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 1144

The New Humanity

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by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

All of Paul's epistles are unique from the rest of the writing of Scripture, and Ephesians and Colossians are distinctive from his earlier letters.



One of the distinctive phrases of Paul that is unique to Ephesians is his use of the phrase *"New Humanity."* Humanity, a *unit* in Adam, is destined to become a new *unity* in Christ.

Paul used *"New Humanity"* only twice – once in the Doctrinal Section of Ephesians, once in the Deportment Section.

Paul reveals that the out-called (the One Body of the present Secret Administration) reaches all the way back historically, before *"the Disruption of the Cosmos,"* and that they reach all the way forward into the future, when all is made new and God is "*All in all.*"

Our story stretches from *before* sin's entrance into the Script, until it has left it. We predate the *"Old Humanity"* – we extend beyond to the *"New Humanity."* We have the joy of living in these two realizations in the present, being the first members of the *"New Humanity."*

In the Doctrinal Section of Ephesians, Paul writes:

> ***For He is our Peace,*** *Who makes both one, and razes the central wall of the barrier (the enmity in His flesh), nullifying the law of precepts in decrees, that He should be* ***creating*** *the two,* ***in Himself, into one New Humanity, making peace*** (Ephesians 2:14-15).

Then in the Deportment Section of Ephesians, he encourages living in this truth:

> ***Put off from you … the Old Humanity*** … *be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind …* ***put on the New Humanity which, in accord with God,*** *is* ***being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth*** (Ephesians 4:22-24).

We have the joy of ignoring all division, all alienation. We are privileged to live wall-lessly, peacefully, in conciliation to all – without enmity, without estrangement.

God is creating a new humanity in Christ – a unified creation characterized by reconciliation, peace, and a radically different way of relating to one another.

What Is the *"New Humanity"*?

The *"New Humanity"* is central to Paul's message in Ephesians. It can be misunderstood if we equate *"New Humanity"* with receiving some supposed "new nature," or with the figure of "Body." The truth of the *"New Humanity"* is com- *(continued on page 9577)*

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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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pletely distorted by the traditional transition and theology of the *two natures* of the believer.

The *"New Humanity"* is a *unit*, while the concept of a so-called "Old Man" and "New Man" is *individual*. This subtle shift opens the door for legalism and self-effort. The teaching of the *two natures* is erroneous. Long have believers labored under this false premise.[1]

Additionally, an important distinction is that the *"Body"* figure in Ephesians describes our relationship *to Christ,* while *"the New Humanity"* describes our relationship to humanity as a whole.

Adam and Christ are two heads of two humanities. Adam heads up the *"Old Humanity,"* Christ heads up the *"New Humanity."*

Humanity under Adam is endlessly divided: by religion, politics, nationality, race, language, class, philosophy, etc. These divisions produce misunderstanding, prejudice, againstness, conflict, and warfare.

God's answer is not simply to improve the *"Old Humanity,"* but to create a new one.

What Makes the *"New Humanity"* "New"?

Paul uses two Greek words to convey the concept of the ***"New** Humanity."* *Neos* – meaning young, fresh, vigorous, and *kainos* – meaning new, novel, different.

The *"New Humanity"* isn't merely an improved version of the old. It represents something fundamentally different. In the *"New Humanity,"* the barriers and animosities that characterize the *"Old Humanity"* are completely removed. The emphasis is therefore not simply, "How can I become a better person?" but, "What does it mean to live as part of the humanity that God is creating in Christ?"

Christianity Is Swept up in the *"Old Humanity"*

Christianity itself becomes entangled in the divisions of the "*Old Humanity*," participating in division, partisanship, and alienation. While professing Christ it still relates to others according to the strife-filled patterns of the "*Old Humanity*."

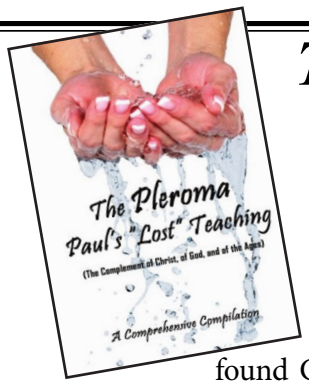
Yet Paul's gospel is described as *"the evangel of peace,"* reflecting God's attitude of peace toward the Old Humanity that extends through us to those around us. We live out, in our lives now, that which is to come.

All Barriers Are Removed

Ephesians 2 is particularly important here. Christ breaks down the barrier wall and creates *"one New Humanity."* The emphasis is reconciliation rather than separation.

Old distinctions no longer need to determine our re-

1. For a refreshing, liberating, scriptural investigation of this key subject, see: *Exposé of the "Two Natures*. – A.E. Knoch.



The Pleroma: Paul's "Lost" Teaching (The Complement of Christ, of God, and of the Ages) *(A Comprehensive Compilation)*

Ephesians and Colossians are the epistles of divine fullness, and one of the most profound Greek words used by Paul to characterize important aspects of the revelation surrounding the Secret Administration is Plērōma (πλήρωμα). This groundbreaking work expounds on the pinnacle truths of the Plērōma, revealing depths of glory that few have ever contemplated or realized. A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) wrote: "Well-nigh lost is the dominating doctrine of the Pleroma, or fullness." Divine realization of the Plērōma will significantly transform one's understanding of God's Word. This is a unique compilation of 22 authors, spanning over 100 years, with 24 chapters and 20 appendixes. 240 pages.

lationships with others. The *"New Humanity"* is characterized by unity rather than competing identities.

The *"Old Humanity"* vs. the *"New Humanity"*

Paul uses the image of clothing. The *"Old Humanity"* is like an old, worn-out, dirty garment. So, in this illustration, Paul tells us to: *put off* the *"Old Humanity"* and to *put on* the *"New Humanity."*

This imagery isn't merely about changing external behavior. It is the Divine transformation that comes from *being renewed in the spirit of the mind.*

Transformation Comes Through Realization

We don't work ourselves into the *"New Humanity."* It isn't another system of law or ethical achievement. The foundation is that which God is effectuating in Christ.

We have been "out-chosen" and "out-called." Understanding that reality changes the way we think. And the renewed mind changes the way we live.

In other words, identity precedes behavior. It is realization that produces transformation.

What the *"New Humanity"* Looks Like

The *"New Humanity"* is the opposite of the Old. Division and alienation belong to the *"Old Humanity"*: grudges, bitterness, anger, outbursts, feuds, indignation, strife, conflict – *againstness.*

Yet the characteristics of the *"New Humanity"* are: love, compassion, grace, justice, reconciliation, restoration, harmony – *peace.*

God Himself Is the Example

Ephesians 5:1 points us toward God Himself as the example.

Become, then, imitators of God, as beloved children.

Yet, the goal isn't simply to *imitate* God as many translations have it. The idea is that of reflecting or echoing God's true character. Realization transforms us into becoming living expressions of God.

The "*New Humanity*" points toward God and His ultimate purpose for creation. Ephesians 1:10 speaks of God's purpose to *"head up all in the Christ."* Revelation 21:5 gives the finished picture – *"Behold, I make all new."*

Who God is, and His present operation in the out-called, is the preview of what He will fully accomplish.

Christ: Firstborn and Head of the *"New Humanity"*

Christ is the Head of the *"New Humanity."* Those who have been out-chosen and out-called in Him are the *advance expression* of this coming reality.

The One Body of Ephesians is the Divine Prototype, or first installment, of what God will accomplish

(see Humanity, page 9581)



The Divine Calendar

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

This is an excellent primer for those just learning of God's glorious plan and purpose of the ages. It displays the principal time periods of the Scriptures and their relation to one another. Failure to distinguish the various time periods has resulted in great confusion as to the ultimate destiny of God's creation. This work covers the 5 ages, 3 heavens and earths, 2 creations, 5 worlds, 12 economies, 4 monarchs, and 3 days, with chart. 56 pages, paperback.

Rooted: Why Everything We Believe Hinges on One Thing

by — Steve Martin

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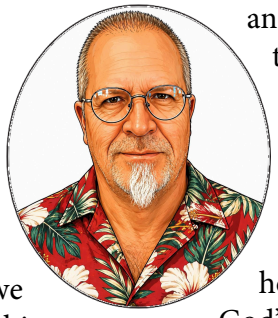


The One Thing Holding Everything Together

Let's cut to the chase. Everything we believe – every glimpse of grace that's ever cracked through our guilt, every moment of peace that stilled our spinning thoughts, every spark of love that reached us when we least deserved it –all stands or falls on one thing: **God is absolutely sovereign.** Not partially. Not conditionally. Not depending on how people respond.

If He isn't in control of it all, then none of it holds. The love we count on becomes uncertain. The grace we cling to becomes slippery. The freedom we celebrate becomes fragile. Even the character of God Himself becomes debatable. But if He *is* sovereign – totally, unapologetically, eternally sovereign – then everything else can rest. Everything else makes sense.

We're Living a Script, Not a Gamble

We've been told that God gave us free will and set us loose to figure it all out. That He watches from a distance and hopes that we make the right moves. But Scripture paints a very different picture. He didn't hand us a blank sheet and say, "Try your best." He handed us a finished script. Every twist in our story, every disaster and breakthrough, every ache and every answer – already written.

He's not reacting to what we're doing – He's ruling over it. Sovereignty means that He's not surprised, not scrambling, not adjusting His plan to our detours. He wrote the whole thing. If He's not sovereign over all of it, He can't be trusted with any of it.

Why Grace, Love and Peace Work Only if He's in Charge

And here's the beautiful part: This truth doesn't just answer theological questions; it holds everything together. Love matters only if it can't be undone. Grace works only if it holds, even when we fall apart. Freedom frees only if it doesn't depend on us to keep it alive.

The restoration of all things isn't just a hopeful idea. It's a promise grounded in God's control. Every real comfort – peace that holds through chaos, joy that doesn't vanish when life collapses, security that isn't shaken by our screw-ups – comes from this one truth: It's all rooted in God's sovereignty.

God Uses Contrast – Intentionally

God teaches us through contrast. That's why the darkness exists. That's why religion gets to us. That's why we fail again and again. It's not to shame us. It's not to punish us. It's to show us what He's not, so that when grace comes, we actually see it.

We learn the power of light because we've lived in the dark. We receive grace because we're exhausted from trying. We finally drop our self-salvation project when it crumbles beneath us – and in that wreckage He meets us. Every heartbreak, every religious trauma, every spiritual failure – it's not a side trail. It's the route He designed. On purpose. For our good.

Even Our Worst Moments Were Written

Even our worst moments were not a surprise. Even our sin was already in the script. That doesn't mean that it's good. It means that it's useful. He uses failure like a chisel – cutting away the pride, the self-righteousness, the illusion that we're in control.

He doesn't waste anything. He lets us run hard until we hit the wall – and then He opens His arms. We're

not off course. Even in the valley, even in the middle of our mess, we're exactly where He wants us. This isn't punishment – it's preparation.

Religion Was a Setup, Not a Solution

And yes – He even used religion. That exhausting, rule-based, guilt-producing system? He scripted its course. Why? Because He knew what it would do. He knew it would burn us out. He knew it would break us – *not* to destroy us, but to *deliver* us.

He scripted our tasting the poison so that we'd crave the cure. He wrote our chasing of approval so that we'd finally collapse into grace. He penned our feeling like a failure so that we could finally receive a love that doesn't budge.

We're Not on Trial – We're Being Formed

We're not being tested. This life is not a performance review. It's not a trial run for Heaven. We're not on probation. We're on the wheel of the Potter, being shaped, formed, held.

Every contradiction in our story, every delay, every season that feels like wandering – it's all part of the plan. We're not missing it, we're not too late – we're right on time. Because the story isn't about our effort. It's about His craftsmanship.

Grace Chased Us Even Through the Wilderness

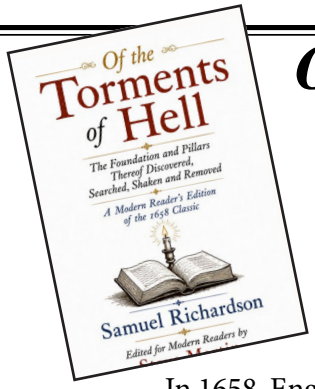
Let's be real – we didn't figure this out. We didn't wake up one day and decide to start searching for God. We didn't stumble into truth. *He* chased us down. *He* lit the fire in us. *He* gave us the hunger to question, to wrestle, to want something more.

He even authored our wandering away for a while, just so we'd know what it felt like to be brought home. That longing we carry? That ache that won't go away? That was planted in us by grace.

Even our doubts are part of the design. Even the wilderness is holy ground.

The Ending Is Already Good

And the ending? Already written. Let the religious fear. Let the world panic. Let theologians argue and preachers scream. The truth is secure. God is not only



Of the Torments of Hell – The Foundation and Pillars Thereof Discovered, Searched, Shaken and Removed

by — Samuel Richardson (1602-1658)

A Modern Reader's Edition of the 1658 Classic

What if the Bible never taught the hell we were taught to fear?

In 1658, English Baptist writer Samuel Richardson dared to question the doctrine of endless conscious torment. He went back to Scripture.

What do the biblical words translated hell actually mean? Do Sheol, Hades, and Gehenna describe the same place? Does everlasting always mean never-ending? Do biblical images of fire, wrath, and judgment really prove eternal torment? Richardson believed they did not.

Nearly four centuries later, his questions remain remarkably relevant.

This Modern Reader's Edition brings Richardson's classic into clear, contemporary English while preserving the substance of his arguments.

Go back to the biblical words. Examine the passages. Question inherited assumptions. And decide for yourself whether the Bible really teaches eternal punishment.

Truth has nothing to fear from examination. 220 pages.

good, *He is sovereign.* And a sovereign God doesn't try – He accomplishes. He finishes what He starts.

He restores all. He redeems everyone. No one is lost forever. No story ends in darkness. Every heart will come home. Every knee will bow. Every tear will be wiped away. Because He wants it – and He always gets what He wants.

So, What Now?

So, what do we do? We stop pretending. We stop performing. We stop striving. We rest. Not because we've got it all figured out, but because He does.

We rest in the truth that He's not done. That He's not frustrated. That He's not behind schedule. That He hasn't lost the plot. We are exactly where He wants us. We are becoming who He designed us to be. Every bruise, every breakthrough, every breath – it's all being used. So, we rest – not in our understanding, but in His Authorship.

This Is the Root

And never forget: Every truth that holds us up, every ounce of grace that keeps us breathing, every whisper of love that reaches our soul – it all grows from the same unshakable root:

God Is Sovereign.

Lose that, and it all falls apart. Hold onto it? Nothing can shake us. BSN

Topics:
Major: Contrast; God; Grace; Peace; Rest; Sovereignty
Minor: Will

Humanity *(continued from page 9578)*

with humanity as a whole. We are not presently the finished product – yet we are the surety (guarantee) of all that God will do.

The *"New Humanity"* is not about becoming nicer versions of ourselves. It is about recognizing that Christ is creating something totally new. While Adam represents *fragmented* humanity, Christ represents *reconciled* humanity. We have been called to live from this new identity.

Christ's Example

We can see Christ living the truth of the *"New Humanity"* as He faces the rejection and hostility of Calvary.

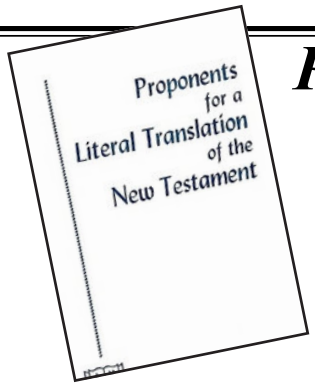
> *Then said Jesus, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." And they parted his raiment, and cast lots* (Luke 23:34).

What God is creating in us now anticipates the day when His purpose will be fully realized: all headed up in Christ, and all made new.

The *"New Humanity"* is God's answer to the fragmentation of the Old – not by making the *"Old Humanity"* better, but by creating something entirely new in Christ. Divine Realization of our calling transforms us as visible expressions of God's reconciliation of all.

BSN

Topics:
Major: Calling; Ephesians 2:14-15; New Humanity; New Man; Out-Called; Realization
Minor: Consummation; Old Humanity; Old Man; Two Natures



Proponents for a Literal Translation of the New Testament

by — Dr. Frank Neil Pohorlak (1907-1988)

Contents: Preface Examining Chaplain F.W. Farrar; Comparative Study of the RSV (Oswald T. Allis and others); From Thomas Hobbes to Bratcher and Nida; More Proponents for the Ideal Bible Translation. 54 pages, facsimile paperback.

No Condemnation

Click here to listen to this article

by — Darson Buckner



Do people actually think, they can save themselves?
Were they told a lie, from their own bookshelves?

Paul said, we are completely justified.
No more in guilt and shame, must we abide.

God did it all, we did not do a thing.
He made us right, our works we did not bring.

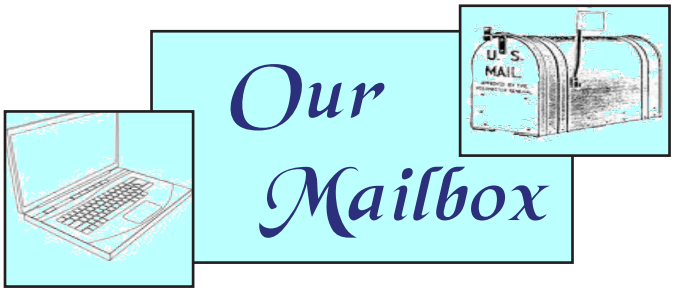
How are we forgiven, if sin's not found?
When God justified, His grace did abound.

No condemnation, for anyone in Christ.
God gave Him all, His grace will suffice.

The wall of partition, has been removed.
Our life with God, it was Him that improved.

You can't take credit, for things in your life.
God gives you goodness, and God gives you strife. BSN

Topics:
Major: Poems; Condemnation; Justification
Minor: Sovereignty

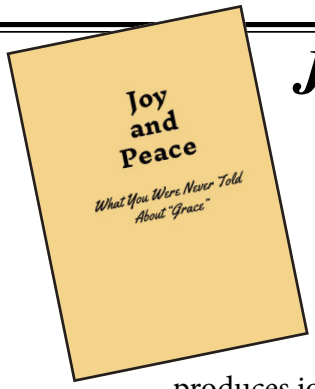


Please continue with your wonderful work with Joy and Peace! – ***TN***

I just wanted to write you and tell you how much I appreciate the Study Bible updates and especially the one about The New Humanity. It really opened my eyes, and I also appreciated the one on The Lie of Holiness also. – ***KS***

If these truths that you've been sharing the last few month's were not true, I think I would be an atheist. The Christian's god is no different than Allah or any other pagan religion. – ***PA*** BSN

> PEACE IS THE ATMOSPHERE OF OUR CALLING.
> — E.W. BULLINGER (1837-1913)



Joy and Peace – What You Were Never Told About "Grace"

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Greek word charis does not mean "unmerited favor," a definition imposed by religious tradition rather than supported by Scripture usage. Instead, the core meaning of charis – and its entire word family – is "joy," "delight," or that which produces joy.

Charis describes God's joyful disposition and active delight, not a reluctant favor given to the undeserving. Because we are already righteous in Christ and chosen before the world's disruption, God's charis toward us is not "unmerited," but the natural overflow of our Father's joy in His own workmanship. 50 pages, paperback.