



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

*Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus.* Colossians 1:28

Volume 37  
Issue 913

# *The Righteous Rule of Reconciliation of the Universe, as Found in Ephesians*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

**W**hile the specific words “reigning” and “ruling” are not found in Ephesians, other similar such dominion related words and expressions do appear there. For example:

### **Sonship**



Ephesians 1:5 talks about us being in “*the place of a son*” – the very essence of sonship is headship and dominion.<sup>1</sup> We will not just be vacationing among the Celestials – we will be God’s Sons there! We’ll be His seated authorities!

### **Allotment**

Ephesians 1:11 tells us that our lot has been cast in Christ. Whatever His role and allotment, we share in that! We are His joint Body. If He reigns and rules, then we will too! – and we know that Paul had just declared that God’s plan is “*to Head up all in THE Christ*” (:10).

### **Plérōma**

Ephesians 1:23 strikingly declares that we are “*the Complement [Plérōma] of the One completing the All in all.*”<sup>2</sup> Whatever Christ is doing, we are His fulness

in that! After all, Christ is seated at God’s right hand, “*among the Celestials, up OVER every sovereignty and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this eon, but also in that which is impending: and subjects all under His feet, and gives Him, as Head over all, to the Ecclesia*

(:20-22).

### **Enthronement**

Ephesians 2:6 then stresses that, as Christ is seated at God’s right hand, and our lot is cast in Him, and we too are Sons, then God also “*rouses us together and seats us together among the Celestials, in Christ Jesus ...*” This “seating” speaks of enthroned dominion, but unlike that of Israel, ours in Christ is Universal, “*to head up all in THE Christ – both that in the Heavens and that on the Earth*” (1:10) ... “*after Whom every kindred in the Heavens and on Earth is being named*” (3:15) ... “*in the Heavens and that on the Earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or sovereignties, or authorities*” (Colossians 1:16) ... “*whether those on the Earth or those in the Heavens*” (:20).

(see *UNIVERSE*, page 7723)

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1. See our book, [Sonship](#), on the [order form](#) under “Compilations.”  
2. See our book, [The Pleroma: Paul’s “Lost” Teaching](#), on the [order form](#) under “Compilations.”

# “Unsearchable Riches of Christ”

by — Dr. Harold P. Morgan (1883-1953)

*The unsearchable riches of Christ (Ephesians 3:8).  
The untraceable riches of the Christ (REB).*

**T**he secret of the “riches of Christ” found in Ephesians was untraceable by man, inasmuch as it was “hid in God” (Ephesians 3:9) – not hidden in the Scriptures of the prophets nor the writings of the evangelists,<sup>1</sup> but closely guarded from before time.

It pleased the Father to reveal this wondrous secret to Paul after the blindness of Israel as a nation was complete. Nothing whatsoever is here seen of Israel’s hope, Abrahamic blessing, and the benefits and conditions pertaining to the Pentecostal Administration, or the High Priesthood or Advocacy

of Messiah.

The *Letter to the Ephesians* has to do with an administration, referred to also in the *Epistle to the Colossians* through which God, in superabounding grace is now revealing Himself in manifold wisdom, and to all ages plans to display the transcendent glory of His grace. This, then, is the present position and future blessedness of the Church, the Body of Christ.

## Romans & Ephesians

Even the *Epistle to the Romans*, having been written within the period covered by the *Book of Acts*,

1. [Editor:] Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

### 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 grace (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 “preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past” (Romans 16:25);
- 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 (Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5);

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men 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).

This publication is not connected with any “church,” “denomination,” “movement,” “organization,” “mission,” “creed,” “meeting,” “school,” “conference” or “fellowship.”

*We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation.* – André Sneidar

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For definitions of abbreviations/acronyms, see the [online key](#).

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is concerned with Davidic and Abrahamic blessings, and consequently the Jew throughout is in the foremost place.<sup>2</sup> About four years before the close of the *Book of Acts*, Paul declares that “God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew” (Romans 11:2). Bear in mind that the *Epistle to the Ephesians* has nothing to say of Abraham. The two epistles have totally different centers. *Romans* presents the benefits flowing from the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. *Ephesians* is of the superabounding blessings flowing from the ascended Christ, the Head of the Church.

prior to the “Mystery,” the Church, the (One) Body of Christ, can be traced to Moses and the Prophets (Acts 26:22).

*I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come.* **BSN**

[The Revolt \(Against the Distinctive Ministry of the Apostle Paul\)](#)

1936

(edited excerpt)

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Ephesians; Mystery; Romans; Unsearchable  
**Minor:** Colossians; Ecclesia; Paul; Right Division

Not a hint of the present parenthetical period is traceable anywhere outside of Paul’s epistles to the Ephesians and Colossians.<sup>3</sup> Everything made known

2. [Editor:] “To the Jew first” (Romans 1:16; 2:9-10; cf. 3:1).
3. [Editor:] For a look at Paul’s post-Acts epistles of Ephesians and Colossians, and a consideration of their uniqueness in contrast with his earlier epistles, see the book:  
– [Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., see [order form](#) under “Pilkington.”

**UNIVERSE (continued from front page)**

As the dominion of Israel on Earth is for the reconciliation of the Nations, so our instrumentality of enthroned dominion (*seated authority*) is the reconciliation of the Universe!

## Panoply

Thus, Paul closes out his epistle to the Ephesians with the “panoply” (a full suit of armor, 6:10ff). This is the illustration of *military occupation among the Celestials*.<sup>3</sup> All such occupation is designed for dominion. Ours (*THE Christ*: Head and Body) is the *righteous*

rule of reconciliation!

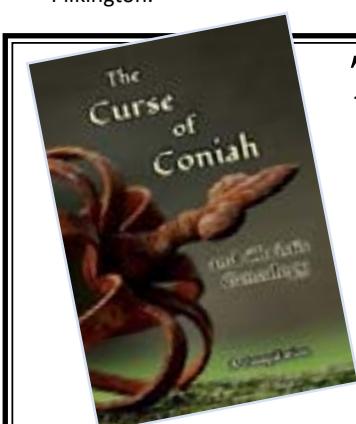
*To have an administration of the complement of the eras, to head up all in THE Christ – both that in the Heavens and that on the Earth* (Ephesians 1:10).

Grand and glorious days are ahead! **BSN**

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Allotment; Armor; Celestials; Dominion; Ecclesia; Ephesians; Panoply; *Plérōma*; Reconciliation; Sonship  
**Minor:** Headship; Jesus Christ

3. See our book, [The Believer’s Warfare](#), on the [order form](#) under “Pilkington.”



## The Curse of Coniah and Christ’s Genealogy (A Compilation)

The virgin birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, was an absolute necessity, judging from the genealogies. At first glance the opposite seems to be the logical deduction. Why should His descent be traced back to David and Abraham unless He was their natural Heir? Why go back to Adam unless He had a perfect pedigree? Authors include: John Cale, Joseph Hartill, A.E. Knoch and Fred Meldau.

76 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under “Compilations.”





# Tidbits of Truth #36

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

## Preceding World Peace

[Excerpt:] “Yet you shall be about to be hearing battles, and tidings of battles. See that you are not alarmed, for it must be occurring; but not as yet is the consummation” (Matthew 24:6, CV).

This clearly implies a preceding time of sustained world peace, for otherwise battles and tidings of battles would become nothing new to serve as a sign of our Lord’s presence in advance of His ultimate revelation then impending.

— Melvin E. Johnson (1897–1979)  
*Daily Email Goodies*

## The Lake of Fire

[Excerpt:] Interestingly, our word “fire” comes from the Greek word *pur*. Our words “purify” and “purge” come from this root. We see instances in the Old Testament where fire is indeed used to purify.

So, could it be that the “Lake of Fire” is the presence of God – as when God appeared to Moses in the burning bush – purifying and refining instead of tormenting? One thing we do know: the “Lake of Fire” will fulfill God’s purposes in some way, and we do

not read of any of its participants remaining there forever and ever.

I could never understand how God, Who is a God of love, could torment forever in fire those who did not accept Jesus Christ as Savior in this short lifetime. I can fully understand the “Lake of Fire” if its purpose is refinement and purification: consistent with the love of God, and with His ultimate goal of saving all creation at the end of the ages.

I do not question that there is a judgment; surely there is! I do not question that there is a “Lake of Fire”! But the Bible tells us that the “Lake of Fire” is the “Second Death,” and that death is not eternal but will one day be abolished (I Corinthians 15).

— Bob Evely  
*God’s Will for All to Be Saved*

## Nothing New in the Book of Acts

[Edited excerpt:] The commonly accepted idea that the *Book of Acts* introduces something entirely new in the economy of God has no warrant in Scripture. ... Whereas the Kingdom is the plain declaration of all the prophecies, the “Secret” of the One Body was hidden in God until the final rejection by the nation

## The Writings of W.B. Screws

Screws, of Glennville, GA, a former Primitive Baptist pastor, was an able advocate of the Pauline gospel and staunch defender of the ultimate salvation of all mankind. He had an extensive teaching ministry that was concentrated, but not limited to, the southeastern United States. He was also the long-time editor of the monthly periodical, *The Pilgrim’s Messenger*.

An associate of A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), he conducted a regular circuit ministry throughout Georgia and South Carolina. He co-labored regionally with many brothers including W.H. Bundy (1881-1952). He taught in Bible conferences as far away as San Antonio, TX, and El Centro, Oakland, and Los Angeles, CA.

See [order form](#) under  
“Other Authors.”



Israel as recorded in the last chapter of the Book of Acts. The doctrine of this unique out-calling of God was unknown until revealed to Paul, subsequent to the divinely historic event of Israel's final rejection. ...

Whatever blessings the Gentiles received during the administration [covered in the *Book of Acts*] came through their vital relationship to Israel's favored position before Jehovah. This gracious act was in accord with the Mosaic instructions that the Gentiles were to have the grain left by Israel in the fields (Leviticus 23:22). ...

Four times in the *Book of Acts* the phrase is met: “*Be it known unto you*.” The phrase marks in each instance a crisis in the history of the favored nation. Four times is pardon offered to the Jews, twice by Peter and twice by Paul. Twice in the land under the commission of Acts 1:8, and twice outside of the land under the commission of Acts 9:15. Four times Israel hardens its heart. Finally, Paul, as a prisoner “*for the hope of Israel*,” pronounced sentence upon the nation for its stubborn rejection of the Spirit’s ministry (see, Matthew 12:32). No longer is the nation groping in partial blindness (Romans 11:25), for total blindness has now set in (Acts 28:23-27). Instead of “*the times of restitution of all things*” (Acts 3:21), the Kingdom is postponed. The murderers of Messiah have murdered His messengers also. Israel became *Lo-ammi*, “*Not my people*” (Hosea 1:9).

— Dr. Harold P. Morgan (1883-1953)

[The Revolt \(Against the Distinctive Ministry of the Apostle Paul\)](#)

1936

## The Date of the *Book of Revelation*

[To D.S.:] It is tradition that gives the *Book of Revelation*<sup>1</sup> (or the *Unveiling*) a date of being written in A.D. 95. From the Scriptures themselves we reject such a late date for the book.<sup>2</sup>

It is also important to understand that the books of the “New Testament” are not laid out in our Bibles in the chronological order in which they were written. Just because the *Book of Revelation* appears last in our Bibles, does not mean that it was written last. In fact, it would have to have been written during the exact same timeframe as all of the rest of the Jewish books of the Greek Scriptures (*Matthew, Mark, Luke,*

1. For a look at the nature of this book, see:

— The Book of Revelation: A Jewish Book, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Tidbits of Truth #14, Bible Student's Notebook #871*.

2. We are not alone in this assertion:

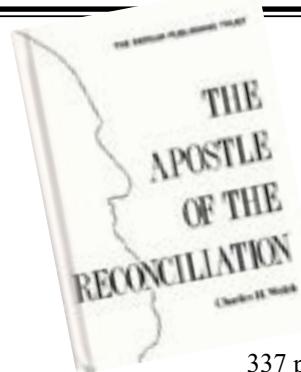
“I am far from satisfied with the dates generally assigned to the vision and writing of the *Apocalypse*. If, as I maintain, the banishment of John to the Isle of Patmos occurred during the reign of Claudius (41-54), which Neander, Schaff, Lightfoot and Salmon seem to think not unlikely, then the date, 95 A.D., heretofore assigned to the writing of this prophecy, will have to give way in favor of a much earlier date.

“If we are to accord external evidence any place, I incline then to the testimony of Tertullian and Jerome among other eminent writers of the earliest Apocalyptic commentators, who imply much earlier years for the vision and writing. It has been pointed out by the conservative theologians of the Tubingen School that the ambiguous language of Irenaeus, upon which the slender theory of a late date rests, is to be taken to mean not that the Apostle John was alive about the close of the reign of Domitian, but that the existence of the Book of the Revelation was a well-known fact at that time.

“I contended also that the entire *Apocalypse* is Jewish. No other view removes so many difficulties, or makes the interpretation of the book so simple and intelligible. It accounts for the pronouncedly Judaic element throughout.” — Dr. Harold P. Morgan (1883-1953), [The Revolt \(Against the Distinctive Ministry of the Apostle Paul\)](#), 1936 (See [order form](#) under “Morgan.”)

## *The Apostle of the Reconciliation*

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)



See [order form](#)  
under “Welch.”

This book shows the dispensational place of Acts and the earlier epistles of Paul. It follows a threefold division of Acts: 1. Restoration – restoring the Kingdom to Israel (1-9); 2. Reconciliation – typified by the vision of the sheet and the salvation of Cornelius (10-14); 3. Rejection – foreshadowed in Paul’s first miracle (13) and actually fulfilled in the setting aside of Israel (28).

John, Acts, Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude), i.e., during the Acts period.

Most fail to realize the crucial significance of Acts 28:28. At the close of the *Book of Acts* we find the judicial decree of the present blinding of Israel. With Israel being “*Lo-ammi*” (“not My people”), the nation’s prophetic program was held in abeyance, along with the voice of her prophets being silent (including John!).

After the Acts period, Paul wrote the epistles of the *Secret Administration*: Ephesians and Colossians.<sup>3</sup> No Jewish Scriptures could be written during our current Administration, and Paul tells us plainly in the last epistle that he wrote that he was completing the Word of God.<sup>4</sup>

*Of which I became a dispenser, in accord with the administration of God, which is granted to me for you, to Complete the Word of God* (Colossians 1:25, CV).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

## Biblical Chronology

“Biblical Chronology” provides many and complicated questions but few certainties. Each of the dif-

3. For a look at Paul’s post-Acts epistles of Ephesians and Colossians, and a consideration of their uniqueness in contrast with his earlier epistles, see the book:  
— [Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., see [order form](#) under “Pilkington.”
4. For a look at the Paul’s completion of the Word of God, see:  
— “Colossians: The Completion of the Word of God,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #788](#).

ferent systems is filled with discrepancies and is subject to many errors.

What I assert is that the conclusions of the chronologists are often mere conjectures, and conjecture necessarily varies with different minds. It would seem that every chronologist supersedes the guesses of his predecessors by theories as baseless as his own.

The dates usually assigned to the Pauline Epistles were hypothetical for the most part. Deissmann, in reference to the subject of chronology, in his book *The New Testament in the Light of Modern Research*, states:

The chronology of the individual letters [of Paul] is not yet fully ascertained. Positive dates are given in most modern books, but they are only of a more or less hypothetical nature (pp. 31-32).

Speaking of the difficulties encountered in biblical chronology, Sir Robert Anderson, affirms, “Here certainty vanishes” (*The Coming Prince*); and Ivan Panin comments, “Babel is writ large over it all” (*Bible Chronology*).

— Dr. Harold P. Morgan (1883-1953)

[The Revolt \(Against the Distinctive Ministry of the Apostle Paul\)](#)

1936

## The Guise of Sinful Humanity

We have been allowed to appear in the guise of sinful

## Daily Quick Quotes

Since we first began placing single-sentence quotes on the tops of the pages of the *Bible Student’s Notebook* they have been a most welcomed feature.

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humanity in order that God may be able to use us to display His grace to others (Ephesians 2:7). As He has shown kindness to us, so He will show it to them. For grace is the basis of ultimate salvation (as was pre-determined, even before creation was brought forth); therefore, works have no place in this, and the way is opened for all to become God's achievement, even as are the saints today (Ephesians 2:10).

— John H. Essex (1907-1991)  
“The Completing of the All in All”  
[Bible Student's Notebook #839;](#)  
[The Pleroma: Paul's “Lost” Teaching](#)  
Bible Student's Press (2021)  
Chapter 16, page 85  
See [order form](#) under “Compilations.”

### Approachment<sup>5</sup> vs. Appeasement

In my book *The Undoing of Adam and the Approach Present of God* I discuss the true nature of sacrifice in Scripture. As with other sacrifices, the death of Christ was a “gift” (or “present”) – yet in this case the gift was from God, whereby He “drew near” to (or “approached”) alienated mankind. This is a very important truth to understand. This is approachment

5. The act of coming near.” – *American Dictionary of the English Language*, Noah Webster (1828).

rather than appeasement, reconciliation rather than retribution, grace rather than works.

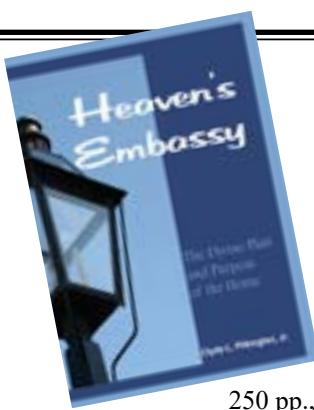
Nearly 300 times the *Concordant Version* uses the phrase “*approach present*.” It was not God Who was alienated from man, but man who was alienated from God. Calvary was God's “*approach present*” offered for the purpose of reconciling mankind to Himself.<sup>6</sup>

*For in grace, through faith, are you saved, and this is not out of you; it is God's approach present* (Ephesians 2:8, CV).

*Yet all is of God, Who conciliates us to Himself through Christ, and is giving us the dispensation of the conciliation, how that God was in Christ, conciliating the world to Himself, not reckoning their offenses to them, and placing in us the word of the conciliation* (II Corinthians 5:18-19, CV).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

6. [Editor:] Not only is this important truth covered in [The Undoing of Adam and the Approach Present of God](#) (see [order form](#) under “Pilkington”), it is also covered in this video teaching at [Biblical Resources](#).



250 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under  
“Clyde Pilkington.”

### Heaven's Embassy – The Divine Plan and Purpose of the Home

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it* (Psalm 127:1).

This book represents many years of work. The author believes that it is one of the most important books that he will ever be privileged to write, simply because it concerns one of the most vital scriptural subjects that could ever be addressed.

The home is central to all of God's dealings with man throughout the course of time. It is His Divine “institution” and “organization” on the earth; for the believer, it is the *Embassy of Heaven*. An embassy is “**the residence or office of an ambassador.**” Since the believer is an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:14-21), his home is thus the *Divine Embassy* of heavenly ministry.

Pauline ministry is centered in the homes of believers. This is even the true sphere of the Body of Christ; for this reason our apostle speaks of “*church in thy house.*” This book doesn't focus on the *external* specifics of the ministry of *Heaven's Embassy* (such as *hospitality*); that will be saved for another volume. Instead, it looks at the inner-workings of the *Embassy* itself, focusing on its very nature, *internal* purpose and function.



## Paul Laboring Under the Great Commission

The 12 Apostles AND Paul carried out the Great Commission in the *Book of Acts*. Not until Acts 28:28 did Paul stop doing the “Nations” part of the Great Commission. After chapter 13 there were two gospel messages: one for the Jews, and one for the Gentiles. But they both had the same hope up until Acts 28:28.

Understanding that Paul was doing the Great Commission during two of his three ministries, and that the members of the Body of Christ of that time were Proselytes of Israel is a game changer. It changes much that is misunderstood about Paul’s early epistles. Wherever there is a future hope or work spoken of it needs to be reevaluated.

— James D. Fine

### Vladimir Gelesnoff

[*Excerpt:*] “Count Vladimir Michael Gelesnoff, to whom I am indebted for invaluable aid to a better understanding of some Scriptures ...”

— Dr. Harold P. Morgan (1883-1953)

[The Revolt \(Against the Distinctive Ministry of the Apostle Paul\)](#)

1936

BSN



490 pp., PB

## Daily Goodies, & More Daily Goodies – 365 Thoughts on Scriptural Truths

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

This is a great resource for personal and family study, as well as a valuable reference volume covering many varied biblical themes. This is a collection of choice selections from the author's *Daily Email Goodies*. These free daily e-mails began being issued in 2003 and contain studies on scriptural themes. In addition to personal use, it is great for teaching material, or family reading times.



392 pp., PB

### What others are saying about Daily Goodies:

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“So easy to understand.” – **CO**

“Provides plenty of food for thought.” – **IL**

“A breath of fresh air.” – **Australia**

“A wealth of knowledge” – **The Netherlands**

“A source of education and assurance.” – **TN**

*See [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington.”*

“Uplifting, convicting, and encouraging!” – **ID**

“Very constructive for spiritual life.”

– **Belgium**