

Bible Student's Notebook

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 27 Issue 654

"In the Heavenlies"

Part 2 of 4

Exaltation

by — William B. Hallman (1903-1973)

Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the Heavenly places (Ephesians 1:20).

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved); and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus (2:5-6).

s we now follow the theme, "In the Heavenlies," as seen in this book of Ephesians, we come to two verses which suggest our present theme: A Throne of Exaltation.¹

The fact of our "Exaltation" "in the heavenlies" is vitally connected with the truth of identification.² The phrase "in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" has to do with:

- Place
- Position
- PRIVILEGE
- Possession
- PRACTICE
- 1. For Part 1, see Bible Student's Notebook #643.
- [Editor:] For more information of Identification (i.e., "Positional" Truths) see:
 - Stablished Strengthened Settled, E.W. Bullinger, Bible Student's Notebook #96, also available as a separate article online;
 - The Believer's Standing and State, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Notebook #161, also available as a separate article online;
 - I Am! Who and What God Says I Am!: The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., (book, see order form), also in Bible Student's Notebooks #259, #260, #261, #262, #263 as a 5-part study with the same title;
 - Being OK with Not Being OK: Embracing God's Design for You,
 Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., (book, see order form).

Where He is, there we are both as to PLACE and Posi-TION.³ What He is, that we are in all our PRIVILEGES. What He has, that we have in all our Possession. What He does, that we do, or should do, in all our PRACTICE.

Dr. J.W. Alexander calls this doctrine of *IDENTIFICA- TION* "the central truth of all theology." It is indeed the fundamental truth of all fundamentals for us as members of His Body, The Church. It is by virtue of iden.

- 3. [Editor:] What we have in expectation is spoken of as being current: "God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which are [relatively] not as though they [absolutely] were" (Romans 4:17). While relatively we are on the Earth, absolutely by divine reality we are already "in the heavenlies." After all, we're in living union with God's Son, and a body can be said to be where its Head is.
- 4. [Editor:] The Greek word often translated as "church" in most English versions is εκκλησια (ekklesia, or ecclesia). The word is a compound word meaning "called-out" (ek = "out"; kaleō = "called"). The ecclesia is God's "called-out" ones. The ecclesia is not a building or denomination; not a meeting, or doctrinal creed; it is not somewhere we go, or something we do, it is who we as believers are. For more information see:
 - The Outsiders, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form);
 - The "Ecclesias" (Churches) of the Scriptures, Adlai Loudy (see order form).

"In the Heavenlies," Part 2 of 4: Exaltation....5649 Editorial: The True Evangelism of Grace5654 Our Mailbox.....................5656

tification that we are released "in Christ" from the deepest depths and raised "with Him" to the highest heights.

Paul sets forth identification in Christ by means of quickening, raising and seating with Christ "in the heavenlies." By identification is meant the act whereby the believer becomes identified with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, His resurrection, and His *exaltation*; forming a union not merely of association or sympathy, but one of life whereby the believer is indissolubly united with Christ.

The believer's identification with Christ to the exalted position of being seated with Him begins with Christ's identification in the human race. He became identified with the human race, not by resemblance merely, but by participation.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil (Hebrews 2:14).

Our identification with Christ is just as real and vital as His identification with the human race. It is therefore not a union with a system of doctrine, with a church organization, or with some external religious influence. It is not merely a union of love and sympathy as exists between friends. It is not a union of essence which destroys the personality of the believer as held by some mystics. It is not a union mediated by participation in the sacraments as held by Roman Catholics, Episcopalians and certain Lutherans.

It is a union of the believer in which he is said to be "in Christ" and thus identified with Him in all His

64 pp., PB

work for us from the cross⁵ to the crown.

It is an *integral union* (Ephesians 4:15; 5:29-30). As the body is a part of the head and the head a part of the body, so are Christ and His Church.

It is an *indissoluble union* (Romans 8:35-39). Come what may - perplexities and problems, trials and tribulations, suffering and sorrow, disappointments and death - nothing can separate us from this vital, organic, spiritual union of identification with Christ.

It is also an *inscrutable union* (Ephesians 5:32; Colossians 1:27). The Apostle Paul uses eight Greek compounds which cover the whole field of the truth of identification:

1. Sumpaschomen⁶

- sufferers together (Romans 8:17).

2. Sunestauromai⁷

- *crucified together* (Galatians 2:20).

3. Apethanete⁸

- *died together* (Colossians 2:20).

4. Sunetaphemen⁹

- buried together (Romans 6:4).

The Unveiled Glory

— Hannah Hurnard (1905-1990)

and

My Unexpected Discovery

- Hannah Whitall Smith (1832-1911)

See order form.

Hannah Whitall Smith (1832-1911) was the author of the classic work, A Christian's Secret of a Happy Life. Both famous Christian authors discuss their coming to see and embrace the salvation of all.



[[]Editor:] I.e., "An upright stake or pale, without any crosspiece." - A.E. Knoch (Concordant Keyword Concordance, page 63). For more information read:

THE "CROSS": Was Christ Nailed to a "Cross" or a "Stake"?, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Notebook #330.

^{6.} [Editor:] Strong's G4841: συμπάσχω (sumpaschō) "to experience pain jointly."

^{7. [}Editor:] Strong's G4957: συσταυρόω (sustauroō) "to impale in company with."

[[]**Editor:**] Strong's G599: ἀποθνήσκω (apothnēskō) "to die off," and G4862: σύν (sun) "union; with or together."

^{9.} [Editor:] Strong's G4916: συνθάπτω (sunthaptō) "bury with."

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5. Sunezoopoisen¹⁰

- quickened together (Ephesians 2:5).

6. Sunegerthete¹¹

- raised together (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:12; 3:1).

7. Sunkathizo¹²

- sit down together (Ephesians 2:6).

8. Sundoxasthomen¹³

- glorified together (Romans 8:17).

Before we could ever know or experience the blessed fact of being seated with Christ "in the heavenlies," there must be the removal of the issues of sin and death. These awful facts in human life must be dealt with fully and finally, and indeed they have been in the work of the Lord Jesus. Christ dealt with sin and death when He identified Himself with us in His suffering, His crucifixion, His death, His burial and His quickening that we might live in newness of life.

A THRONE OF PREEMINENCE

"In the heavenlies" we have this **exaltation** because it is a throne of preeminence. When God by His mighty power raised Christ from the dead and seated Him "at his own right hand in the heavenly places," we read that that place was,

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come (Ephesians 1:21).

From the context of this passage, and also from other passages, the terms "principality and power and might and dominion" refer to the "spirit world," perhaps both of the good as well as the evil (cf. Romans 8:38;

- Satanic Deception, A.E. Knoch, Bible Student's Notebook #605;
- The Witch of Endor, A.E. Knoch, Bible Student's Notebook #358;
- The Spirit World, A.E. Knoch, Bible Student's Notebook #520;
- King Saul and the Witch of Endor, E.W. Bullinger, <u>Bible Student's</u> <u>Notebook #636</u>.

Ephesians 3:10; 6:12; Colossians 1:16).

These "principalities," "powers," "mights" and "dominions" are exhausted beings through whom God exercises His power and dominion.

However, Christ is exalted "far above" (hyperano) every "principality" and "power." Christ is the victor over all human, angelic and Satanic power in the universe.

Christ is also exalted to this place of preeminence over "every name that is named ... in this world ... in that which is to come." How terrifying and fearful are many of the names given to men, beasts and evil powers! We remember such names as Goliath, Behemoth, Leviathan, Satan, The Great Dragon and The Old Serpent.

Christ is exalted "far above" all powers in the universe, and now the grace and glory of it all is that we should by our identification with Christ, in being seated with Him, have the exalted position of preeminence that He has.

Perfect Peace

A mind at perfect peace with God:
Oh, what a word is this!
A sinner reconciled through blood:
This, this indeed is peace.
So nigh, so very nigh to God,
I cannot nearer be;
For in the person of His Son,
I am as near as He.

So dear, so very dear to God,
More dear I cannot be;
The love wherewith He loves the Son,
Such is His love to me.
Why should I ever anxious be
Since such a God is mine?
He watches o'er me night and day,
And tells me, "Thou art Mine."

— Catesby Paget (1868-1930)

A THRONE OF POWER

Not only is this *exaltation* a throne of preeminence, it is also: *a throne of power*. This truth is suggested by the statement,

^{10.} [*Editor*:] Strong's G4806: συζωοποιέω (*suzōopoieō*) "to reanimate conjointly."

^{11.} [*Editor:*] Strong's G4891: συνεγείρω (*sunegeirō*) "to rouse (from death) in company with."

^{12. [}Editor:] Strong's G4776: συγκαθίζω (sugkathizō) "to give a seat in company with."

^{13. [}Editor:] Strong's G4888: συνδοξάζω (sundoxazō) "to exalt to dignity in company with."

^{14. [}Editor:] For more information on the "spirit world" see:

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And hath put all things under His feet (Ephesians 1:22).

Paul goes back into the eighth Psalm and quotes from:6,

Thou madest Him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under His feet.

We are also reminded of the words of the risen Christ to His earthly disciples:

All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18-19).

However, to Israel Christ never promised a share in His "all power"; there was no such truth as identification. He simply promised them to be guided and guarded by His almighty power in their task of world evangelization among the nations of the earth.

However, to us, members of His church, there is the promise of power, inherent power, because of our exalted position "in the heavenlies" and because of our identification with Him.¹⁵

The word translated "power" in Matthew 28:18 is not dunamis, but exousia. This word combines the two ideas of right and might. It is the capacity for rule that resides in one by virtue of one's office, one's character

15. [Editor:] for more information on our "inheritance," see:

and one's position and place.

Beloved, we sit in the control room of the universe. We are in the place from whence all power, authority, jurisdiction, control, command and sway are exercised in God's universe.

Christ is not only exalted, made preeminent above all His creation; He exercises dominion over them all. They are "all under His feet." We are thus seated with Christ on the throne of power "in the heavenlies." We are, in Him, in the place of control, sharing His dominion of the universe.

What an exalted position of power became ours when He "made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Jesus Christ by virtue of His position and power is both Conqueror and Controller.

Why are we so often fretful, fearful and fruitless under the circumstances of life? We are seated in the heavenlies in Christ. This exalted place of power means that "in Christ" we are conquerors over all the rebel hosts of iniquity; commanders over all "principalities and powers"; the controllers over all in His universe. Can we think of anything greater? Could we wish anything more exalted?

A THRONE OF PURPOSE

Finally, this *exaltation* is a *throne of purpose*. This truth is found in a consideration of Ephesians 2:7.

That in the ages to come He might show the ex-

The Writings of Alan Burns

by — Alan Burns (1884-1929)

Alan Burns was born 1884 in Philadelphia, PA, but spent his youth in Ireland, where he was associated with the Salvation Army and the Plymouth Brethren. At about twenty-one years of age he went to New York City. Being an earnest seeker after truth and a student of the Scriptures, he became interested in the teaching of Dr. E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), and was strongly attracted to Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921), when he began his ministry in New York. Gelesnoff considered him the best gospel preacher he

318 pp., PB See order form.

had ever heard. With the help of a few friends who did the printing, Burns started *Grace and Glory*, a little magazine which gave promise of much good. For lack of support, it languished and soon ceased, to be followed, not long afterwards, by *Unsearchable Riches*, which virtually took its place. Burns became a valued contributor to the earlier volumes of *Unsearchable Riches*. The logical and powerful introductory articles in A.E. Knoch's (1874-1965) book *All in All* were written by him.

The Heavenly Allotment and an Entirely New Humanity in Ephesians, A.E. Knoch, <u>Bible Student's Notebook #523</u>.

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ceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

The exaltation is the place of our revelation. It is the word "show" in the verse above that becomes so meaningful and purposeful. The Greek word translated "show" is endeiknumi, and is here in the middle voice which means, "to show forth one's self or what is one's own." It is a self-display or self-exhibition. In the middle voice the subject is both the agent and object of action.

Why has God before the foundation¹⁶ of the world chosen us in Christ? Why has He ordained that members of Christ's Body be the objects of such love and recipients of such grace? Why has He made us "accepted in the beloved"? Why, when we were "dead in trespasses and sins," has He quickened us, raised us up and seated us in the heavenlies in Christ? The answer to all of this is revealed in His purpose as seen in this word "show." It is that He might exhibit Himself in "the exceeding riches of His grace by His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

It behooves us, therefore, to beware lest we cloud the matchless grace of God, or clash with the gratuitous nature of unmerited love by any system of works. If God has revealed to us His matchless purpose "in Christ" through His Body, let us stand by it, and make it known in spite of all temptations and tribulations to give it up and return to "the beggarly" elements of religion.

⁻ The Disruption, A.E. Knoch, Bible Student's Notebook #522.



The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

by — J.C. O'Hair (1876-1958) 392 pages, PB (See order form.)

This extensive volume was dedicated to saints of God who know the meaning of II Timothy 1:8 – "Be

thou not therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner; but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God."

We stand in utter awe and wonder before *this sur*passing revelation. It is too much for our finite minds here to comprehend fully. Can we fathom the depths of His grace, or ascend to the heights of His glory for us through Jesus Christ? While we cannot fully comprehend it, we can nevertheless believe it, for it is written for us in His Word.

Knowing, therefore, our exalted position "in the heavenlies," let us live at all times as "more than conquerors" and begin to do here what we shall be doing throughout all ages – praise Him for the "exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

It was Annie Johnson Flint who wrote,

Let Us Go On

Some of us stay at the cross, Some of us wait at the tomb, Quickened and Raised together with Christ, Yet lingering still in its gloom.

Let us go on with our Lord,

To the fullness of God He has bought,
Unsearchable riches of glory and good,
Exceeding our uttermost thought.

(edited)

See also Hallman's article *Complete in Christ (Bible Student's Notebook #182)* as well as his books on the order form.

TOPICS:

Major: Celestial; Ephesians; Exaltation; Identification; Union *Minor*: Poems; Spirit World



The Lost Precious Gem

by — J.C. O'Hair (1876-1958)

66 pages, PB (See order form.)

This precious gem is the Divine message and program for which the apostle Paul was an ambassador in bonds, for which he

suffered as an evil doer. He called this particular Divine truth, "the mystery of Christ," "the mystery of the gospel," "the mystery of God's will," and "the dispensation of the mystery."

^{16.} [*Editor:*] Or, "disruption." For more information about the disruption, see:





The True Evangelism of Grace

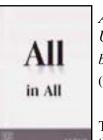
AN EVANGELISTIC PAST

I grew up in the Evangelical side of Christianity: the Fundamentalist version. A constant emphasis was placed on "witnessing." There were plenty of messages, books, classes and how-to training courses on "soul winning."

A very large display of tracts was strategically positioned by the front door of the church where one was ever reminded not to forget their "Christian duty" to replenish their supply of "personal witnessing tools," so as to give a solid "gospel testimony" to everyone possible.

There was weekly door-to-door "canvasing" of neighborhoods. A short bit later in life street preaching was the optimal method. Outside of the gates of *Newport News Shipbuilding*, Virginia's largest industrial employer, we could give out tens of thousands of tracts a week at the heights of our outreach. We could distribute a box of tracts at a time.

 When we used to "work the gates" evangelistically, there were over 25,000 employees; today there remains over 21,000. My father worked at the shipyard and retired in 1974. During his employment he worked on the SS Santa Rosa, SS United States, USS Enterprise, USS America, USS John F. Kennedy and USS Nimitz.



ALL in All: The Goal of the Universe

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) (#6269) 219 pages, Paperback

(See order form.)

This publication is a compilation of the writings of A.E. Knoch on hu-

man destiny. The author examines three major theories on this topic current among students of Scripture. The striking phrase "All in all," which pertains to the vivification of all mankind in I Corinthians 15:28 and relates to the reconciliation of the entire intelligent creation in Ephesians 1:23, is discussed at length. Two extensive appendices are included, exploring the usage of the terms "eon" and "eonian" in the Scriptures.

For those who took these efforts seriously there was a constant heavy weight of never having done enough. Of course, along with this came plenty of guilt. Such a burden on one's shoulders was intensified with the thought of having the blood of others on our hands for our failure to "close the deal."

AN UNFORGETTABLE ACCOUNT

I'll never forget the first time that I read Jackson Roddy's account of how he came to understand the grace of God; it impressed on me a different "evangelism" than the salesmanship training that I had been exposed to in my early years. Here are his moving words.

Russell H. Schaefer never asked me about my religious experience or my church affiliation. Russell was in love with Christ; he spoke incessantly of the marvelous grace of God that is greater than all our sin. Schaefer did not know that I had never understood that great attribute of God. How can anyone possibly understand what grace means who rests his security within the limits of his own moral capacities rather than in the love of God?

Russell lived in *The Book of Romans* at that time and, without asking whether I should like it or not, spent the days interpreting the great doctrines of that book. He did not know it, but as the Spirit of God worked mightily in him to bring out those majestic truths, He worked mightily in my heart to bring them in.

Yet, though I dared not say it (for sheer shame), as I listened I knew my heart was turning to God in a sense in which I had never understood Him. I knew I was seeing for the first time in my life the meaning of those great terms such as love, grace, mercy, justification, and reconciliation. I saw that God does not demand that we beg Him to come to us, and that there is no difficulty in the heart of God but that God has indeed been seeking us all these years.

The ponderous truths of Romans 5 through 8^2 overwhelmed me, and I found myself believing them. I wept for the joy that there suddenly came

[[]Editor:] For an edifying and expositional study of Romans chapters 1-8, see:

Studies in Paul's Epistle to the Romans, Volume 1, George L. Rogers (see order form).

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to my heart – like a gigantic jigsaw puzzle of disassembled truth, suddenly putting itself together in one glorious picture – the truth of the sovereignty³ of Grace, of a God whose very nature is love. Then I had knowledge that I was a saved man.⁴

There was a heartfelt stirring within as he recalled this encounter with Russell Schaefer. This was perhaps my first thought that there was something intrinsically wrong with all of those methods and formulas of "salesmen for God" that had produced so much pressure and guilt in my life.

GOD, ALL IN ALL

So thrilled was I, those many years ago, to read these words from Jackson Roddy, that I have regularly recalled and reread them, even to this day. During these passing years I would also come to a clearer and clearer understanding of what the gospel was

- 3. [Editor:] For more information on "God's Sovereignty," see:
 - Now We are Aware [Romans 8:28], James Coram, <u>Bible Student's Notebook</u> #510;
 - God in Everything, William Sibthorpe, <u>Bible Student's Notebook</u> #527:
 - God Determines, Not Permits, Norman Grubb, <u>Bible Student's</u> Notebook #528;
 - What God Wills, Happens; What He Wills Not, Won't, George Howe, <u>Bible Student's Notebook</u> #334;
 - What a Sovereign God Will Do and Will Achieve, Peter Feddema, <u>Bible Student's Notebook #335</u>;
 - Daily Goodies (Book), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. April 28 May 28 (see order form).
- **4.** A. Jackson Roddy, *Though I Spoke with Tongues* (Experiences In and Exodus from the Charismatic-Tongues Movement), Scripture Research, 1974.

(the true "evangel"), and how far-reaching God's plan for His creation went – that He may be "All in all" (I Corinthians 15:28).⁵

The truth is that we're not trying to get *anyone* to do *anything*. God already has done it all. True evangelism is simply living and sharing all that God has done. God uses His own work in Christ to activate His called. How simple to be merely a channel of God's goodness and grace. This is not a process of some decisional regeneration, but of God graciously granting faith by the hearing of His Word (Romans 10:17).

Rejoicing in the Savior of all (I Timothy 4:10),

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Pilkington Abbey Windber, PA

TOPICS:

Major: Biographies; Editor's Desk

Minor: Grace; Evangelism; Romans; Salvation of All; Sovereignty; Works



88 pp., PB,

See order form.

Nothing Will Be Lost! The Truth About God's Good News

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Is the Creator wasteful? Has He brought His creation into existence just to abandon it to a "Christless eternity"? No! God is the true Savior of His Own creation, and nothing will be lost. The realization of this truth about the true nature of our Father will completely change the way we look at Him and everyone around us.

This is an abridgement of the larger work *The Salvation of All*. It is designed as a give-away edition, with quantity pricing available.

"Nothing Will be Lost was one of the most edifying studies I have read in a very long time. It brings real joy to my heart when I see someone stand for the truth of Christ's total victory over sin. We do not have a weak Savior Who hopes to save only a few; rather, we have a Savior Who saves all!" – NY

^{5. [}*Editor:*] for a comprehensive study of the many inner-connected doctrines in this article see,

⁻ The Salvation of All, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form).





Thank you for the excellent resource materials you have been sending my way; I am very grateful. Love to you all; stay well and prosper in His vast love for us all. – *OH*

It is so good of you to send these [Daily Email Goodies] to us every day. We appreciate them, and you. – MA

I am so grateful for your friendship Clyde, and the wonderful work our Lord has placed you in. – *OH*

I've been especially blessed with your recent *Daily Email Goodies* messages about following God alone. There are times I do feel alone believing this message, but recently I was able to have a good conversation with a friend about

your *Divine Lockup* book. He was going through some things and he found the book helpful in his understanding of why hard things happen. – *SC*

Thank you dear brother for being faithful to what God has shown you. I would never have seen this truth if it hadn't been for you. I realize God could have used someone else to show me, but He chose you and for that I am thankful. – *PA*

I always enjoy reading your books. You are always in my prayers. Keep up the good work. -AL

Thank you for sharing so much. What a joy to find out there are not only others out there with my beliefs, but also, to have found valuable resources. There are so many books I want to read, so maybe some of my questions will be answered. – **CO**

[A former pastor writes:] I want to thank you for the books. They made all the difference in my understanding of the church. I walked away from my organized church. – *OH*

Bible Student's NotebookTM

Paul Our Guide - Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360 Volume 27, No. 654 – October 13, 2017 Scripture education in a semi-weekly format!

This *free* electronic publication is dedicated to:

- 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 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 in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 1:1-3);
- 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 (Romans 6);
- adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication. 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."

Bible Student's Notebook™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963 Office: (800) 784-6010 Local: (814) 701-0063

bsn@studyshelf.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor André Sneidar – Managing Editor

Managers and Assistants

Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Keith Martin, Nathan H. Pilkington, Janet L. Maher, Stephen Hill, Aaron Locker, Mark Peters, Cindy Pilkington, Nadine Sneidar

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