



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume VII  
Issue 161

# Nothing Will Be Lost

## The Reconciliation of All Things Including Satan and the Fallen Celestial Powers

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*“When they were filled, He said unto His disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost” (John 6:12).*

After our Lord Jesus Christ miraculously had fed the “five thousand,”<sup>1</sup> there was still food remaining. He had made provision beyond the present time; and instructed His disciples to collect the leftovers so “that nothing be lost.”

Albert Barnes (1798–1870), in his commentary of Scripture, wrote regarding this account:

“It shows the care of Jesus that there should be no waste. Though He had power to provide any quantity of food, yet He has here taught us that the bounties of Providence are not to be squandered. In all things the Savior set us an example ... If He was thus saving, it becomes us dependent creatures not to waste the bounties of a beneficent Providence ... The loaves and fishes created by the Savior were His gift ... not given them to waste ... Everything should be applied to its appropriate end, and nothing should be squandered or lost.”<sup>2</sup>

What rich lessons we learn from the earthly life and ministry of our precious Savior. He was here revealing the true nature and character of our Father; and what a simple and yet far-reaching

principle we learn here: the heart of the Father is “that nothing be lost.”

Indeed, this “that nothing be lost” truth was the very theme of the parables of lost things in Luke chapter 15: the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Son (the “Prodigal”).

Notice the result of Jesus’ instruction to His disciples to gather the remains:

*“Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world” (John 6:13-14).*

It is amazing just what remained – “twelve baskets” full – “over and above.” This “remainder” was a vital part of the miracle! For the Scripture states

(see *Lost*, page 1611)

1. 5,000 men, not counting the women and children (Matthew 14:21).
2. *Barnes' Notes on the Old and New Testaments* (Gospel of John).

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## Dear Fellowheirs.

What a joy to be heirs together with Jesus Christ of all that the Father has! What a brotherhood!

### THIS ISSUE

In this issue we are looking at some wonderful truths. Our lead article is important as we realize our Father's nature and ultimate intention with all of His creation. *Nothing Will Be Lost* is another look at the precious truth of the reconciliation of "all things," which includes Satan and the host of fallen celestial powers.

*The Believer's Standing and State* deals with a foundational principle of the believer's identification in Christ. While *Lonely, But Never Alone*, gives those who are *outside the camp* of the religious system some encouraging words related to our true source.

### FALLING LEAVES

We are coming to the close of a very beautiful time of year. The air is getting crisp, the leaves are beginning their descent to the ground, and snow flurries are already in the forecast!

Recently while taking a stunning autumn "Rails to Trails" hike, my wife was selecting colorful leaves that had fallen to the ground. I attempted to give her a hand in the project but my color-blindness proved to render me quite unqualified.

During this leaf-collecting experience she pointed out to me that no matter how beautiful the leaves were, they were each uniquely flawed. There was no *perfect* leaf in her collection; none without blemish. She quickly made the analogy that this is as it is in all of our Father's creation at this time. Just like those leaves, we are all flawed, dying, decaying creatures; but lovely and cherished nonetheless in our Father's eyes. "*Marred in the hand of the potter*" though we may be at this time, one day He will "*make it again another vessel, as it seems good*" to Him to make it.

### TRIP TO MISSOURI

Clyde III and Nathan made a 10-day trip to Weston, MO to see their sister Susannah, her husband Justin, and their two nieces Emma and Isabelle. They had a great time and returned with an evening of priceless pictures and stories. We sorely missed them and had a "thanksgiving" dinner for their safe homecoming.

(see **EDITORIAL**, page 1616)

## Bible Student's Notebook

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This weekly publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7)
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11)
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25)
- true freedom and liberty apart from the law (Galatians 5:1)
- the organic nature of the church, the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12)
- the distinct ministry of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13)
- 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 forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14)
  - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6)
  - adult sonship position (Galatians 4)

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. 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."

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### PATRIARCHS

Remember that it is our responsibility as husbands and fathers to take the truths we learn from God's Word, the truths that we hold dear, and impart them to our families.

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*Lost* (continued from page 1609)

that after they had gathered up the remains, “**Then** ... when they had seen the miracle.”

The darkened human mind, wayward society and culture, and the influence of religious systems of this world have kept the genuine charter and nature of the Father from us. The Lord Jesus Christ came to correct this by revealing the Father Himself to us. Everything about the Son of God was an unveiling of the true God. For indeed,

“... God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself ...” (II Corinthians 5:19).

The Lord Jesus Christ’s very words, life, death, resurrection and ascension were but a manifestation of the Father. The “*Feeding of the Five Thousand*” was no exception.

The greatest miracle of the universe is not that God has only made provision to meet the currently perceived need of salvation of mankind – now, but that all that “*remains*” at the end will be “*gathered up*” unto God for His glory, so “**that NOTHING be lost.**”

The salvation that we presently experience and enjoy is just the *first* part of God’s great plan of redemption. We are but the “first-trusters;”<sup>3</sup> the “first-fruit”<sup>4</sup> of His full harvest. There will be no waste of any of God’s creation. He created *nothing* in vain, thus ultimately none of His bounty will be squandered or lost. The “*remainder*” will be “*gathered up*” unto the Father, in His culmination of “*all things*”!

3. “*That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ*” (Ephesians 1:12).

4. In every harvest there is that small portion of the crop that matures early, before the vast majority of the rest. The *firstfruits* are a token of that which is to come – the full harvest. Under the Old Testament economy the *firstfruits* belonged to God, and were holy unto Him. In every generation, and in every place, God has had His *firstfruits*; those that come to harvest earlier than the rest. What a blessed privilege to be the *firstfruits* of the Lord. Thus just as God has brought us to faith, so He too will bring all the rest of His creation.

“... My wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ” (Romans 16:5).

“Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures” (James 1:18).

“... These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb” (Revelation 14:4).

## THE RECONCILIATION OF ALL THINGS

“And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him **to reconcile ALL THINGS unto Himself**; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” (Colossians 1:20).

Even though the Bible is specifically a book about the details of human redemption – Paul’s unequivocal testimony is to the reconciliation of “**all things**” that have been alienated from God – not just man. To this Peter is called, by divine revelation, to confirm – “*the restitution of all things*” (Acts 13:21).

According to Paul, “*all things*” will be reconciled to God – “*all things ... in earth*” and “*all things ... in heaven.*” We know what is *alienated* in the earth that needs to be reconciled to God; but what about “*in heaven*”? What is alienated there that is in need of reconciliation? Why, Satan and the fallen celestial powers, of course!

Satan<sup>5</sup> and the fallen celestial powers are exactly what the backdrop of Colossians 1:20 includes. Listen to Paul, just a few verses earlier – “**all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers**” (:16). Again, it is clear revelation given to Paul that there will be a reconciliation of “*all things*” – all things that have been alienated. And the context is abundantly clear – the “*all things created*” ARE the “*all things*” RECONCILED.

Specifically included here in the “*all things*” are the *exact same* adversaries – the “*principalities*” and “*powers*” – against which we currently wrestle according to Ephesians 6:11-12. God says that they, too, will be reconciled. God will leave no corner of His vast and wonderful universe outside of His unfailing love.

5. *i.e.*, “the Adversary.” The Hebrew word “Satan,” *Strong’s Hebrew Lexicon* #7854, means “an opponent” and is also translated “adversary” in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Greek “Satanas” is of Chaldee origin, *Strong’s Greek Lexicon* #4567, meaning “the accuser.”

Therefore, the context of the reconciliation of Colossians chapter one plainly includes Satan and the fallen celestial powers. Oh, the great grace, love and mercy of God that are abundantly demonstrated and magnified in the full extent of their reach – even to the reconciliation of Satan and fallen celestial powers.

Paul repeats these gloriously triumphant truths in Ephesians 1:10:

*“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one **all things** in Christ, both which are **in heaven**, and which are **on earth**; even in Him”*

Again you will notice the context of “heaven” and “earth.” This dual sphere is also repeated in Philippians 2:10-11:

*“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things **in heaven**, and things **in earth**, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

This reconciliation is truly *universal!* No creature will be left out. Nothing will be left alienated or unreconciled to God. There will be an entire, universal “*restoration of all things.*”

*“For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are **all things** ...”* (Romans 11:36).

*“And when **all things** shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put **all things** under Him, **that God may be All in all**”* (I Corinthians 15:21-28).

## THE OVERCOMING OF **EVIL** WITH **GOOD**

*“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good”* (Romans 12:21).

This reconciliation of “*all things*” alienated, is but the disclosure and expression of the genuine nature and character of God – the overcoming of evil with good.

God’s plan and purpose for His universe ultimately will be to overcome *all evil* – all of His adversaries – with good. In God’s plan to “*reconcile all things unto Himself,*” He will not accomplish His work in Satan, the fallen celestial powers, and the greater part of mankind until the final judgment (the divine turning point)<sup>6</sup> of the “*Lake of Fire.*”<sup>7</sup> They then will all be finally and gloriously under the righteous dominion of the Church (*ecclesia*), the Body of Christ, as we shall judge the world and angels (I Corinthians 6:1-3), with Satan under our dominion.

*“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our*

6. The primary word translated “*judgment*” in the Greek Scriptures is *Strong’s Greek Lexicon* #2920, *krisis*. This word “*krisis*” means, “a critical period of time, decisive moment, *turning point* or deciding time” (Arthur P. Adams, *Judgment*, 1885; Jack E. Jacobson, *The Concept of Circularity*, page 36), and is where we get our English word *crisis*. The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines “*crisis*” as “a crucial or decisive point or situation; a *turning point.*” Thus *divine judgment* is the *divine crisis* in the creation. It is the divinely appointed “turning point.”

7. Many see God’s judgments as an end within themselves, rather than a means to an end. There are coming some wonderful days in the future, days of divine judgment, when God shall apply the refiner’s fire to His creation. As in the due process of gold’s and silver’s refinement, these days will forever remove all the stains, disgraces and sins of the “*former things.*”

Refinement’s purging fire is indeed a most gracious act, producing a gloriously positive loss. It will remove all that wishes to be forgotten. As God in His forgiveness remembers them no more, so “*the former things are passed away.*”

Fire is such a wonderful blessing to our daily lives. We make profitable use of it every day. The only *dangerous* fire – one that is to be feared – is a fire that is *out of control*. Be assured that the God who “*is Love*” (I John 4:8, 16), and whose love is a “*consuming fire*” (Hebrews 12:29) – is *not* out of control. As Fanny Crosby wrote in her hymn, He “*doeth all things well.*”

In the Bible fire is presented as having a *purging* effect. It does so many things: it cleanses, frees, reduces, refines. It is interesting how we recognize this fact when “*fire*” is applied to the believer’s judgment in I Corinthians 3:13, 15. Yet we forget this when it is applied to the unbeliever. Just as the “*fire*” of the believer’s judgment is a purging, purifying act of God’s love, so it is with the “*fire*” of the unbeliever’s judgment.

The “*lake of fire*” is but the further manifestation of the love of God – of the love of His consuming fire – and it is defined by John as “*the second death*” (Revelation 21:8). Paul teaches us that, “*the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death*” (I Corinthians 15:26). That’s what the “*lake of fire*” is – it is “*death.*” So it shall be destroyed; and the only way to “*destroy*” death is by “*resurrection!*” The “*lake of fire*” is just a transition from death to life.

Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”  
(Romans 16:20).

This is an enlightening verse indeed. The word “bruise” is *Strong’s Greek Lexicon #4937, suntribo*, which, interestingly enough, is rendered by the *King James Version* translators in Luke 4:18 as “brokenhearted.” The word “feet” is *Strong’s Greek Lexicon #4228, pous*, which is rendered by the *King James Version* translators in Matthew 5:35 as “footstool,” denoting dominion. Even more interesting is that *pous* is also translated right here in the book of Romans as the phrase “are the feet of them”:

“... How beautiful **are the feet of them** that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:15).

Satan will be “brokenhearted” under the “footstool” (i.e., the righteous dominion of Christ’s Body) – under the “feet of them that preach the **gospel** [good news] **of peace.**”

Little wonder, then, that Paul begins Romans 16:20, “And the **God of peace** shall ...”

Paul did not say “And the God of *wrath* shall ...” for Satan (“the Adversary”) and the fallen celestial powers will no longer be alienated enemies. Having been used of God to fulfill His elementary purpose, they will be restored to the willing, humble service of thanksgiving to God. Then, because “Satan” will be at peace with God, his title of “Adversary” (“Satan”) will no longer apply.

As C.S. Lewis wrote,

The greatest surprise for Satan will occur when he learns that he has been perfectly doing the will of God all along.

Just as God used Pharaoh in his defiance for His own purpose, so He has used Satan.

“For the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew My power in thee, and that My name might be declared throughout all the earth” (Romans 9:17).

God declared Nebuchadrezzar, the king of Babylon, to be “My servant” (Jeremiah 25:9), for,

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

He is the grand and glorious God,

“Who worketh **all things** after the counsel of His own will” (Ephesians 1:11).

Do not be discouraged as you look around you. What you see is not the end of God’s plan and purpose. Granted, the world is filled with sin and unbelief, but God is not yet done. Don’t judge the final outcome by the current state of things. This is not the finished product of God.

Those of us who now trust the Lord Jesus Christ are but the beginning of God’s glorious work. We are but the *first-trusters* in His glorious design. We are only the *first* part of God’s great redemptive plan; there will be no waste of any of God’s creation. Nothing was created by Him in vain; nothing will be squandered or lost by Him.

Wonderfully, Ray Prinzing (1927-2005) has written,

The spirit of love and mercy will fully conquer all negative forces of destruction and loss, then restore *all* that which was blighted, marred, ruined; to lift the whole of creation back into harmony and peace again (*Daily Overcoming*).

God’s purpose of the ages will not be complete until His full creative bounty is restored so that He is “**All in all**” (I Corinthians 15:28).

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!” (Romans 11:33).

Truly God will “Gather up the fragments that remain, **that nothing be lost**” (John 6:12).



# The Believer's Standing and State

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Corinthians 4:18).*

**R**ightly dividing the Word of Truth" (II Timothy 2:15) is more than just an issue of basic dispensations. It is learning to make a difference, *anywhere* that God Himself makes a difference.

A distinction of great importance to the believer is between that of his *standing* and *state*. It is essential that believers recognize this basic distinction. A proper understanding of the difference between a believer's *standing* and his *state* is a genuine step toward his proper grasp of the doctrine of our apostle, Paul, as well as a realization of his true relationship to God.

## DEFINITION OF WORDS

Noah Webster uses the following words in his definition of *standing*: "settled, established, fixed, not movable." His definition of *state* is: "condition; the circumstances of a being or thing at any given time."

## DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCTRINE

### Standing

Our *standing* is who we are "*in Christ*." This is the way that God sees us; it is the divine viewpoint. It is a result of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This has to do with our identity and union with the Lord Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 1:30) in His death, burial and resurrection (Galatians 2:20). We are accepted (Ephesians 1:6), sealed (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30) and destined for glory (Romans 8:18; 30). Our standing is thus established, settled, fixed, sure, perfect, unmovable and unchangeable.

Our *standing* is made no better or worse by our

actions or lack of actions; as this *standing* is not gained by prayer, service, "church"-going, giving, living a clean life, etc. It was gained for us by another – the Lord Jesus Christ.

### State

Our *state* is the actual circumstances, conditions and situations of our earthly life. It has to do with our daily *walk*. Thus, our state can be unestablished, unsettled, unfixed, unsure, imperfect, movable and changing.

## PAUL'S TEACHING PATTERN

Our apostle Paul always deals with standing, *then* state; doctrine, *then* deportment; belief, *then* behavior; position, *then* practice. This teaching pattern of Paul can be seen in the natural divisions of Romans and Ephesians:

### Romans

Doctrinal (1-8)  
Dispensational (9-11)  
Deportmental (12-16)

### Ephesians

Standing (1-3)  
State (4-6)

## USAGE OF THE WORDS

Now we will look at specific examples of the use of the words "*standing*" and "*state*" in the Scriptures.

(See **STANDING**, page 1616)

# *Lonely, but Never Alone*

by – Chip Brogden

*“Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me ...” (II Timothy 4:17).*

There are many in the Body of Christ who are in transition between “going” to church and “being” the Church ... The more in tune with the Lord we become, the more dissatisfied and uncomfortable we become with what is being said and done in His Name. Yet, there is an uncomfortable pause between where we used to be and where we are called to be. It is a lonely time in which we will be misunderstood by many that have not seen what we have seen.

What God is impressing upon many of us who are in-between the church as a building and the church as a lifestyle is how to walk *ALONE* ... God would have us learn to fellowship with Christ, even if it means to take the lonely path.

Many times the desire to find other “like-minded believers” is not a spiritual desire. It is rather our emotion, which longs to be with people who understand us ... [Yet we] must know Christ as Fellowship. Abiding in Him, connected to the Head, [we] maintain oneness with the rest of the Body ...

Some are able to maintain a sweet spirit so long as they are in fellowship with other believers. But when God allows that fellowship to be interrupted, observe how quickly that sweet spirit turns sour. They will even acknowledge their poor state and say things like, “My temper has become awful. It is because I have been out of church. I must go back this Sunday.” Then they will go back to church, feel uplifted, and the sweet spirit returns. Sadly, this is the experience of a majority of people who have not learned to take Christ as their Life. Is this walking in the Spirit? It is not ...

Let us remember that Christ’s Body is a spiritual Body. Being in the physical presence of other members does not make us more of a member, and being removed from the physical presence

of other members does not make us any less a member. Of course, the exact opposite is true for those meeting together as an institution: without their physical presence and support they lose place as a member; but not Christ’s Body, the Church. We are not more or less of a member by reason of our physical contact or lack of physical contact with one another.

We may thirst for fellowship not so much to edify the Body as to be edified ourselves – a mindset carried over from when we used to “go to church” to “be fed” once or twice a week. If this is the case, it is no wonder that God would have us look to Him alone as our edification and learn to draw upon Him before placing us in close proximity with others. One weakness of the institutional church is that the majority of members are coming to receive, to be edified, to be encouraged, to be fed. It is all “take,” and very little “give.” Hence, there is little Life.

When we learn to draw upon Christ as our Source we will have abundance to give away. Fellowship with others cannot replace our daily abiding in Him. If we gather together in the Name of the Lord, yet outside of Christ, we will have much religious carryings-on, but little Life to impart to one another. God would have us look to His Son as our Life, and as we do, we find our need is met. Then, when we gather together, we are givers and not takers, and with all giving out of Christ, we have the blessing we sought.

Let us press into Christ with all our heart, and not be discouraged if we find ourselves temporarily without the fellowship and comfort of our brothers and sisters. Though we are lonely, we are never alone.

*The School of Christ*



**STANDING** (continued from page 1614)

## Standing

*“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by Whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we **stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:1-2).*

*“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye **stand**” (I Corinthians 15:1).*

## State

*“But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your **state**. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your **state**” (Philippians 2:19-20).*

*“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever **state** I am, therewith to be content” (Philippians 4:11).*

*“All my **state** shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord” (Colossians 4:7).*

Spiritual growth starts with spiritual realization. We must be able to distinguish between the spiritual and the physical, who we really are “in Christ” from the multifaceted circumstances of our earthly life. Paul gives us the divine viewpoint when he writes:

*“While we look not at the things which are seen [our state], but at the things which are not seen [our standing]: for the things which are seen [our state] are temporal; but the things which are not seen [our standing] are eternal” (II Corinthians 4:18).*

In our *state* we may “suffer need” (Philippians 4:12), but the reality of our *standing* is that we are “rich” through Christ (II Corinthians 8:9) regardless of our circumstances.

All true spiritual growth begins with a “reality check.”

Never confuse the shadow (I Chronicles 29:15; Psalm 102:11) and the vapor (James 4:14) of this illusionary life with the divine reality of *Life “in Christ”!*



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**EDITORIAL** (continued from page 1610)

**MARK PETERS**

While in Weston, Clyde III was able to make a short trip over to Lansing, KS to visit my longtime friend and beloved brother Mark Peters. It is hard to believe that it has been about 27 years since we first met. Many fond memories are privileged to be mine from our time together years ago in Hampton, VA.

Mark is currently working with me on editing some of our books for publication. This is nothing new to Mark, as well do I remember his work with me in the days of *The Old Paths*, a predecessor to the *Bible Student's Notebook*. In fact, he and I learned to run our first offset printing press together. It was an old A.B. Dick tabletop. It is such a joy to my heart to be working together again with him. I truly thank God for our special union in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**AARON LOCKER**

During the absence of Clyde III and Nathan from work, Aaron Locker came and stood in for Nathan in the shipping department. He caught on immediately and did an outstanding job. I am not sure what I would have done without him. In many ways Aaron is like a son to me and it is always such a joy to have him “home.” In the love of the Father, Until next week,

Your fellowheir,



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.