



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

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

Volume 37  
Issue 916

## *Acts 28:28, Before and After*

*Contrasts exhibiting that the mystery revealed after Acts 28:28 is a dispensation different from that which obtained before Acts 28:28.*

by — J. Eustace Mills

### ***The Mystery: Its Relation to Israel and the Gentiles***

At Acts 28:28 Israel's hope was deferred and salvation was sent to the Gentiles, whereupon the Mystery was committed to Paul on behalf of the Gentiles and he suffered in making this hope known.

**Before Acts 28:28** believing Gentiles, like Cornelius, were permitted to partake of the Word which God had sent to Israel.

*The word which God sent unto the children of Israel* (Acts 10:36).

*What advantage then hath the Jew? Or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the Oracles of God* (Romans 3:1-2).

**But after Acts 28:28** Paul became a prisoner for the Gentiles, in connection with the revelation of the Mystery given to him for them.

*For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery* (Ephesians 3:1-3).

**Before Acts 28:28** Paul's sufferings concerned "the hope" of the "promise made unto" Israel's fathers.

*And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: unto which promise our Twelve Tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come* (Acts 26:6-7).

**But after Acts 28:28** Paul suffered in making known "the hope" of the Mystery to the Gentiles.

*Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you ... according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you ... even the mystery ... among the Gentiles; which is Christ amongst you, the hope of glory* (Colossians 1:24-27, margin).

### ***The Mystery: Its Calling and Hope***

The Mystery concerns our calling to be seated together with Christ in the heavenly places far above all, and the one hope of our calling, to be manifested with Christ in glory.

**Before Acts 28:28** a calling was in view whose blessings are associated with a time "from" the foundation of the world.

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*Come ye blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you **from** the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34).*

**But after Acts 28:28** a calling came into view which blessings are associated with a time “*before*” the foundation of the world.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as He hath chosen us in Him **before** the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-4).*

**Before Acts 28:28** believers were said to have been identified with Christ in His burial and resurrection.

*We were buried therefore with Him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4, RV).*

**But after Acts 28:28** they are said to have the added

### 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);

blessing of being seated with Him.

*... Quickened us together with Christ (by grace have ye been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us to sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:5-6).*

**Before Acts 28:28** some believers had a place of blessing in “*the heavenly Jerusalem*,” where angels dwell.

*But ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, **the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels** (Hebrews 12:22).*

**But after Acts 28:28** a *higher* place of blessing was revealed for us as we are seated with Christ “*in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power*.”

*Set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power* (Ephesians 1:20-21, compare 2:6).

- 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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Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Stephen Hill

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

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*Ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power* (Colossians 2:10).

**Before Acts 28:28** the “hope” connected with the day of the Lord was something the believers knew perfectly.

*For what is our hope ... are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?*  
(I Thessalonians 2:19).

*The Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven ... But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly ...* (I Thessalonians 4:16-5:2).

**But after Acts 28:28** prayers for enlightenment are necessary that the “hope” of this time might be known.

*... prayers that ... the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling* (Ephesians 1:16-18).

**Before Acts 28:28** believers looked “to meet the Lord in the air” during His descent from the far above all, that event being termed His revelation (*apokalupsis*) or coming (*parousia*).

*Waiting for the revelation [apokalupsis] of our Lord Jesus Christ* (I Corinthians 1:7, margin).

*May your spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the coming [Parousia] of our Lord Jesus Christ* (I Thessalonians 5:23, RV).

**But after Acts 28:28** the believers, whose blessings are with Christ far above all, look to be “manifested” with Him “*in glory*” – the terms *apokalupsis* and *parousia* are not used in connection with this hope.

*When Christ, Who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with Him be manifested in glory* (Colossians 3:4, RV).

### ***The Mystery: Its Distinguishing Characteristics***

The Mystery had been hidden from all ages until revealed through Paul after Acts 28:28. It occasioned a distinctive form of practice without the accompaniment of evidential gifts, and the Mystery is that which God would make known to His Saints.

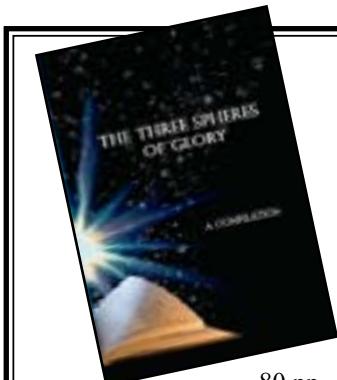
**Before Acts 28:28** Paul was a minister of “*the New Covenant*” promised to Israel in Jeremiah 31:31.

*“Behold, the days come,” saith the Lord, “that I will make a New Covenant with the House of Israel, and with the House of Judah”* (Jeremiah 31:31).

*Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Covenant* (II Corinthians 3:6).

**But after Acts 28:28** he was made a minister of “*the Mystery*” which had “*been hid from ages and from generations*.”

*Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil [complete] the Word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid for ages and*



## ***The Three Spheres of Glory***

*A Compilation*

Very few know and understand the three spheres of age-abiding (or eonian) glory that belong to the three distinct classes of saints. For the first time this crucial compilation brings together five groundbreaking works from 3 valued authors of the past: Dr. E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913); Henry William Fry (1848-1939); Charles H. Welch (1880-1967).

80 pp., PB

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

**from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints** (Colossians 1:25-26).

**what is the riches of the glory of this mystery**  
(Colossians 1:26-27). [BSN](#)

**Before Acts 28:28** “*the Mystery*” formed no part of Paul’s ministry, for all that he said was limited to those things “*which the prophets and Moses did say should come*.”

*I continue unto this day ... saying **none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come** (Acts 26:22).*

**But After Acts 28:28** Paul, as a prisoner, received the Mystery, a truth distinct from anything he had spoken earlier in that it had never been foreseen by the prophets.

*Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, was this grace given ... to make all men see what is the Dispensation of the Mystery which from all ages hath been hid in God* (Ephesians 3:8-9, RV)

**Before Acts 28:28** there was more than one baptism: both spirit and water.

*Of the doctrine of baptisms ... (Heb 6:2).*

**But after Acts 28:28** it was revealed that “*one baptism*” should characterize the “*unity of the spirit*” which pertains to the calling of the Mystery.

*Even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, **one baptism** ... (Ephesians 4:4-5).*

**Before Acts 28:28** the Lord promised that His own would be led into “*all truth*” that was afterwards to be revealed.

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into **all truth** (John 16:13).*

**But after Acts 28:28** the Word of God was completed by the revelation of the Mystery, and it is God’s will, or desire, to make known to His saints “*what is this Mystery*.”

*His saints: to whom God would make known*

Circa 1930

(adapted & edited)

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Acts 28; Right Division; Mystery  
**Minor:** Paul

[**Editor:**] See Mills’ other articles in the *Bible Student’s Notebook*:

- *The Mystery of this Dispensation* #62;
- *The New Covenant*, part 1: #[701](#); part 2: #[725](#); part 3: #[726](#).

[**Editor:**] For more information on Acts 28, see:

- Acts 28: The Dispensational Crisis, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #642](#);
- Before and After Acts 28, Oscar Baker, [Bible Student’s Notebook #595](#);
- Different Conditions Before and After Acts 28, David Tavender, [Bible Student’s Notebook #747](#);
- The Hope of Paul’s Acts Epistles, Tom L. Ballinger, *Bible Student’s Notebook* #[580](#), #[581](#);
- The Acts Transition and the Pentecostal Dispensation, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student’s Notebook #507](#);
- The Pentecostal Dispensation Was Brought to a Close in Acts 28, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student’s Notebook #625](#);
- The Three Stages of Paul’s Ministry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, [Bible Student’s Notebook #717](#);
- Gentiles During the Acts Period, David Tavender, [Bible Student’s Notebook #733](#);
- When Was Israel as a Nation Set Aside?, John H. Kessler, [Bible Student’s Notebook #629](#);
- The Earlier and Later Chapters of the Book of Acts, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student’s Notebook #526](#);
- The Dispensational Frontier of Acts 28:23-31, Charles H. Welch, parts 1-3: *Bible Student’s Notebook* #[639](#), #[640](#), #[641](#);
- *The Dispensation of the Grace of God, and Acts 28:28 – A Dispensational Boundary Line*, Otis Q. Sellers (see [order form](#));
- The Acts Dispensation, Otis Q. Sellers, Parts 1-3, *Bible Student’s Notebook* #[727](#), #[728](#), #[729](#);
- Paul’s Message After Acts 28, William B. Hallman, [Bible Student’s Notebook #867](#);
- The Pentecostal and Secret Dispensations, William B. Hallman, [Bible Student’s Notebook #866](#).



# Reader's Question Box #69

## Resurrection

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

**Q:** If a dead member of the body of Christ's physical body has totally decomposed, or had been destroyed by some other means, what exactly is raised? Because upon resurrection, a new body is given, so I'm a little confused on what exactly is there to be raised from a long dead disintegrated corpse. – **D.R.**



**A:** It may help to realize that in resurrection, there's not merely a new body "given," as it were, but that the old body is raised and then "changed" (I Corinthians 15:51-52). A glorious contrast awaits!

*Who shall change our humble body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself* (Philippians 3:21).

Considering death, and the anticipated resurrection "change," Job also wrote,

*If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come* (14:14).

Individual "atoms" are no harder for God to "locate"

and reassemble, than that of finding an intact corpse. The One who knows the number of hairs on our head (cf. Matthew 10:30) at any given moment surely has no difficulty knowing how to reassemble our molecules.

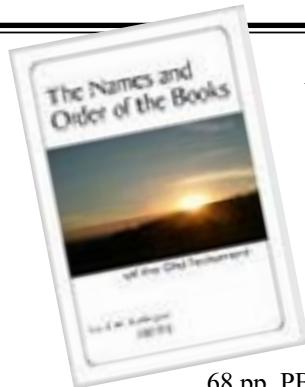
Such is the realization of resurrection throughout Scripture. Though we decay, God will work His wonders. Although our resurrection will be earlier, and with greater expectation, the earliest of Scripture authors describes just such a hope:

*Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh* (Job 19:26).

After all, death and decaying are the lot of humanity:

*One person dies in excellent health, completely secure and at ease. His body is well fed, and his bones are full of marrow. Yet another person dies with a bitter soul, having never tasted prosperity. But they both lie in the dust, and worms cover them* (Job 21:23-26).

We are reminded of the beautiful vision of the future resurrection of Israel – the Valley of Dry Bones – found in Ezekiel 37:



## *The Names and Order of the Books of the Old Testament*

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

To get back to the "original" is ever the endeavor of the careful Bible student. To find that he has followed in the study of the Holy Scriptures some man-devised classification of the Sacred Writings is disheartening, yet such is the condition of all who have based spiritual thought and exegesis on the names and order of the books of the Old Testament as they appear in our Bibles. The "authority" for them is a human one dating back to about 300 B.C. How seriously the original order and the original names were tampered with in this change is shown in this book, and the true names and order of all of the books are clearly set forth as they appear in the original Hebrew, and in harmony with the Divine imprimatur of Luke 24:44. It will be seen at once that the information contained between the covers of this book is of vital importance as fundamental knowledge for the Bible student.

68 pp, PB.

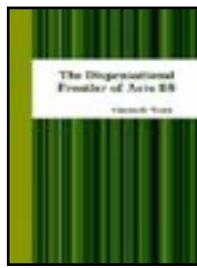
See [order form](#) under "Bullinger."

*The hand of the LORD was on me, and He brought me out by His Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them. There were a great many of them on the surface of the valley, and they were very dry. Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I replied, "Lord GOD, only You know." He said to me, "Prophesy concerning these bones and say to them: 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'"*

*This is what the Lord GOD says to these bones: "I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live. I will put tendons on you, make flesh grow on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you so that you come to life. Then you will know that I am Yahweh."*

*So, I prophesied as I had been commanded. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. As I looked, tendons appeared on them, flesh grew, and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.*

*He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man. Say to it: 'This is what the Lord GOD says: 'Breath, come from the four winds and breathe into these slain so that they may live!'"*



## ***The Dispensational Frontier of Acts 28***

by — Charles H. Welch  
(1880-1967)

62 pages, PB (See [order form](#) under "Welch.")

A survey of the significance of Acts 28 to dispensational truth.

*So, I prophesied as He commanded me; the breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army. Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. Look how they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished; we are cut off.' Therefore, prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them, My people, and lead you into the land of Israel. You will know that I am Yahweh, My people, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I am Yahweh. I have spoken, and I will do it. This is the declaration of the LORD'" (:1-14, HCS). **BSN***

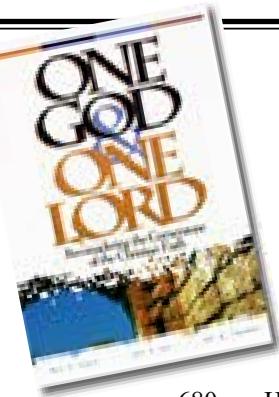
### **TOPICS:**

**Major:** Q&A; Resurrection

**Minor:** Death

## ***One God and One Lord*** *Compilation*

This compilation work examines the biblical evidence for "the Christ, the Son of the living God," building an impressive and compelling case for the unity of the Scripture's testimony concerning the true humanity of Jesus, "the Man Christ Jesus." It provides a view of Christ that allows for a total appreciation of His steadfast obedience to God in the face of temptation, suffering, and even a humiliating death. Vindicated by His resurrection, He entered into glory and now sits at God's right hand. *One God & One Lord* shows how the traditional view of Jesus Christ actually diminishes the magnitude of His faith by attributing to Him "intrinsic deity."



680 pp, HC

See [order form](#) under "Compilations."

The Scripture does not support a portrait of Jesus Christ as "God incarnate," "God the Son," or a pre-existent divine visitor. This encyclopedic work shows that a combination of misguided theology and pagan speculation is responsible for the intrusion of unbiblical concepts concerning Christ. It challenges a deep appreciation for the integrity of the Word of God. Authors include John Lynn, John Schoenheit, and Mark Graeser.

# The Out-Resurrection: Rising Before Others

by — G.J. Paupit (1889-1962)

**T**he resurrection of *the dead* is only a basic starting point because Scripture teaches more. The disciples also believed in resurrection, yet they were surprised that the Lord Jesus said that He would rise *out from among the dead* (Mark 9:9-10). They asked among themselves what it was to rise *out from among the dead*. They did not understand that this meant that the Lord would rise *before* the others rose.

Just as Christ has risen *out from among the dead*, God will also raise the Corinthian-Thessalonian-Hebrew group *out from among the dead*, that is, before the others. I Corinthians 6:14 says,

*And God hath both raised [egeiro] up the Lord, and will also raise [exegeiro = out-raise] up us through His own power.*

This is the “*better resurrection*” of Hebrews 11:39-40 (cf. I Thessalonians 4:13-18). Those who participate in it receive *aionic* life.

However, in “*the Mystery*” God reveals yet another resurrection that is *out from among the dead*. *Exanastasis* (ἐξανάστασις – out-resurrection)<sup>1</sup> occurs only once in the Greek Scriptures, namely in Philippians 3:11, where it is unfortunately often translated merely as “*resurrection*.<sup>2</sup>”

At the end of the time covered by the Book of Acts Paul *pressed*<sup>3</sup> to reach this *Exanastasis*. He already had the “*better resurrection*” in Christ as a believer, but when he received the revelation of “*the Mystery*” he received that out-resurrection (*exanastasis*) that he had *pressed* to obtain. With this, he does not have to rest in the grave until the Lord’s return.

1. G1815 (SEC).

2. [Editor:] Here are three translations that rendered it accurately:

“... the out-resurrection: from the dead” (PNB).

“... the earlier resurrection, which is from among the dead” (REB).

“... the resurrection that is out from among the dead” (CV).

3. [Editor:] Other translations have “push[ed]” (WT); “pursue[d]” (YLT; CV); “stretch[ed] forward” (WET).

The Old Testament believer was expecting the resurrection “*at the last day*,” that is, at the end of this *aion*. But those who received further revelation knew of an expectation that was a “*better resurrection*.”

Yet, there is a resurrection that is far better and earlier than even this. The members of Christ’s One Body *do not have to wait* for Michael to arrive, putting their hopes on I Thessalonians 4 (although they believe this to be true for others). Our *Exanastasis* (out-resurrection) is *by far the best*.

*When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also be manifested with Him in Glory* (Colossians 3:4). **BSN**

*Uit de Schriften (Out of the Scriptures)*  
Translated from Dutch  
(edited excerpt)

**G.J. Paupit** (1889-1962) was a student of E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), an associate of A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) and Charles H. Welch (1880-1967), and co-editor, along with Stanislas Van Mierlo (1888-1962), of the Dutch monthly periodical *Uit de Schriften* (Out of the Scriptures, 1920-1960), as well the author of several books including: *The Holy Scriptures*, *The Covenants and the Law*, *Israel’s Prophecy*, *The Song of Songs*, *The Anti-Divine Trio*, *The Rich Man & Lazarus*, *About the Mystery*.

[Editor:] See Paupit’s other articles in the *Bible Student’s Notebook*:

- “The Difference Between the Heavenly and the Over-Heavenly Spheres,” [Bible Student’s Notebook #841](#);
- “The Opening of a New Dispensation,” *Titbits of Truth*, [Bible Student’s Notebook #907](#);
- The “Body” of Corinthians and the “Body” of Ephesians, [Bible Student’s Notebook #908](#).

[Editor:] For a further look at this theme, see,

- The “Out-Resurrection,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #912](#).

## TOPICS:

**Major:** Out-Resurrection; Resurrection

**Minor:** Ecclesia; Mystery



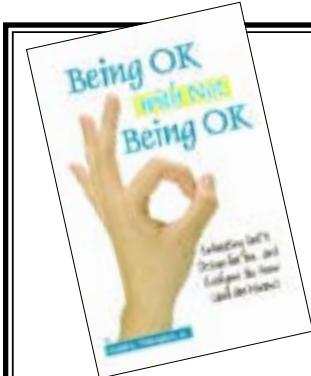
Thank you for the [Daily Email Goodies](#) and the *Bible Student's Notebook* and everything else! – NE

I just finished reading your book, [The Salvation of All](#). I thank you for opening my eyes: God is Love. – NY

Another wonderful read [[BSN #911](#): “A Year in Review”] and so nice to see the continuing progress of the literature work. The best example of standing for truth being conducted today ... period. Thank you for including me. – IN

Teachers that aren't understanding the purpose and calling of the Body of Christ have really been a cause of so much misinformation by supporting misdirection in their sectarian fraternalism, and it gets perplexing. – ID

I first came to hear about the salvation of all about 6-7 years ago. I found out about you through the conference videos. It was honestly life changing. I was heavily suicidal at the time. I wanted to know God, but the god of Christianity was my only context. I genuinely believed in hell and my spirit was so troubled I just couldn't cope.



134 pp., PB

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

*I have read it completely three times. I always refer back to certain chapters. – FL*

*When I read it, it was like I could breathe again. Your calming words lead me to a greater realization. – OH*

It was literally a Godsend to find out about brothers like yourself who teach about the true God. I'm forever thankful and revisit those videos on [Biblical Resources](#) often for encouragement. ...

Your videos have taught me a lot. ... I feel a closeness with you when I listen to you teach. I can sense your genuine love for the family of faith and it's been a blessing going through those videos. – Australia

Besides getting reminded of a famous mechanical hammer with your name, the “Pilkington Hammer,” I remember you having played a major part after my heavy strokes, recognizing traces of Christ everywhere! – Germany

I really appreciate your *Study Shelf* material as it has helped me greatly! The understanding of being in the “Body of Christ” has greatly reinforced my understanding in my walk! – OH

You are a good man. I received my copy of your book, [[The Salvation of All](#)]. Thank you so much. Through your book, which is really very clear, I have now seen the love of God for His creation. Man, oh man, how did I miss it. – South Africa

[God's Celestial Purpose: Paul's Letter to the Ephesians](#), by John H. Essex, just makes my heart sing! Essex is both insightful and accessible to the average reader. This book is a treasure. – TN

BSN

## ***Being OK with Not Being OK – Embracing God's Design for You ... and Everyone You Know (and Don't Know)***

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

For now, you're broken, and you aren't going to be “fixed.” Granted, you may have some days that are better than others, some circumstances that seem to indicate that you are “OK,” but the wearisome cycle simply will recur.

Thus it is by design – by divine design. Father is bringing you to a place where you are OK with not being OK, where you simply rest in His current purpose and plan in your training and development for that grand and magnificent culmination that He has so wonderfully and skillfully designed especially for you – in your next life.

*Thank you for this! It brought such peace and rest to me, and brought a greater understanding of God's great love for all His creation. That He alone is in control of everything is mind boggling to say the least! – NM*

*So fantastic! Such peace!! – Australia*