



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 40
Issue 981

The Sermon on the Mount and Present Truth Briefly Contrasted

by — Dr. Dansey Smith (1879-1969)
Hangchow, Chekiang, China

(Author of *The Eons and the Reconciliation*,¹ Concordant missionary;² former associate of J. Hudson Taylor)

“the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:3,10,19-20).

Matthew 5:4

Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.

This finds no counterpart in this economy. Our blessings and privileges in Christ are such that we are enjoined to “*Rejoice in the Lord always*” (Philippians 4:4).

Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the Earth.

Here meekness is a condition of inheriting material blessing, but for us it is to be a consequence of “*the calling wherewith*” we “*are called*” (Ephesians 4:2), and of our position “*as God’s elect*” (Colossians 4:12).

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

Our thirst is to be satisfied not merely by being filled with righteousness, but by being “*filled in spirit*” (Ephesians 5:18).

Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.

We thank God that in this economy we have obtained mercy “*by grace*,” for we could never merit it.

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the sons of God.

But for us our calling in Christ is given as the reason for seeking after peace and letting it rule in our hearts (Ephesians 4:3; Colossians 3:15), and the Son of God Himself is declared to be the great Peacemaker (Colossians 1:20).

Matthew 5:17-20

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till Heaven and Earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore

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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 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 unpropheesied, 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

Bible Student's Notebook™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Office: (800) 784-6010 – Local: (814) 701-0063

bsn@studyshelf.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor-in-Chief

André Sneidar – Executive Editor

Associate Editors: J. Blake Botner, Steve Martin, Mark Peters, Mark Vogt

Assistant Editors: James Fine, Will Marshall

Managers and Assistants

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

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shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in **the Kingdom of Heaven**: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in **the Kingdom of Heaven**. For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into **the Kingdom of Heaven**.

Fulfilling the law was Christ's purpose, and He has accomplished it, "having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments in ordinances" (Ephesians 2:15).

Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

The offering at the altar (:23-24): There is no further need of the altar in this economy, "for through Him we both have our access in one spirit unto the Father" (Ephesians 2:18).

Matthew 6:10

Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven.

In this economy we do not need to pray for the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. We are already "translated ... into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13).

Matthew 6:12-15

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

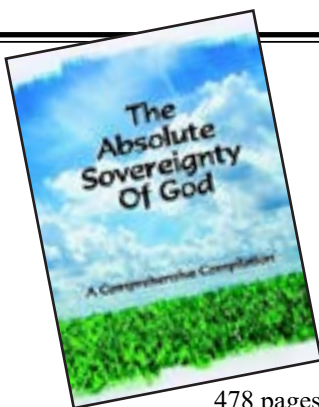
Here, forgiveness by the Father is dependent on the man's forgiving others. But in the present economy this has been exactly reversed. No longer is our forgiveness a consequence of our forgiving, but the cause, as is clearly brought out in Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:13. "By grace have ye been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, that no man should glory" (Ephesians 2:8-9). This is a fundamental difference.

Matthew 6:16-18

Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

The words "to fast" or "fasting" do not once occur in Paul's later epistles, indicating that the subject has no

(see **SERMON**, page 8274)



478 pages

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

The Absolute Sovereignty of God (A Comprehensive Compilation)

This quintessential book victoriously celebrates and convincingly proclaims the absolute sovereignty of God. Sadly, religion has veiled the truth of the God of the Bible, making Him either an aloof deity, indifferent to the condition of the creation, or one who is at the worst cruel or at the least unloving and uncaring. Yet the loving Deity of Sacred Scripture always has had and will have sole and complete control over His entire creation. This ultimate collection of 100 works by 34 authors spans nearly 175 years. It is an extensive reference work that is essential for every library.

The Danger of God Not Being Completely Sovereign

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 2 - The Sovereignty of God /

Lesson 6 - The Danger of God Not Being Completely Sovereign

by — Mark D. Vogt

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him is ALL: to Whom be majesty for the ages. Amen (Romans 11:36, BSV).

Key Points:

According to the traditional teaching, there is a misconception that Satan was not originally created as Satan, but rather as a perfect being. It is falsely believed that at a later point, "iniquity" was discovered in him, causing him to "fall" and become Satan. 8270
Contrary to a belief that Satan was initially created without sin

and later fell into sin by his own choice, the truth is that God Himself created Satan as the Adversary "from the beginning," dispelling the notion of two separate creators of good and evil, as God is the creator of all, including "evil." 8271
There is a real danger in not thinking that God is completely sovereign, and such thinking surely undermines faith. 8271

Many might claim that God is sovereign and in control, yet when one delves into their doctrines and teachings, and speaks with them, it is discovered that they actually deny the complete sovereignty of God.

The reality is that if God is not completely sovereign, then there are a couple of cosmic problems that rear their ugly heads.

First, many falsely teach that when God created Satan (the Adversary) he wasn't Satan at that time. As the traditional teaching goes, he was supposedly created in perfection and sometime later "iniquity" was found



in him and that he "fell" (cf. Ezekiel 28:12-15; Isaiah 14:12) thus becoming Satan.

This teaching was garnered from a misuse of Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 and a horrible mistranslation of some words within those chapters (e.g. "Lucifer"). However, just because someone wants to make a word, or a group of words, in a portion of Scripture say what they want it to say is no justification for mistranslating and/or misusing that portion of Scripture for that end.

If Satan was created in perfection, and then he fell, what does that say about God? If in fact this is what happened, then God Himself is a "sinner." Let's ex-



The Sovereignty of God

by — George Addair

The trend of the centuries has consistently been that of the exaltation of man and the abasement of God. Many feel that the Creator has delegated His rule and authority to the use or abuse of the creature. They have reduced God and His Divine office to the extent that multitudes of people now have only a superficial conception of Him.

57 pages

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amine the implications of this idea.

creative force in the universe.

The definition of the word “sin” is to *miss the mark or the target*. Judges 20:16 defines the word “miss” as “sin” (cf. *Strong’s Concordance*, H2398). Romans 3:23 gives us the same meaning (cf. *Strong’s Concordance*, G5302).

If it was God’s will to create this perfect being, and then this perfect being turned out to be a failure, then it is God Who “missed the mark” in His creation of this celestial creature, because He didn’t intend for this creature to sin and rebel. This means that God “sinned,” because His creature turned around and sinned against God when that was not God’s will. Oh, what a fine mess this erroneous teaching is.

To the contrary, that is *not* what happened in creation. I John 3:8 tells us that,

... **from the beginning** is the Adversary sinning (CV).

For God has declared,

I have created the waster to destroy (Isaiah 54:16, KJV).

The second problem with this common idea, concerning the creation of this creature and its subsequent fall, is this: If it is correct, and this creature fell because “*iniquity*” was found in him and God did not put that in him, then that means that Satan generated his own rebellion and sin. If this were true, then it would appear that there is more than one original

Now the next question that should be asked is this: If there is more than one original creative force in the universe then how many are there? Why stop at two? Are there three, four, a thousand, a million? Maybe there are a billion or more creative forces present in the universe.

This sounds suspiciously like what Satan told Eve in the Garden, that they would “*be like gods*” (Genesis 3:5, WYC). This lie has never been far from the minds of unbelievers and believers alike, and is the source of the doctrine of so-called “free will.”

Don’t believe the lie for one minute. Satan was *not* created without sin, and then somehow of his own volition re-created himself a sinner. No! It was actually God Himself who created Satan *as* the Adversary “*from the beginning*.” There are certainly not two creators in the universe – one who created “good,” and another who created “evil.” No! For God is the Creator of all, even “evil.”

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things (Isaiah 45:7, KJV).

There is a real danger in not thinking that God is completely sovereign, and such thinking surely undermines faith. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: God; Sovereignty

Minor: Faith; Satan; Sin



302 pages

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

The Creation of Evil, Sin and Satan (A Compilation)

The truth laid forth in this work should help us greatly in our dealings with others, especially those who have failed in some way which may bring dishonor on His Name, or cannot accept His truth, or even oppose it and us, especially mature teachings such as is put forth in the pages of this book. It contains 19 authors, 49 works, spanning 150 years. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams, E.W. Bullinger, Alan Burns, Edward Clayton, John Essex, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Norman P. Grubb, Donald G. Hayter, A.E. Knoch, William Mealand, André Piet, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Ray Van Dyke, William H. Walker, and James Webb.



The Danger of God Not Being Associated with Evil

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 2 - The Sovereignty of God /

Lesson 7 - The Danger of God Not Being Associated with Evil

by — Mark D. Vogt

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things (Isaiah 45:7, KJV).

Key Points:

God created evil for His purposes and plans..... 8273
Denying that God created "evil" implies a lack of control or authority over the universe, as the presence of evil throughout

is evident..... 8273
"Amazing Grace" isn't quite so amazing if the vast majority of people are forever "lost." 8273

To most people it would be preposterous to read the title of this lesson and not to think that the writer had lost his mind, for the idea that God is in any way associated with "evil" is unthinkable.

The unscriptural view is that God is not associated in any way with evil, and the proponents of this idea go to great lengths to argue that it is impossible for God even to look upon "evil" and "sin," let alone to be associated with it.

Those arguing for this view have a skewed idea of just Who God is. Their ideas demonstrate a very incomplete and somewhat superficial understanding of Who God is and how He operates, thus revealing a limited spiritual illumination from God Himself (Ephesians 1:17-18).

It is not hard to show that God is associated with evil, and only one verse is needed to make this clear. Not only will one see that God is indeed associated with evil, but that HE CREATED IT!

I form the light, and create darkness: I make





peace, and **create evil**: I the LORD do all these things (Isaiah 45:7, KJV).

God created evil for His purposes and plans. In order to understand this more fully we must define the word “evil.”

The word “evil” in Isaiah 45:7 is translated from the Hebrew word *ra* (SEC H7451). *Young's Lexicon* shows that *ra* is translated 444 times as “evil.” The simple meaning is calamity, distress, harm and 28 other words that are synonymous with “evil.”

Yet, it is important to recognize that the word “evil” doesn't have a moral component associated with it. *While all sin is evil, not all evil is sin.*

Romans 11:36 reminds us that ALL is out of God. ALL includes even “evil.”

For **out of Him, and through Him, and to Him** is **ALL**: to Whom be majesty for the ages. Amen (Romans 11:36, BSV).

This is where the danger lies. If people deny that God created “evil,” then what they are saying is that there is some part of the universe that He has lost control over, or that He never had control over in the first place, since it is obvious that there is “evil” abounding everywhere.

If this is true, and “evil” got out of hand, then apparently God has failed to maintain control over “evil,” and that means that He has sinned, not only in allow-

ing it to happen, but as of yet failing to reign it in and doing away with it.

Is this the God in Whom we are to put our trust? A God Who is trying to play “catch up” with His creation since “evil” exists and has gotten out of control to the point where He is simply doing the best that He can to save a small portion of humanity, and the rest are doomed to eternal conscious torment?

Is this the Savior in Whom we are to put our trust? One that is only partially successful? If anyone in the workforce was as unsuccessful as the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father are thought to be, then they would be fired for poor performance.

This means, then, according to some, that the Adversary wins the “eternal” struggle and triumphs in the end while Christians sing “Our God is a Mighty God,” “How Great Thou Art” and “Amazing Grace.” Apparently, His grace isn't quite so amazing if the vast majority of people are forever “lost.”

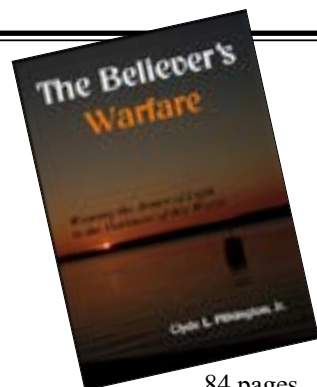
God created “evil” (Genesis 2:9; Colossians 1:16), and He created it for a purpose. “Evil” is every bit a servant of God as anyone of us, or Satan, or anything else in His universe. When “evil” has fully served God's purpose, it, as well as “sin,” will be eradicated from His creation and God the Father will become the “ALL in all” (I Corinthians 15:28).

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Evil; God; Sovereignty

Minor: Satan; Sin



84 pages

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

The Believer's Warfare

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The believer is in the middle of an ancient spiritual warfare that is as old as mankind. The battle itself, although intense, is not complicated. It is not a process of spiritual hoop-jumping. Indeed it is simple. *The Believer's Warfare* surveys a few key passages of Scripture to reveal God's sure plan of victory in the life of His saints.

“I have really enjoyed *The Believer's Warfare*. For years I have struggled with my walk with Christ, bouncing ‘in and out of fellowship’; using some human effort to try and control the flesh. It seems as though I still have a lot of legalistic and guilt-ridden programming in my brain.” – OH



place in this economy. Yet this is shown more definitely in Colossians 2:20-23, where he reproves those who had “died with Christ from the rudiments of the world” for being again “subject to ordinances.”

o-O-o

This is just a brief contrast between Christ’s Kingdom of Heaven teaching while on Earth and His later revelation from Heaven through His servant Paul with regard to this present economy.

May God’s Spirit enable us to realize in our lives the answer to Paul’s prayer,

that ye may distinguish the things that differ
(Philippians 1:10).

We are “blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3); we “sit with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6); “our citizenship is in Heaven” (Philippians 3:20); and finally Paul says,

Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the Earth (Colossians 3:2).

— *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 12 (1921), pp 182-187
(abridged & edited)

BSN

[**Editor:**] While the scope of the original article “compared and contrasted,” for our purposes here, we have limited the investigation to contrasts.



119 pages

The Sermon on the Mount; and, The Gospel of the Grace of God

by — Cornelius R. Stam (1909 - 2003)

This work helps the reader place the Sermon on the Mount just where it belongs in the program of God to Israel, comparing it with what God has given to us today under the dispensation of grace. See [order form](#) under “Stam.”



The Problem of Evil and The Judgments of God

by — A.E. Knoch

346 pages (See [order form](#)
under “Knoch.”)

This book traces the divine function of evil from its inception to its consummation, by presenting scriptural solutions to the various long-debated questions concerning God and His sovereignty. Here is what one of our readers has written about *The Problem of Evil*:

“The litmus test for motive in any writer is whether or not the power of the ‘Cross’ is being diminished or supplanted in any way; Knoch unfolds each point with the loving simplicity of someone who has faced and answered the critics with the overarching victory of Calvary. One comes away from each chapter of this work once again realizing that the offense of the ‘Cross’ has driven so many wonderful and freeing truths out of what is traditionally taught and practiced.”

For a closer look at this subject, see the book,

– [The Sermon on the Mount](#), C.R. Stam (on the order form under “Stam”).

Endnotes:

1. A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) wrote in the editorial of *Unsearchable Riches* Volume 11 (April 1920):
It has been our pleasure to read a pamphlet on “The Eons and the Reconciliation,” by Dr. Dansey Smith ... Seldom have we seen so clear and concise a statement of the great doctrine of the eons as is presented in this little pamphlet. A large chart shows the eons and its associated subjects and phrases. The text is principally an elucidation of this chart. ... The second section on the “Reconciliation” is also accompanied by a chart showing the gradual unfolding of God’s purpose under the headings: Purpose, Prepared, Promised, Procured, Preached, Partial, Perfected, and the explanation follows these subjects also.
2. Cf., *Unsearchable Riches*, volume 40 (1949).

TOPICS:

Major: Dispensational; Sermon on the Mount
Minor: Colossians; Ephesians; Paul; Philippians