Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy!

Showcasing all humanity finished in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28 Volume 46 Issue 1142

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

Mistranslations

A Look at Inaccurate English Renderings

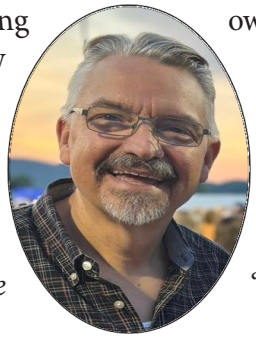
[Click here to listen to this article]

Sovereignty Verses #1

Proverbs 3:6

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

I can remember, as a young man, reciting Proverbs 3:5-6 to myself nearly every day. It had such a great impact on my early journey.



> *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknow-ledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*

What wonderful abiding truth I still find here.

- God is worthy of trust – with all my heart.
- I long to lean into Him – away from my own understanding.
- I desire to acknowledge Him in everything.

These three passions have carried me through decades of uncertain challenges.

Yet, over the past couple of decades the truth of God's *absolute* sovereignty has changed my understanding of many things, including the second half of Proverbs 3:6 – *"and He shall direct thy paths."*

As translated, the verse appears to suggest that this divine direction of our paths is conditional upon our acknowledging Him in all our ways. Without such acknowledgment, one could easily assume that we are simply on our own concerning the direction of our lives.

As a young man growing up in Evangelical Christianity, the last part of :6 had a profound influence on my thinking. For me, at the time, *"and He shall direct thy paths,"* represented the conditions for me to find the "perfect will of God" for my life.

However, I would come to learn that God's actions are never contingent on human initiation. As David declared:

> *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).

Still, how would I now reconcile Proverbs 3:6 with this truth? I would learn that the answer was one of

(see MISTRANSLATIONS, pag 9565)

Mistranslations: A Look at Inaccurate English Renderings – Sovereignty Verses #1: Proverbs 3:6 9559
Tidbits of Truth #92 9561
Christ Opens the Door 9565
Our Mailbox 9566
Failure to Study Words, The (quote: William Barclay) 9566

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. 1142 – October 19, 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™



Tidbits of Truth #92

"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 Creation of Adam ca. 5554 B.C.

Jeff Bohlender, in his invaluable work on the *Derived Version* Old Testament, came across convincing research in support of the *Greek Septuagint* (*LXX*) chronology of Genesis 5 and 11.

The research that Jeff shared was, *The Case for the Septuagint's Chronology in Genesis 5 and 11*, by Henry B. Smith, Jr., Associates for Biblical Research:[1]

> Many biblical scholars who interpret the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 as yielding a continuous chronology from Adam to Abraham claim the Hebrew Masoretic Text (*MT*) preserves the original begetting ages for the patriarchs. The *MT*'s total for this period is 2008 years. The Samaritan Pentateuch (*SP*) presents markedly different chronological data for each epoch, for a grand total of 2249 years. Calculations derived from the primary manuscripts (mss) of the Greek Septuagint (*LXX*) yield a chronology of 3394 years for this period, 1386 years greater than the *MT*. The *MT* is classically represented by the Ussher chronology, which places creation at 4004 B.C. and the Flood at 2348 B.C. Figures from the *LXX* place creation at ca. 5554 B.C. and the Flood at ca. 3298 B.C.

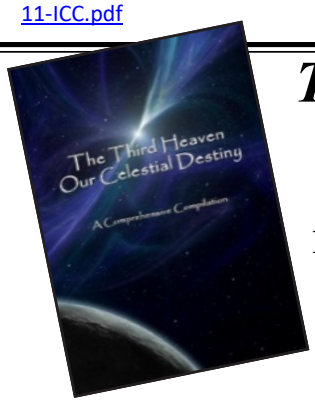
Smith's research proposes that,

> The *LXX*'s primeval chronology, with a Creation date of ca. 5554 B.C. and a Flood date of ca. 3298 B.C., has the strongest evidence favoring its originality.

Smith encourages the abandonment of inflexible adherence to Ussher's Creation date of 4004 B.C. or similar dates based on the *MT*'s primeval chronology, and that the "redating of pre-Abrahamic archaeological periods should be done within the context of the *LXX*'s post–Flood chronology, not the *MT*'s."

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

1. https://biblearchaeology.org/images/Genesis-5-and-11/Smith-Henry-The-Case-for-the-Septuagints-Chronology-in-Gen-5-and-11-ICC.pdf



The Third Heaven – Our Celestial Destiny

A Comprehensive Compilation

11 authors, 31 chapters. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams, Oscar M. Baker, John H. Essex, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Donald G. Hayter, A.E. Knoch, William Mealand, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak and Charles H. Welch. 212 pages.

The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart

An outstanding example of the contrast between the absolute and the relative, emphasizing the absolute sovereignty of God, is from the book of Exodus.

The hardening of Pharaoh's heart is specifically mentioned 17 times in the space of 7 chapters. These 17 occurrences fall into three categories:

1. It's stated as a fact that Pharaoh's heart was hardened, without telling how.
2. It's stated that Pharaoh hardened his own heart.
3. It's stated that it was God Who hardened Pharaoh's heart.

Let's break down the 17 occurrences into these 3 categories:

Pharaoh's Heart Was Hardened

1. Pharaoh's heart is hardened (7:14).
2. Pharaoh's heart was hardened (7:22).
3. Pharaoh's heart was hardened (8:19).
4. The heart of Pharaoh was hardened (9:35).

Pharaoh Hardened His Own Heart

5. Pharaoh … hardened his heart (8:15).
6. Pharaoh hardened his heart (8:32).
7. Pharaoh … hardened his heart (9:34).

God Hardened Pharaoh's Heart

8. I will harden his heart (4:21).
9. I will harden Pharaoh's heart (7:3).
10. He hardened Pharaoh's heart (7:13).
11. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh (9:12).
12. I have hardened his heart (10:1).
13. The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (10:20).
14. The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (10:27).
15. The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (11:10).
16. I will harden Pharaoh's heart (14:4).
17. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh (14:8).

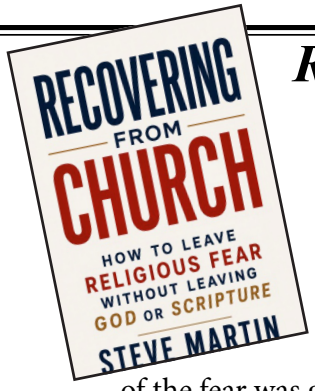
It's stated as a fact that Pharaoh's heart was hardened 4 times; 3 times that Pharaoh hardened his own heart; 10 times that it was God Who hardened Pharaoh's heart.

The ratio is 10:3 between God hardening Pharaoh's heart and Pharaoh hardening his own heart. While both are true, one is the divine-viewpoint, and the other is the human-viewpoint. One is absolute, while the other is relative. God is the absolute source of all (Romans 11:36).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Resource of Abundant Translations

Back in my King-James-Bible-only days, I rejected all other English versions as worthless perversions. Today, regardless of the bias found in Bible versions, I have come to appreciate any serious attempt at translating God's Word into English.



Recovering from Church

How to Leave Religious Fear Without Leaving God or Scripture

by — Steve Martin

What if leaving church didn't mean leaving God?

For years, Steve Martin lived with the fear, guilt, expectations, and pressure that often come with religion. Five years after walking away from church, he discovered something unexpected: God was still there. Scripture was still there. But much of the fear was gone.

Recovering From Church is for anyone tired of religious performance but not finished with God. Through personal stories and a fresh look at grace, judgment, freedom, and God's character, Steve explores what happens when you stop trying to keep religion happy and start trusting God instead. 136 pages.

(Recovering From Church also contains some material from Steve's earlier work, The Freedom Journey.)

When reading a translation, I always look for portals into some insight missed by other translators, as well as a storehouse of English synonyms of Greek words.

Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992), speaking of the many translations that he consulted, wrote: "Some of these are of doubtful value, but all of them have been considered to see what light if any they may throw upon the translation of [a given passage]."

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Complement

[*To: R.K.*:] "*Complement*" is found also in Colossians 2:9.

The *KJV* word in all of these verses is *"fulness."* The idea is that there is something missing, or incomplete that, when supplied, completes, or fulfills it.

Thus, we see that, as incredible as it may seem, Christ needs the One Body (and eventually the whole creation) to fulfill Him. The One Body and the whole creation will be the complement of Christ, which then will be, at the consummation, the complement of God.

More exciting yet is the fact that Ephesians 1:10 is speaking about the One Body's calling to be the fulfilling of all of the ages, up to and through the Day of God (at the consummation and beyond), for the purpose of fulfilling God's plan for all of creation,

(… *to the deliverance of that which has been procured) for the laud of His glory!* (:14).

— André Sneidar

Resonation

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.

Realization

Realization is a divine process that comes in stages, as a truth has time to unfold and settle in, and as further study and reflection firm up an awareness.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Inherent Weakness of AI

[*To D.T.*:] It is always interesting to see what AI comes up with. Every now and then it offers something genuinely helpful. Even so, it has some significant limitations. It does not possess divine realization, nor does it inherently recognize the influence of human and religious tradition or the shortcomings



Parallel Literal New Testament Includes: Concordant, Dabhar, Rotherham, Young

Vol 1: The Circumcision Scriptures (Matthew-John, Hebrews-Revelation), 637 pages.
Vol 2: Acts and Paul's Epistles, 402 pages.

Note: This is a plain text edition and therefore does not carry the special marking aids commonly associated with these versions (variant type and symbols).

8-½" x 11" paperback.

that exist in most English translations. It can work with only the information that has been made available to it. Because of that, it can never replace personal realization, careful study, and the ongoing verification of the Scriptures. As I read through the AI document that you sent, I could still see the familiar marks of traditional thinking and conclusions that, in my understanding, do not reach the depth of what Paul reveals in Ephesians and Colossians.

I would encourage you to stay tuned to the updates from our Study Bible work, both on YouTube and in the *Bible Student's Notebook*. The discoveries that continue to unfold have been deeply exciting to us, and I truly believe they shed light on truths that change the way many passages are understood.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Why Some Preachers Yell, Scream and Appear Angry

[*To J.F.*:] Raised as an Independent Baptist in the South, back in the day, my own dramatic preaching style was rooted in our denominational cultural tradition, particularly among revivalists. Young preachers naturally tend to imitate the delivery patterns of influential preachers that they admire. Theatrical variations in speech, volume, behavior and demeanor were often used to maintain the audience's attention and emphasize points considered especially important or urgent.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Expanded Literal Translation

[*To D.S.*:] The *ELT* is the ongoing work that is being translated in the development of the literal rendering of Paul's post-Acts epistles.

We are working on Ephesians at this time, with the goal of eventually completing through Colossians in our lifetime, Father willing.

Ultimately, we would like to see the completion of Paul's Acts epistles, but this may have to be the ongoing work of other saints to carry on with the project.

We have published articles about the Study Bible Project in our *Bible Student's Notebooks*, with articles encompassing the results of deep studies as they have been progressing, with a book that was published as well, *Joy and Peace*, which you will find on our website.

The project is a work in progress, as Father graces us with life and vigor to pursue.

— André Sneidar

BSN

Topics:
Major: [The Creation of Adam ca. 5554 BC:] Creation; Unger; [The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart:] Harden; Pharaoh [The Resource of Abundant Translations:] Translations [The Complement:] Complement [Resonation:] Resonation [Realization:] Realization [The Inherent Weakness of AI:] AI [Why Some Preachers Yell, Scream and Appear Angry:] Preaching [Expanded Literal Translation:] Expanded Literal Translation; Study Bible Project; Translations

Sharing Your Story

It is profoundly inspiring to hear accounts of individuals' spiritual journeys towards the realization of God's boundless love and grace. Observing the unique ways in which divine intervention manifests in different lives to fulfill His purpose is both uplifting and affirming. It serves as a comforting reminder that we are part of a larger community that shares our faith.

We invite you to share your own transformative experience. Rest assured, the process is designed to be as seamless as possible for you. You may choose to submit a written account, which our editorial team will be pleased to refine in collaboration with you.

Alternatively, if you are more comfortable speaking about your journey, we offer the option of conducting an interview. Our team will then transcribe and craft your story.

In either case, you will have the opportunity to review and approve the final version prior to publication.

We eagerly await your contribution. Please feel free to reach out via email or phone. Your story will undoubtedly serve as a valuable source of inspiration and encouragement to our community.

Steve Martin
biblestudentsnotebook@gmail.com
610-909-9285

Christ Opens the Door

a poem by — Darson Buckner

Click here to listen to this article



A cloak of religion, is what I wore,
Then on my soul, His spirit did pour.

He told me, His grace was more,
Than all the sins, that I could score.

He is sovereign, He does restore.
We can't out sin Him, He's Guarantor.

I thought salvation, was my chore,
And on my knees, I did implore.

Into my life, for many did roar,
Spouting beliefs from traditional lore.

I know my God, Him I adore.
He doesn't just knock, He opens the door.

When He wakes you, from your deep snore,
You will not be able, to ignore.

No more interest, will you have for war,
World politics, will then be a bore.

His plan's in motion, from long before,
His grace has come, it did outpour.
No more this life, do I abhor,
All is from God, with grace galore.

Every step is planned, from life afore,
Christ in us, He's in our core. BSN

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

Mistranslations *(continued from front page)*

correct translation. I noticed two things about the second part of the verse.

> *"and He shall direct thy paths."*

First is the word translated *"and."* In the Hebrew it is not actually a separate word, but a prefix for the next word "He." And I would learn that the prefix *vav* (וְ), which can carry the meaning of *"and,"* can also carry that of *"for"* or *"because,"* thus introducing a clause that provides a reason, cause or clarification for a preceding statement.

Second, there is not a Hebrew word for "shall" in Proverbs 3:6; it was simply added by the translators.

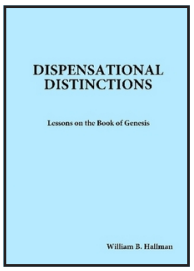
Therefore, here is Proverbs 3:5-6, with an accurate rendering of the final phrase.

> *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him,* ***for He directs your paths.***

I would see that this last phrase is the very foundation for all of the rest. The very reason that I could trust God with all my heart, lean not on my own understanding, and acknowledge Him in everything, ***is because*** **He DOES direct my paths!**

The underlying truth is that God unquestionably directs our paths, regardless of our actions or responses. BSN

Topics:
Major: Translation(s); Proverbs 3:6
Minor: Sovereignty



Dispensational Distinctions

by — William B. Hallman (1903-1985)

A short, introductory look at the nature of Paul's unique ministry and the Book of Acts. 32 pages, facsimile paperback.



Just finished reading BSN 1137. This one has your excellent article *"Why I am Not a Member of The Body of Christ"* along with the other articles that are related to the subject.

I love all of the issues of *BSN*, but this is one that I call a MEAT issue. True substance with lots of detail. I have noticed, over the years of reading the *BSN*, that each time you do an article that has already been done you add detail and substance. Also, the clarity along with completeness comes out better each time. Over the years I would read something and say, "Well, that is great, wish there was more to it." Today these articles lay it all out there in completeness. They are wonderful to send to someone who is curious about a particular subject. They are like little books on the subject. Basically, your articles and the *BSN* just get better and better. – ***TN***

I continue to be thankful for all of the resources you make available. My wife and I do a Bible study together every weekend, and I've been sharing a lot of the recent material I've been ordering. Last time we read and had a good discussion about part of *The Third Heaven: Our Celestial Destiny*. I'm budgeting for regular orders going into the future and looking for opportunities to share. – *AZ* BSN

> IF WE FAIL TO STUDY THE MEANING OF THE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE, THEN WE WILL BE IN VERY SERIOUS DANGER OF MAKING SCRIPTURE MEAN WHAT WE WANT IT TO MEAN, AND NOT WHAT GOD INTENDED IT TO MEAN.
>
> — WILLIAM BARCLAY (1907-1978)



I Am! Who and What God Says I Am! The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind; Daily Thoughts on Divine Life

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

People are always talking about their attempts to discover their true selves – their efforts to "find themselves." The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ needs to find out who they really are. This doesn't need to be such a difficult search. All that is really needed is a careful look at the Scriptures, and a simple faith in the words of who and what God says we are. God knows who we are; all we need to do is to believe Him. This book catalogs the Divine Record of who and what God says you are. It is a short encyclopedia of faith; the truth about you. It is the truth about you, simply because it is God Who has said it. God has spoken these truths concerning you – the real you. Believe His record! Refuse to be a shell of a person, pushed into a mold of Adamic conformity. Be the real unique you whom God has designed you to be. Refuse to be bullied out of your divinely designed identity that our Father has given you. Understanding and believing these glorious truths will allow you the freedom to be at rest. 107 pages.