[\(continued on page 9369\)](#)

Briefed on the Secret	9367
The Earth Is the Lord’s and That which Fills It.....	9373
Procured, Not Provided (quote: anonymous)...	9374

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 45, No. 1118 – April 27, 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 Sneider

Bible Student's Press™

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We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the Super-Heavens, in Christ.

Not “most.” Not “eventually.” Not “if you stay faithful enough.”

Every spiritual blessing. That single phrase destroys the religion of “*not enough.*”

Religion keeps believers circling the same drain: more guilt, more rededication, more spiritual maintenance. But grace begins with a grant – an allotment – an accomplished reality.

And where is that blessing located?

In the Super-Heavens.

That’s not poetic language for “I feel close to God sometimes.” That’s placement. That’s sphere. That’s calling.

Most of Christianity drags everything down to Earth, because they cannot imagine a calling that isn’t about “fixing society” or “taking territory” or “redeeming culture.” But Paul places this calling in a realm above the Earth – because this administration is Super-Heavenly in nature.

And it all hinges on one phrase: In Christ. That is not a slogan. It is a location. The blessings are not “floating around” waiting for you to qualify. They are yours because you are in Him.

CALLED OUT BEFORE THE DISRUPTION OF THE WORLD

Then Paul goes back farther than anyone’s testimony:

We were chosen in Him before sin entered the world.

This means that your inclusion in this administration is not God’s reaction to your improved behavior. You were not recruited when you finally started acting religious.

You were called out *before* the world was disrupted by sin. Why?

To be holy and flawless in His sight.

Notice: *in His sight.*

Religion trains you to stare at yourself. Grace trains you to see what God sees – because He sees you in Christ.

A believer can still “miss” in daily experience, but their standing is not built on experience. Their standing is built on Christ’s finished work and God’s prior choice.

SON-PLACING: NOT A COMPLIMENT – A POSITION

Then comes one of the most personal lines in the opening:



The Administration of the Secret

A Comprehensive Compilation

The Secret Administration, revealed through Ephesians and Colossians, is characterized and empowered by the dispensing of transcendent grace (Ephesians 1:7; 2:7; 3:2). Now, believing Gentiles are “*no longer guests and sojourners,*” as they were in the Pentecostal and Readjustment Administrations, but are “*fellow-citizens of the saints and members of God’s family*” (Ephesians 2:19). This outstanding work includes 45 chapters, by 17 authors, spanning

nearly 200 years. Author’s include: Oscar M. Baker, Tom L. Ballinger, J. R. Caldwell, E.

H. Clayton, J.J.B. Coles, John Essex, J.H. Evans, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, William B. Hallman, Richard Holden, John H. Kessler, A.E. Knoch, Adlai Loudy, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., and Charles H. Welch.

He designates us beforehand for sonship.

Sonship is not “God saying something nice about you.” It is son-placing – being put into an appointed position with rights, standing and privilege.

And Paul adds the part that religion never knows how to handle:

He was delighted to do so.

You need to let that land.

- God did not reluctantly accept you;
- God was not talked into loving you;
- God did not sigh and say, “Fine, I guess.”

He *delighted*.

And yes – this is where “grace means joy” belongs, because grace is not cold policy. Grace is warmth. Grace is God *joyfully* doing what He planned to do.

He joyizes us. Not because we impressed Him, but because He *wanted* to.

DELIVERANCE AND JUSTIFICATION: YOU HAVE THEM

Paul does not speak in religious “maybe” language:

In Him we have deliverance.

Not “we might.” Not “we hope.” We *have* it.

Deliverance means release – liberation. That’s not a feeling. That’s a transaction. That’s a change of status.

And tied to that deliverance is what we keep emphasizing:

Justification.

Forgiveness still leaves a person “guilty but excused.”

Justification declares a person righteous in standing.

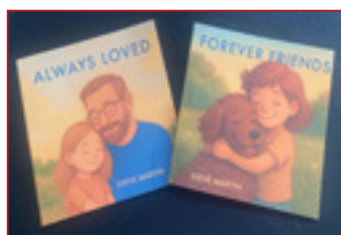
The Administration of Grace (Joy) does not leave believers on probation.

HE MADE KNOWN TO YOU THE SECRET OF HIS WILL

Administrations have an agenda. And the people in the operation are briefed.

Paul says that God makes known to us the secret of His will.

And again – Paul adds that word: *delight*.



The Lucy Series

by — Steve Martin

Perfect gifts for bedtime reading or encouragement, wrapping young hearts in truth.

32 pages, full-color paperback, with illustrations.

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Forever Friends (Book 2) – A story of God’s care for every creature.

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.

(More to come.)

God wasn't reluctant to reveal this. He wasn't hiding it to test your sincerity. He delighted to disclose it, because this secret gives you stability.

In other words: you weren't saved just to "go to Heaven." You were placed into a role inside of what God is doing.

And what is the disclosed agenda?

CABINET MEMBERS DON'T CREATE THE AGENDA – THEY PROMOTE IT

THE GOAL: HEAD UP ALL IN CHRIST

Here is the summit statement:

*An administration of the complement of the eras
– to head up all in the Christ – both that in the
Heavens and that on the Earth.*

This is where the "cabinet" picture helps. In any administration, cabinet members don't freelance. They don't rewrite the platform. They don't run a competing message down the hallway. They represent the leader and promote the agenda in their assigned sphere.

This is not "God trying to rescue a few souls before He gives up and burns the rest." That storyline is beneath the God Whom Paul reveals.

That's exactly what we are doing in the Administration of Grace.

The revealed goal is the universal heading up in Christ – *everything* brought into Christ's headship, both celestial and terrestrial.

We are not here to invent our own spiritual program or market our own version of Christianity.

And here's where the personal calling hits with force:

We are here to advance the declared agenda of our Leader – to speak what He is accomplishing, to make known what He has disclosed, and to announce the stated end: to head up all in Him, both in the Heavens and on the Earth.

- We were chosen to be part of this administration.
- We were made for this position.
- For His delight in us, He made us a part of it.

We don't negotiate this agenda, and we don't edit it



The "31 Days ..." Series

Daily devotionals, one for each day of the month, compiled by Steve Martin.

31 Days of God's Secret Administration

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. These readings clarify the distinction between Israel's earthly kingdom hope and the One Body's celestial calling.

31 Days of Grace: Daily Reflections on Living with Kindness and Peace

31 of the most powerful and thought-provoking excerpts from extensive work, *The Absolute Despotism of Grace*, expounding on the marvelous, powerful reign of God's grace in our day.

31 Days of Sovereignty: Daily Encouraging Insights About God's Sovereignty

This installment is a curated selection of 31 of the most powerful and insightful chapters from the book *The Absolute Sovereignty of God: A Comprehensive Compilation*, emphasizing God's complete sovereignty – His absolute control over all things. The goal of the book is to help readers overcome fear, guilt and pressure, and instead find peace in God's unwavering rule.

(More to come.)

to fit popular religion. We steward it. We embody it.

We make it known – with the calm confidence that the outcome is guaranteed, because the One in charge is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will.

REALIZATION: SEEING WHAT'S ALREADY TRUE

Paul doesn't just want believers to possess facts. He prays for realization – for eyes opened, for understanding that becomes lived stability.

Because you can be seated in the Super-Heavens and still live like you're begging for scraps.

Realization is God giving you the ability to *see your place*.

REPRESENTATION: WE COMPLETE HIM AND HE COMPLETES US

And then comes one of Paul's boldest lines:

The One Body of the Secret Administration is His complement.

This doesn't mean that Christ is weak. It means that God has chosen to express the Head through a body. The administration functions through representation.

- We represent Christ.
- He fills us.
- We express Him.

THE OPERATING PRINCIPLE: GOD WORKS EVERYTHING BY HIS WILL

And the best part is this:

God is operating everything in accord with the counsel of His will.

That sentence is a wrecking ball to anxiety.

If God is operating everything according to His will, then the success of the administration does not depend on human effort holding it together.

And yes – faith matters, but even that is framed as God's gift:

We believe because God gives faith within His operation – so that we participate knowingly in what He is already administering.

THE POINT

Here's the difference that readers should not miss:

We are not part of a generic "Christian life program." We are part of a distinct administration.

- Our calling is Super-Heavenly;
- Our blessings are already granted;
- Our Sonship is already designated;
- Our standing is already holy and flawless in His sight;
- Our deliverance is already possessed;

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



World Affairs and National Politics ***and the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus***

Third Edition (2024) by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

When did nationalism begin? What is God's purpose for nationalism? Is the United States a Christian nation? Does any government have *Favored Nation Status* with God today? Should believers support Israel? What did Paul have to say about our citizenship? What is our role in relation to nations? Is our job to rid the world of evil? What should the believer's attitude be toward earthly authority? Should all obedience to earthly magistrates be absolute? Are believers to pay their taxes? Where does voting and jury duty fit in? Why was the apostle Paul executed?

These and many other questions are addressed in this groundbreaking work!

The Earth Is the Lord's and That Which Fills It

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

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

The Earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein (Psalm 24:1).

In the last analysis, no nation has a right to its territory nor any government to its authority. There have been exceptions to this, when God delegated rule to such men as Nebuchadnezzar, or when He gave Israel their land and chose their king. But there is not a nation today that can give a perfect title to any of its territory, or a valid basis for its authority. All of us are “squatters” or usurpers, living on Another's soil and using His authority.

I well remember the remark of a famous law specialist concerning the title to a piece of property. He declared that, in a large city whose valuation would reach to the billions, not a single title deed was incontestable.

Many of the land titles in the United States go back to patents from the King of England or to grants of the King of Spain. But what real right had they to the land they gave to others? If it be the “right of discovery,” then anyone with sufficient power can “discover” anything in the possession of one weaker than himself and take it for his own.

William Penn saw this and bought Pennsylvania both from the king and from the Indians. Yet, even so, what title had the Indians? Even if they had found it unused and untenanted by man, we are hardly prepared to admit that a vacant piece of property or one unused is subject to seizure by anyone who can hold it, and that such a one can sell it to others and give a valid title.

No matter how many intervening steps there may be, we must finally come to the Psalmist's conclusion that the earth is the Lord's, and that which fills it.

When Israel dwelt in the land, they acknowledged this by paying a tithe of its produce to sustain His worship. They were simply His tenants. Holding property in fee simple, or absolute ownership, is a fiction which will come to a sad end.

So also with government. The right to rule is divine, and no man can have it except as it is delegated to him by God. The great cry of this day is democracy, or the rule of the people. Republicanism is but a modified form of it. It has proved itself most unstable and corrupt, as all mere human government is bound to be.

When the mass of mankind arrogates to itself the authority which is God's they soon desire independence, not only from earthly despotism, but Divine Sovereignty. So that today the most perfunctory acknowledgement of God is only tolerated as a superstition.

Democracy often ends in despotism and a dictator. In times of stress a strong hand is needed at the helm of the ship of state and the crew are glad to obey the one who can guide them through the storm. So it was in Rome when Caesar came upon the scene.

The Unveiling of Jesus Christ (1924)
(Excerpt)

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Government; Politics; Real Estate; Sovereignty
Minor: Authority

BRIEFED (continued from page 9372)

- The secret has already been disclosed;
- The goal is already declared;
- And the operation is already being carried out by the will and power of God.

So no – this isn't a message that says, "Try harder."

This is the message that says:

Embrace your place. You're already in the administration. **BSSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Ephesians, Administration of Grace (Joy)

Minor: Sonship; Sovereignty

"GOD HAS PROVIDED THE VICTORY!" – SHOUTS RELIGION.

"GOD HAS PROCURED THE VICTORY." – WHISPERS TRUTH.

TO PROVIDE IS TO MAKE SOMETHING AVAILABLE.

TO PROCURE IS TO SECURE IT BY ACTION.

PROVIDED MEANS IT'S ON THE TABLE.

PROCURED MEANS IT'S ALREADY WON.

PROVIDED STILL LEANS ON THE WILL OF MAN.

PROCURED RESTS ENTIRELY ON THE WORK OF CHRIST.

ONE CELEBRATES OPPORTUNITY.

THE OTHER DECLARES ACCOMPLISHMENT.

RELIGION SHOUTS ABOUT WHAT YOU MUST DO WITH WHAT'S BEEN OFFERED.

TRUTH WHISPERS ABOUT WHAT CHRIST HAS ALREADY FINISHED.

"IT IS FINISHED" WAS NOT AN OFFER OF AVAILABILITY.

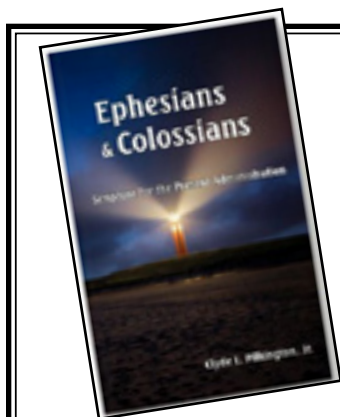
IT WAS THE DECLARATION OF VICTORY SECURED.

CHRIST DID NOT MAKE REDEMPTION POSSIBLE.

HE SECURED IT.

WHAT GOD PROCURES CANNOT BE UNDONE.

– (UNATTRIBUTED)



Ephesians & Colossians

Scripture for the Present Administration

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Ephesians and Colossians are the present truth for the current dispensation. Ephesians introduces the Secret Administration in which we live, while Colossians, its companion epistle, completes the Word of God. There are no other Secret Administration letters beyond Ephesians and Colossians.

76 pages (2nd edition)