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 1140

"Eonian Life" Is NOT our Hope

by —Deverlain L. Trefethen

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Romans 2:5-10

Yet, in accord with your hardness and unrepentant heart you are hoarding for yourself indignation in the day of indignation and revelation of the just judgment of God, Who will be paying each one in accord with his acts: to those, indeed, who ***by endurance in good acts*** *are seeking glory and honor and incorruption,* ***life eonian;*** *yet to those of faction and stubborn, indeed, as to the truth, yet persuaded to injustice, indignation and fury, affliction and distress, on every human soul which is effecting evil, both of the Jew first and of the Greek, yet glory and honor and peace* ***to every worker of good,*** *both to the Jew first, and to the Greek* (*CV*).

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man ***according to his deeds:*** *to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality,* ***eternal life:*** *but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; but glory, honour, and peace,* ***to every man that worketh good,*** *to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile* (*KJV*)

The Greek word we are looking at from the passage is *aiōnios.*



Strongs G166. *aiōnios*
aiōnios: age long, eternal
Part of Speech: Adjective
Transliteration: *aiōnios*
Phonetic Spelling: (ahee-o'-nee-os)
Definition: age-long, eternal
Usage: age-long, and therefore: partaking of the character of that which lasts for an age, as contrasted with that which is brief and fleeting.

We see in the passage that the *CV* renders the term *"life eonian,"* whereas the *KJV* renders it *"eternal life."* The term *"eonian"* connotes having a beginning and an end, thus the *KJV* rendering it *"eternal"* can't be correct.

We must be cognizant of Strong's definition, as it, like the *AV,* picks and chooses meaning to suit a particular bent or narrative. If you haven't already, look up a word and see how many different meanings they give it and then look to see how it is used in various verses. You will learn of the glaring error – when they change a word to mean something in one place, and yet in another place the same word is given an entirely different meaning. This picking and choosing can NOT be overlooked.

(continued on page 9545)

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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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May we realize that the emphasis of the above passage is age-specific. That is, the duration covers a specific period of time wherein the Kingdom saints' reward is *"life eonian"* on the Earth.

"Eternal life" is an entirely different aspect of life that does NOT belong in this context since we know that the millennium will last for a thousand years.

"Life eonian" – is limited.
"Eonian life" – has a beginning and an end.
"*Life eonian*" – is the reward for faithful kingdom saints.

The One Body of Christ will have already been manifested together with Christ in Glory. We will experience manifest life [vivification] – *i.e.,* life beyond the reach of death [immortality] – in the Celestials long before Kingdom saints experience *"life eonian"* upon the Earth. We will experience the very life of the risen ascended glorified Christ – that is, life beyond the reach of death. Our manifestation will take place many, many years before the thousand years begin, thus, long before the Kingdom saints experience age-lasting *"eonian life."*

After the Great Tribulation, the Kingdom saints will be resurrected in mortal bodies as Christ descends from the Celestials to the Earth. This is the event that many throughout Christendom have coined the "rapture." Those who are resurrected, and those who survived the Great Tribulation will then return with Christ to the Earth. *"Eonian life"* belongs specifically to those Kingdom saints.

To reiterate, *"eonian life"* is age limited. That is to say, *"eonian life"* is life that earthly saints will possess in the coming eons prior to the consummation. However the One Body is *pre-expectant in Christ*, having NO need of *"eonian life"* – for *"life eonian"* is a temporary provision.

The One Body will receive life beyond the reach of death the moment we are resurrected. As already stated, the Kingdom saints are resurrected with mortal, earthly bodies. *"Life eonian,"* then, is a reward reserved for faithful Kingdom Saints.

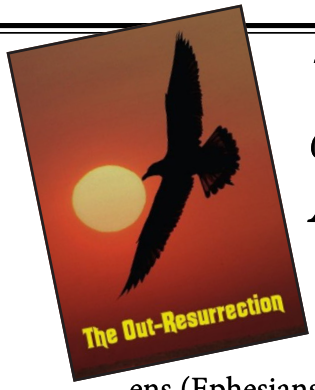
Here is a small edited offering from *BSN* #895 that identifies the term *"eonian life"* as a reward for the faithful to "hold them over" until they receive their vivified body at the consummation. I found this short piece to be exceptional, which will tie this into a beautiful offering:

"Eonian Life" and the Secret Administration

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

"Eonian life" is a *resurrection patch*, as it were, designed to "hold over" believers from previous administrations until their *"vivification"* (*i.e.,* life beyond the reach of death) at the Consummation. One should note carefully that Ephesians and Colossians, the epistles of the Secret Administration, make no reference at all to *"eonian life."* This is because ours is a *prior expectation*, unrelated to Israel's earthly hope.

"Eonian life" is a future reward for those who were Kingdom-worthy (Matthew 19:16-26, 29; Luke 20:35). During the Acts Period, with Israel progressively judging themselves *"un-* (see Hope, page 9547)



The Out-Resurrection: A Compilation on the Prior-Expectation of the Secret Administration

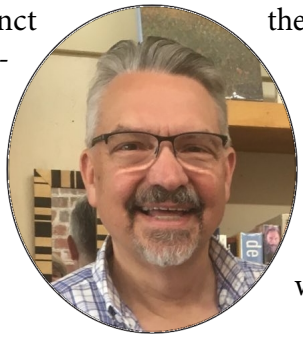
Ours is a prior, pre-expectant resurrection, not revealed before the Secret Administration. When Christ, Who is our life, is manifested on His throne (Colossians 3:4) at the right hand of God (Ephesians 1:20) in Glory, far above all Heavens (Ephesians 4:10; 1:21, *i.e.,* in the Super-Heavens), then we, too, will be manifested (appear) with Him there. This work includes four authors: Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., G.J. Pauptit (1889-1962), Tom L. Ballinger, Stanislas Van Mierlo (1888-1962). 57 pages.

Bible Basics #7

The Four Days of Scripture

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Click here to listen to this article



The Scripture describes four distinct *"days,"* understood as extended periods of time, that should not be confused with one another:

1. **Man's Day**
2. **The Day of Christ**
3. **The Day of the Lord**
4. **The Day of God**

Properly distinguishing these *"days"* is essential to *"rightly dividing the Word of Truth"* (II Timothy 2:15).

Man's Day

> *Now to me it is the least trifle that I may be being examined by you or by* ***Man's Day*** … (I Corinthians 4:3, *CV*).

"Man's Day" is that period in which humanity has relative prominence and authority. Humanity vainly attempts the governing of itself, with the disastrous result characterized by corruption, tyranny and injustice.

Yet, thankfully, *"Man's Day"* will eventually end when God relatively intervenes directly in human affairs and Christ becomes preeminent. Human rule will give way to the manifestation of Divine Government.

The Day of Christ

> *For you to be testing what things are of consequence, that you may be sincere and no stumbling block for* ***the Day of Christ*** (Philippians 1:10, *CV*).

"The Day of Christ" is a period in which Christ's righteous and just government from the Super-Heavens is gloriously manifested throughout the entire Earth. Unlike *"Man's Day,"* whose distinguishing characteristic is vanity and injustice, the distinguishing characteristic of the Day of Christ is Righteous Rule.

Christ rules from Heaven while *"the Kingdom of the Heavens"* is manifested on Earth. Worldwide spiritual enlightenment and the restoration of Israel are its features. Among the associated conditions with this period are:

- Supernatural enlightenment of humanity
- Universal recognition of Christ's Lordship
- Restoration of Israel
- Longer life spans
- Improved or perfect health
- An end to hunger
- Changes in the animal kingdom
- Atmospheric and geographic stability
- Universal peace

This Pre-Millennial Kingdom period lasts for many generations (centuries). Yet, eventually, God withdraws His restraining Spirit over evil, leading to apostasy and rebellion. Importantly, He places this rebellion at the end of *"the Day of Christ,"* rather than at the end of *"the Day of Man."*

The Day of the Lord

> *That you be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be alarmed, either through spirit, or through word, or through an epistle as through us, as that* ***the Day of the Lord*** *is present* (II Thessalonians 2:2, *CV*).

"The Day of the Lord" follows *"the Day of Christ,"* and begins with (1) the literal, physical, personal return of Jesus Christ to the Earth, known as the *Parousia*, (2) the restraint of the Adversary, and (3) the establishment of Christ's Millennial (one-thousand-year) Kingdom reign on Earth. At the end of *"The Day of the Lord,"* the Adversary is temporarily released and again deceives the Nations.

The Day of God

> *Hoping for and hurrying the presence of* ***God's Day,*** *because of which the Heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved, and the elements decompose by combustion!* (II Peter 3:12, *CV*)

The final of the four days is the consummate *"Day of God."* It follows the events of *"the Day of the Lord"* and involves the transformation of all creation itself. The present Heavens and Earth *"pass away,"* and there is a New Heaven and New Earth. The New Jerusalem descends from Heaven, and God dwells directly with humanity.

This four-stage biblical timeline moves from humanity's flawed rule, to Christ's worldwide benevolent government from the Super-Heavens, to a period of Christ's earthly reign, and then ultimately to a completely renewed creation in which God dwells with them, resulting in Him being *"All in all"* (I Corinthians 15:28). BSN

Topics:
Major: Bible Basics; Day of Christ; Day of God; Day of the Lord; Four Days; Kingdom of the Heavens; Man's Day
Minor: Millennial Kingdom; Pre-Millennial Kingdom; Rightly Dividing

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Hope (continued from page 9545)

worthy" of *"eonian life,"* Paul graciously turned to the Nations, offering them Israel's *"eonian life"* (Acts 13:46; *cf.* Romans 6:23) as a part of the provocation of Israel to jealousy (Romans 10:19; 11:11).

Therefore, during the Acts Administration while Paul was acting as priest to the Nations, he wrote of *"life eonian"* as that which those who endured in *"good acts"* were seeking (Romans 2:7) a consummation of their *"fruit of holiness"* (Romans 6:22), that for which the *"spirit"* was *"reaping"* (Galatians 6:8), and for which the believer was to *"get hold"* of, and in which they had their expected allotment (Titus 3:7).

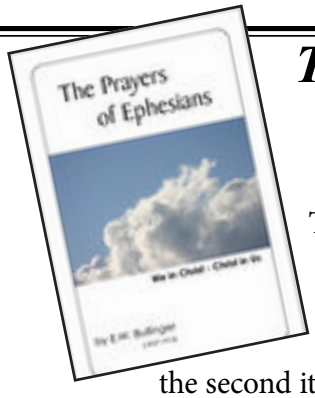
But now, during the Secret Administration, we *"who are pre-expectant in The Christ"* (Ephesians 1:12), have no *"promise,"* nor need, of such *"eonian life."* Such was the earthly hope of Israel: to be raised in earthly bodies to live in the coming Kingdom ages. We, however, need no such "life-patch" to hold us over until the vivification of the Consummation.

For we, His very *Plērōma*, *"are pre-expectant in The Christ"* – having the hope of Christ's same resurrection unto vivification. Christ was not merely *resuscitated,* with a possibility of dying again, nor was He granted *"eonian life,"* but rather He was vivified – with life beyond death's reach. When Christ is manifested in Glory, we, too, will be resurrected beyond the reach of death and appear with Him there, being *"ascended up far above all Heavens" i.e.*, in *"the Super-Heavens"* (Ephesians 4:10).

Rather than *"eonian life,"* we have *Christ's Life!*

> *When Christ,* ***our life,*** *shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in Glory* (Colossians 3:4). BSN

Topics:
Major: Consummation; Eonian Life; Immortality; Kingdom; Vivification
Minor: Plērōma; Pre-expectant



The Prayers of Ephesians: We in Christ – Christ in Us

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

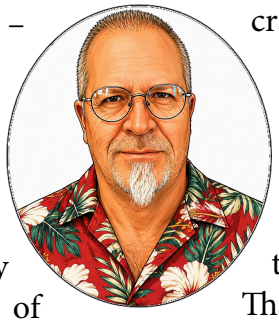
There are two longer prayers in the Epistle to the Ephesians, plus a shorter concluding one. The two longer prayers have a common subject: Jesus Christ and Believers. However, in the first prayer it is what God made Christ for us; in the second it is what God has made us in Christ. In other words, in the first it is "We in Christ," while in the second it is "Christ in Us." Also the first prayer deals with God's power which he wrought in Christ, while the second one deals with God's power which is at work in us. 50 pages

Being the Villain in Someone Else's Story

[Click here to listen to this article]

(and Trusting God Anyway)

by — Steve Martin



This just happened recently, and – yeah, it was rough.

A little background first: I've got a soft spot for Chevy Astro vans. My first one was back in 1986, and over the years I've owned a bunch. They were perfect for my sales work – roomy, reliable and kind of quirky in all the right ways. Chevy stopped making them in 2005, so I don't drive one regularly anymore, but I still have one I mess around with for fun. Apparently, I passed the obsession on to my son. He's got one too.

So here's the scene: All three of our kids were over one evening, and we ordered pizza. A young woman from the local shop came to deliver it. I looked out the window and saw an Astro van in the driveway. Naturally, I got excited and shouted, "Nice Astro!"

She gave me the most disgusted, angry look. That's when I realized – it wasn't her van. It was my son's. Her car was parked on the street.

I tried to explain myself, but whatever came out of my mouth just made it worse. My kids were cracking up.

Later, it hit me – she probably didn't even know what an Astro van was. She might've thought I was making some creepy comment about her body. And that crushed me. That's not who I am. That's not what I meant at all. I was mortified.

I believe God is sovereign. He writes even the weird, cringey moments. But I couldn't help wondering, "Why this one?" Maybe to humble me. But what about her? Did it hurt her? Did it make her feel small?

I don't know. I just have to trust that God's doing something even in the awkward, misunderstood moments – especially when I end up being the punchline.

So yeah, maybe sometimes we're the lesson, and sometimes we're the bad example in someone else's story. Either way, God wrote it. And somehow, even the awkward chapters belong. BSN

Topics:
Major: Sovereignty; Villain



The Witness of the Stars

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

An in-depth study of the constellations and principle stars as they pertain to prophetic truth. More than forty charts and diagrams are included. 304 pages, facsimile paperback.



Oh my, what a great book! [*Joy and Peace*] – ***NY***

By God's sovereign grace, the Scripture teachings you've been sharing have been a means of spiritual blessings to me. It's a great joy and blessing to me personally to discover your *Biblical Resources* YouTube channel, as well as your *Bible Student's Notebook* and *StudyShelf* websites. … – ***Philippines***

You are a good writer and have others in your ministry that are good as well. You have written books on so many interesting topics and I plan on reading many if not all of them. I will be ordering other books at some point.

I bemoan the fact that people attack you personally over biblical disagreements and actually do not really take the time to try and understand your arguments. I am hoping God has some great wages for you. – ***Canada***

Thank you all for bringing these precious truths of our Father's unsearchable riches of the Scripture; His plan for man and for all creation. I have learned so much, and there is so much to share, and my time is getting shorter. My own natural brother, an evangelical pastor for many years, will not accept universal reconciliation, and unlike me, will not disassociate from his Pentecostal denomination and politics. But God has to open his ears and eyes.

But I have not suffered the rejection like you have, and those of present and past years. … With thanksgiving to Father. – ***IN***

I enjoyed listening to the conference recordings and appreciate everything you have researched and said on the humanity of Jesus. – ***NJ***

I found your talk with Steve and Andre about justice very interesting. I have been thinking along the same lines. So many times in my occupation [of attorney] I have seen that the more laws there are, so do the violations increase! Multiple complicated laws … the need for lawyers to interpret and argue … high legal costs … all of that leads to more injustice. See also Ecclesiastes 3:16[1] and 5:8[2]. – ***South Africa***

I appreciate you and the light you uncover and share. – ***VA***

I received *BSN* bound Volume 45 in the mail. … I consider them jewels in my Bible library. – ***TN*** BSN

1. *"Yet further, I have seen under the sun, Where the place of judgment is, there is wickedness, And where the place of justice is, there is wickedness"* (CV).
2. *"If you should see extortion of the destitute And pillage of judgment and justice in a province, Do not be amazed over the event, For one lofty official above another lofty official is observing, And other lofty officials are over them"* (CV).



Editor's Desk

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The BSN Volumes: A Great Semiannual Pleasure

Last evening I took the time to slowly look over the latest volume of the *Bible Student's Notebook* that arrived (#45). For me, this is the great semiannual pleasure of our work together. It is quite a joy to my heart to look back through a half-year of publishing work. Such a meaningful and humbling accomplishment. I'm so very thankful for our editors and contributors who join us in making this work possible.

The Study Bible Project: A Heart that Is Full

My heart is very full from our undertakings of the Bible Study Project:

(1) For our journey together,
(2) the preparation studies related to the project,
(3) the generous gifts that make all of this possible,
(4) our associate co-laborers,
(5) all of the resultant realizations granted,
(6) our privilege to share these realizations, and
(7) the resonation that they find with others.

Resonation is the act or state of vibrating, echoing or amplifying a sound or signal. Broadly, it refers to something vibrating because it is exposed to an external vibration that matches its own natural frequency, or – figuratively – an idea or message striking a deep, passionate chord.

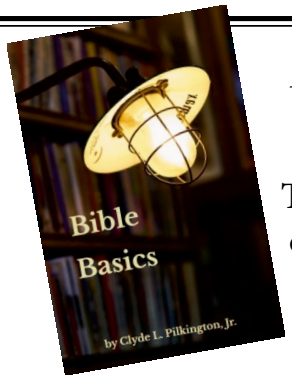
It is that initial impression that one has already known something to be true in some deep unconscious way – as if it has always been in one's spiritual DNA.



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Topics:
Major: Editor's Desk; BSN Volumes; Study Bible Project

> *While the bulk of modern churches appear to be worshipping Christ, the essence of their theology is the autonomy of man and his good decision making.*
>
> — Mike Owens



Bible Basics

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

This book provides a basic foundation of the topics of: The Divine Cycle, The Logos, God, The Two Realms, The Three Heavens and Earths, The Five Ages and The Four Days of Scripture. 63 pages.