



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XI  
Issue 266

# A Creation with No Creator?

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*For every house is built by some man; but He Who built all things is God (Hebrews 3:4).*

**V**ears ago I remember standing at the bottom of the Empire State Building in New York City. I became dizzy trying to look up to the top of it. It and structures like it are simply amazing feats of design and construction.

Imagine if I had inquired with its management as to who the designer and builder was and that they responded to me with all seriousness and sincerity that there weren't any, that it has just evolved there over millions and millions of years, and through many iterational stages of existence – presto – the Empire State Building now appears in its present form as a result of the evolutionary process.

My sons sell and repair laptop computers. These machines are amazing. Frankly I do not know what I would do without mine. When someone inquired of one of my sons as to who made a laptop they were interested in purchasing, suppose they responded that there was no manufacturer; that it had just evolved in the repair shop.

When I was a teenager I worked for a summer as a stripper. Now before we go too far here, you should know that I was stripping the paint from airplanes so that they could be repainted. Suppose I asked who had made the particular airplane on which I was working and the answer was, "no one," that it had just evolved.

The daily newspaper is delivered to my home each morning before it is yet light outside. Suppose I



wanted to contact the publisher, just to have the paper-carrier tell me that there was none, and that the paper just evolved each morning, and he simply just delivered it.

That after eons of evolution the newspaper now appears with columns filled with words, sentences, paragraphs and articles, with the current date – all typeset and making sense, that told stories of current events – is irrational beyond seriousness!

All of these are absolutely absurd propositions – totally beyond reason. A man would be a fool to suggest any of these; a man would be a fool to accept them.

The very idea that such a complex machine as an aircraft does not have a designer and manufacturer – no one in their right mind would entertain such silliness!

Yet there is a world full of greater wonders than the

(see **CREATOR ...** page 2471)

<b>A Creation with No Creator?</b> .....	2469
<b>Editorial</b> .....	2471
<b>Morning and Evening</b> .....	2472
<b>A Man of Sorrows</b> .....	2473
<b>Those Whom Father Has Chosen to Hear</b> ....	2474
<b>Our Mailbox</b> .....	2474
<b>Freedom from Identifying and Assigning</b>	
<b>Motives</b> .....	2475
<b>The Throne of Grace</b> .....	2476

## ***Bible Student's Notebook***<sup>™</sup>

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

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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 law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (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).

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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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## Editorial

### My Labors

My labors are intended for your joy.

*Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are **helpers of your joy**: for by faith you stand (II Corinthians 1:24).*

It is my desire, and has always been my desire to bring joy to the lives of others. I have no desire to, “have dominion over your faith.” I believe that the beginning of divine joy is found in freedom from domination in the area of faith. I believe we are the helpers of others’ joy by assisting them in their freedom from religious domination; for it is the seedbed of “kill-joy.”

*You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32).*

Paul teaches us that it is “by faith you stand.” The cycle of joy begins with freedom from religion, and finds its completion in standing by personal faith. We finish the cycle of being the helpers of others’ joy by supporting them in their own personal faith before God.

To be a joy-helper, I believe that we must allow others the freedom to follow their own heart of faith before God. This is because there are to be greater principles that have preeminence in our own hearts – the

**CREATOR ...** (continued from page 2469)

Empire State Building, a laptop computer, an airplane, and the newspaper. Take our human body for example: it far exceeds the grandeur and complexity of any of these things. If these other things demand a designer and maker, we demand one even more. Look all around us. Everywhere is evidence which demands a Creator: flowers, birds, rainbows, sun, moon, stars – just to name a few.

It is impossible to have a building without a builder. It is impossible to have a creation without a Creator.

*For every house is built by some man; but He Who built all things is God (Hebrews 3:4).*

principles of pure grace, unconditional love, genuine acceptance, individual faith and personal liberty.

Paul taught that believers with opposite understandings and practices (even if one may be *weak* in the faith) could both live their lives in honor to the Lord. This does not mean that we could always walk with others in all things, but it does mean that we can support and encourage others to be faithful to the Lord based on the understanding of their *own* hearts; “for whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23).

*Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God (Romans 14:22).*

Helping others in their freedom from religion, encouraging them in the freedom to follow their own hearts of faith wherever God may lead them, will enable us to be “helpers of your joy.”

It is the object of my daily life to bring joy to those around me. Real joy. Divine joy.

### This Issue

In this issue of the *BSN* we are running a series of short articles that have run in our *Daily Email Goodies*. I trust that these will be a source of strength and encouragement.

If you do not receive these daily emails and would like to, simply sign up at

[www.DailyEmailGoodies.com](http://www.DailyEmailGoodies.com)

This is why the Psalmist wrote of the POWERFUL testimony of creation:

*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world ... (Psalms 19:1-4).*

Little wonder the Psalmist also penned,

*The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God” ... (Psalms 14:1).*

# Morning and Evening

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*Vanity of vanities; all is vanity ... I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity ... (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 14).*

Life is vain when viewed apart from the Sovereign, loving God Who is our Father.

I feel for those who face daily life apart from the knowledge that He is in complete control.

*My days, all of them were written in Your book; the days, they were formed when there was not one of them (Psalms 139:16).*

*The steps of a man are ordered by the LORD (Psalms 37:23).*

Think of these wonderful truths. All of your days were written in God's book, formed there before any of them ever had been lived. Many live their daily lives without recognition of the stabilizing truth of the One Who "works all things after the counsel of His Own will" (Ephesians 1:11). They approach their day, and struggle through it, as the master of their own lives.

For those who live as though they were in charge of their lives, two of the hardest parts of the day are waking up in the morning and going to bed in the evening.

In the mornings, days are greeted with uncertainty as thoughts of the "What if ..." trials and challenges of the day press in upon the mind and heart. There is a waking up to varying degrees of uneasiness, concern, apprehension, worry and anxiety; even at times to overwhelming fear, dread and depression. Feelings of inadequacy and uncertainty press in.

In the evenings, days are retired with the annoying "What if ..." reflections of its happenings. There is second guessing, regret and disappointment. Feelings of frustration, dissatisfaction and failure settle in; even at times shame, guilt and worthlessness.

After all, they see themselves as the lords of their own lives, the captains of their own ships and the masters of their own destiny. With this view comes but a recurring cycle of vanity.

*Vanity of vanities; all is vanity ... What profit has a man of all his labor which he takes under the sun? One generation passes away, and another generation comes: but the earth abides. The sun also arises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to his place where he arose ... All things are full of labor; man cannot express it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing (Ecclesiastes 1:2-8).*

Why is man's life filled with such vanity; such futility, emptiness, barrenness, purposelessness and aimless frustration? Because he has been subjected so by his Creator.

*For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him Who has subjected the same in hope (Romans 8:20).*

"Vanity" is the lot of man "under the sun." Yet for the believer who has been seated in the celestials, quite another view prevails! Instead of being bound to vanity, we can rise to heights of divine life.

Solomon's perspective, "under the sun," showed the vanity of the human viewpoint. Paul's perspective, "far above all heavens," revealed true purpose found only in the divine viewpoint: "your labor is **NOT IN VAIN** in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58).

Those of us who know Father as the great Planner and Director of our days have a completely different approach to our mornings and evenings – and the entire unfolding of every minute of our day.

In the mornings, days can be greeted with the joy and excitement of knowing that *they* are His, as well as ourselves. The uncertainties of the “What if ...” viewpoint are divinely transformed into the eager anticipation of seeing what God has planned for the day. We are able to awaken to the thrill of knowing that we will be witnesses of the unfolding of His detailed plan and purpose for our day. His presence presses in upon our minds. There is a waking up to peace and joy as we know that our life, with all of its daily circumstances, is firmly in His hand, and carried out by His capable direction. Our hearts are able to say, “Today we are on the great adventure of faith!”

In the evenings, when the day is over, we can rest our heads on our pillows and with surety and confidence regarding our day say, “This was the will of God.” The “What if ...” reflections of its happenings are transformed into a place of peace and rest – knowing that the will of God was done, and

who could have prevented it? The realization of our divine appointment is able to settle within our hearts and minds. After all, *He* is the Lord of our life, the Captain of our ship, the Master of our destiny.

*... He does according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand ...* (Daniel 4:35).

We have the joy of waking up each morning as His *clay*.

We have the anticipation of living each day as His *workmanship*.

We have the rest of laying our heads on our pillow each night as His *achievement*.

## *A Man of Sorrows*

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*... a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief* (Isaiah 53:3).

**I**saiah foretold of Israel’s coming Messiah. His description of Him in chapter 53 was that He was, among other things, “... *a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.*”

Our Lord Jesus Christ was acquainted with what it meant to be human – to suffer sorrows and grief. When He was here in the flesh, although King and Master of Israel, He did not live as such. Rather, He lived and conducted Himself as a humble servant.

*But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant ...* (Philippians 2:7).

As humanity’s Servant, He experienced the same cares and sufferings of life as did those to whom He ministered. He *identified* with them in that He endured the full range of human sorrows and suffering. For,

*... Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows ...* (Isaiah 53:4).

What identity with broken humanity! He bore our griefs, He carried our sorrow. Truly, He was,

*... Touched with the feelings of our infirmities* (Hebrews 4:15).

The word translated “*infirmities*” here is the Greek word *astheneia*, which James Strong defines as “*feebleness*” (“*un-firmness*” – *Concordant Key-word Concordance*). He was immersed into our weakness and brokenness, so that His *poverty* might be our *enrichment*,

*For we know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might be made rich* (II Corinthians 8:9).

# Those Whom Father Has Chosen to Hear

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*He who has ears to hear, let him hear (Matthew 11:15).*

*... Not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:13).*

*Therefore has He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardens (Romans 9:18).*

*Has not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor? (Romans 9:21).*

*But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty, and base things of the world, and things which are despised, has God chosen, yes, and things which are not, to bring to nothing things that are (I Corinthians 1:27-28).*

*So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God Who shows mercy (Romans 9:16).*

Christendom is just another world-religion. We have been called out of the religious system; and those of us who have been charged with teaching, like Timothy, are called to “herald the Word” in search of “faithful men” who have the “ears to hear” their calling as outsiders (the *ecclesia* – God’s called-out-ones).

Our call is not for a re-awakening of some man-made “church.” Rather, the call is to individuals – those whose place in the “Christian” religious system has left them empty, stagnant and restless. It is an awakening to Father’s call to faithfully stand with Him outside of that system.

It is my prayer and desire that these efforts to herald Paul’s evangel will be used by Father to find fruit in those whom He is calling out, and that they will be used by Him to help them on their journey.



“... We both labor and suffer reproach ...” Clyde, my fellow slave of Christ, keep doing what you’re doing and never let society take precedence over God’s word. – *PA*

Father has sent me validation thru your words ... I know these thoughts from you are applicable to so many different situations in life and you possibly even wrote them years ago; but it seems that so many themes of

yours are as though you had me in mind when you wrote them! (Are you watching me on web-cam or Google Earth?) It is fascinating how Father works with the teachings from others. – *LA*

Many thanks for your *Daily Email Goodies*. They open our (my wife and myself) eyes for what is written in the Scripture. They are very constructive for our spiritual life. – *Belgium*

Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed today’s encouraging “word” [*Daily Email Goodie*]. You’re a blessing, Clyde! – *VA*

I am a person that has had a few hard trials in my short life, like most people. I am finding your writings are

(see **MAILBOX**, next page)

# Freedom from Identifying and Assigning Motives

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*With me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not my own self (I Corinthians 4:3).*

When we seek to identify motives in others, what we actually may be doing is “evil surmising” or “wicked suspicions” (I Timothy 6:4). That’s why we can’t start with, or count on the heart as being the FOCUS in our relationships together “in Christ.” We must come back to Christ as our FOCUS. If we FOCUS on Christ, He can be counted on for producing grace and edification. Our attempts to identify our hearts, our motives are unsure; but Christ is sure!

Suppose we had *that* as our FOCUS, instead of our own hearts and motives! What might be the results of our relationships in Christ?

Well has C.S. Lewis written:

Humans are very seldom either totally sincere or totally hypocritical. Their moods change, their motives are mixed, and they are often themselves quite mistaken as to what their motives are.

To that we say, Amen! How liberating to be freed from the bondage of our own hearts! Even our apostle would not judge himself – he left it with the Lord, Who alone knows the answer to these things!

We have been freed to know Christ – something sure! – and to have our motives in Him. We have many precious things together in Christ – things that we can richly enjoy together if we keep our eyes on Him!

**MAILBOX** (continued from previous page)

really helping me understand what God is doing in my life. – **ID**

“Clyde, I just love you so much! My husband and I are reading your book [Due Benevolence] together. So very good! – **AZ**

I really appreciate these *Daily Email Goodies*. They are a constant source of education, assurance and inspiration to me. – **TN**

So, if I really want to get to know the REAL you better, I simply need to get to know Christ better; if you really want to get to know the real me better, you need to get to know Christ better; and if I want to get to know the real “me,” I need to open my Bible and get to know Him!

If we approach our relationships in any other way than “in Christ,” we will approach them from a carnal viewpoint. If we seek to know one another in Adam, we WILL find carnality – but this is NOT who we really are. So, if we seek for folks merely to reveal their “hearts” – and they oblige us – we will risk becoming continually disillusioned. However, if we choose to live with our brothers and sisters the same way that God does – which is “in Christ” – the conflict will cease. At least it will cease in our own hearts – the real us – which is Christ. Then, even if our brothers or sisters are not enjoying the fullness of their TRUE person, we can love them as who they really are, in spite of how they are “acting!”

Anything less than this will be to no avail. We will simply be using our human reasoning to lay forth the conditions by which we will have supposed “spiritual” relationships – conditions by which we will accept one another – and we will use these human, carnal standards to judge one another.

These “pearls” [*Daily Email Goodies*] help me greatly in a predicament I’m in with my living arrangements. Just want to say thanks for the work you do and the *Daily Email Goodies* sent out to folks like me. I am always grateful to get these. Your website has been so helpful in my study of the gospel. Keep watering, my friend, this plant is growing like a weed! – **AL**

Thanks for the encouragement brother. For years I struggled with trying to maintain a traditional prayer (see **MAILBOX**, next page)

# The Throne of Grace

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*Let us therefore come boldly to the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).*

A throne is a place of reigning. God sits on The Throne of all creation. The “*Throne of God*” is known as one of “*Glory*” (Jeremiah 14:21) and “*Majesty*” (Hebrews 8:1). Surely every believer has thought of these aspects of God’s reigning – it is amazing and abundantly glorious and majestic.

## WHAT REIGNS FORTH FROM GOD’S THRONE?

Not only is the magnitude of God’s Throne glorious and majestic, our text reveals that its very nature is that of “*Grace*.” Such an amazing revelation, that God’s glorious and majestic reign over His creation is one of “*Grace*” – “*the Throne of Grace*.”

How many truly know that “*Grace*” is the genuine character of the Divine Throne? Many probably think of God’s Throne as a “*Throne of Wrath*,” but there is no such terminology to be found in Scripture. Instead we find that His is “*the Throne of Grace*.”

## HOW IS GOD’S THRONE APPROACHED?

Oh, how our view of God has been skewed! God’s Throne is a place to where we “*come boldly*.” Is your view of the Father one that allows you the *boldness* to come into the presence of His throne? Or, when you

think of His Throne, do you think of timidly, shamefully and fearfully cowering before it? How desperately does such a perception need divine adjustment!

## WHAT IS RECEIVED FROM GOD’S THRONE?

How many know that God’s Throne actually radiates with His undiluted “*grace*” and “*mercy*”? Not only do we see that God’s Throne is one of “*Grace*,” and that we can “*come boldly*” to it, but we also learn that it is there – at His Throne – where we “*obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need*.” One needs not to plead for the mercy of His court, for it already exudes His grace and mercy.

The fact is that we are a needy people. We have been so designed by our Creator. What did you think such needy ones would get from the Throne of God? Wrath? No, it’s not the “*Throne of Wrath*,” but the “*Throne of Grace*” where we find our Father’s endless “*mercy*” and boundless “*grace*”!

What a Throne!

What Mercy and Grace!

What a Father! ■

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### MAILBOX (continued from previous page)

life. Having to deal with ADD only frustrated me more. It was only when I learned that real prayer is simply living in the presence of the Spirit of God and walking daily with Him and in Him and He in me that I truly found freedom. You have been a confirmation of that to me. Thank you. – *Canada*

Prayer is something I’ve been struggling to understand. It seems I’m in communion with God constantly. I never really sense His absence. But then when I pray, it seems so religious, know what I mean? This *Daily Email Goodie* helped solidify what I’m already seeing. I think my prayer life will be more natural now. I don’t ask a specific audience with my husband. I just start talking ... same with God ... He’s always with me ... I just need to realize that more. – *NC*

I thank Him in every remembrance of you. The *Daily Email Goodies* are a true source of “building up” and not tearing down! This is welcome in the present wicked age, when many are just plain mad. But we know this love, faith and grace goes out to our persecutors and to our enemies. We bless and curse not, we entreat when others tear down, we love those that hate us. Wow, He truly has not given us the spirit of fear (timidity) but of love, power and sanity! – *WA*

The *Daily Email Goodies* are a daily encouragement and they build strength into the joint body of Christ. With all the negative material in circulation I find these daily goodies are a breath of fresh air. Thank you for the wonderful fellowship. – *Australia* ■