



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XVII
Issue 401

Endurance

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The God of endurance (Romans 15:5, CV).

Endurance is the patient waiting during difficulty, inconvenience, trial and suffering. As we survey Paul's teachings on enduring we find that such is a part of God's character.



Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest on me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong (II Corinthians 12:9-10).

Just think: it was 4,000 years after Adam that God sent the Redeemer for his race. Four thousand years! God was not, is not and will not ever be in a hurry.

Impatience is a mark of immaturity. When a family takes a trip immaturity invariably questions, "Are we there yet?" Immaturity can't wait.

Patient endurance is produced by the power of God in the life of the believer.

The infant, on the first moment of "hunger pains," begins to squirm and make cries of protest. Their immaturity cannot wait. Adults, on the other hand, can endure the "gnawing" of the stomach waiting for the appointed meal time.

Being endued with all power, in accord with the might of His glory, for all endurance and patience with joy (Colossians 1:11, CV).

It is only the glorious power of God that can tie joy with trials. They are such an unlikely pair. Yet, He unites them. In fact, He actually uses trouble to produce His patient endurance in the life of the believer.

Miles Stanford brings to our attention that "time" is one of the foremost principles of growth:

Having perceived that affliction is producing endurance (Romans 5:3, CV).

It seems that most believers have difficulty in realizing and facing up to the inexorable fact that God does not hurry in His development of our life. So many feel they are not making progress unless they are swift and constantly forging ahead.

Knowing that the testing of your faith is producing endurance (James 1:3, CV).

Now it is true that we often *begin* at a fast rate. But

(see ENDURANCE, page 3607)

Trials and infirmities are the framework in which patient endurance is transferred into practice. This is why Paul gloried in it.

He said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for you: for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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This free weekly electronic 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 freedom from 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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ENDURANCE (continued from front page)

this does not continue; there needs to be a healthy growth to ultimate maturity. God Himself modifies the pace. This is important to see, since in most instances when seeming declension begins to set in, it is not, as many think, a matter of "backsliding."

John Darby makes it plain that "it is God's way to set people aside after their first start, that self-confidence may die down. Thus Moses was forty years. On his first start he had to run away. Paul was three years also, after his first testimony. We must get to know ourselves and that we have no strength. Thus we must learn, and then leaning on the Lord we can with more maturity [which can only come with time], and more experientially, deal with souls."

Since the believer's life matures and becomes fruitful by the principle of growth, much time is involved. Unless we see and acquiesce to this, there is bound to be a constant frustration, to say nothing of resistance to our Father's development process for us.

A.H. Strong illustrates - "When God wants to make an oak, He takes an hundred years, but when He wants to make a squash, He takes six months. Growth is not a uniform thing in the tree or in the believer. In some single months, there is more growth than in all the year besides. During the rest of the year, however, there is solidification, without which the green timber would be useless. The period of rapid growth, when woody fiber is actually deposited between the bark and the trunk, occupies but four to six weeks in May, June and July."

Let's settle it once and for all - there are no shortcuts! A meteor is on a shortcut as it proceeds to burn out, but not a star, with its steady light so often depended upon by navigators. Unless the time factor is acknowledged from the heart, there is always danger of turning to the false enticement of shortcuts via the means of "experiences," and "blessings," where one becomes pathetically enslaved in the vortex of ever changing "feelings," adrift from the mooring of scriptural facts.

In regard to this subject George Goodman writes "To taste of the grace of God is one thing, to be es-

tablished in it and manifest it in character, habit, and regular life, is another. Fruit ripens slowly; days of sunshine and days of storm each add their share. Blessing will succeed blessing, and storm follow storm before the fruit is full grown or comes to maturity."

The Husbandman's method for true spiritual growth involves pain as well as joy, suffering as well as happiness, failure as well as success, inactivity as well as service, and death as well as life. The temptation to shortcut is especially strong unless we see the value of and submit to the necessity of the time element; in simple trust resting in His hands,

Being confident of this very thing, that He which began a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).

And, dear friends, it will take a long time! But since God is working for the ages, why should we be concerned about the time involved?

Graham Scroggie affirmed that "spiritual renewal is a gradual process. All growth is progressive, and the finer the organism, the longer the process."

Now, if we are expecting what we are not observing, we are awaiting it with endurance (Romans 8:25, CV). ■



How to Be Free From Sin While Smoking a Cigarette: The book for people with weaknesses

by — Martin Zender

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This book is written for those who know what they're supposed to do but sometimes don't do it. It's written for those who think that their own particular weakness keeps God from completely liking them. It's written for those who just can't shake a bad habit. This book is written for the wretched souls who totter between their passion life and their desire for God, not realizing that in order to have a desire for God they must also be dogged by at least one detestable/wonderful passion that keeps them humble and needing Him.

Learning to Cry “Daddy!”

by — Stephen Hill

Throughout His Word, God refers to Himself by many different titles. Each of these titles possesses a specific meaning which is intended to convey a unique characteristic of God’s holiness, might and provision. In light of this fact, it is no surprise that God first revealed many of His titles to Israel in order to provide His people with a fuller and more intimate understanding of His nature.



view God in a much more intimate way than Israel previously had been allowed. Having the spirit of sonship, we can cry “*Abba, Father!*” (Romans 8:15) and call God not only by the title Father, but by the affectionate, warm title, “*Daddy!*”

When we fully grasp this amazing and heart-warming truth, all of our fears subside; for, what child fears a loving father? When we recognize the comforting closeness of our Dad, it is impossible not to trust Him; for, what son or daughter refuses to trust completely in their daddy when they know he is working all out for their good (Romans 8:28)?

No matter what we face, we know that it is part of our Father’s perfect plan for our lives and that it is for our *good!* We have, literally, *nothing* to fear!

In John 13 we see a beautiful image of what our relationship to our Daddy looks like. In this passage, the beloved disciple John is “lying back in the bosom of Jesus.” As the visible image of the invisible Father, we can look to Jesus to see what our relationship with the Father looks like in tangible form. We can picture ourselves, like John, resting against our Daddy in complete comfort and peace.

If you have not come to view God as your perfect, loving and comforting Father, turn to Paul’s epistles. Do not hold yourself hostage by a false, fearful view of God as a tyrant or the view that Israel had prior to Christ’s death and resurrection. *Be* a son or daughter as you *are* a son or daughter. *Be* at peace as you picture yourself resting in your comforting Daddy’s loving arms.

When we confine our search for titles to the epistles of our apostle, Paul, we find an interesting trend. Unlike the Hebrew Scriptures which emphasize an endless array of God’s characteristics, Paul confines His depiction of God almost exclusively to one title: that of *Father*.

Of course, Paul often refers to God simply as “God,” but even in those cases He often includes the title “Father” along with “God.” In fact, in every single one of his epistles, Paul begins with a brief self-acknowledgement followed by the greeting, “*Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*” The only exceptions to this rule are his letters to Timothy in which he includes “mercy” with his greeting: “*Grace, mercy, peace, from God, our Father, and Christ Jesus, our Lord.*”

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul extends his greeting by referring to God as the “*Father of pities and God of all consolation.*” Then, in Ephesians 1:17, he calls Him the “*Father of glory.*”

Clearly, Paul made it a point to emphasize God’s nature as our Father above the many other titles He possesses. As imitators of Paul and members of His evangel, we would do well to take this fact to heart as we come into a greater realization of God’s relationship to us. We are privileged to



Thank you again for your faithfulness and ministry. – *Tennessee*

I've read from the letters you print of those who say that a particular article you have written seems to have been written especially for them and at precisely the right time. That's how this one [[Daily Email Goodies #3499](#)] seems for me today. (I'm getting chill bumps!) ... I know ... it's all about His timing.

Never doubt, my brother and friend in Christ, that Father is using you in a powerful way with all the parts of your ministry. I know I am speaking for others. One day, you, too, will be able to say, "I have fought the good fight." – *Louisiana*

I thank our Father for you, Clyde, and that He has put you in my path. – *New Mexico*

"God is in control." This phrase has been my rock

for the last few years and has comforted me when elections and politics didn't make since. Your book, [World Affairs and National Politics](#), made it clear to me that even when things are not as they should be in our world and evil is present everywhere, "God is in Control." I find that after reading and contemplating this book, I believe I have wasted too much time monitoring what government is doing. I still find it hard to release myself from the struggle to criticize our government, but I'm working on that with God's help. The events of our world are so evident and the distractions are constant. I find my peace early in the morning when the rest of the household is still asleep and I thank God for it. This is when I pray for our world leaders and our government and know that the leaders of these governments are part of God's plan no matter how foolish and evil they are in my sight.

Thank you Father for this ministry and for those who take up the calling of teachers of today's Gospel. I don't know why, Father, you choose me to hear this message, but I thank you for it. – *California*

My husband and I have been outside the organized church for 30 years. It's refreshing to find others like us. – *Illinois*



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Miller was a prolific author, born of Irish/Scottish descent to James Alexander Miller and Eleanor Creswell, near Frankfort Springs, Beaver County, PA. He was a graduate of Westminster College (New Wilmington, PA), and Allegheny Theological Seminary (Allegheny, PA). Miller pastored churches in New Wilmington, PA, Philadelphia, PA, and Rock Island, IL, and was the author of over 60 published books, as well as countless booklets and pamphlets. He also served as supervisor of over two dozen periodicals with a combined annual circulation of over 66 million copies at the time of his death. This is the first in a collected series of his best selected articles.

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The Marriage License

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

“A marriage is a contract between a man, a woman and the state.”
– *United States Air Force Academy* Legal Office

Many define marriage to some measure in relationship to a ceremony pursuant to a state marriage license. We must not, however, allow our cultural upbringing to cloud the scriptural doctrine of marriage.

Obviously the marriage license is a governmental invention that became prevalent in the United States only in the early 1900's and is devoid of scriptural merit. One will search the Scriptures in vain to find the use of such governmental approval over the divine institution of marriage.

Each year countless Christians mindlessly make their way to local courthouses to obtain marriage licenses, seeking State approval for their marriages.

Most people do not realize it, but when you obtain a “marriage license,” you actually grant the State jurisdiction over your husband/wife relationship.

Long ago the States established the definition of “marriage” as a three-party contract between the man, the woman and the State. Note these examples from the Illinois and New York courts:

Marriage is a civil contract to which there are three parties: the husband, the wife and the state. – *Illinois* (1926)¹

Every marriage is a contract between a man, a woman, and the State. – *New York* (1936)²

1. Appellate Court of Illinois, NO. 5-97-0108: Van Koten v. Van Koten, 323 Ill. 323, 326, 154 N.E. 146.
2. Fearon v. Treanor, 272 N.Y. 272.

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Look through the list of Answered Questions to find answers to your inquiries, or e-mail us for posting to the list.

For Those Who Have Answers

E-mail us for the list of unanswered questions and send us your answers for posting to the list.

**“BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED
IN ME BY THE STATE OF ...”**

The word “license” is defined by *Black’s Law Dictionary* as,

A revocable permission to commit some act that would otherwise be unlawful.

To this the Courts agree:

A license is merely a permit or privilege to do what otherwise would be unlawful. – *Texas* (1946)³

The object of license is to confer a right or power which does not exist without it and exercise of which without license would be illegal. – *Georgia* (1931)⁴

Interestingly our English word *license* comes from the Latin word *licentia* from which we get our word *licentious*, meaning,

Lacking legal or moral restraints; *especially*: disregarding sexual restraints; marked by disregard for strict rules of correctness.⁵

A LICENSE TO SIN

License and liberty are opposites. We often hear them contrasted in Christian circles by the saying, “Liberty is not a license to sin.”

The question needs to be asked: Do we have the *liberty to marry*? Or: Do you need a *license to marry*? Is marriage a government-regulated *evil* for which we need a *license to commit the sin*?

Why would it be illegal to marry without governmental permission? Why would one need the state’s permission to participate in something that God instituted (Genesis 2:18-24)? Why would we seek such governmental sanction of a divine decree?

A marriage license makes marriage a creation of the State. It being their creation, they have jurisdiction over the marriage that they created. What a State licenses, it can regulate.

The State has no authority to grant the right to marry – it is alone a God-given right.

**THE COURT’S VALIDATION
OF MARRIAGE**

On the other hand, there have been Courts that have validated the place of marriage as a natural, God-given liberty.

Marriage is a natural right. It was not created by law. It existed before all law. Marriage is a right of personality. – *New York* (1942)⁶

Marriage is an institution of society founded on consent and contract of parties and it is one instituted by God himself and has its foundation in the law of nature. – *Virginia* (1951)⁷

Marriage is founded on the law of nature, and is anterior [prior] to all human law. – *Washington* (1892)⁸

It is well established that the failure to procure a marriage license does not have the effect of rendering the marriage void. The requirement of the license preliminary to marriage is wholly of statutory origin. ... When a marriage has been proven there is a presumption in favor of its continuance. – *Maryland* (1960)⁹

Marriage and the family are God-ordained; they existed before civil governments and religious organizations, and are independent of their approval and direction. ■

3. Payne v. Massey, 196 S.W. 2d 493; 145 Tex. 237, 241.
4. Inter-City Coach Lines v. Harrison, 157 S.E. 673, 676; 172 Ga. 390.
5. Merriam-Webster.

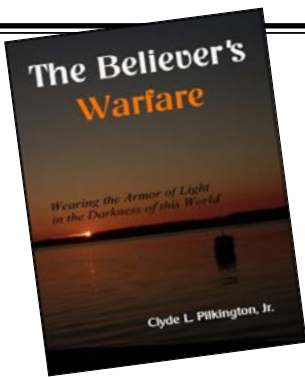
6. Ramon v. Ramon, 34 N.Y.S. 2d 100, 105.
7. Alexander v. Kuykendall, 63 S.E. 2d 746, 747; 192 Va. 8.
8. McLaughlin’s Estate, 30 P. 651, 652; 4 Wash. 570.
9. Browing v. Browning, 224 Md. 399.

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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.

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“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**

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