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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 1135

Reflections On God, Sport and Accolades

Click here to listen to this article

by — Johann Grobler

I have been watching a few World Cup soccer games and heard the commentators singing the praises of star players. Now and then, one may hear the pundits mentioning a player that deserved more recognition and honor than what he had been given.



If there is one, not mentioned by commentators, who has not been receiving the accolades that he deserves, it is the Creator God, our Father.

Since everything that exists is out of God (Romans 11:36, I Corinthians 8:6), the ability to participate and perform in all human activities, including all types of sport, comes from Him. He designed and created the environment where participation in the many different forms of sport is possible.

Many games are played on soft grass – something that God thought about and created in His love for His creatures. Thank you for soft grass, Dad.

Whilst wind velocity and its direction, temperature and air pressure may change from time to time, God made sure that one phenomenon on the playing field does not fluctuate. And that is gravity.

Imagine how chaotic and accident prone our world would have been if gravity varied suddenly from time to time!

And something we tend to take for granted: gravity on the surface of our planet is just right. *Thank you, Dad!*

If it was less, the ball could be kicked or struck out of sight! If it was much higher, the ball might travel only a few yards. How boring!

Consider the human body. Yes, it is *"the body of our humiliation"* as described by Paul (Philippians 3:21, *CV*), but it has been *"fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Psalm 139:14, *NKJV*). God is the One Who designed and created the versatile human body that can run, jump and swim; that can throw or kick a ball; and hit it with a racket, bat or club – and many other bodily actions required by various sport disciplines.

Praise to our Father!

Some humans are endowed with extraordinary talents – all gifts coming from our Creator. To be able to participate in any sport – even as a below average amateur, is a gift from God. To be able to enjoy watching sport events, is a gift from God.

> … *God, Who is tendering us all things richly for our enjoyment* … (I Timothy 6:17, *CV*)

(see Accoloades, page 9509)

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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

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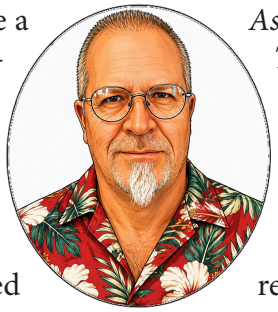
No Wasted Years

by — Steve Martin

[Click here to listen to this article]

I recently listened to a preacher describe a conversation with an elderly man approaching the end of his life, and instead of hearing failure, I found myself wishing someone had spoken peace into his story.



The man looked back and said he had wasted his life.

Too much time making money. Too much striving. Too much chasing success. Not enough attention to what really mattered.

He asked the preacher to tell others so they would not make the same mistake.

There is tenderness in that moment. Many people reach the later years and suddenly feel the weight of time. They look backward and imagine alternate versions of themselves.

A different career. Different choices. Different priorities. A better story.

There is even a song we would sing in church:

Wasted years, wasted years, oh how foolish,
As you walk on in darkness and fear;
Turn around, turn around, God is calling,
He's calling you from a life of wasted years.

I felt that this dear man was carrying layers of guilt placed on him by a religious system that had taught him to see his life through regret instead of grace.

And I found myself wishing someone had sat beside that man and told him something else.

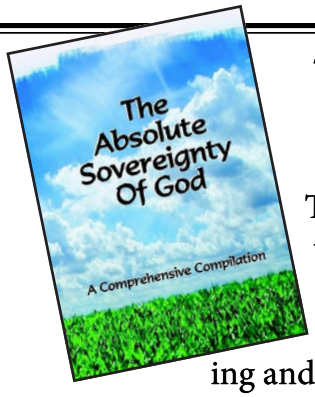
My friend, your life was not a mistake. Your story was not an accident. Before you were born, your days were written.

Your Father was never absent. He did not watch your life from a distance, hoping that you would finally get it right. He was present in every chapter.

In the years of striving. In the years of building. In the years of ambition. In the years of confusion. In the years you now wish had looked different.

He did not leave you during those years. He wrote those years. Not because every experience was pleasant. Not because every pursuit was ultimate.

(*see* WASTED, *last page*)



The Absolute Sovereignty of God

A Comprehensive Compilation

This quintessential book victoriously celebrates and convincingly proclaims the absolute sovereignty of God. Sadly, religion has veiled the truth of the God of the Bible, making Him either an aloof deity, indifferent to the condition of the creation, or one who is at the worst cruel or at the least unloving and uncaring. Yet the loving Deity of Sacred Scripture always has had and will have sole and complete control over His entire creation. This ultimate collection of 100 works by 34 authors spans nearly 175 years. It is an extensive reference work that is essential for every library. 478 pages.



Tidbits of Truth #91

"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)

"*The Body of Christ*" a Figure of Speech

We need to be careful that we do not make more out of figures than God has, and that we do not exaggerate their usage.

For example, the exact phrase *"the Body of Christ"* appears only four times in Scripture. Two of these times it is used literally to refer to Jesus' physical body while on Earth (Romans 7:4; I Corinthians 10:16,) and twice it is used as a figure of speech (I Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:12).

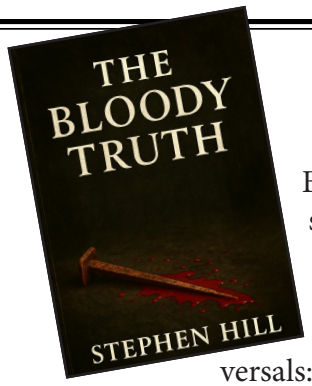
Contextually, this figure – *"the Body of Christ"* – has been used in a dispensational setting to distinguish the synagogue ecclesias of the Acts Period.

What is interesting is that God's use of this exact figure *twice* takes up so much conversation and debate within traditional Christianity. It is just an illustrative figure, yet it has taken on a life of its own.

The constant use of "*the Body of Christ*," and such like figures, is founded on the Western mindset that seems to have a need for naming everything.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Note: For more information, see:
– "*The Body of Christ*": Its Past & Future, Tidbits of Truth 90, André Sneidar, *Bible Student's Notebook* 1127.
– *"The Body of Christ" or "The Church Which Is His Body"?*



The Bloody Truth

by — Stephen Hill

Blood runs like a crimson thread through the pages of Scripture – from the first sacrifice in Eden to the death of Christ. But what if its purpose has been misunderstood for centuries? What if blood was never about appeasing a wrathful God, but about healing, cleansing and reversing the curse of sin and death?

The Bloody Truth uncovers one of the Bible's most profound and shocking reversals: that God Himself supplied the antidote to humanity's greatest disease. Through vivid storytelling and careful attention to Scripture, this book reveals how the sacrifices of old pointed, not to divine anger, but to a divine cure. It shows why Christ's blood was poured out, not to satisfy vengeance, but to restore life, reconcile creation, and draw us near to God.

This is not another book of theological jargon. It is a bold journey into the heart of God's plan – a plan that overturns human assumptions about punishment, atonement and the very nature of salvation. If you've ever wrestled with questions about why blood is so central in the Bible, or if you've longed for a picture of God that is consistent with love, justice and grace, this book will open your eyes to a truth both ancient and revolutionary. 111 pages.

A Compilation on the "One Body" of the Current Administration, Bible Student's Press:
https://studyshelf.com/product/the-body-of-christ-or-the-church-which-is-his-body-a-compilation-on-the-one-body-of-the-current-administration/

The Believing Members of the Nations During the Acts Period

During the Acts Period Israel was still being presented the Kingdom which was based upon their national repentance and belief, and because of this, the middle wall of partition, which separated the Jew from the non-Jew, was still up and all things Israel came first.

The members of the other Nations at this time were made partakers of Israel's blessings, but they were still subservient to the Nation Israel.

— Mark D. Vogt

The Churches During the Acts Period

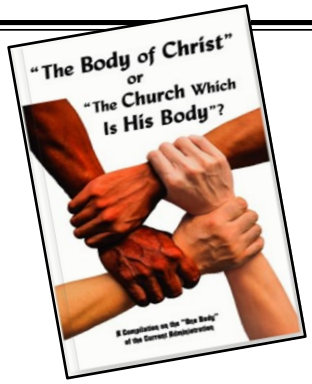
The churches (ecclesias) of the Acts Period had supervisors and servants. This was the rule of order among the Acts churches. The apostle Paul spends a significant portion of the 13th chapter of Romans addressing this very thing. Romans 13 is sometimes mistakenly believed to be addressing the believer's attitude and actions concerning civil government, and the believer's response to it, but that is not the case. Paul was establishing the order among the Acts churches.

In the Acts' churches there had to be some mechanism to regulate and to bring to order those churches and the believers in them because of two important realities.

Number one, the Word of God was not complete at that time and wouldn't be until Paul finished the letter to the church in Colosse, which was written after Philippians. Because of this, God gave these churches sign gifts such as speaking in tongues, prophesy and words of knowledge to fill in, so to speak, the gap in their knowledge and understanding of God's purposes.

Secondly, these gifts and the people who exercised them needed some restraints lest their flesh got hold of them and they began to use these gifts for their own glory and ego. That is the reason supervisors were necessary in the Acts churches; to help prevent chaos in the local assemblies.

— Mark D. Vogt



"The Body of Christ" or "The Church Which Is His Body"? A Compilation on the "One Body" of the Current Administration

A Compilation on the "One Body" of the Current Administration

In the Pentecost Administration, during the Acts period, there were many ecclesias, in the plural – "all the ecclesias" (Romans 16:4, 16; I Corinthians 7:17; 14:33; II Corinthians 8:18; 11:28, CV). Each of these ecclesias were, in and of themselves "the body of Christ" – an integrated "one body," while today in the Secret Administration there is but one single ecclesia, in the singular – "the Ecclesia which is His Body" (Ephesians 1:22-23, CV). This ecclesia is universal and not local. This ecclesia of the Secret Administration has no bearing whatsoever on locality, and is of necessity, the only "One Body" universal (Ephesians 4:4). This "One Body" of Ephesians and Colossians (Ephesians 2:16; 4:4; Colossians 3:15) is the Post-Acts "church," of which Christ alone is Head (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23; Colossians 1:24; 2:19). This is the only Ecclesia of the Secret Administration. This short compilation has works from three authors: Tom L. Ballinger, G.J. Pauptit (1889-1962), and Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. 49 pages.

And the Oscar Goes To …

Supposing God was to give an Oscar to the one who was the best actor in Egypt 3300 years ago, do you think it should go to Moses or Pharaoh? Or should they share it for perfectly performing their script?

Knowing that our Father is sovereign in all things and His plan is perfect, it's quite safe to see that they both perfectly played their roles.

— Mike Owens

Understanding Fully Reflected in Language

Often as we are brought to realization, it takes some time, even years, for our language to fully catch up with what we see – to match our true understanding.

Let me illustrate. Looking back, concerning my coming to see the salvation of all, I recognize that I had quite a delay in my understanding centered largely around the subjects of sin, death, and the judgment of God. Subsequently, an even greater delay in my conversations and writings finally caught up with what I was seeing.

In time, I came to see that God's judgment is not to be framed within the false concepts of Western justice – a courtroom with penal justice, verdicts and punishment – but rather as something remedial and restorative: the setting right of things.

As this understanding unfolded, I began to see God's judgment and justice as beautiful and welcoming realities. It took me a long time for this understanding to be reflected fully in my language and communication. For quite some time I continued speaking from my Evangelical framework, even though my understanding had already shifted. I have found this pattern to be true in most areas of study and realization.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

God's Unalterable Script

> *My days, all of them were written in Your book; the days, they were formed when there was not one of them* (Psalm 139:16).

It is comforting to know that we all live the unalterable script that Father has already written for each of us, and are sustained by the knowledge of His wise love and care, regardless of how things appear to us.

There are so many parts of the script that, from our own limited view, we would have written differently! But, when the veil of the temporal is lifted, we will see with overwhelming clarity just how amazingly perfect His script really was – *just exactly* the way that He wrote it!



The Bible Student's Notebook (BOUND VOLUMES)

Editor – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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The Bible Student's Notebook is a periodical dedicated to the: Promotion of Bible study – Encouragement of the believer's growth in grace – Recovery of truth that has too long been hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear. The Bible Student's Notebook is not connected with any "Church," "Movement," "Organization," "Society," "Mission," or separate body of believers, but is sent forth to and for all of God's saints.

NOTE: ORDER THE NEWEST VOLUMES FIRST! — The BSN volumes cover over a 35 year period; the more recent issues contain our most recent understanding of biblical issues. Therefore when ordering volumes of the BSN, we encourage you to order the latest volumes and work your way backwards.

Yet, for now, our hope and reliance on Him, however very feeble and weak it may seem to be, are but *"a conviction concerning matters which are not being observed"* (Hebrews 11:1). Thus, we look past all things, we see *only* Father – the Source of all things (Romans 11:36).

> *So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eonian* (II Corinthians 4:18).

And we are encouraged by the weaknesses of Moses of old, for it was,

> *as seeing the Invisible One* – [that] *he endured* (Hebrews 11:27).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Ages and Administrations Are Different

Administrations appear within ages (or eons) and are not to be confused with the ages themselves. For example, we currently live in the Evil (or Wicked) Age (Galatians 1:4), and yet we do not operate under an Evil Administration. We operate under the *Charis* Administration – the *Grace* Administration – the *Joy* Administration.

There have been numerous administrations during this present Evil Age, but remarkably this final administration of the Evil Eon is one of ultimate contrast. It is a DIVINE administration – in contrast to Man's Day. It is a SUPERCELESTIAL administration – in contrast to the jurisdiction of the Adversary.

Our administration spans four Scripture days – Man's, Christ's, the Lord's, and God's – and three ages – the present one, the next one, and the final one. It reaches its climax in the Consummate Age – The Day of God.

Our present Administration, under our supervision, will become the tenor of All. All will be complete – all will be *charis,* all will be *grace,* all will be *joy,* all will be the dwelling place of God.

But we live in this truth *now* – despite our circumstance, our environment, our constitutions, our fleshly DNA. We look and live beyond all to see only God. This is a divine OPERATION and REALIZATION. A JOY operation – a JOY realization … a SUPERCELESTIAL work.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

BSN

Topics:

Major: [*"The Body of Christ" A Figure of Speech*:] Body of Christ; Figures of Speech [*The Believing Members of the Nations During the Acts Period*:] Acts Period [*The Churches During the Acts Period*:] Acts Period [*And the Oscar Goes To…*] Sovereignty [*Understanding Fully Reflected In Language*:] Realization [*Gods Unalterable Script*:] Sovereignty; Script [*Ages & Administrations Are Different*:] Ages; Administrations

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Accolades *(continued from front page)*

> … *God, Who gives us richly all things to enjoy* (*NKJV*).

Sport can be taken too seriously. There was a time when I felt depressed for a day or two when my favorite team lost a game. When that happens, I have to remind myself that it was only a game. After some time, it will be forgotten.

Looking at the bigger picture, there was one battle where the stakes were exceedingly high. It was not a sport game. It was a battle two thousand years ago between powerful spirit beings and one human being. Calvary was the final war zone, and the Son of God had to face it. More heroic than any sport achievement on this planet was the willingness of the sinless Christ to suffer rejection, humiliation, excruciating pain and death on a stake. By this He gained the victory for all of us. It is a victory that will never be forgotten.

Praise to God for giving His only begotten Son, to be *"the Captain of* [our] *salvation"* (Hebrews 2:10, *NKJV*). Christ is our Captain and our Champion.[1]

1. The *Concordant Version*: *"the Inaugurator of … salvation."* The Greek for "captain" or "Inaugurator" is *archēgos* – literally "*ORIGIN LEADER*" according to Greek – *English Keyword Concordance.* As Stephen Hill expounded in his book *The Bloody Truth*: Christ as representative of humanity is "the Champion Who would face our enemies head-on and *win*." (Chapter 15 – see *BSN* 1100)

Thank you to our Champion for bringing victory to His Dad and our Dad, and to all of mankind.

It is through our Champion that all of us, who may not have done anything extraordinary in the eyes of the world, will nevertheless receive applause from God.

> … *the applause will be coming to each one from God*" (I Corinthians 4:5, *CV*)

However, our Champion will get what He deserves, which is more than applause, because,

> … *God highly exalts Him, graces Him with the name that is above every name, that in the name of Jesus every knee should be bowing, celestial and terrestrial and subterranean, and every tongue shall be acclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord, for the glory of God, the Father* (Philippians 2:9-11, *CV*).

Topics: BSN
Major: Applause; Calvary; Champion; Salvation of All; Victory
Minor: Sovereignty

Wasted *(continued from page 9505)*

But because your life was never a test to pass. It was preparation.

You did not get lost. You did not miss your life. You lived the story prepared for you.

Every success. Every disappointment. Every detour. Every lesson. Every realization. Nothing escaped His authorship. Nothing escaped His love.

Even this final moment of reflection was part of the journey. The years were not wasted years.

They became years of contrast. Years of learning. Years of revealing. Years that shaped the person sitting in that room.

There is no peace in imagining the life you should have lived. There is peace in receiving the life you were given.

No more, "If only …" "I should have …" "I ruined everything," "I missed God's plan." Those sentences belong to a burden that you were never created to carry.

Instead, "This was my road." "This was my preparation." "I was carried. I was taught. I was loved. I was never abandoned."

You stand at the end of life and discover that your story was never hanging in the balance by your decisions. It was always held by your loving Father.

> *I believe in being thoroughly irreverent with God! That's putting it in extreme form, but what I mean is that a great deal of our pious talk and "reverent" attitudes and language is a cloak for insincerity. God's familiars talk with Him in plain language.*
> – Norman P. Grubb (1895-1993)

And when the curtain closes, there is no disappointment waiting. No accusation. No replay of failures. No record of opportunities missed.

There is welcome. There is recognition. There is joy.

The Author receives you with delight – because you performed perfectly. You perfectly lived the story prepared for you.

And He says, "Welcome. Nothing was wasted. Everything was being used." "You played your part beautifully." BSN

Topics:
Major: Regret; Script; Sovereignty
Minor: Death; Disappointments; Life