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 1141

The Post-Acts Ministry of Adjustment

Click here to listen to this article

by — Harry A. Myers (1923-1998)

... toward the adjusting of the saints for the work of dispensing ... (Ephesians 4:12).



The truth of *"the administration of the secret"* that God gave to Paul ***after*** Acts 28:28 had already been brought to Ephesus,[1] Colosse,[2] and others by way of the men mentioned in Ephesians 4:11.

> *And He gave some, Apostles; and some, Prophets; and some, Evangelists; and some, Shepherds and teachers; toward the adjusting of the saints for the work of dispensing, for the upbuilding the Body of Christ: unto the end that we should all attain to the unity of the faith and of the realization of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of the complement of the Christ* (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Prior to Paul writing concerning *"the administration of the secret"* he had spoken about it, along with the other men of Ephesians 4:11. Paul, Timothy, Epaphras and others had taught it ***after*** Acts 28:28. This accounts for the past tense *"have heard"* of Ephesians 3:2.

Paul had *"heard"* of their faith and had been praying for them that God would give to them a wise unveiling spirit in the realization of Christ in the Above-Heavens to realize what is the expectation of their calling (Ephesians 1:15-16; Colossians 1:4, 9).

They had already heard concerning the exalted Christ and His Ecclesia that Christ had died and had been raised to His rightful place of authority in the Above-Heavens, as is uniquely revealed in Ephesians and Colossians.

This post-Acts message was already being preached by Paul and the men of Ephesians 4:11 before Ephesians and Colossians were written. This is the foundation of Ephesians 2:20.

> *being built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets ...*

These foundational Apostles and Prophets of *"the administration of the secret"* were not those related to Israel, but the men of Ephesians 4:11.

(continued on page 9553)

The Post-Acts Ministry of Adjustment 9551
Mistranslations: A Look at Inaccurate English Renderings – Salvation of All Verses #1: John 3:17 9554
Is It Original Sin? or Original Righteousness? 9555
I Tend to Think (poem) 9557
The Truth Is in the Words (quote: Howard T. Kuist) 9558

1. By way of Timothy (*cf.* I Tmothy 1:3).
2. By way of Epaphras (Colossians 1:7).

How to Access Our Resources

Our Main Website:
https://studyshelf.com/
***Daily Email Goodies* Signup:**
https://studyshelf.com/emailgoodies/
***Bible Student's Notebook* Electronic Issues:**
https://studyshelf.com/audios/bible-students-notebook-articles/
***Bible Student's Notebook* Article Audios:**
https://studyshelf.com/Audios/
***Bible Student's Notebook* Bound Volumes:**
https://studyshelf.com/product/bible-students-notebook-volumes/
***Bible Student's Notebook* Master Index:**
https://studyshelf.com/BSN/BSN-Master-Index.pdf
Videos:
https://www.youtube.com/@BiblicalResources
Audios:
https://studyshelf.com/Audios/
Themed Blogs:
https://studyshelf.com/our-blogs/
Bibles:
https://studyshelf.com/product-category/bibles/
Books by Clyde Pilkington:
https://studyshelf.com/clp/
Books by Author:
https://studyshelf.com/author/
Books by Subject:
https://studyshelf.com/subjects/
Newest Book Releases:
https://studyshelf.com/
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/clyde.pilkington
Facsimile Project:
https://studyshelf.com/facsimile/
Donate:
https://studyshelf.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://studyshelf.com/abbreviation-key.pdf
Definitions of abbreviations/acronyms.
e-Books:
https://www.amazon.com/s?k=clyde+Pilkington+kindle
Study Bible Project:
https://studyshelf.com/studybibleproject/

Bible Student's Notebook™
Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal
ISSN: 1936-9360
Volume 46, No. 1141 – October 12, 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@studyshelf.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 Moneypenny, Deverlain L. Trefethen, Mark Vogt

Copyright © 1989-2026 Bible Student's Press™

Because Christ has been raised to His exalted place of authority, God has also positionally raised the members of the Ecclesia which is His Body there.

When did God take and make some of the circumcision and some of the uncircumcision into *"one New Humanity"* (Ephesians 2:15)? For the text says: *"makes both one"* (:14); *"creating the two"* (:15); *"reconciling both"* (:16) and *"both have had access"* (:18).

It was ***after*** Acts 28:28 in Paul's post-Acts ministry.

The men of Ephesians 4:11 conducted the ministry of *"the adjusting of the saints"* to the new truth which created *"one New Humanity"* before Paul wrote Ephesians. Ephesians was written to people who had heard and believed this message.

The ministry of *"adjusting"* was by the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Shepherds who were teachers of Ephesians 4:10-13. The saints needed much adjustment because they had come from the previous administration.

We might ask the question, when did Paul become *"the prisoner … for you, the Nations"* spoken of in Ephesians 3:1? It was not during the Acts Period, because there he was the prisoner for "the hope of Israel" (Acts 28:20).

So, when? It was ***after*** the two years of Acts 28:30.

Now we can go to Ephesians 3:2. The letter was not their first consideration of *"the administration of the grace of God,"* for they obviously could not have *"heard"* about it.

> *Since you surely heard of the administration of the grace of God that is given to me for you (:2).*

But how would they have *"heard"* of this? It was through the *adjusting* ministry of the men of Ephesians 4:11.

Why did Paul assume and take for granted that they at Ephesus had *"heard of the administration of the grace of God"* which God had given him? Because of the post-Acts ministry of adjustment conducted by the men of Ephesians 4:11.

For example, if *"the administration of the grace of God"* was taught by Timothy during his stay at Ephesus during his post-Acts ministry, then Paul's statement is understandable.

Paul's statements, *"you have heard"* and *"which is given,"* show that the post-Acts work of the adjustment of Ephesians 4:12 had been taking place before Paul wrote Ephesians 3.

Paul received *"the administration of the secret"* before he wrote Ephesians and Colossians. At the time of Paul's writing of these epistles, this secret had already been revealed by Paul to the Apostles and Prophets of the ascended Lord.

If the penning of Ephesians was the beginning of the *"the administration of the secret"* it would have been impossible to say that the Apostles and Prophets of Ephesians 4:11 had already had it revealed to them.

When was it revealed to the Apostles and Prophets that former members of Israel and of the Nations were joint-enjoyers of the Above-Heavenly allotment, a joint-body people and joint-partakers of the promise in Christ through the gospel of which Paul became the dispenser or minister? It was ***post-Acts.***

In the Acts epistles and the book of Acts Paul had truth that could be searched out in the Old Testament (Acts 26:22). But when we come to Ephesians truth it could not be found in Moses or the Prophets (Ephesians 3:5-8).

We do not find post-Acts truth in the Old Testament. The truth in the Old Testament is according to prophecy. But the truth ***after*** Acts 28:28 is according to a revealed secret made known to Paul ***after*** Acts 28:28 in his post-Acts epistles and not according to prophecy.

After Paul received "*the administration of the secret*"

(see ADJUSTMENT, page 9558)

Mistranslations
A Look at Inaccurate English Renderings
Salvation of All Verses #1 – John 3:17

Click here to listen to this article

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved (*KJV*).



After coming to see the beautiful truth of *the salvation of all*, reading John 3:17 would not sit right anymore. What appeared "off" was the word *"might:"*

> ***that the world through Him MIGHT be saved.***

"Might" seemed to cast doubt on Christ's full accomplishment. It appeared to suggest that it was unsure, that it was only a possibility, or conditional upon human response.

This unsettledness was removed once I discovered that there is no Greek word in John 3:17 that corresponds to the English word "might." This word is simply inserted into the texts by some English translators.

Yet, I would find many translations that got it correct:

> *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him* (*NIV*);
>
> *God sent His Son into the world. He did not send him to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through Him* (*ERV*);
>
> *God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him* (*NLT*);
>
> *God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world* (*GW*);
>
> *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him* (*BSB*);
>
> *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him* (*CSB*);
>
> *God did not send His Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent Him to save them!* (*CEV*);
>
> *For God did not send His Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its savior* (*GNT*);
>
> *God did not send His Son into the world to pass sentence on it, but to save the world by Him* (*MNT*);
>
> *For Elohim apostolized not His Son into the Cosmos to judge the Cosmos; but that the Cosmos be saved through Him* (*EB*);
>
> *For: God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world be saved through Him* (*PNB*).

"Christ, ***the Savior of the world"*** (John 4:42, *cf.*, I John 4:14), actually *saves the world!*

There's no "might" about it! BSN

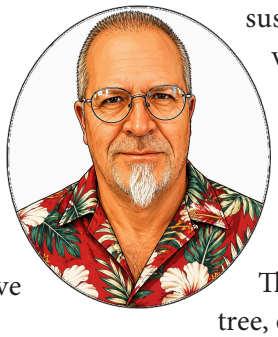
TOPICS:
Major: John 3:17; Salvation of All; Translation
Minor: Mistranslations

Is It Original Sin? or Original Righteousness?

Click here to listen to this article

by — Steve Martin

Some people preach *Original Sin*.
I believe in *Original Righteousness*.
We were *in Christ* before we were ever *in Adam*.



This bold statement flips centuries of theological tradition on its head – and yet, it might be one of the most important truths we've missed.

For too long the prevailing narrative has been that we begin broken. That we enter the world already ruined – tainted by Adam's fall, corrupted by a sinful nature, and condemned from the start. It's a theology of guilt by inheritance. We're born wrong, and only by religion's rites and rituals can we hope to be made right.

But what if that story is upside down?

What if we were *right* before we were ever *wrong*?

The Story Before the Fall

Before there was sin, *Christ* was Christ firmly set in God's Plan (*Logos*). Before Adam ever took a breath, Jesus was already chosen, already given, already victorious.

Scripture says plainly that He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world … (Ephesians 1:4).

Think about that. Before there was a garden, a tree, or a forbidden bite – we were already *in Christ*. Already chosen. Already seen. Already beloved. Not as an emergency backup plan. Not as a repair job. But as God's original intention.

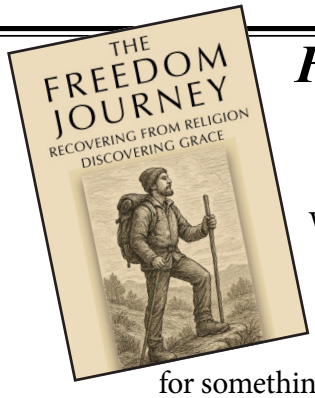
That's not Original Sin.

That's *Original Righteousness*.

Adam Didn't Write the First Chapter

We've treated Adam like the opening act – as though our origin story starts with his failure. But Adam didn't author the script. He walked into a story already written by God Himself.

Jesus – the Lamb slain *before* the foundation of the



Freedom Journey: Recovering from Religion ~ Discovering Grace

by — Steve Martin

What if walking away from religion is how you finally find God?
The Freedom Journey isn't about rebellion – it's about release. It's for the soul that's tired of trying to measure up, worn down by rules, guilt and fear dressed up as faith. This book is a lifeline for anyone who's been wounded by the church but still longs for something real.
With honesty, humor and deep grace, Steve Martin takes you on a journey out of religious bondage and into the wide-open space of freedom with God – not a god who demands, but a God Who gives. If you've ever wondered if there's more to faith than fear and formulas, this book is your answer: Yes. And it's better than you imagined. 86 pages.

world (Revelation 13:8) – was not God's Plan B. He is Plan A. The *only* plan. The Alpha *and* the Omega.

And if that's true, then our identity isn't rooted in Adam's mistake. It's anchored in Christ's perfection.

We weren't born broken, hoping to become whole.

We were born chosen, loved and carried – even when we forgot it.

Where the "Two Natures" Doctrine Went Wrong

Much of modern Christianity doubles down on the damage by teaching that believers have *two competing natures*: one righteous and one sinful. This idea reinforces the notion that even after being saved, we're still half-ruined. That we're some kind of spiritual split-personality – part light, part darkness, locked in an endless inner war.

But that's not the gospel. That's spiritual schizophrenia.

Scripture doesn't say that we have a sinful nature and a righteous nature. It says that we were made righteous in Christ (II Corinthians 5:21). It says that we were crucified with Christ, and our old self is gone (Romans 6:6). We are now a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17), not a mash-up of old and new.

The two-natures doctrine keeps us doubting, striving, and looking inward for progress. It leaves us stuck in Adam even after we've been placed in Christ. It tells us that righteousness is our future hope – not our present reality.

But the truth is this: we are not half sinner and half saint. We are fully righteous, because the Righteous One lives in us.

Righteousness Isn't Earned: It's Revealed

Religion tells us to *achieve* righteousness. Grace reveals that it was *always ours.*

We don't work our way back to God. We awaken to the reality that we were never truly separate. We may have *felt* lost, but we were never abandoned.

Like Paul says in Romans 5:19,

> *For just as through the disobedience of one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one Man the many will be made righteous.*

We inherited Adam's story – but it was never our *starting* point. It was a chapter in the middle, not the beginning. And it's being swallowed up by something far greater: the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Why this Matters

If we believe that we were born cursed, we'll spend our whole life trying to get uncursed.

If we believe that we were *in Christ* before we were born – we'll live from rest, not from striving. From trust, not from terror. From belovedness, not from shame.

And if we believe that we're still half-wicked because of a "sin nature," we'll never truly feel clean. We'll keep trying to "die to self" when the "old" self is already dead.

Original Righteousness isn't just a theological twist – it's a *cosmic realignment*. It re-roots us in truth:

We are not defined by Adam's failure. We are defined by Christ's victory.

We are not guilty until proven innocent.

We were chosen, embraced and righteous – even before we knew it.

Final Thought: The Gospel Is Older than the Fall

Before sin ever entered the world, grace was already written into the story. *(see Original, last page)*

I Tend to Think

Click here to listen to this article

by — Darson Buckner

I tend to think
that every disappointment
was simply a plan of mine
that did not align
with the plans of God.

For His ways are not our ways,
and His thoughts are higher than ours.
We see only what is before us;
He sees the road and destination
we cannot see.

I made my plans.
I chose my direction.
I thought I knew
where I was going.

Yet somehow,
through every turn,
every closed door,
every unexpected road,
He guided my every step.

A door I wanted opened –
but somehow stayed closed.
A road I meant to travel
bent another way.
A hope I held tightly
slipped quietly from my hands.

I called them disappointments.

But perhaps
they were not disappointments at all –
only moments
when my plans
met His.

Perhaps the greater miracle
was not that He changed my course,
or took something from me,
or led me somewhere
I had not intended to go.



Perhaps the miracle
was that He gave me eyes
to see Him
in every failed plan I had—
and the heart to understand
that it was His love
placing every one of my steps.

I made plans—
but He guided every step.
I thought I was choosing the way,
while all along
He was gently leading me
through a path
I could not yet understand.

And now, looking back,
I can see what I could not see then:
what felt like loss
was mercy,
what felt like a wrong turn
was grace,
and what I called disappointment
was His love
leading me home.

I tend to think
the miracle was never
that God had a different plan.
The miracle was
that He gave me
eyes to see Him in every step –
and a heart
to understand it was Him all along.

And somehow,
what I once called
a disappointment …

I now call grace. BSN

Topics:
Major: Grace; Poems; Sovereignty
Minor: Realization

ADJUSTMENT (continued from page 9553)

it was then given to the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds and teachers of Ephesians 4:11 so that they could do the work of the *adjusting* of the saints to the new revelation.

> *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* (:5). BSN

Edited Abridgment

See Myers exceptional work:

– "We Who Are Pre-Expectants," *Bible Student's Notebook* 1031.

TOPICS:

Major: Adjustment of the Saints; Administration of the Grace of God; Ascension Gifts; Ephesians 4:11; Secret Administration.

Minor: Acts 28:28; Paul's Early Epistles; Paul's Later Epistles

---

ORIGINAL (continued from page 9556)

So no, I don't believe in Original Sin as the first word.

I believe in Original Righteousness.

Because the first word wasn't "*guilty*."

It was "*good*."

And in Christ, it still is.

Let others cling to Adam and call us half-broken.

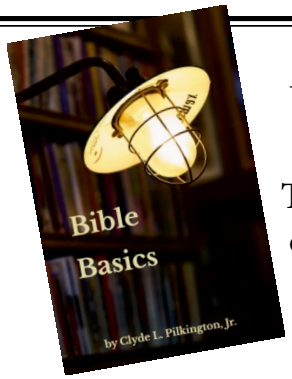
I'll keep believing Jesus – Who made us whole from the start. BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Chosen; Righteousness; Sin; Sovereignty; Two Natures; Victory

Minor: Logos; Religion; Theology

> THE AVERAGE READER OF THE BIBLE IS PRONE TO OVERLOOK THE TEXT ITSELF. HE IS SO EAGER TO FIND WHAT IT MEANS FOR HIM THAT HE FAILS TO SEE WHAT IT SAYS. HE IS SO INTENT UPON APPLICATION THAT HE NEGLECTS OBSERVATION. HE BYPASSES THE WORDS IN HIS HASTE TO ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH, FORGETTING THAT THE TRUTH IS IN THE WORDS.
>
> — HOWARD T. KUIST (1887–1963)



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.