Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy!

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

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

Volume 46
Issue 1130

The Secret Administration of the Placer's Joy

Click here to listen to this article

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



Three expressions used by Paul in his epistles of Ephesians and Colossians regarding the current administration provide a rich and comprehensive view of God's present dealings with the Out-Called.

While no single verse combines all three designations, together they nonetheless form a beautiful portrait of the character, purpose and operation of the administration under which we now live.

Paul speaks of our present administration using three interconnected descriptions:

- *The Administration* ***of the Placer*** (Colossians 1:25)
- *The Administration* ***of the Joy of the Placer*** (Ephesians 3:2)
- *The Administration* ***of the Secret*** (Ephesians 3:9)

Each title emphasizes a different aspect of the same divine administration.

The Placer Is Its Source

> *Of which I became the dispenser, according to* ***the Administration of the Placer*** *which is granted to me for you* (Colossians 1:25).

The administration originates entirely with the Placer (*Theos*). It is not the byproduct of humanity nor of Israel's intermediary or national covenants. It proceeds directly from God Himself.

This is significant, because every administration reflects the character and purpose of the one who administers it.

The source of all that is presently being accomplished is the sovereign purpose of the Placer alone. Before any response, before any work, God had already established this administration within His own immutable counsel.

Thus, the overriding emphasis is not upon what man does for God, but upon what God is accomplishing according to His Own purpose.

The Joy of the Placer Is Its Nature

> *Since you surely hear of* ***the Administration of the Joy of the Placer*** *that is given to me for you* (Ephesians 3:2).

Every administration of God reveals something of His character, but this present administration uniquely reveals His joy (*charis*).

Under law, the emphasis was obligation. Under covenant, the emphasis was prom- *(continued on page 9465)*

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Bible Student's Notebook™
Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal
ISSN: 1936-9360
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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

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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 Moneypenny, Deverlain L. Trefethen, Mark Vogt

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ise. Under Kingdom, the emphasis was prophetic fulfillment. But under the present administration, the emphasis is divine joy. The blessings associated with this administration arise purely from the joy of the Placer Himself.

Standing rests not upon personal achievement but upon God's delighted disposition toward those whom He has out-called. This administration, therefore, produces assurance rather than anxiety, confidence rather than fear, and thanksgiving rather than boasting.

- Its atmosphere is joy.
- Its language is delight.
- Its foundation is God's Own happiness.

The Secret Is Its Orientation and Operation

> *To enlighten all as to what is* ***the Administration of the Secret*** … (Ephesians 3:9).

The Secret (*musterion*) does not refer to something "mysterious" in the modern sense. It is a truth concealed in God from previous ages, yet now disclosed by Him.

The present administration operates according to truths that were hidden from prior generations.

Israel's prophets spoke of the Kingdom. They spoke of Messiah's reign. They spoke of the restoration of the Earth. They spoke of the Nations being blessed through Israel. But they did not reveal the Secret Administration committed to Paul.

The joint body. The celestial calling. The transcendent position far above the celestials. Christ as the expectation of glory for the Out-Called. These truths were not the subject of prophecy. They were matters of unique Pauline revelation.

The secret therefore becomes the orientation of this administration. It established its direction, its calling, its blessings, and its expectations.

To attempt to understand the present administration apart from the Secret – to view it through the lens of previous administrations – is to miss its absolute distinctive character.

The Harmony of the Three

These three descriptions are not separate administrations. They are three perspectives on the same divine operation.

- **The Placer** reveals its Origin.
- **The Joy of the Placer** reveals its Character.
- **The Secret** reveals its Method and Purpose.

We might summarize it this way:

- It originates in God.
- It flows through His Joy.

(see Placer, page 9468)



The Administration of the Secret
(A Comprehensive Compilation)

The Secret Administration, revealed through Ephesians and Colossians, is characterized and empowered by the dispensation 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. 308 pages.

The Final Word

Part 2 of 3

by — Darson Buckner

Click here to listen to this article

The Greater Adam



There was a passage I had read for decades without allowing it to fully speak.

Paul writes,

> *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive* (I Corinthians 15:22, *NKJV,* used throughout).

For years, I read that verse through built-in assumptions that I had never examined. I instinctively assumed that the first *"all"* meant everyone without exception, but the second *"all"* must mean something smaller.

Yet, Paul does not signal a change in scope. He builds a symmetry. Adam affects all. Christ affects all.

Romans echoes the same pattern:

> *Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life* (Romans 5:18).

One man. One act. All affected.

Paul intensifies the comparison. He writes,

> *For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ* (Romans 5:17).

Christ does not merely match Adam – He surpasses him.

And then it settled into something unavoidable.

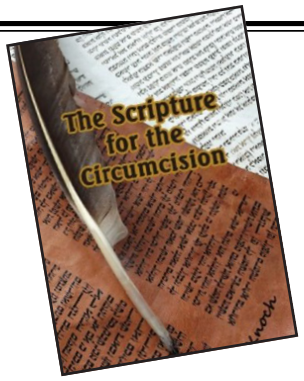
If death entered through one man and spread to all, and if Christ is the greater Adam, then His victory must reach at least as far as Adam's ruin.

When that settled in me, I felt as though I was seeing Christ larger than I ever had before. It was a pivotal shift in my understanding – not because I had discovered something new, but because I had finally allowed the fullness of what was written to stand.

The peace did not rush in all at once. It built gradually. One passage at a time. One question answered. One fear released.

Some point to Paul's phrase, *"those who receive abundance of grace"* (Romans 5:17), and understand it as a limitation. I once did the same.

(see Word, page 9469)



The Scripture for the Circumcision

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

A dispensational look at the Greek Scriptures that were written specifically to the Jews. 54 pages, paperback.

The Sunk Cost Fallacy of Religion

by — Steve Martin

Click here to listen to this article

The sunk cost fallacy is a concept from psychology and economics that describes our tendency to continue investing in something simply because we have already invested so much.

A sunk cost is something that cannot be recovered – years, money, effort, reputation, relationships. Rationally speaking, those past investments should not determine future decisions.

The question should always be: *Given what I know now, what is the best path forward?*

But humans rarely work that way. Instead, we think, *I've already spent too much to turn back now.*

People stay in careers that they no longer enjoy because they spent years earning degrees. They remain in unhealthy relationships because they invested decades.

They keep funding failing projects because they already put so much into them. The greater the investment, the harder it becomes to reconsider.

Religion may be one of the most powerful places where this happens. Someone begins to see tensions that they never noticed before. Questions appear. Certain doctrines no longer seem to fit.

Promises that once sounded beautiful begin to feel incomplete. Ideas once accepted with certainty begin to invite examination.

But another voice speaks: *What would this mean about all of those years? What would this mean about all of those sermons? What would this mean about all of those books, classes, studies, prayers, conversations?*

And for some people, the cost feels even greater. Imagine someone whose entire career has been in religion. A pastor. A missionary. A Bible teacher. A denominational leader.

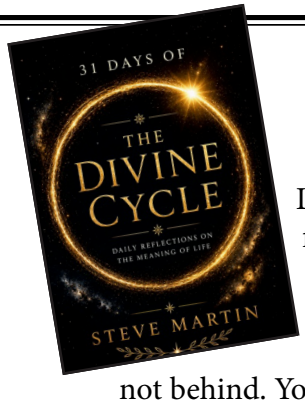
Someone who built not only beliefs, but identity, community, income, reputation and purpose around a theological system.

To reconsider is not merely intellectual. It can feel like risking friendships, employment, respect, and sometimes family. The thought quietly arises: *If I admit that I see things differently now, was my whole life wasted?*

That question keeps many people where they are. Not because they remain persuaded, but because the cost of change feels unbearable. Yet perhaps there is another way to look at the journey.

What if changing your mind does not invalidate your past? What if every stage served a purpose?

What if Father never intended your life to be a



31 Days of the Divine Cycle

by — Steve Martin

Life can feel confusing, unfinished, and sometimes unfair. Dreams change. Plans fail. We wonder if we missed our chance or took the wrong path. But what if life is not a test to pass or a race to win? In these 31 daily reflections, Steve Martin invites you to explore life as a Divine Cycle – a journey shaped by purpose, contrast, growth and love. Every joy, every struggle, and every season has meaning. You are not behind. You are not forgotten. Your story is unfolding exactly as it should. Take the journey. One day at a time. 84 pages.

straight line from ignorance to realization?

If God truly works all according to the counsel of His will, then your former beliefs were not interruptions to His plan. They were part of it. The books you read. The convictions you defended. The seasons of certainty. The seasons of disappointment.

The questions. The unraveling. The rebuilding. None of it occurred outside of His authorship.

You were not lost. You were being led. You were not failing. You were learning.

You were not outside of His hand. You were inside of His story.

Maybe you wish you had known certain things earlier. Maybe you wish you had been spared years of striving, fear, confusion, or defending ideas you no longer hold.

But if your story was written before you were born, then even those chapters belonged. You could not have lived a different story. Those experiences formed the contrast that made later realization possible. Life was never a test you could fail. It was preparation.

And Father wastes nothing. Not your victories. Not your detours. Not even your misunderstandings. Your path brought you exactly to where it was written to bring you.

So, you do not have to resent your former self. You can thank him. He walked faithfully according to the light he had.

And Father was keeping him all along. BSN

Topics:
Major: Growth; Religion
Minor: Sovereignty

Placer *(continued from page 9465)*

- It operates according to previously concealed truths.

Or:

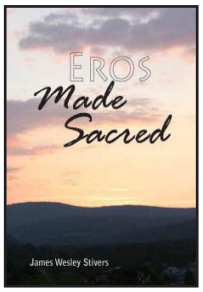
- God is its Author.
- Joy is its atmosphere.
- The Secret is its revelation.

The administration under which we presently live is uniquely God's Own administration, flowing out of His joy, and operating according to truths formerly concealed, but now revealed through the apostle Paul.

- Its Source is the sovereign Placer.
- Its Nature is His overflowing joy.
- Its Orientation is the absolute Secret.

Thus, we may rightly speak of our present economy as ***the Secret Administration of the Placer's Joy*** – a divine administration originating in God, characterized by His rich joy, and governed by the revelation of truths hidden from the ages and generations, but now made known through Paul (Colossians 1:26). BSN

Topics:
Major: Administration; God; Joy; Placer; Secret
Minor: Sovereignty



Eros Made Sacred: *or The Biblical Case Made for Polygamy*
by — James Wesley Stivers
(originally published in 1991)
74 pages

This book presents a clear biblical justification for polygamous marriage as sanctioned by the Holy Scriptures. The issue of polygamy is used to contrast current moral biases with those found in the Bible. First published more than 15 years ago, this thoughtful work has gone unrefuted. Provocative, instructional, challenging, edifying. The book chapters are:

- Polygamy: A Biblical Custom
- Objections Answered; In Favor of Polygamy
- The Ministry of the Patriarch
- Polygamy as a Tool of Christian Dominion
- Feminism, Monogamy and Witchcraft



I have been meaning to send you a check for some time. I am glad to get this out in the mail. It seems like in the past two years I have learned new spiritual things in the Word, that seem to be way out of mainstream Christendom. – ***VA***

I am so thankful you are working on a Study Bible – it is so needed right now to get the truth out to the general population but mostly to the Sons. I can't wait for the completed version. I know it is years away, but I plan on buying a copy for everyone in my family.

I wanted also to say that the book you and Steve wrote called *The Edifice* really touched my wife and me. I have tried to get my wife to read some of your longer books, but she refuses; she will read only the short ones. She told me the other day to get the books that Steve writes because it really speaks to her, and they are short and powerful. So, I bought the *Antidote* and both of us loved it. She says Steve is the only one she will read because they are simple but powerful, and she gets a lot out of them, so please pass on to Steve Martin that he has a new fan.

I am different from my wife; I love the longer books. There is nothing I enjoy more than curling up in my Lazy Boy with a thick book on the sovereignty of God or the Secret Administration.

I just wanted to encourage you to keep up the good work, and I really appreciate the update videos you post. They are very encouraging and I learn lots from them. – ***KS*** BSN

Word (*continued from page 9466*)

But Scripture also speaks of blindness that is temporary.

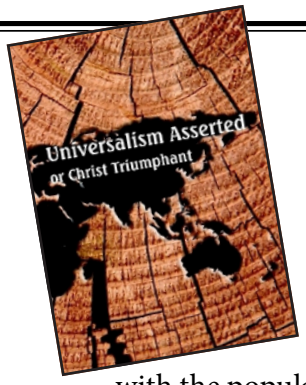
Jesus spoke in parables so that some would not yet perceive (Mark 4:11-12). Paul speaks of a partial hardening that remains *"until"* its appointed time (Romans 11:25). And then he writes,

> *For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all* (Romans 11:32).

Blindness in Scripture is not the final word. If God can conceal for a season, He can reveal in fullness.

Paul tells us that,

> *At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in Heaven, and of those on Earth, and of those under the Earth, and* (*see* ***Word****, next page*)



Christ Triumphant (or Universalism Asserted)

by — Thomas Allin (1838-1909)

Allin was a Church of Ireland clergyman, graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and botanical naturalist. He was influenced by the work of Hosea Ballou. He originally published Universalism Asserted in 1890, this book answers the question of questions: Can evil triumph finally over Good? If we answer affirmatively with the popular creed, we are practically falling into Dualism, but if we reply in the negative, we are teaching the universal salvation of all. Men strive to save the popular creed by various modifications: by diminishing the number of the lost, by softening their torments, or by asserting their annihilation. What are all these but so many tacit confessions that men everywhere feel it impossible to maintain the creed still generally professed? This early work on universal reconciliation deals with these things, and more, including much interesting church history. 336 pages, facsimile paperback



Editor's Desk

None More Proficient!

For those who have been granted the realization to see Ephesians and Colossians as the pinnacle of Divine Revelation – the epistles of the Secret Administration – none should be more proficient in them.

Divine realization leads toward a thorough knowledge of these pinnacle epistles. Frankly, no one on the planet should be more skilled, more competent, more capable with these letters. For these writings *uniquely* belong to us! In a real way, they belong to us – they are OUR epistles!

Toward this realization and goal, the STUDY BIBLE PROJECT begins with these two epistles and works outward from them.

It is our heart and aim to assist others in such a divine proficiency. It is our passion that Father would grant each the fullness of the magnificent truths therein contained.

Clyde

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

TOPICS:
Major: Bible Study Project; Colossians; Ephesians
Minor: Realization; Secret Administration

WORD *(continued from previous page)*

> *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father* (Philippians 2:10-11).

I no longer see that as coerced humiliation. I see it as healing revelation.

When truth is fully unveiled, what else would a creature do but bow, rejoicing in awe and thanksgiving?

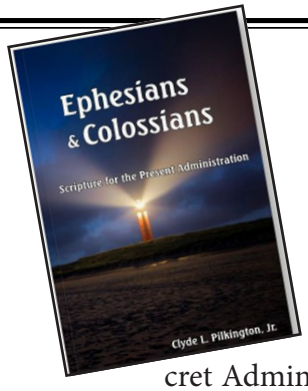
The first Adam's act was universal without consent. The last Adam's victory cannot be weaker.

If Christ is greater than Adam, His success cannot be smaller than Adam's failure. BSN

(to be continued …)

TOPICS:
Major: Adam; Christ; Consummation
Minor: Blindness

> *I've discovered that grief mixed with the knowledge of God's sovereign Hand in ALL things and the assurance of resurrection has a pleasant aroma.*
>
> – MIKE OWENS



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. A look is also made into the nature of the book of Philippians, the gateway epistle into the Secret Administration. 76 pages.