



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy!

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

Volume 45
Issue 1121

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

God's Creative Original

by — Deverlain L. Trefethen

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

Part 3 (of 3)

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).

NEW CREATION VS. NEW HUMANITY

Through this series we have learned that Jesus Christ as God's *Creative Original* was the First to be resurrected and vivified, securing Life Immortal for all. Each of Dad's creation will follow Jesus Christ, the Original, in like manner (death, resurrection, vivification), as assigned in class and order (Revelation 3:14; I Corinthians 15:20-24).



Often times, when reading Scripture, it can be difficult to understand if not downright confusing. This is by Father's design. The same words are often used in the letters of Paul written during the Acts period and in the letters that Paul wrote in our Secret Administration epistles. However, because Paul's letters cover two different administrations, it is incumbent upon us to dig deeper in order to parse the differences.

Have you heard the illustration regarding the elephant – how several blind men perceived what it was from different perspectives through touch? The first felt the trunk and said that the elephant is like a thick snake. The next one touched its ear and it seemed to him like a fan. The next grabbed hold of its leg and said that the elephant is like a tree-trunk. The man who put his hand on the elephant's side likened the elephant to a wall. Another who embraced its tail described it as a rope. The last ran his hands back and

forth on its tusk, saying that the elephant was hard and smooth like a spear.

I find that the more time that I spend in God's Word, the more I come to realize the many facets, the many layers to be unearthed. In fact, there are elements to be discovered that are still hidden. I might be studying the Word, or reading a periodical or book, or watching a video, or listening to an audio – and I'll receive a glimpse of something that I need to study out. Many times (and I don't think this is unique to me) that glimpse, that spark, is the impetus which brings increase to my realization. My hope is that it is Dad's plan to give you and I the eyes to see more of the hidden wealth in His Word in our lifetime, whereby we are increased in the knowledge of Him.

Context is important, but comparing Scripture with Scripture, while looking up the meaning from the original, is also needful to get the true meaning of what we read. Yet not *only* that, we may see words and/or terms in one place regarding a subject (where Father is making a specific emphasis), and He may use the same words or terms elsewhere that carry a similar but different

[\(continued on page 9393\)](#)

God's Creative Original (part 3 of 3).....	9391
Tidbits of Truth #88.....	9397
Our Mailbox	9398
Reconciliation (quote: F.J. Robison)	9398

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. 1121 – May 18, 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 Moneyppenny, Deverlain L. Trefethen, Mark Vogt

Copyright © 1989-2026 Bible Student's Press™

weight of understanding (remember, context).

In other words, the meaning can carry the same weight and meaning when diversely placed throughout God's Word, but it can also contain weightier understanding when we are granted the realization to discover, NOT just surface light, but hidden light. As we dig deeper than the topsoil, we can discover a different facet of understanding that Papa is revealing.

ACTS ADMINISTRATION LETTERS

We, then, were entombed together with Him through baptism into death, that, even as Christ was roused from among the dead through the glory of the Father, thus we also should be walking in newness of life. For if we have become planted together in the likeness of His death, nevertheless we shall be of the resurrection also, knowing this, that our old humanity was crucified together with Him, that the body of Sin may be nullified, for us by no means to be still slaving for sin, for one who dies has been justified from Sin (Romans 6:4-7).

For the love of Christ is constraining us, judging this, that, if One died for the sake of all, consequently all died. And He died for the sake of all that those who are living should by no means still be living to themselves, but to the One dying and being roused for their sakes. So that we, from now on, are acquainted with no one according to flesh. Yet even if we have known Christ according to flesh, nevertheless now we

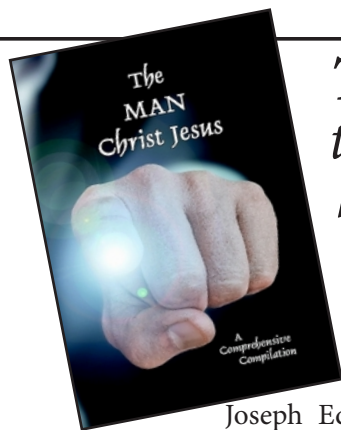
*know Him so no longer. So that, if anyone is in Christ, there is a **New Creation**: the primitive passed by. Lo! there has come new (II Corinthians 5:14-17)!*

*Now may it not be mine to be boasting, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a **New Creation** (Galatians 6:14-15).*

All of these passages were written for the believer in the Acts era. They are contrasting trusting in the flesh (circumcision) with who they are now in Christ. Paul, as a priest of Israel, an able minister of the New Covenant, is teaching these believers that when Christ died, they died. Basically, he wants them to realize that all of the efforts that they put forward to do good (the old humanity) was crucified when Jesus was crucified. Paul is redirecting their thinking. In today's British Paul might say, "Brethren, give a little think. Sin has no hold on you. You're not a slave to sin any longer. I want you to understand who you are in Christ and walk in the newness of Life He has afforded you."

SECRET ADMINISTRATION LETTERS

Yet now, in Christ Jesus, you, who once are far off, are become near by the blood of Christ. For He is our Peace, Who makes both one, and razes the central wall of the barrier (the enmity in His flesh), nullifying the law of precepts in decrees, that He should be creating the two, in Himself,



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).

into one **New Humanity**, making peace; and should be reconciling both in one body to God through the cross, killing the enmity in it (Ephesians 2:13-16).

Do not lie to one another, stripping off the old humanity together with its practices, and putting on the young, which is being renewed into recognition, to accord with the Image of the One Who creates it, wherein there is no Greek and Jew, Circumcision and Uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but all and in all is Christ (Colossians 3:9-11).

Our Secret Administration letters, when speaking of the old humanity and the new humanity is significantly different than the Acts era letters, in that our letters reveal that there is a brand new entity, if you will, of those between whom God Himself had placed a barrier of separation who are now made one New Humanity, or as the KJV states “*the New Man.*”

Having said that, there is also sameness (line upon line, precept upon precept), to be found in Paul’s Acts epistles and his Secret Administration epistles, in that each are instructive to give way to new thinking. For what and who we are now is not who we were before Dad quickened us to newness of life. I can’t stress enough the importance of putting off the old thinking and putting on the new. We are one

New Humanity in Christ, and we are to think from the new.

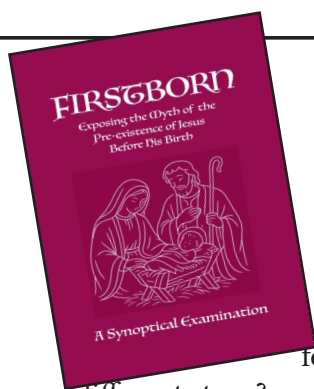
For let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus ... for it is God Who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Philippians 2:5, 13, MKJV).

During the Acts era, the Circumcision had a higher position with God. We see in our letters God saying that the Circumcision were *near*, whereas the Uncircumcision were *far*. That was then (in that past era), yet, now – with the revelation of the Secret made known – there is no longer a wall of separation between the two. This was made possible by the cross of Christ, but not made known until Paul pens the epistles of Ephesians and Colossians – revealing that the two (the ones near and far) have been made one – as one New Humanity.

Earlier I stated that it is by Father’s design that it’s difficult to understand His Word. For you see, we each perceive what He has done (times past), what He is doing (yet now), and what He will do (that which is to come), but *only* as Papa grants us the realization.

James D. Fine writes,

The process of understanding is true of all people who believe. It explains why there are so many conflicting interpretations regarding God’s Word.



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.

Not all are supposed to perceive it the same, or at the same time. It's a journey, and God will use those differences in a way that will become apparent one day.

It is Father Who quickens within us the desire to dig in and understand. He places in us the desire to study, to hollow out the find like an archeologist, to discover the treasure in His preserved Word. ALL is of God. I join Paul in this prayer for each of us,

... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may be giving you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the realization of Him, the eyes of your heart having been enlightened, for you to perceive what is the expectation of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His allotment among the saints, and what the transcendent greatness of His power for us who are believing, in accord with the operation of the might of His strength, which is operative in the Christ, rousing Him from among the dead and seating Him at His right hand among the celestials, up over every sovereignty and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this eon, but also in that which is impending: and subjects all under His feet, and gives Him, as Head over all, to the ecclesia which is His body, the complement of the One completing the all in all (Ephesians 1:17-23).

What a blessing and privilege to be granted “a spirit

of wisdom and revelation in the realization of Him.” The opportunity to discover what is layered in our Secret Administration epistles is a boon, a favor, a grace that only when experienced can be understood, because said understanding is in the realization of Him. God's spirit opens the Secret Administration letters to us while simultaneously stripping away the myriad years of the doctrines of men. Oh, how wonderful, Oh, how marvelous it is to see God's great love for us.

On this behalf I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you, the nations – since you surely hear of the administration of the grace of God that is given to me for you, for by revelation the secret is made known to me (according as I write before, in brief, by which you who are reading are able to apprehend my understanding in the secret of the Christ, which, in other generations, is not made known to the sons of humanity as it was now revealed to His holy apostles and prophets): in spirit the nations are to be joint enjoyers of an allotment, and a joint body, and joint partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus, through the evangel of which I became the dispenser, in accord with the gratuity of the grace of God, which is granted to me in accord with His powerful operation. To me, less than the least of all saints, was granted this grace: to bring the evangel of the untraceable riches of Christ to the nations, and to enlighten all as to what is the administration of the secret, which has been concealed from the eons in God, Who creates all, that now may be made known to the sovereign-



Was Jesus Christ Alive Before His Life on Earth Began? A Critical Look at the Supposed Preexistence of Christ

by — Aaron Welch

(I Timothy 2:5) 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.

ties and the authorities among the celestials, through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God, in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord; in Whom we have boldness and access with confidence, through His faith (Ephesians 3:1-12).

What a lesson to be learned, should Father grant us the eyes to perceive. I've been increased many times when reading material where the emphasis is placed on God's Sovereignty.

It is my hope that we may be granted more and more realization of Him. May we put off the old and put on the new realization. If we have learned anything, even discarding the old for the new is all together in Papa's time and order (Philippians 2:13).

To summarize: The Revelation passage regarding *God's Creative Original* points to Christ being the first of the One New Humanity to be vivified. Jesus is the prototype (the first-in-kind to be followed by the rest, in their class and order). The vivification of Jesus Christ made Jesus the beginning – the Genesis, the Origin – of the One New Humanity. What's next to transpire? According to Scripture the resurrection and vivification of the One Body of Christ is next. Another first. That which is presently hidden will be manifested. That is to say, the One Body, who is "*pre-expectant in Christ*," will be manifested together with Christ to debut the One New Humanity.

Ponder this: God is Life, Immortal Life. He, with no beginning and no end, is the epitome of Immortal Life. When Jesus was vivified, He ascended and is now seated at the right hand of God, where exists ONLY Immortal Life. When we are manifested to-

gether with Christ ... you get the picture. At the Consummation, all of God's creatures will be manifested and exist in Life Immortal. For of Him (Who is Immortal), and through Him (Who is Life), and to Him (I Am) *are* all things.

Rejoice, saints! We are next, in class and order. **BSN**

Part 1: [Bible Student's Notebook 1111](#)

Part 2: [Bible Student's Notebook 1112](#)

TOPICS:

Major: *Aparchē*, (G536); Creative Original; Immortality; Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ (Pre-Existence of); Firstfruits; Logos; Preeminence; Prototype; *Prototokos* (G4416); New Humanity; Vivification
Minor: Realization; Sovereignty

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

The book:

– [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](#).



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.



Tidbits of Truth #88

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

I suppose that all who do biblical research wish at times that they could set forth fragmentary and unfinished ideas in printed form without people thinking that a final and definitive conclusion has now been chiseled into imperishable granite which shall stand forever as the final word on the subject dealt with. Any such conclusion will be far from correct. — Otis Sellers (1901-1992)

THIS, TOO, IS FOR THE GOOD

The phrase “This, too, is for the good” (Hebrew: *gam zu l'tovah*) is a Jewish maxim expressing radical faith, that even seemingly negative events are part of the divine plan for a superior outcome.

Unlike “this too shall pass,” which focuses on enduring a bad situation until it ends, *gam zu l'tovah* asserts that the situation itself is intended for a good purpose, even if that purpose is not yet visible. Thus, it reflects an unshakeable belief that every event, even those that seem harmful, is ultimately orchestrated by a sovereign God for a beneficial purpose. God's sovereignty – His omnipotence, omniscience, and total control of all events, even suffering and confusion – accomplishes ultimate, benevolent purposes. He is absolutely sovereign over all nature, history and individuals – including human decisions – to fulfill His ultimate plans.

This firm truth is reflected in the divine revelation given to Paul.

For us, who love God, who are the called according to His purpose, there is an awareness that He is working all together for good (Romans 8:28, BSV).

—Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

MAKING YOUR WORLD SMALLER

Your soul was never meant to know the news of the world. Human beings were meant to live in small, organic communities of about 150 people. You're not

supposed to know about the tragedies taking place in far off lands.

We think that to be a responsible human being we need to pay attention to current events. We think that we need to know the tragedy of every corner of this world. That's one of the internet-disciple lies we've all been taught. You're not made to digest all of this media. You're supposed to know about your community and your family and focus there.

You're just not meant to know the heartbreak of the world. And guess what? You knowing changes nothing, except the weight you carry on your shoulders. You were never meant for this. Your brain was not created for omniscience.

So, learn to reduce your news intake if you want to reduce anxiety. Shrink your world back down to a human-size. You're not being irresponsible, you're being human.

Learning to reduce your news intake not only will positively impact you, but it will also impact your family. You pass this anxiety to them without even realizing it.

Make your world smaller, if your soul craves peace. This isn't giving up. It's not apathy. It's choosing, every single day, to let go of the burdens we were never meant to carry.

— John Eldredge
(Abridged & edited excerpts from various interviews)

WHO IS A BELIEVER?

Some will pose the question as to *who is a believer*. The answer is really quite simple. Believers are those whom God has granted some measure of faith. We are not believers because we believe; we believe because God has given us faith to believe – however small or weak that faith may be. Faith is entirely the operation of the self-revealing God.

While some religious leaders will take it upon themselves to decide who is or is not a believer, Paul was quite content to leave the answer of who had a *special*

belonging to the Lord with the Lord Himself.

Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them who are His (II Timothy 2:19).

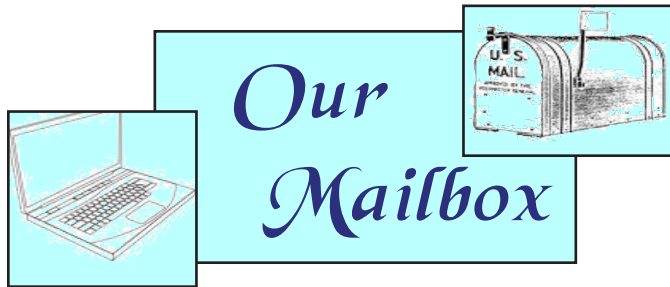
We too, are quite satisfied to leave this with the Lord as well.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

BSN

Topics:

Major: [*This, Too, is for the Good*] Sovereignty [*Making Your World Smaller:*] News [*Who Is a Believer?:*] Believer; Faith



Thank you very much! Some of my light bulb moments come with Clyde, Steve Martin, and Study Shelf resources – a gamechanger. Thanks for sharing the knowledge that led to this realization. – **Scotland**

Well, I am very excited about this order and all I can learn! Thank you so much for all you did to provide and make it happen! – **VA**

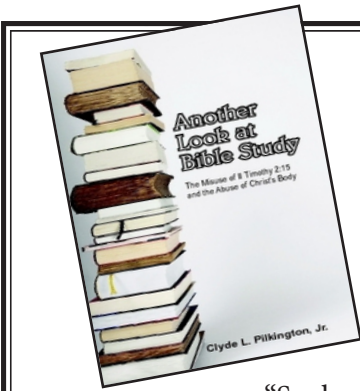
Our blessings are way off the charts, as we are finding daily. – **NM**

Your work on the word “joy” and “grace” is astound-

ing. ... You have outdone yourself. I appreciate your taking the lead on the truth of the word grace really being joy. – **ID**

Thank you so much for your great articles. I have grown so much from your ministries. – **IL**

Thanks Clyde and Steve for your video and declaration of the JOY OF CHRIST JESUS' birth! In contrast to this evil world that we live in, I need to listen to this message again and again and again! – **IN**



Another Look at “Bible Study”

The Misuse of II Timothy 2:15 and the Abuse of Christ's Body
by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

“You continue to bless me with messages that relieve the burden.” – **Illinois**

“Helped me shed major bondage.” – **Michigan**

“What a freeing teaching.” – **Pennsylvania**

“Such a balm to my soul.” – **Canada**

“Finally relieved me of yet another religious burden.” – **Poland**