



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

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

Volume 40  
Issue 997

### We Are Aware

by — Dean H. Hough

#### Key Points:

God is working all together for the good, but most people are not aware of this fact.....8395

**I**n believing the evangel, the believer becomes aware of God in a way that is hidden from those who do not believe. ... Paul writes (Romans 8:28),

*Now we are aware that God is working all together for the good ...*

The next words might well be rendered as follows:

*[This awareness is] for those who are loving God, who are called ...*

The Greek does not literally say “of” those who are loving God, but “to” or “for” those who are loving God. **God is working all together for the good, but most people are not aware of this fact.** Yet if we are believing the evangel, we are becoming aware of this sure and certain aspect of God’s character and pattern of His operations.

Romans 8:28 corresponds with telling harmony to what Paul writes in Romans 3:21-22. As believers being justified gratuitously in God’s grace, as those who are called, we are becoming aware of God’s righteousness. This righteousness is one that sees to it that all is for good. This is the character of God’s active and all-inclusive involvement in all that occurs. He is working all together for good.

As believers we are aware of this because this is what God tells us in the evangel we are believing. We are



told that God has a purpose, and that we are called into a special calling in accord with that purpose – and this purpose involves all that happens and all that exists. It is, as Paul will later write, God’s purpose in Christ,

*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 1:9-10).

This purpose is the purpose of God,

*Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will* (Ephesians 1:11).

From the very beginning of revelation, this principle has been laid down: that what God does is all for good (Genesis 1:31). Now that Christ has died for our sins and has been roused, the goodness of God’s operations and purpose has become apparent.

The evangel itself, concerning Christ’s death for sinners, is not presented immediately in a direct way

*(see AWARE, last page)*

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## Bible Student's Notebook™

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 40, No. 997 – November 27, 2023

*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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Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Stephen Hill  
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# How Does God's Love Differ from Man's Love?

## Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 3: The Love of God / Lesson 4: How Does God's Love Differ from Man's Love?

by — Mark D. Vogt

*What His soul has yearned for He shall do. For He shall accomplish what is marked out for me (Job 23:13-14, CV).*

### Key Points:

While a parent's love can be strained because of their child's behavior, God's love never diminishes.....8397  
God made each of us exactly the way he wanted us.....8398

God loves us and is absolutely sovereign, and because of that, all will turn out perfectly fitted to His glory and to our benefit.....8398

**U**ntil one knows God intimately, they cannot really know the love of God.

How can a child know the love of a parent until that child grows to know them?

In the case of a newborn child, that bond of "knowing" the mother is formed almost immediately after birth. That would appear self-evident, since that child had been carried in the womb for nine months. As for the father, that bonding or getting to know his child may take a little longer, but in most cases is established fairly quickly.



The reverse is also true. While parents may not know a lot of things about their infant right away, such as its temperament or fears, they do know that the child came from them, and as time goes on, they, too, come to grow to know the child. The parents spend a lifetime knowing things about that child.

Yet, unfortunately, sometimes a child grows up and, in their parents' view, becomes a disappointment. Their love for that child may even be quite strained, sometimes to the breaking point. While the parents' ability to change this situation is severely



180 pages

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

## Was Jesus Christ Alive Before His Life on Earth Began? A Critical Look at the Supposed Preexistence of Christ

by — Aaron Welch

Paul was exact in his statement that "there is one God, the Father ... and one Lord, Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 8:6, Concordant). The only absolute God is the Father, and He has no equals. The Lord Jesus Christ is a part of His creation; the Spirit is an expression meaning God's spirit.

This exceptional work embraces the truth of "the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5), exposing the traditional orthodox position known as the "pre-existence of Christ," a creed vitally connected with Christendom's teaching of the Trinity. The "pre-existence of Christ" does great dishonor to both the Father and His Son, diminishing the true glory that belong uniquely to each.

limited, thanks be to God, this is not an issue with our Heavenly Father.

In what may be the most comprehensive verse in the Bible, Paul writes in Romans 11:36 that “*all is out of God, all is through Him and all is to Him.*” Take time to meditate on this verse. To realize that the great God of the Universe just didn’t know *about* us, but actually **KNEW** us before we were even born, is overwhelming to say the least. How could He not know us, and hence love us, since it is He Who made us? Since we came forth from Him, every fiber of our being was crafted by God Himself. Thus, He knows us far better than we even know ourselves, and yet He still loves us with unmatched passion.

*Known to God are all His works from the beginning of the ages [aiōnos] (Acts 15:18, BSV).*

God made us and we are the work of His hands, thus, Job 23:13-14 says,

*What His [God’s] soul has yearned for He shall do. For He shall accomplish what is marked out for me (CV).*

Our God made each of us exactly the way He wanted us to be, even with our present faults and failures. His love is strong and sure, and even if most of the time it may not look like that, rest assured that His love, and His Son’s love, *transcend human knowledge.*

*To know the love of Christ as well which **transcends knowledge** – that you may be completed*



## ***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 the entire complement of God. (Ephesians 3:19, CV).*

With human parents loving a child, it may not be clear how that child will turn out. Not so with our God. It is all planned out fully, and nothing will sway Him from this work, because He loves us – all of us – and there is nothing we or anybody else can do to diminish that love one bit. He loves us and is absolutely sovereign, and because of that, all will turn out perfectly fitted to His glory and to our benefit. **BSN**

### **TOPICS:**

**Major:** God, Love of; Love; Sovereignty

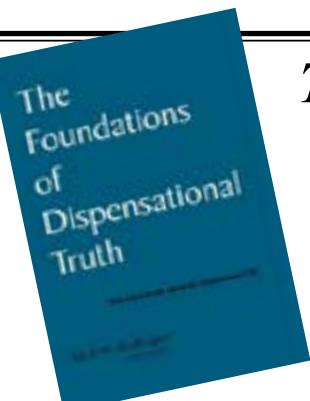
**Minor:** *Plérōma*

## ***The Foundations of Dispensational Truth***

by – E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

Originally published in 1913, this was Bullinger’s last book. It serves to help cut the tether of tradition with which Christians have been bound for so long. It does so by showing the absolute necessity of observing the great duty of “*rightly dividing the Word of Truth*” (II Timothy 2:15).

This definitive work recognizes the clear distinctions between the Body of Christ and Israel. Controversial in the eyes of traditional Christianity, this extraordinary work will prove invaluable to the serious student of Scripture.



247 pages

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



# *An Explanation of Terms: Free Will, Evil, Sin*

## Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 3: The Love of God / Lesson 5: An Explanation of Terms

by — Mark D. Vogt

*If, then, I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be, unto him that is speaking, a foreigner, and, he that is speaking, shall be, in my case, a foreigner (I Corinthians 14:11, REB).*

### Key Points:

Free will is the ability to make decisions without external or internal influences. Only God can do that..... 8399  
All sin is evil but not all evil is sin. .... 8400

We do not have a sinful nature; we just lack the vitality to carry out actions. So sometimes we "miss." ..... 8400

**I**t will be useful to all if we define some of the terms that are being used in these lessons. Common ground is paramount for effective communication. We will start by considering three terms, and as these lessons progress, we will define other terms as needed.

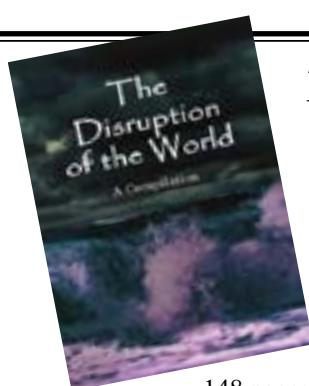
### FREE WILL

The first term to discuss will be "free will." Free will is simply the ability to make a decision without being influenced by any external or internal influences. God is the only one in the Universe who has free will. He is not influenced by anyone or anything. We, on the other hand, have no free will since we are always influenced by something when we make decisions. We

do have a will, but it is not free. We are quite capable of making decisions, but they are always influenced by other factors. In the final analysis, all influencing occurs internally because "all is out of God" (Romans 11:36) and God is the One Who influences all decisions we make by bringing things into our lives which will cause us to "make" the decisions that we make.

### EVIL

The next term to discuss is "evil." Evil is the term to use to describe that which is distressed, disjointed, destroyed, in disarray, or any other terms describing these types of conditions.



## *The Disruption of the World*

### *A Compilation*

A broad study of the crucial, but all-too-often overlooked teaching of Scripture of the events between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. Sometimes known as "The Gap," "The Overthrow," or "The Disruption," this key event in God's ages lays the important foundation for the ministry of Paul, the Apostle.

148 pages

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

This critical compilation of 13 chapters from 8 authors will be an essential part of a Bible student's library. Authors include: E.W. Bullinger, A.E. Knoch, Edward Clayton and John Essex.

All sin is evil, but not all evil is sin. If a company is hired to bring down and destroy a building in order to make way for a new one, they are performing “evil” on that building because they are destroying it, and during this process they are distressing the steel and other load bearing materials that were used to keep the building standing. This would not be considered sinful though. Not all evil has a moral component to it. When Nazi Germany persecuted the Jewish people by trying to eradicate them during the 1920’s through the mid 1940’s they were engaging in and were performing evil, and it certainly was a great sin.

## SIN

“Sin” is a term people like to throw around a lot. They try to define it by telling us what they consider it to be, not what the definition actually is. The definition of “sin” is *to miss the mark*. Simple as that.

*Everyone could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss* (Judges 20:16).

The Hebrew word translated “miss” here is קָטָן (châṭâ’),<sup>1</sup> a word repeatedly translated “sin.” This verse demonstrates that there were men who handled the sling shot and were so good that they did not miss their target. They did not “sin” because they did not “miss.”

If a person goes onto the basketball court and begins to shoot free throws, let’s say that the best that this person can do is seven out of ten free throws. This means that they missed three free throws out of

1. H2398 (SEC; cf. BDB).

ten attempts. In other words, they sinned three times because they missed the target, or in this case, the basket.

Now, there is no moral component to shooting free throws, but the fact that a person missed three times brings some level of disappointment because of it, and if it happened during the NCAA basketball championship game, there would be real pain, especially for those fans of the team that the “misser” was playing for. This is where the “evil” part comes in, because missing those free throws would cause distress and consternation in many quarters.

Trying to hit the mark and coming up short is sin. *We do not have a sinful nature; we just lack the vitality to carry out actions. So sometimes we “miss.”*

*Therefore, since by one man sin<sup>2</sup> entered the world, resulting in death, then death passed into all men, so that all men sin* (Romans 5:12, BSV).

Thus, Paul affirms in Romans 3:23 that *“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

These definitions will help in gaining a better understanding in future lessons, and will erase some of the misconceptions that people may have concerning these terms and words. **BSN**

### TOPICS:

**Major:** Evil; Free Will; Sin  
**Minor:** Death; Morality

2. [Editor:] “Failance” (DT); “fault; failure” (Noah Webster, *American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828).

## The Real Story of Jesus Christ’s Birth

An in-depth biblical and historical look into the truths surrounding the birth of Jesus

by – Paul R. Pontis

For the past two millennia, religious organizations have been conflicted and confused about the actual details of the birth of Jesus. This work contains a wealth of historical and scriptural knowledge, effectively displacing commonly held traditions and legends surrounding the birth of Christ. Besides being enjoyable to read, this work is also a valuable reference guide.



156 pages

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“Other Authors.”





# Tidbits of Truth #59

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

## The Persecuting Persecuted

If we look back into history for the character of the present sects in Christianity, we shall find few that have not in their turns been persecutors, and complainers of persecution. The primitive Christians thought persecution extremely wrong in the Pagans, but practiced it on one another. The first Protestants of the Church of England blamed persecution in the Romish church, but practiced it upon the Puritans. These found it wrong in the Bishops, but fell into the same practice themselves both here [England] and in New England.

— Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

“Toleration”

Works, Volume ii., p. 112

## Today's Ecclesia: An Out-Calling to Christ Alone

[To J.G.:] I spent about a decade in the “camp” that Frank Viola now champions. We distributed Robert Banks’ book, *Paul’s Idea of Community*, and cited him in the *Bible Student’s Notebook* (#21, page 208; #28, page 283).

The problem with Viola’s view is that it discounts the actual makeup of the Greek word *ekklēsia* (prefix and root), rather siding with its usage by “early Christians.” These “early Christians” were those of the synagogues of whom Paul declared, even prior to his receiving of the revelation of the Secret Administration, “*that all they who are in Asia have turned away from me*” (II Timothy 1:15, REB). Therefore, the usage of *ekklēsia* by “early Christendom” is as meaningless as is its use by “modern Christendom.”

“The early Christians [that] gathered regularly in a given city” were those of Jewish Synagogues, and thus after Israel became Lo-ammi in Acts 28, they

were merely *apostate* gatherings without any basis or spiritual life.

Today, we are God’s Ecclesia, and our out-calling is not to some meeting, assembly or congress, but to Christ Himself. **HE alone** is our meeting place, and that “*far above all Heavens*” (Ephesians 4:10), where we have been seated “*together among the Celestials, in Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 2:6). The ignorance of the unique *ekklēsia* of the Secret Administration, “*the Ecclesia which is His Body*” (Ephesians 1:22-23), leaves one to wander in the wilderness of Christendom.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

## The Carpenter and the Tentmaker

There is a delightful contrast between our Lord, the Servant of the Circumcision (Romans 15:8) and Paul, His minister for the nations (Romans 15:16).

Christ was a carpenter Who built permanent habitations on Earth, since the Circumcision, to whom He ministered, will have their eonian dwellings on the Earth. Paul was a tentmaker, for those to whom he was sent have no allotment down here, but are merely camping, waiting for their eonian dwelling in the Heavens.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

*Concordant Commentary on the New Testament*  
(Mark 6:3)

## Chapter and Verse Divisions

Our Bible’s chapter and verse divisions allow us to quickly locate and reference a particular portion of Scripture; but we must always keep in mind as we read and study the Bible that these divisions are in fact man-made.





Eugene H. Glassman (1924-2009) gives us some historical background.

The first English edition to use chapter numbers was Wycliffe's version of 1382. Verse divisions in the Greek New Testament were introduced by Robert Stephanus of Paris in 1551. The Latin Vulgate edition of 1555 was the first entire Bible to use chapter and verse numbers; the first English New Testament to contain them was the Geneva Bible of 1560 (*The Translation Debate*, 1981, page 37.)

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

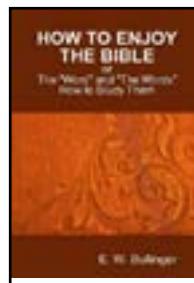
## Only One Gospel Today

[To J.F.:] Prior to the current Secret Administration, there were numerous gospels (evangels). Two were prominent during the previous administration of the Acts Period: the Gospel of the Circumcision and the Gospel of the Uncircumcision (Paul's "my gospel"). After Acts 28 there remained *only one gospel*: Paul's

*AWARE* (continued from page 8395)

in Romans 8:28-30, but it is there in such words as, "He calls," "He justifies" and "He glorifies." This is what God does according to the evangel; and so it is that Paul very soon brings in the words of the evangel itself, reminding us that God spares not His own Son but gives Him up for us all (Romans 8:32).

The righteousness of God is that God works all together for good. This working of all together for good is centered upon God's giving of His Son for sinners. It is built upon the faithfulness and obedience of Je-



## How To Enjoy the Bible

by – E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

472 pages

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A unique introduction to your study of God's Word. You're guided in the adventure of open and honest study of the Scripture from within – allowing it to speak for itself. Twelve practical principles make inductive Bible study come alive.

"gospel of the grace of God." All other gospels which had their roots in Israel are, along with her, in abeyance.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

### TOPICS:

**Major:** [Today's Ecclesia: An Out-Calling to Christ Alone:] Acts 28; Ecclesiastes; Meeting [The Persecuting Persecuted:] Persecution [Chapter & Verse Divisions:] Chapter Divisions; Verse Divisions [The Carpenter & the Tentmaker:] Right Division [Only One Gospel Today:] Acts 28; Gospel

sus Christ in dying for our sake. We who believe the evangel are aware that this is so. It is manifest to us.

— *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 96, page 94-95  
(abridged & edited excerpt)

BSN

### TOPICS:

**Major:** Justification; Righteousness; Romans 8:28; Sovereignty  
**Minor:** Called; Gospel



72 pages

## The Divine Activation of Faith, and the Myth of Free Will

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

What is faith? Who is a believer? Is faith a matter of human choice, or is it a gift from God? Do those who have faith understand and believe everything correctly? Or, do they experience areas or degrees of unbelief? Can one be weak or strong in faith? Is there room in faith for growth? These are among the important questions that are considered in this work.

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